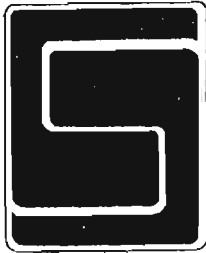


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc



VOLUME 31 NO 3
MAY - JUNE - JULY - AUGUST
1978

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

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bulletin

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MONUMENT AT NETHERLANDS AMERICAN CEMETERY, MARGRATEN, NETHERLANDS

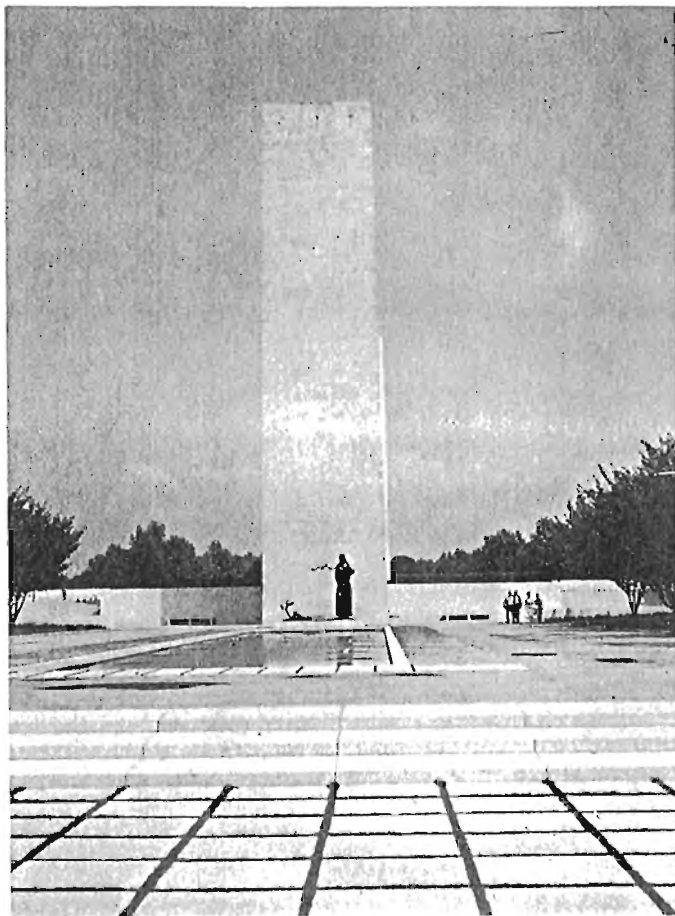
The Cover

American Military Cemeteries

The American Battle Monuments Commission is responsible to the people of the United States for the construction and permanent maintenance of military cemeteries and memorials built by the United States Government on foreign soil.

After World War I, the Commission erected a memorial chapel in each of the eight military cemeteries already established by the War Department, as well as eleven monuments and two bronze tablets on battlefields and elsewhere, to record the achievements of our Armed Forces.

By the end of World War II, several hundred temporary cemeteries had been established by the American Graves Registration Service of the United States Army. During the years 1947 to 1954, that Service, complying with the expressed wishes of the next of kin, and by authority of law, repatriated the remains of some 171,000 representing 61% of the recovered bodies. The remaining 39% were given final interment in the cemeteries on foreign soil; and in the cemeteries at Honolulu, Sitka, and Puerto Rico (which remain under Army control). Fourteen sites in foreign countries were selected as permanent cemeteries in 1947 by the Secretary of the Army, with the assistance of the American Battle Monuments Commission. Their locations reflect the progress of the military operations; they were selected with a view to their accessibility, aspect, prospect, drainage, and other practical considerations. In every case, use of the site in perpetuity was granted by the host government to the United States, free of cost, rent, and taxes. The remainder of the "temporary" cemetery sites reverted to the landowners upon completion of reburial operations.



Court of Honor and Tower Chapel, Netherlands Cemetery

In 1947, the American Battle Monuments Commission selected fourteen outstanding American architects, each to design one of the cemeteries, conceiving the graves plots and a monument as complementary elements of an integral memorial to the services and sacrifices of the American Armed Services who fought in the respective regions. Upon approval of the general schemes, the architects' plans were followed in making the permanent burials of those remains which were to remain overseas. Thereupon, the remaining portions of the architecture were carried out: grading, installation of a system of reinforced concrete beams on piles to maintain the levels and alignments of the headstones; fabrication and installation of the headstones; construction of water-supply and distribution systems; utilities buildings; roads and paths; plantings; and the erection of the memorials. To provide against dry seasons and occasional real drought, each cemetery is equipped with storage reservoirs and a high pressure sprinkling system. For the design of the various memorials no specific requirement was imposed upon the architects beyond the budgeted cost, except that each should embody these features:

1. A small devotional chapel.
2. Inscription of the names and particulars of the Missing in the region.
3. A graphic record, in permanent form, of the services of our troops.

These requirements have been interpreted in a wide and interesting variety of forms.

An important motive for the construction of the memorials was the undertaking by our Government to record by monuments the achievement of our Armed Services, since the erection of monuments by the troops (which, unfortunately, have been found to be often poorly designed, poorly constructed, and lacking provision for maintenance) was expressly forbidden. The "permanent graphic" record takes the form of maps, usually quite large murals, amplified by descriptive texts in English as well as the language of the country in which the cemetery is situated. The historical data was prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission, the maps were rendered in tasteful presentation by experienced artists. In no two cases is the method — or even the materials — the same; the map may be of layered marbles, or in fresco, perhaps in bronze relief, or in ceramics.

With each architect, an American landscape architect, an American sculptor, and an American muralist or painter ordinarily collaborated. Their talents have made a major contribution to the beauty and dignity of the Memorials, all of which are dedicated to the memory of the achievements of those who served and of the sacrifices of those who died. The construction of the cemeteries and memorials, as well as most of the works of art, was effected by local contractors and artists under the supervision of the Commission.

Each grave is marked by a headstone of white marble, of the same designs as those used in the overseas cemeteries of World War I — a Star of David for those of Jewish faith, a Latin Cross for all others. Headstones of the Unknowns, i.e., those remains which could not be identified, bear the inscription "Here Rests in Honored Glory a Comrade in Arms Known but to God".

Permanent maintenance of the cemeteries is a responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission. At each cemetery there is a Visitors' Building, with comfortable furnished reception room. Here visitors may be informed as to the location of graves (or inscriptions of the missing) at any overseas cemetery. As we have stated in past issues of the Bulletin, a relatively large number of 69ers remain in two of these cemeteries: approximately 60 lie in the Henri-Chapell American Cemetery in Belgium and 110 in the Netherlands

American Cemetery near Margraten, Netherlands. Accordingly, the Association's past tours to Europe have been planned to include a visit to both of these cemeteries to give members an opportunity to visit the graves of comrades who gave their lives in the service of their country. In each instance, a memorial ceremony has been held and a wreath placed at the primary memorial of the cemetery. In addition, individual flowers have been placed on the grave of each 69er.

The Netherlands American Cemetery is typical of the general plan use for these cemeteries, although quite individual in its execution of that plan. It is situated near the southeast limit of the Netherlands in the village of Margraten, 6 miles east of Maastricht. The cemetery occupies 65½ acres of former farmland, now owned by the Netherlands Government, which granted to the United States, in perpetuity, its free use for cemetery purposes. Here rest 8,301 of our military dead, representing 41% of those who were originally buried in this and temporary cemeteries in this region.

From the entrance gate, the approach drive leads around a grassed oval to the steps leading to the Court of Honor. The Court of Honor of the memorial leads to the tower containing the chapel. Beyond the chapel is the burial area.

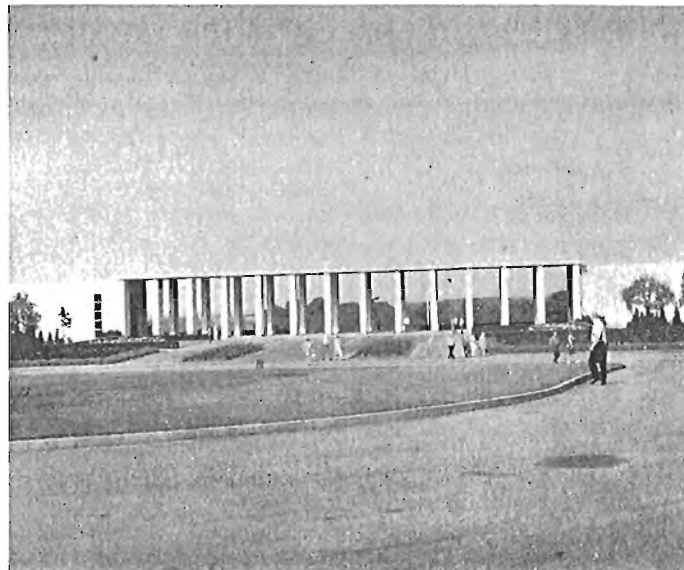
Flanking the entrance to the Court of Honor on the south side is the Visitors' Building. On the north side is the museum room. Within the museum are three maps engraved on the Roman Travertine walls, and embellished with mosaic, and bronze and enamel appliques. They record the progress of various military operations from the landings in Normandy until the end of the war. Below the maps are insignia of the principal major units which participated in these operations.

Extending from the steps to the tower is the Court of Honor with its reflecting pool. Engraved on the north and south walls of the Court are the names, rank, organization and State of 1,711 of our Missing of the Army and Army Air Forces. These men gave their lives in the service of their Country in this region, but their remains have not been recovered or identified.

The bronze group standing before the tower at the east end of the Court of Honor (see Cover) was cast in Milan and consists of a mourning figure and three doves. The tower itself rises 101 feet above the Court of Honor, with exterior walls built of English Portland stone. The entrance to the chapel is on the east side, or the burial area side, of the tower. The burial area is divided into 16 plots, separated by the broad central mall and by grass paths. The 8,300 headstones are arranged in parallel arcs sweeping across the broad green lawn. The men who lie there came from every State of the Union, The



Junior 69er Placing a Flower at Netherlands Cemetery



Memorial Building at Henri-Chapell Cemetery

District of Columbia, England, Canada, and Mexico. In no less than 40 instances, two brothers lie buried side by side, while one headstone marks the common grave of two Unknowns.

As can be confirmed by any 69er who has achieved a visit, both the Netherlands and Henri-Chapelle cemeteries are beautifully conceived, constructed, and immaculately maintained. Each location generates a feeling of peace and tranquility so fitting for the final resting place for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Bill Matlach and Wreath Placed at Henri-Chapelle in 1969

After our initial visit to the cemeteries in 1965, the 69th Infantry Division Association established and deposited a flower fund with the American Battle Monuments Commission for the placement of a flower on the grave of each 69er one day each year. Since all graves receive a flower on Memorial Day, April 25 was selected for the 69th on the basis that the date of the Link-Up represented to the 69th and its members the end of the war and the culmination of all our efforts and the sacrifice of those who were lost in the struggle. The 69th pays for the flowers and their placement is performed by ABMC personnel at no charge. It would be additionally appropriate, if all living 69ers everywhere could observe a moment of silence and contemplation on each April 25th to coincide with the ceremonies taking place at Margraten and Henri-Chapelle.

News From the Editors Desk

Richard Winner, 2592 Cole Road, Wexford, Pa. 15090, F-273. Dear Sir: I read in the paper where the 69th was holding a reunion. Could you send me any information on this event? *[Editor's Note: Mr. Winner spotted our first Reunion Announcement, which appeared in the January 15th Sunday Pittsburgh Press. We have sent him the information that he requested and entered him on our mailing roster.]*

Dean J. Schmitt, Box 4104, Olympia, Washington 98501, L-271, writes: I sent a check to Mr. Weitzleb for \$5.00 to join the Association. It has been so many years since I was in the 69th that I do not remember any names. I was in Co. L, 271st Infantry. The only name I can remember was the C.O. Capt. John Davidson. If you could provide me with any names and addresses of anyone who was in Co. L-271st Infantry, it would greatly be appreciated. *[Editor's note: Mr. Schmitt was provided with the addresses that we have for L-271. We welcome this gentleman back on our roster, as he had been a member of our Association many years ago while he was still in the service, and through the years we had lost track of him.]*

The following from **John O. Clark**, Box 95, Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679, 11q, 2nd Bn. 271: Are Division Histories or 271 Regimental Histories available; and if so, how much are they? What else do you have -- shoulder patches, regimental pins, etc. *[Editor's Note: Mr. Clark was advised that 69th Division Histories are available, and also shoulder patches; but we have no knowledge of any 271 Regimental Histories nor pins or crests.]*

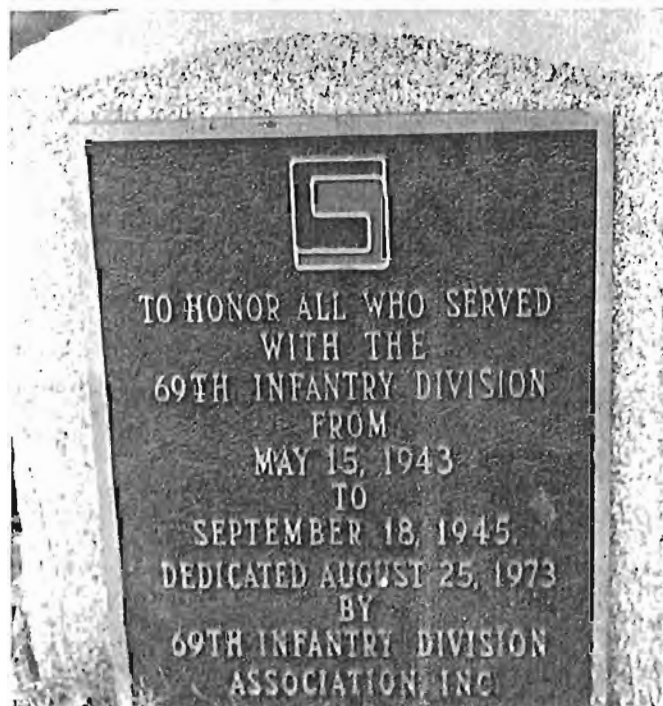
D. L. Harrell, Jr., 1903 Sherwood Drive, Greenville, N. C. 27834, K-271 wrote the following to our Treasurer: Dear Earl, Although my wife and I have never attended a Convention, we are seriously thinking of coming to Pittsburgh this August. Please send me any information you have such as hotel rates, etc. Incidentally, I called Chuck Herring the last time I was in Wilmington, N. C., and I have agreed to help him if the convention is held here. I was in K-Company, 271st Infantry Regt. from May, 1943, until I was transferred to the Air Corps in November, 1944. Do you have the addresses of the following: **T/Sgt. Jack Henderson, T/Sgt. Rocco, T/Sgt. Mike Jannone, and T/Sgt. Wally Leach?** These men were members of K-271, and I have never seen their names in the Bulletin. *[Editor's Note: To the best of our knowledge, none of these four men have ever been members of our Association. Anyone reading this who can help us with an address for any of them please send it to National Headquarters.]*

Edward Netta, 608 Fourth Avenue, Elizabeth, N. J. 07202 Sorry I missed the last reunion. I was laid up with a bum arm and shoulder; but will see you in Pittsburgh. Please do me a favor and send me the address of our Past President, Hyman E. Goldstein. He was in my company, and I always wanted to write to him. Please excuse my handwriting, as my arm and shoulder can't take cold weather. *[Editor's Note: We forwarded Hy Goldstein's address to Mr. Netta. In our Unit file we have Hy Goldstein in Service Co. 272 and Mr. Netta in E-272. Do we have you listed wrong, Mr. Netta?]*

Charles Knebel, 3400 S. Aberdeen St., Chicago, Ill. 60608, D-271, sent the following message along to Bob Myers: Hi, Bob, Sorry we just couldn't make the last reunion in Scottsdale, Arizona, but we would like to go to the next one. Please send us all of the information. We are pretty sure we can make it this time. As soon as possible we like to know. *[Editor's Note: Bob Myers answered this request for Mr. Knebel; and urged him to reserve early, which your editor thinks is a good idea.]*

Bruno Maj, 2901 Walnut Ave. Niagara Falls, N. Y. 14301, B-881 passed this along: At a dinner the other day I sat next to a person I did not know. We started to talk and I discovered that he was a 69th Division Vet. He got wounded before the crossing of the Rhine, and was sent back to the states. He was surprised to hear about the 69th Infantry Division Association. He would like to hear from the Association. The Gentleman's

name and address is: Leroy Pastore, 651 71st St., Niagara Falls, N. Y. 14304. *[Editor's Note: We have contacted Mr. Pastore, and added him to our mailing roster.]*



Memorial Stone, Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa

We received the following letter from Henrietta Wattman, wife of **Bernard Wattman**, 1035 Disston St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19111, AT-271. Dear Friends, Sorry about sending the dues in late, but Bernie suffered a heart attack on December 9, 1977, and it has been hectic. Glad to say he is home from the hospital now and feeling much better. He will have to rest for quite a while yet, but the worst is over. Best wishes to all for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Henrietta Wattman

It was with deep regrets that we received this second communication from **Mrs. Wattman**: I am writing to inform you of the sudden and untimely death of my husband, **Bernard Wattman**, on Saturday, March 11, 1978. He had just turned 52 the end of January, and suffered a massive heart attack. Bernie had been under the Doctor's care since December 9, 1977, when he had a moderate heart attack and spent three weeks in the hospital. He was doing very well and expected to be able to return to work when he was stricken with the massive attack and his death occurred. He was with the 271st Anti-tank Company and had talked to a friend of his about maybe being able to go to Pittsburgh for the reunion this year. He always spoke of the ones he attended, and would have really liked to attend them all. However, over the years he unfortunately underwent many operations of various kinds and then I took ill so we never got back again to any of the reunions. Besides his wife, he is survived by a married daughter, Marilyn Feldman, who is a free lance writer and photographer, and also does Public Relations work for a charitable organization in the Philadelphia area; a son, Gary, age 21, who works as an installer and serviceman for a Burglar-Fire Alarm Company; and a son, Michael, age 17, still in high school. Bernie was proud of his Army service, and always talked about the 69th Division. Enclosed is a photograph of the Memorial Stone at the Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge taken by our daughter on a visit there in November of 1977.

Theo Majewski, 4312 N. Oketo, Norridge, Ill. 60634, G-272 writes: I have for the first time found out about the 69th Infantry Association through an old Army buddy who resides near Dallas, Texas. He sent me the Bulletin, and said I might find it interesting. This was indeed true and surprising because I didn't know about the organization. I found a few names in it that were familiar along with one who was my Platoon Leader. (I was his Platoon Sgt.) We were both in the states and overseas in Company G-272. I therefore, will request his address through your Association as I have often wanted to write to him. All I could remember was that he was from Oklahoma. That isn't too much to work on, so you can see I am very anxious to get in touch. I found his name in the 1977 Reunion printing, and his name is Millard Carter. I also saw two others that were familiar, Robert Fridell and Leroy Honea, who were at the reunion, but no addresses on them either. They were buddies from the BBB days. I would also appreciate any other information about the 69th Association that may be available, and being near Chicago, I can in turn give a few names from this area at a later date. Hoping that this letter is the beginning of great things that are long overdue for me, by making some contacts for old times sake. If at all possible, once again, please give me more information, and if possible, another Bulletin. The one I am reading now is Vol. 31, No. 1, October, November, December, 1977. The Reunion being in Pittsburgh just may have filled in my vacation plans. The picture shown in the Bulletin at the Elbe brought more memories because we were stationed nearby and I visited the scene and have pictures of the occasion greeting the Russians with the 69th sign shown at the site. I can say I was there also. I do hope to hear from you in the near future, for which, many thanks. *[Editor's Note: The addresses that Mr. Majewski requested were passed on to him. In turn he was asked to help try and relocate some fellows from Chicago that we had lost track of].*

The following from **Walter A. Kaminski**, 1631 Clinton Court, Melrose Park, Ill. 60160, B-880: Gentlemen, As an ex-69th Division man I'm very interested in attending the reunion in Pittsburgh. I've never attended a reunion or joined an Association and I would appreciate any information you can give me regarding dues, reservations, costs, etc. *[Editor's Note: Mr. Kaminski was sent all of the information that he requested and added to our roster. Hope to see you in Pittsburgh in August].*

Russell Eastlee, 410 Sherman Drive, Valparaiso, Ind. 46383, 661st T.D. Bn. It was in the VFW Magazine about a reunion of the 661st T.D. Bn. I was a member of that Unit and would like more information about the reunion.

Thomas N. Maielli, 407 Blaine St., New Castle, Pa. 16101, A-880. Would like to read a few words from my old buddy, Peter Goldstein, A-880. He and I were together from Shelby to the finish.

Joe Vioral, 617 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15238, A-269, sends in the name of a new member. I ran into a member of the 69th Division in Heidelberg, Pa. a few months ago and a former member of Co. A 269th Engineer Battalion. He seemed interested when I spoke of our reunions each year and may come to the Marriott as he lives only a few miles away from it. His name and address is: Francis M. Benard, 1218 Akehurst Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15220.

Victor B. Woo, 262 Seventh St., Oakland, Calif. 94607, 69QM also sends along the name of a new member. He writes: Sending you one of our lost members from the California area. His name and address: James W. Souza, 40025 Caffin Court, Fremont, California 94538. He was in the 273rd Infantry Company B. I was in a restaurant and Mr. Souza heard I was talking about the reunion we had in Arizona; and he inquired about the 69th. I told him about it, and that our next reunion would be in Pittsburgh, Pa. He would like to join our 69th Association. Please send him an application form. See you in August in Pittsburgh. *[Editor's Note: Mr. Souza was informed about joining our Association, and entered on our mailing roster.]*

Bretsell L. Everson, Hanover Road, Silver Creek, N. Y. 14136, Hq. 2nd Bn., 272 and Div. Hq. Co. I am just now getting around to writing you, although I wanted to for a long time. I found some of my old pictures from the days with the 69th. I have the official picture of Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. 272 Infantry taken at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, in October, 1944, just before we left for Camp Kilmer, N. J. I was on K.P. the day we left; and we served the evening meal on the train that night. It was also payday that same day. I also found some pictures taken in England, mostly of the I & R Platoon, and also in France. I left the Bn. in France for detached service with Div. Hq. Co. Combat Platoon. I have some pictures taken at an outpost near Krinkelt, Belgium. It was here that I was sent to Eupen for R & R at the Fifth Corp Rest Area. Capt. Myers loaned me a pair of his Officer's trousers because mine were very muddy and wet from duty on an outpost. (He didn't get them back). I have some pictures taken at Schmidheim. One shows Cpl. Bragg and his squad before going on patrol. Another shows Bowers and a Red Cross girl. The Red Cross Unit was there to serve coffee and doughnuts, but I don't think their mobile canteen was open much, if any. I have a picture of the Band taken there. A lot of the pictures were taken across Germany, with some at Naunhoff. I have some excellent shots of Cpl. Farley, Butterfield, Rooney, and others. If you are interested in any, please let me know. I am hoping to get to the Reunion this August, if my health permits, and perhaps I could display some of them there. I would appreciate a list of names you might have for 2nd Bn. Hq. 272 and Div. Hq. Co. Hoping to hear from you and see you in Pittsburgh. (Mr. Everson challenged Earl Witzleb's claim to being the youngest 69er. He was 52 this past February 10th)

This interesting and informative letter from **Frederick W. Scherer**, 11 Westmoreland Avenue, Montvale, N. J. 07645, F-273. Hello From Montvale, N. J. I have been a member of our Association since its initiation and, needless to say, am very happy to read about my old buddies such as 1st Sgt. Sonksen, 2nd Lt. Archie Farrar, 1st Lt. Clegg, Charles Euton, Sam Woolf, to name a few. I was a charter member at Camp Shelby with Company F-273rd, and probably one of the last members when our outfit, the 69th, was disbanded and filled mostly with men from the 29th Division who came home on September 14, 1945 with our emblem on the side of the ship when she steamed into New York Harbor. Too bad I missed coming back at that time because it would have been a nice anniversary present for both my wife and I. We were married on that date in 1940. I missed that shipment home because I volunteered to go on detached service with the 70th Division, which was being re-routed by way of the states to serve in the Japanese theatre. As luck had it, the war ended there, with me in a baggage car with my head all bandaged up from second degree burns obtained in the kitchen car checking hot water while going through Chateau Thierry, France. As a result, I did not get home until April, 1946. I see by your latest Bulletin that a Mrs. Muije of Atlanta, Georgia, wishes some information about former C.O. Capt. Baucum. I am almost certain that he came from a little town in Mississippi, namely Newton, Mississippi. He had been an employee of The Great A & P Tea Company before his military service in that town. He was also a member of a lodge of F & A.M. Masons in that area. Advise Mrs. Muije to go to her local A & P and try to get the name of the personnel manager of the Unit that has Newton under its wing. Capt. Baucum did not finish with us because he was wounded in the shoulder directly after we crossed the Rhine.

I have been retired since May 1, 1977, after working for the A & P for 32 years. My wife and I raised three children — two boys and one girl, all good kids. One is with AT&T, one in automotive on his own, and my daughter is a physical therapist in Hackensack Hospital. Our oldest son, Fred Jr., presented us with our first grandchild last year. Our second son, Dennis, is still single, and our daughter is married. I had been hoping for years that I would be able to make the reunions, but it wasn't to be, but I still have hopes. I lost my Mother last year, and now have my father with me. He is 91 and still going strong, but it

is a 24 hour job with an asthmatic wife also, so you can see why I haven't been able to make it. I have been meaning to write you before, but somehow never did get around to it. I have a question to ask. I made the acquaintance of a Clarence Marshall in a town near Stuttgart. Could you enlighten me as to whether you are the same one? Sometimes it is difficult to remember names, but I do suppose this comes with the process of aging. I will be 66 next month, so you can see time is going on. I was wondering if you had the addresses of two Chaplains we had in the 273rd. One was Chaplain Howington and the other was Chaplain Summerville.

I close now, hoping I have been a little help in relocating Capt. Baucum, and will try to keep up my correspondence. [Editor's Note: I am not the Clarence Marshall with whom you made acquaintance near Stuttgart. My career with the 69th ended near Borna, Belgium, February 23, 1945.]

Accolades to Bob Myers

and his committee for the great reunion in 1977

Dear Bob,

The 69th gathering was great, and the selection of Mountain Shadows was a master stroke. Congratulations to you and your assistants for giving us easterners a chance to enjoy your western hospitality. Hoping we can see you next year.

Cliff Barbieri
G-271

Dear Bob,

I wanted to thank you personally for everything that you did in seeing that my personal needs were provided for at the reunion. Having to catch an early flight out, I had to cut the celebration Saturday night short, and you had your hands full, but let me take this opportunity to say that it was the grandest reunion ever. Thanks to you, the whole operation was carried out just as a good commanding officer planned it. I was sorry that I did not get to meet your wife, but I live in hopes that someday you will visit this area and I will have the opportunity to entertain you in my home. Please give my thanks to all of the local boys and especially to Frank See for meeting me at the airport. We eventually found that we had been acquaintances in Germany. I would like to have his address, which I neglected to get while I was there. Again, my very best wishes for you and your family, with the hopes that we will meet again.

Always a friend,
Cliff Ewing

Hi, Bob.

Thinking back just a few days to this year's reunion at Mountain Shadows, I would again like to say "thank you" for an outstanding job in organizing and arranging this get-together. Just great!! Terrific job!! Bob. The facilities, accommodations that were made available to the 69ers were just "super" as you had promised. I will always remember my greatest thrill at the reunion — to have the opportunity and privilege of shaking hands with our General Bolte. Seeing him for the first time since the days at Camp Shelby, I thought the General looked great. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing the General at many future reunions, and I wish the General our dear Lord's blessings for continued good health for many years to come. I had hoped to meet your lovely wife and daughter, but seeing and knowing how busy you were (you asked for it) I didn't want to bother you. Next time, perhaps. As this was my first visit to your state, I decided to take the bus tour. It was very worthwhile, and I was fascinated by the varieties of cactus plants and beautiful mountains — very scenic. But you can have that hot weather. Little too "scorchy" for my hide. I enjoyed being with one of my Pennsylvania buddies, Adam

Manz. I think Adam was afraid they were going to run out of beer on Thursday. He tried storing it, but found out what goes in must come out. And did you hear him singing? He must have thought he was at a Polish picnic. Thanks for having arranged to have Mass offered on Saturday. I am always concerned about fulfilling my obligations wherever I am. You made it very convenient for us all. Dr. Russman gave me names of two of his friends here in Detroit, and asked that I call and say "hello" for him. This I have done, and I was told that they would call or write the Doctor. So much for now. Again, thank you, Bob, for a most enjoyable visit with all.

Joe Mikolajczyk

This letter was directed to both Bob Myers and Stan Olszewski;

Around about this time every year we mail our "Mid-year report from the Ozarks." It is more appropriate to vary our procedure and call this "a hillbilly looks back on the reunion." We think it was a grand affair, and it was a pleasure for us to co-host with Bob Myers. He and his committee did an excellent job recruiting people from all quarters of the country, and many of the "first timers" will surely look forward to Pittsburgh in 1978. We were impressed with the ease with which one could cross "company lines", as we found ourselves invited to dine with fellows from the 777th, and the 661st, and to have a cocktail with people from the Artillery or Medical Battalion. This is what future reunions should strive for. After all, we fought as a team. We were most pleased with the turnout of Division Headquarters Company. That in itself was a triumph because many of us were rugged individualists as we came from many branches of the Army. I was temporarily embarrassed when my wife addressed several guys we once knew as "Captain" and are now at least "Colonels". She didn't know she was demoting them, because before the reunion, I had her convinced that my rank of Tech. Sergeant was one of the most important in the Army. If you will permit us a personal note, we got quite a kick out of Col. Casper at the beer party, smiling like a patient father while his "boys" related many "oft told" adventures, some of them true. He was probably wondering how that bunch ever amounted to anything in civilian life, yet they turned out several Doctors, Lawyers, and PhDs., maybe even a stock broker. It was on our "Reunion at the Elbe" trip in 1965 where we first met you, your charming wife, Wanda, and John Moriarty. We were happy that John has been chosen our "fearless leader" and he can be grateful that you have left him a securely welded organization. We hope you are planning a well-earned rest.

Sincerely
Joe & Eleanor Wrigh

Our Man of This Issue

Carl Q. Christol of Division Headquarters is now a Professor of International Law and Political Science at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. He was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws and Letters degree from the University of South Dakota. In 1977, he received the USC Associates Award for excellence in teaching. Carl also writes "Congratulations to all the officers for the excellent way the affairs of the Association are being handled." He lives in the city of Pacific Palisades, California 90272. [Editor's Note: Sure would like to know a little more about yourself and family, as we want to let our members know about each other when possible. We hope and feel that all 69 members and families are one big happy family getting together each year at a reunion if at all possible. Carl sent the letter along with his dues as we would like all 69th members to do. In this way, we can get our good interesting bulletins that all members are anxious to read. Thanks, Carl.]

EDITOR'S NOTE: Not much to say this time. By the time you get this issue, June will be half over. Clarence and I wish you all a good, safe vacation season, hoping that it will find you, your lady, and family visiting with us in Pittsburgh for part of your vacation, as there are many sights to see, and remember our reunion here at the "MARRIOTT INN OF PITTSBURGH" — August 13 to 20. Will we see you? Sure hope so!! Come and have fun with us. News for the next bulletin should be at our desk at reunion time, as we are shooting for a late September or early October mailing.

Clarence Marshall Postage Fund

The 1977-1978 dues year is about over and really we haven't heard from all that many members. Only about 30% of the membership is paying dues, which means they are keeping the organization going. The new dues year for 1978-1979 will start in August at our reunion, which is in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this year, at the Marriott Inn. So remember, members, dues year is from reunion to reunion. You will also get two dues notices during the dues year as this is done automatically by our addressing company, so when paying dues, write me a letter and use the envelope with some news for the bulletin. I sure would like to salute one, two, or three members in each issue by letting the other members know a little about yourself — so do write me, Earl Witzleb, Jr. Our ladies dues

are usually used to keep Katie Reynolds supplied with cards (birthday, anniversary, and what have you) plus stamps for mailing. Katie send about 200 cards out a month. You can get on her list by attending our reunions, as she uses the registration sheets for her source of information. At our board of directors meeting, I'll suggest raising the ladies dues fifty cents, to two dollars a year, effective 1979-1980 dues year. By the way, do the ladies have dues cards? Some say yes, and others say no. I haven't any and this is why I question it. How have they been getting them? I am told at the reunions, and that they are blue. Some one clue me in, as I haven't sent out any, and I do get ladies dues. I took it for granted that only the members got a card. Sorry, ladies, I'll make it up as soon as I get the scoop on it. Well, anyway, Clarence uses a lot of postage also for letters return bulletins, mailing out bulletins on address changes, and must also pay twenty-five cents on each piece of mail returned to us. This really adds up. What I would like to do, as in the case of Katie getting Ladies' dues money, is to start a Clarence Marshall postage fund for him. We can do this with all members who have envelopes laying around now that the dues year is about over, take and put a buck or two in the envelope, or a check if you like, and send it on to me so marked. This way, the envelope gets used instead of being mislaid or thrown out and we get something to work with for postage. Do you know that each bulletin issue, and we are having three this year and hopefully four next year, cost us \$1,500 plus a little from the time we send it to the printers until it leaves the post office on its way to you, each and every member. So, isn't it worth a couple of dollars? Let's get a Clarence Marshall postage fund going. Do remember us with your dues also, at least once a year.

Tours Available at the Pittsburgh Reunion

Earl — We also want to do the following if enough members make arrangements for the following tours on either Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday. Prices could change slightly.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. ... Meadowlands Harness Race Track — Dinner and racing | \$ |
| Just racing (9 races) | \$ |
| 2. ... Fallingwater House Tour — six hours — per person | \$ |
| A drive through the scenic Laurel Mountains to Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural masterpiece with a stop for lunch at a quiet mountain inn before returning to the Marriott. | |
| 2a. ... The above with a stop at Ohiopyle Falls Park for a picnic lunch. | \$ 19.00 |
| 3. ... Old Economy Village Tour — Three Hours — Per Person | \$ 10.00 |
| A ride by bus down the Ohio River for a guided tour of the early 19th century communal settlement. | |
| 3a. ... The above with a stop for lunch either at the Granary on the premises or at a clever old German restaurant before returning to the Marriott. | \$ 18.00 |
| 4. ... Pittsburgh City Tour — Two and one half hours — Per Person | \$ 8.00 |
| This shows the highlights of the Golden Triangle and features a ride on one of our unique inclines. A tour of our cultural center in Oakland with a stop at any one of a number of places including Scaife Gallery, Helen Clay Frick Gallery, nationality rooms at the University of Pittsburgh, or Heinz Hall. | |
| 4a. ... The above with luncheon on top of Mt. Washington or at a private club in Three Rivers Stadium. | \$ 19.00 |
| 5. ... A tour of Hartwood Acres, the county owned country estate of the Lawrence family with perhaps luncheon at a nearby country club. | \$ |
| 6. ... A visit to the fashionable Shadyside section of Pittsburgh to browse through the unique shops and galleries on Walnut Street. | \$ |
| 7. ... Tour of a coal mine — with lunch — Four Hours — Per Person | \$ 19.00 |
| 8. ... Tour of a glass factory — with lunch — Four Hours | \$ 19.00 |
| 9. ... An historical tour, including colorful Ft. Pitt Museum and block house and a tour of several privately owned Victorian townhouses in the restoration area on Pittsburgh's north side. | \$ |

Each tour must have 40 persons before they can operate. We want to please you, our guest 69th buddies and families, in Pittsburgh, so let us know what you want to do. Mail this form to: Earl E. Witzleb, Jr. Phone: (412) 455-2901 (evenings and weekends)

Post Office Box 69 Drawer M
Champion, Pa. 15622

(412) 565-4538 (Daytime)

Name Unit
Address Telephone
City, State, & Zip
Wife's Name Children
Guest(s)

Souvenirs Sold by the 69th

The 69th Association does sell souvenirs at the reunions, but at this time, our stock is down like it has never been. We have on hand:

Tie Tacks	6
Cuff Links	Gold — 14 Silver — 1
Charms	Gold — 3
Lighters	Small 6 Large — 10
Ash Trays	5
Mugs	0

Clarence Marshall has arm patches and ear decals. I, Earl, have ear decals. This is the extent of our inventory on souvenirs at present. I do believe Clarence has a few history books also, but if they are for the division or regiments, I just can't say. Can anyone let us know on history books? Are there any around at some member's home, or just where do we get our supply of stock. Do write Clarence on this matter.

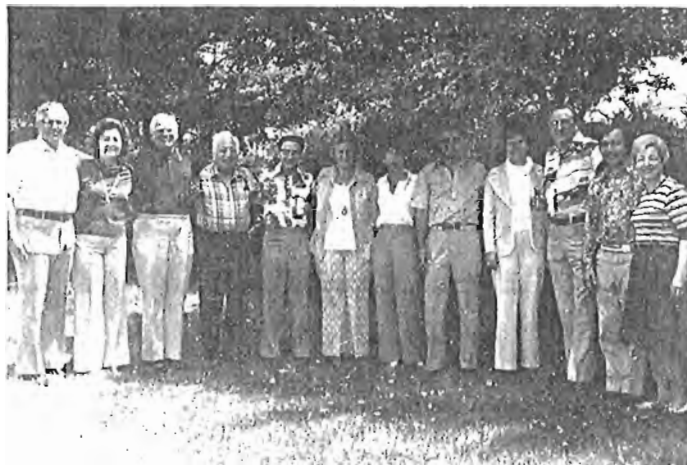
Future Reunions

At our reunion at Mountain Shadows, Scottsdale, Arizona, two reunion sites were nominated for 1979. One was Wilmington, North Carolina, by our own Chuck Herring, and the other, New Orleans, Louisiana, by some of the members from the west and Bob Myres. New Orleans asked some time after the reunion was over that they would like to be considered for 1980. The word was given to Chuck that Wilmington, North Carolina, would be the place of our 1979 reunion and to start getting his committee and plans in order. About the same time, Chuck has decided to move to Florida, so it now looks like Wilmington, North Carolina is out, and we haven't a 1979 reunion location. I am told that a New England (Boston, Massachusetts) location is being looked into by some of our officers. I recommend a location of Valley Forge or an area close by. We do have a living tree and a 69th stone memorial in Valley Forge park, and suggest we have a reunion at this location at least once every five years. This really is our home base, I would think. Our center of membership location spreads out across the country from Harrisburg, Pa. Dues tells the story, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, and Virginia are the top dues states. Florida and California are close runners-up.

Others then fall in line accordingly. I, again, Earl, your treasurer, co-bulletin editor, and co-Pittsburgh reunion chairman, would like to suggest a few locations for future reunions, which are:

1979	(Wilmington, North Carolina -- Cancelled out)
	Boston, Massachusetts, or another New England Location, or Valley Forge, Pa.
1980	New Orleans, Louisiana
1981	Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
1982	Richmond or Roanoke, Virginia
1983	Orlando, Florida area
1984	West Point, New York
1985	Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
1986	Denver, Colorado
1987	YOU NAME IT

Many other locations could be looked into, such as Mt. Snow, Vermont, Palm Beach, Florida, Little Rock, Arkansas, Buffalo, New York, Staunton, Virginia, and even a return to some places like Mountain Shadows, Scottsdale, Arizona, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, or one of the above mentioned along with remembering going back to Valley Forge. We will have to know and begin to remember, as I thought we had decided that we must plan at least two reunions ahead, so now we are looking at 1979, 1980, and 1981.



If you think the above people are having a party and enjoying themselves, you are completely mistaken. This group is the Association's executive committee, which met on May 22, 1977 at President Stan Olszewski's residence in New Britain, Conn. Left to right are: Ed and Tory Staggs (G-273), Chuck Herring (B-269 Eng.), and he came all the way from Wilmington, N.C.), Les Milich (569 Sig.), Clarence and Carmella Miles (Hq. 724th FA), Barbara and Chet Yastrzemski (E-272), Jane and Bill Matlach (E-273), and Stan and Wanda Olszewski (Sv. 273).

Pittsburgh — Someplace Special

The Pot Hole Capital of the World, that's Pittsburgh. This is the last time you will hear the expression "Pittsburgh — Someplace Special" and it is "special" this year, as it is our reunion site, where we hope to spend three, four, five days, or even a week together at the Pittsburgh Marriott. We hope to see a large number of the membership present this year, as it is what we should call our "over the hump" reunion. We have had thirty reunions, and I am just wondering how many of us will see thirty more.

We would like to suggest that you take in the baseball game between the Pirates and the Big Red Machine on Wednesday, see the Fisher Body Plant on Thursday, and then do take in the Early Bird, Thursday evening, which will be a cruise on the three rivers of Pittsburgh. By the way, it is full moon that evening. Friday is the Chuck Wagon Buffett dinner, which is optional, and then the beer party starting at 8:30 p.m. This you won't want to miss, as we will have a special surprise for one and all at the beer party. The format will be completely changed. Also, on Friday, we are having a tour of the Pittsburgh Press, which is an added attraction on a day that we had planned to give each of you free time. Then, Saturday is the meeting of men and ladies, our memorial service, and last but not least, our banquet dinner dance. You won't want to leave as you will enjoy music from the group called "F I R E". If you come early, a few other good tours to take while in Pittsburgh are: Fallingwaters, Old Economy, The Coal Mine, and a trip of Pittsburgh itself. Prices for these tours are extra, but they will all include a dinner along the tour route, and most of the tours will take four or more hours to complete with several being at least six hours, so do plan on coming Monday and take in a full week of sight seeing. Can't say any more, it is all up to you now, so see you in Pittsburgh in a few weeks.

Early Bird Dinner Cruise

EARL WITZLEB NEEDS A HEAD COUNT FOR THIS EVENT PRIOR TO AUGUST 15th. PLEASE COOPERATE BY SENDING IN YOUR RESERVATION EARLY SO THAT IT WILL BE A COMPLETE SUCCESS.

Arthur Richhart writes

Mr. Loar L. Quickle,

The cover picture on the March, 1977, issue of the 69th Bulletin, taken at Fort Ehrenbreitstein, showing General Omar N. Bradley reviewing troops, including two special picked rifle platoons from the 69th Division brought back to me a much relived memory.

The two rifle platoons from the 69th were to look as sharp as possible, so new uniforms, etc. were needed. As a Second Lieutenant in 69 QM, I was instructed to take a weapons carrier with driver (I think — Sherwood Ennis) and go back to the Supply Depot in Eupen, Belgium, and pick up the needed supplies.

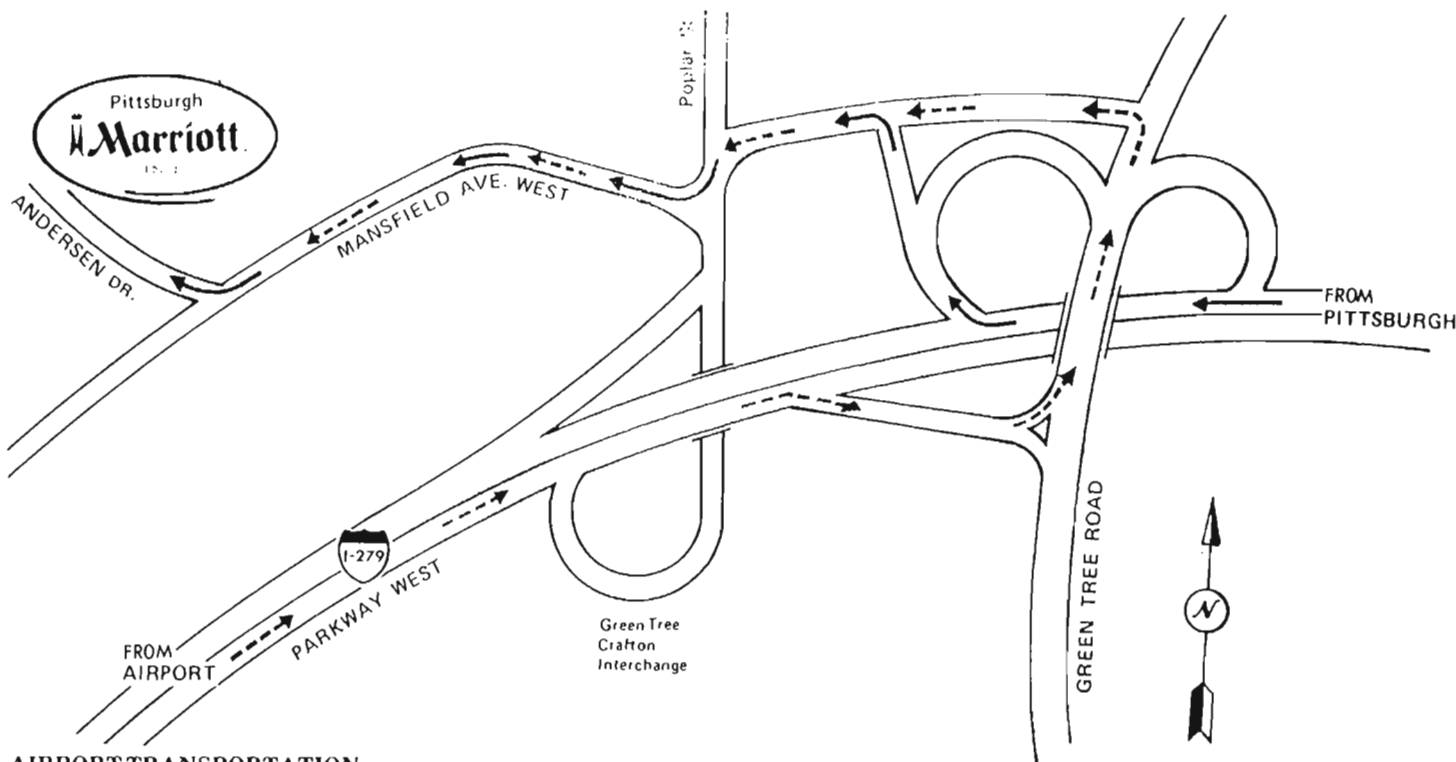
A Lt. Col. in Division Headquarters instructed us to take the Autobahn north to around Bonn, Germany, cross the Rhine on a bridge which was supposed to be intact and then proceed west to Eupen. What the officer failed to know was that there

was a German occupied pocket somewhere south of Bonn and this is what we ran into.

We drew machine-gun fire, and with each burst, the weapons carrier was urged on a little faster, which was swell until we came to a bombed out bridge which stopped us cold. Our only recourse was to retrace our route and turn back as fast as we could. This we did, and I might that a new speed record for weapons carriers might have been set.

We came south to Remagen, crossed the Rhine on the Victor Bridge, proceeded to Eupen, picked up the supplies and then back to Division Headquarters. I tried to find the officer who had misguided us, but he was not around, and perhaps just as well as I was in the mood to tell someone off and good — if I had found him, I probably would have ended my army career as a private.

This is not news — just a true story that might be best fitted for a reunion and over a couple of drinks. If the Lt. Col. is listening — all is forgiven!



AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:

By Pittsburgh Marriott Inn. Courtesy phone near Allegheny Airline Baggage Pickup at Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

FROM GREATER PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

Limousine leaves Greater Pittsburgh International Airport from Allegheny Airline Baggage area (Lower Level). For transportation arrangements and reservations, please call Pittsburgh Marriott Inn on courtesy phone near Allegheny Baggage area. Fare is free both ways. It is a 15-20 minute ride. Limousine leaves from the hotel on the hour, every hour from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM — Monday through Friday; on Saturday and Sunday on the hour **only** upon request. **Always** use our courtesy phone to assure prompt service.

FROM PITTSBURGH:

I-279 West to Greentree-Crafton Exit — bear left to Crafton side from Pittsburgh and follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn.

FROM GREATER PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

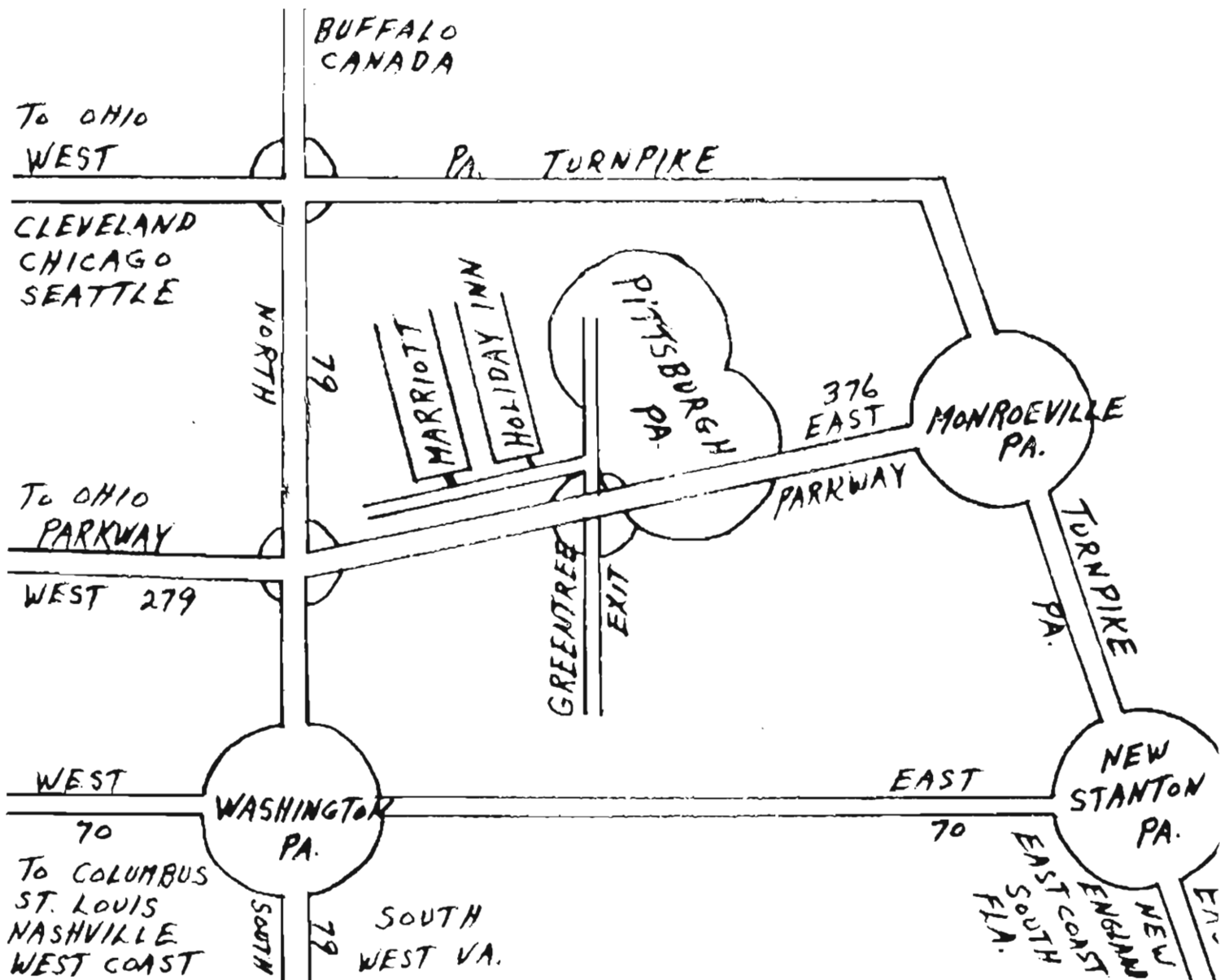
I-279 East to Greentree-Mt. Lebanon Exit ramp. Turn left on Greentree Road and follow Marriott Drive Signs to Inn.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM PITTSBURGH:

Group limousine service available if scheduled in advance. Buses: Airline Limousine charter to and from Greater Pittsburgh International Airport. PAT Bus 36-D Westwood leaves corner of Stanwix Street and Forbes Avenue, Downtown, to the corner of Poplar and Mansfield Streets, in Greentree, 1/2 mile from Inn. Yellow Cab Taxi service is available at Inn. Dollar Rent-a-Car available at Inn and at Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

MOTORIST'S TRAVEL GUIDE:

The Pittsburgh Marriott Inn is conveniently located off the Parkway West (I-279) at the Greentree Exit, just 10 minutes from Downtown Pittsburgh (Ft. Pitt Tunnel) and 15-20 minutes from the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.



FROM PHILADELPHIA, HARRISBURG AND EAST:

Pennsylvania Turnpike west to Pittsburgh Exit #6. Follow Parkway West, I-376 through Fort Pitt Tunnel to Greentree-Crafton Exit — bear to Crafton side from Pittsburgh. Follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn. Alternate — Bypass Pittsburgh (urban area): East or West Pennsylvania Turnpike to Warrendale-Exit 3. Follow sign to Pittsburgh I-79 South (cross Glenfield Bridge-Neville Island) Take I-79 Pittsburgh Exit to I-279 East. Exit Greentree-Mt. Lebanon ramp. Turn left on Greentree Road and follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn.

FROM WEST VIRGINIA I-70 EAST:

Exit I-79 North. Take Pittsburgh Exit I-279 East to Exit ramp Greentree-Mt. Lebanon. Turn left on Greentree Road. Follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn.

FROM ERIE, BUFFALO AND NORTH:

I-79 South across Glenfield Bridge (Neville Island) to I-279 Pittsburgh Exit. Exit Greentree-Mt. Lebanon ramp. Turn left on Greentree Road and follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn.

FROM CLEVELAND, AKRON, YOUNGSTOWN AND WEST:

Ohio Turnpike I-80 to Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, off at Warrendale Exit 3, then take I-79 South across Glenfield Bridge (Neville Island) to I-279 Pittsburgh Exit. Exit Greentree-Mt. Lebanon ramp. Turn left on Greentree Road and follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn.

Marriott Reservations for Pittsburgh Reunion

69th Infantry Division Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 69 Drawer M
Champion, Pa. 15622
Telephones: 412-455-2901 Evenings and weekends
412-565-4538 Daytime

My Unit was:
Please reserve..... rooms for me as I will be attending the 69th Infantry Division Association's annual reunion.
I am:

Name..... Wife.....
Address..... Guest(s).....

City, State, and Zip

Children are free if staying in the same room with parents regardless of age.

Son(s)..... Daughter(s).....

I want:

Single at \$28.00 \$.....
Double at 28.00
Triple at 32.00
Quad at 36.00
Suite at 65.00
Parlor at 35.00
Total Amount \$.....

I (We) will arrive and stay:

Sunday, August 13
Monday, August 14
Tuesday, August 15
Wednesday, August 16
Thursday, August 17
Friday, August 18
Saturday, August 19
Sunday, August 20
Monday, August 21

Triple 3 persons and quad four persons in a room. No money needed in reserving room(s) but a deposit may be made.

Mail to: Marriott Inn or call: (412) 922-8400
Care of Reservations (Ask for Allen Harshberger)
101 Marriott Drive
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15205

Tear & Mail. _____

Make Your Plans NOW for the Pittsburgh Reunion

Return this form with the tour information form to Earl Witzleb, Jr., P. O. Box 69, Champion, Pa. 15622.

Let us know what you want to do in Pittsburgh in August.

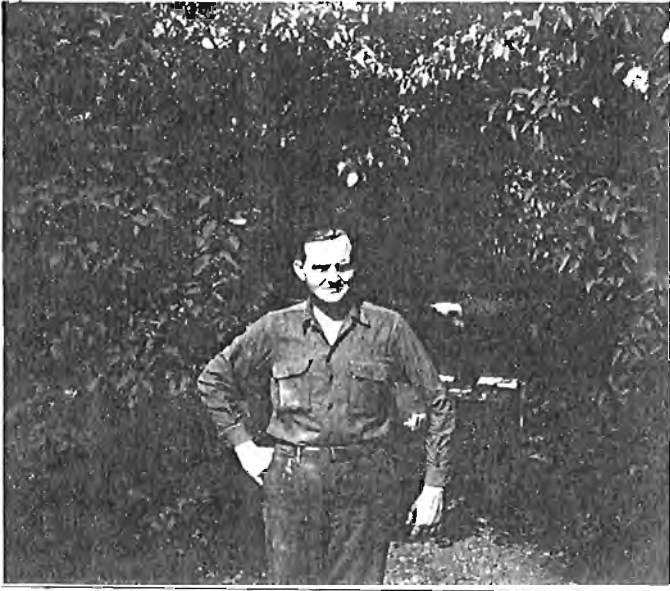
Earl: I (We) are coming to the reunion and have reserved with the Marriott. We plan to arrive and do the following:

		PER PERSON
Sunday, August 13	On your own	
Monday, August 14	On your own — see Page 7	
Tuesday, August 15	Meadowlands Race Track — see Page 7	
Wednesday, August 16	Kick-off day — we would like everyone here.	
	Baseball Game — Pittsburgh Pirates and Cincinnati Reds (Big Red Machine)	
	7:30 p.m.	
Thursday, August 17	Tour Fisher Body Plant — West Mifflin — 12:00 noon. Bus Ticket	\$ 3.00
	Early Bird — Party Liner (On the Three Rivers) Bus shuttle begins 6:00 p.m.	
	Dinner, Dancing, Drinking and Socializing.	\$14.00
Friday, August 18	Golf Tournament with Chuck Herring 9:30 a.m.	
	Shopping Trip — South Hills Village with Dorothy Witzleb — 10:00 a.m.	
	Directors Meeting with President Moriarty — 3:00 p.m.	
	Beer Party Buffet (Chuck Wagon) — 7:00 p.m.	\$10.00
	Beer Party (Registration Ticket) — 8:30 p.m.	
Saturday, August 19	Men's General Meeting* — 10:00 a.m.	
	Ladies' General Meeting* — 10:00 a.m.	
	*Coffee and Rolls — 9:00 a.m.	
	Memorial Service with George Gallagher	
	Marriott Flagpole — 2:00 p.m.	
	Banquet Dinner-Dance — Main Ball Room	
	Cocktail Hour (Cash bar) — 6:45 p.m.	
	Dinner (Roast Top Sirloin of Beef) — 7:30 p.m.	
	Dancing, Drinking, Socializing — 9:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.	\$16.00
Sunday, August 20	Relaxing day or departures — Good by's	
Monday, August 21	See you next year — Good by.	

A registration fee of \$2.00 will be assessed. This ticket is good for the beer party beginning at 8:30 p.m. The beer, party buffet is optional.

No money is required at this time, but you can send a part or all of your expected amount.

33 Years Later



Chaplain Sherriell Storey near Leipzig, 1945

The picture on the left was sent to your Editor with only the information that the gentleman was the Protestant Chaplain who was with the 3rd Bn. of the 272nd Inf. Regt. The only Chaplain from the 272nd that we had on our roster was Chaplain Storey. So I sent it to him for identification, and it turned out that it was a picture of him. He sent along the following letter:

Dear sir,

Your letter of February 20, 1978, concerning the picture of the Protestant Chaplain of the 272nd Inf. Regt. is at hand. I am happy to inform you that I am the man. I am enclosing a picture of recent vintage so that you may see how the years have taken their toll. After returning from World War II, I preached in North Carolina, then Indiana, and came to Canton, Ohio, in 1954. I helped establish the Perry Christian Church, and remained as the pastor for 22 years. I resigned that ministry in 1976 to become the Director of Development for the Canton Christian



Rev. Sherriell E. Storey, Today

Home. This is a retirement home for the elderly and is sponsored by the Christian Church body. It is rather unusual that I would receive your letter just at this time, as I plan to spend the night in New Kensington on March 4th, and will be speaking at the First Christian Church on the morning of the 5th of March. I remember George LaMoree. He was a fine man, as I remember, he was a member of the Latter Day Saints Church. I was called back into the service during the Korean Conflict and served a tour of duty then. I made the mistake of resigning my commission when I came out. However, I have enjoyed my work in civilian life.

Most Sincerely,
Sherriell E. Storey
4723 12th St. NW
Canton, Ohio 44708

From Bob Myers

10453 Cumberland Dr.
Sun City, Arizona 85351
Div. HQ & HQ Co.

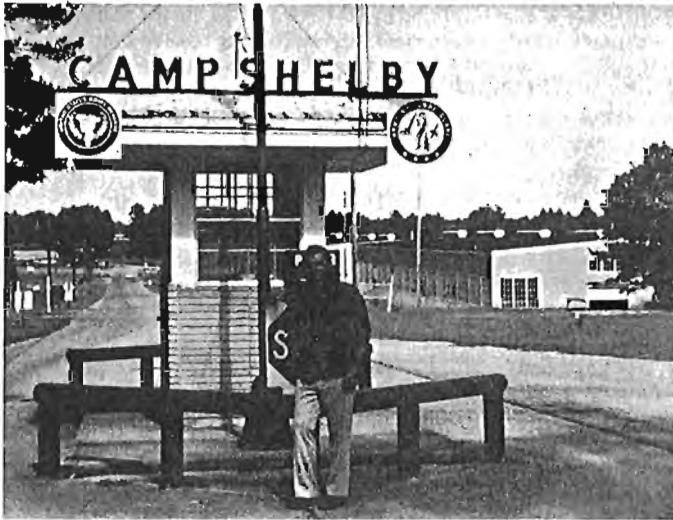
Dear Earl:

I sincerely hope our forthcoming reunion in Pittsburgh will be the biggest and best ever. I will be there from the 14th to the 21st, and trust you have confirmed my reservation together with that of Mr. & Mrs. Frank See. I must apologize for my inability, to date, to get out the personal letters and phone calls I promised to drum up attendance. The big obstacle is the unbelievable boom in Real Estate sales here in Sun City. Already we are processing some 5000 requests for purchase of new homes in our new Sun City West. As a result, I find myself working seven days a week and coming home dead tired, with no golf time either. From here, it appears this will continue for the next four months. I'm sure the IRS is appreciative. I am awaiting the roster so that I can arrange the Arizona get-together this spring, and will still try to find a way to contact western-mid-western, and other non-eastern seaboard members to join us in Pittsburgh. I am confident that many of the

first time attendees in Arizona will be inspired to come to Pittsburgh. Also, there are many of those who wanted to but were unable to attend in Arizona who will try harder to attend and hopefully this will occur in Pittsburgh. I continue to be amazed at the true happiness experienced by first time attendees who find that their true enjoyment of attendance extends beyond the membership in attendance from their own Unit. The joys I have experienced in the past six years of reuniting with many members of the Div. Hq. & Hq. Co. are more than equaled by the host of true friends like yourself whom I never knew before. For all of those members of Div. Hq. & Hq. Co. and all not residing on the east coast, I invite a person-to-person collect telephone call at 602-933-0173, or a letter direct to me at my address. I promise a personal reply and will find the way. I am looking forward to seeing you and a record attendance in the friendly city of Pittsburgh, 14-21, August, 1978, and will be on hand to work and help as you ask me to do.

Warmest Regards,
Bob Myers

A "G.I." Returns to Camp Shelby



"Sad Sack" returns. Al Kormas (Kormazis)

May 1943 — October 1977

With an unexpected week's vacation, and wanting to do something in the back of my mind for a long time, I went to New Orleans, lived it up, going to the French Quarter, and it sure brought back wonderful memories. It has not changed much since our day. I guess most of us did get there during War II. I relived the times when two of us would rent a room at the Roosevelt Hotel, throw away the key and a group would use it, coming in all hours of the night, and sleeping three across the bed, on the floor, and even one in the bathtub — all full of rum and wild ideas which, sadly, did not materialize. The Roosevelt is still there. I remember the famous restaurant "Court of Two Sisters" where six of us dined royally on our last pass before going overseas. The check came to \$44.00 and we had about \$40.00, so we casually strolled out. The staff chased us bodily to no avail — I still can hear our buckles ringing on our new combat boots as we "hailed _____". Naturally, I went there for dinner, enjoyed it, and reminisced — My companions on that adventure were Parker, Gray, Pankop, Hartman, Mullens, and myself, as always, your own close group is the "greatest". Canal street is still there, the French Quarter is marvelous, and if you ever get there, take a riverboat cruise from Jackson Square.

Then I rented a new air conditioned car (sure beats the old days) and drove leisurely along the Gulf to Biloxi, where memories of the 69th's "March to the Sea" fiasco occurred. The drive paralleled the ocean and was a beautiful ride. To think that we spent 19 months in the swamps, the battle of Hattiesburg, avoiding Bolte and his horse when only 90 miles away was this paradise of the Gulf coast. At our day the only place was the Buena Vista Hotel with its Marina bar and serving the only hard liquor in the darn state — it is still there, but I could not find it, but for all you swamprats who had been there — you would not believe it, all beautiful motels, restaurants, and a fantastic resort area to sum it up. And then I drove up good old highway 49, which is now a divided highway, and up towards Camp Shelby — with each mile I got a tight feeling in my stomach, you guys know what I am talking about — the **RED CLAY** is still there and I mean it is firey red. The shacks we knew of are gone, and replaced by nice ranch homes. When almost there, I saw a sign stating a state park to the left, and as we all knew what could a state park be doing in our chigger infested swamp maneuver ground — so, naturally, I wheeled in and you would not believe it, but it is a gorgeous park — unbelievable. Now I was approaching our army home, and this

uneasy feeling became more acute. The government still owns all our old maneuver grounds, and I saw the sign saying New Augusta 9 miles, so I detoured down what was once a dust-ridden country road to the place where we used to go on a Saturday or Sunday just to get out of the camp, a mere 14 mile walk, where at the one-pump gas station and two-table fly-infested cafe, we could enjoy "civilian food" for 35c a meal to home made pie. The place is still there, the only change is that it has been painted. Now I was finally approaching Camp Shelby.

I had previously written to the camp about "visitation rights", and received a wonderful reply from Colonel J. R. Ellington, inviting me to come down anytime, the camp is open, the coffee pot is on, and a personal escort by himself. Sure nice of him, I did get as far as the gates (3), but just could not go in. Call it what you will, but the camp is gone, only the streets remain, where barracks were is now 20' pine trees. I did stop at the south gate, where a National Guard outfit is, but I just "Choked up" about going in. Strange, is it not, where once up to 70,000 men were living and now nothing. The weather was a beautiful 72 degrees, and no humidity. I had my snapshot taken, and am enclosing one copy. So I drove up to Hattiesburg, and fellows hang onto your hats — divided highways, modern air-conditioned shopping malls, Holiday Inns, etc. What a far cry from cafes marked "Off Limits to Soldiers", and the Forrest Hotel. The Trailways bus terminal is still there, now just about deserted, and we all can vividly recall the long lines by the tracks, the warm lousy beer, the vendors of hot tamales, and were they hot, brings back memories, doesn't it? They still sell the newspaper, *The Hattiesburg American*, and I sent a copy to some of my old buddies. I spoke to a lady clerk in the shopping mall, and she agreed as to the change from then to now. I will pass on to you her words: "I remember War II and Camp Shelby, I was a young girl then, and the town was always full of soldier boys, and I do think about it from time to time, and think of how many of those boys never went home again." They were very sobering words, and she did state that she was not proud of the treatment we got. But now, years later, I feel that the influx of GI's in that little area could create problems, but it could have been a lot better, as you agree. Then back to New Orleans, across Lake Pontchartrain, and then back to reality. I am very glad I did it, and can only say if you ex-GI's are looking for a vacation that would be different, consider New Orleans, Biloxi, and Camp Shelby and Hattiesburg — I know you will like it.

And now a note to all my old comrades of headquarters battery 879th field artillery — to the still living, my very best, and to ones who have gone, rest in peace.

Al Kormas (Kormazis)
HQ Btry 879 FA Bn.

A Piece of the Rock

WANT YOUR OWN Remagen Bridge Rock? You can have one — in 80-pound chunks — if you are a representative of an Army Museum or a Veterans Group, according to Army Museum Newsletter. The Souvenir stones may be obtained from the Mayor of Remagen, the official publication said, with a small plaque identifying it as a gift from the World War II Battle Site. A certificate signed by the Mayor will authenticate each stone as having once been part of the bridge, the Newsletter said. US capture of the bridge on March 7, 1945, has been credited with ending the European War weeks earlier and cutting off retreat for 50,000 German Troops, eventually taken prisoner.

ARMY TIMES

14, Nov. 77

News Release

From Earl Witzleb, Pittsburgh Reunion Chairman to all 69th Members. Cut this page out or re-type this news release and send it to your local newspaper asking them to publish it. Hopefully it will reach a member we do not know about or one who does not know about us. It may get him to our Pittsburgh reunion, and I am sure it will get him on our mailing list.

From: Fighting 69th Association, Inc. Headquarters
101 Stephen Street
New Kensington, PA 15068
(412) 335-3224

To The Editor:

Our records show that a number of veterans of the 69th Infantry Division reside in your readership area. You will be doing them — and us — a real service if you can find space to publish the attached news release, or some portion of it. Thank you for your courtesy!

FIGHTING 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

FOR RELEASE AT WILL

The Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association has announced that its 31st annual reunion will be held this year on August 13-20, at the Marriott Inn, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The organization is made up of World War II veterans all over the country who served in the 69th Infantry Division or its attached units, the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 777th Tank Battalion. Activated at Camp Shelby, Miss., in 1943, the 69th distinguished itself overseas in spearheading the First Army drive across Germany from the Rhine to the Elbe.

Chairman in charge of this year's reunion is Earl Witzleb, Jr., of Acme, Pa. He has prepared a schedule of events that include business and social meetings of the association and its board of directors and ladies auxiliary, tours to scenic attractions, a Saturday night (Aug. 19) banquet and dance, and a memorial ceremony traditionally honoring departed comrades. Something new has been added this year — our Early Bird Dinner on Thursday night, August 17, while on a three-hour cruise of the rivers surrounding Pittsburgh.

Individual unit dinners and get-togethers in specially reserved hospitality rooms will be sponsored by the 269th Engineers, the 661st T. D.'s, and various other units.

Earl has also announced that the association's Scholarship Committee will award one or more scholarships at this reunion. This is an annual award of \$500 or more to a deserving son or daughter of a member of the Fighting 69th.

Gen. Charles Bolte, USA Ret., of Washington, D.C., who organized and activated the division in 1943, is expected to attend.

Several hundred persons annually attend the Fighting 69th reunions, but President John Moriarty is confident of an exceptional turnout this year. We look forward to a good turnout from the west, and the usual attendees from the east coast. We wish to emphasize that veterans from all of the units will be welcomed to all sessions.

For further information contact: Clarence Marshall, 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, Pa. 15068.

[It would be greatly appreciated if this announcement could be published, all or in part, more than once in the next two or three months.]

Division Association Chapter Meetings

Tri-State [Pittsburgh] Chapter Meetings

This Chapter includes Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, Northern West Virginia, and most westerly part of Maryland.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance, July 1, 1975	\$ 00.00
Income:	
July 27, 1975, Picnic — Harry Austin's Yard	\$ 00.00
March 27, 1976, Dinner — Sheraton Motor Inn South, Pittsburgh	266.00
January 15, 1978, Dues Collection	40.00
April 1, 1978, Dues Collection	5.00
April 1, 1978, Dinner — Marriott Inn, Pittsburgh	285.00
Dues from George Roup — For year 1967	10.00
Total Income	\$606.00

EXPENSES:

July 27, 1975, Picnic — Hosted by "The Austin Family"	0.00
March 27, 1976, Dinner Refund	13.00
March 27, 1976, Dinner — Sheraton Motor Inn South, Pittsburgh	165.17
Refreshments	69.00
Postage — 1976	13.83
Postage — 1978	21.26
300 Letters, Douglas Letter Shop, McKeesport, Pa.	15.26
April 1, 1978, Dinner — Marriott Inn Pittsburgh	227.81
Refreshments	47.12
Total Expenses	\$572.45
Balance, April 30, 1978	\$ 33.55



Members: As you can see, we do have a balance which can be used for another mailing of 300 letters to members in hopes of getting a larger turn-out at our next dinner. When do you wish to have our 1979 dinner; January, February, March, or April? Please drop me a post card or letter with your sug-

gestion or remarks. Remember the site can be someplace other than Pittsburgh, but you should have more than yourself in that area to be considered.

At our picnic at the Austin's, the attendees were: Harry Austin and wife, Mazie Austin (Harry's mother); Douglas & Harry III Austin (sons of Harry); Earl Witzleb & Wife; Paul Shadle & Wife; Clarence Burke & Wife; Gus Nagy & Wife; Milton Lutes & Wife, Fred Houston, George Roup, Merrill Embick, Joe George, and Clarence Marshall, for a total of twenty.

At our Sheraton Motor Inn South dinner, attendees were: Clarence Marshall, Clarence Burke, Joe George, Andrew LaPatka & Wife, Paul Shadle & Wife, Milton Lutes & Wife, Earl Witzleb & Wife, Jerry Santilli & Wife, Richard Cutrell & Wife, John Kurey & Wife, Andrew Fedor & Wife, John Zoppetti & Wife, and George Roup, for a total of twenty-two. Nick Moskos had to cancel out for this dinner.

At our Marriott Inn dinner, attendees were: Clarence Marshall, Clarence Burke, Joe George, Paul Shadle & Wife, Milton Lutes & Wife, Earl Witzleb & Wife, Victor DeCarlo, George W. Gallagher & Wife, Roy W. Paquet, Sam Digirolamo & Wife, Don J. Newman & Wife, and Charles Herring & Wife, for a total of nineteen. Chuck and wife, Lotty, came all the way from Wilmington, North Carolina; Don Newman and wife came from Grantsville, Maryland. Where were the some three hundred from our area who missed out on a very good roast top sirloin of beef dinner along with an evening of fellowship and socializing? It would at least be nice if we could get the members from the three functions together with new faces at our next winter banquet. We were expecting our President, John Moriarty and friend, along with Stan Olszewski and wife, Wanda, plus buddy Ray Fahrner to drop in on us, but it never materialized. Well, Tri-State members, do write me a note of your thoughts and ideas for our next dinner to: Earl Witzleb, Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622. By the way, did you guess the man on the picture? Well, it is our own Chuck Herring in his younger days, August of 1943.

•Arizona [West Coast] Chapter — Phoenix, Arizona

After our most successful reunion of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division and attached units at Mountain Shadows — I'm sure we've gone on our merry way with proud memories of our most successful reunion ever — west of the Mississippi. The real dedication and unselfish effort by our own Arizona people was the catalyst that put us over the top. Already, we are being asked to stage another Western Reunion in 1981 or 1982.

Accordingly, we are planning a Dutch Lunch for our own Arizona and western members to include the 661st T.D. Bn. and the 777th Tank Bn. Date is Saturday, May 20, 1978, time: 12:30 P.M. — cocktails 1:00 P.M. — Lunch (From the menu. Place: Mountain Shadows, naturally. . . .

With some 22 new members, we anticipate a record turnout and a great afternoon. Our purpose is to see one another again — have a good time — plan for our next Western reunion — and coordinate plans to go to Pittsburgh in 1978. *[Editor's Note: I am sure this will arrive too late for western members to read in time to make your affair, but I do feel you will have a good turn out. Nice knowing the westerners are working hard to help the 69th Association stay alive and are looking forward to all of you in Pittsburgh in just a few more months. Get your reservations in. Do let us know news early so that it may be published in time to do your chapter some good. It could bring a new member or two to your gatherings. News for our next issue should be received at reunion time.]*

•661st Tank Destroyer Battalion

Bill Beswick writes —

I am very sorry that I have not written to you sooner, but I honestly have not had time to breathe this past month. I have been on evening shift, and my son has been quite ill in the

hospital, so between work and the hospital it has been hectic.

I had forgotten about you wanting to come to our Get-together until I saw the short piece in the Bulletin. Sure you are welcome, we would love to have you. But it is as I have just told you, I haven't had time to do anything. In fact, as it stands right now, I don't know if I'll be there or not. If I should come, Jo might not. But I hope we will know something by Monday.

I have all my letters in the bedroom to send out for our August reunion and I haven't had a chance to get them out either. *[Editor's Note: Bill writes a little late also as we do want to publish news of our other groups and chapters. Hope your son has recovered from his illness and that you made your week-end gathering in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, at the Holiday Inn of Gettysburg, April 22-23. We do need news early as we only publish a bulletin three or four times each year. See you and your gang in Pittsburgh.]*

•Central Pennsylvania [Harrisburg] Chapter

No Report *[Editor's Note: Harold Stary or one of the Central members haven't written us, so we cannot give you a plug on something we don't know about. We have been told by a friend that the Central group was having their spring banquet in Harrisburg either the 22nd or 23rd of April, or the week-end of April 29-30, but that is all we know. We would like to help strengthen your group by possibly getting new members to attend through the bulletin, but we should have known it for Bulletin 2. This, you know, is Bulletin 3. See you fellows and your ladies and your family in Pittsburgh come August.]*

•New York Chapter

No Report *[Editor's Note: Can't someone drop us a letter now and then for the bulletin? See you east-coast boys in Pittsburgh at the Marriott Inn shortly, August 13 to 20 to be exact.]*

•Other Chapters

Didn't hear from Florida or the mid-west or the great lakes regions. How about some news from you BBB's (Bolte's Bivouacng Bastards). Are you coming to Pittsburgh? Give us some news to make things interesting in the Bulletins for 1978-1979.

From Chuck and Lotty Herring

Bouquets to Earl W. and Clarence M. for the Beautiful Bulletin!! We are really "drumming up" business for the coming reunion in August.

The first week in March, we combined a business and pleasure trip to Florida. We had very pleasant visits with Stan and Ruth Auk (who were as yet undecided about attending the reunion), and then with George and Agnes Phillips (who was one of our Past Presidents).

We spent a most enjoyable visit with Max and Marie Weinzierl, who were most hospitable, while we were "house hunting".

At the end of March, we headed North. We visited with John and Elizabeth Hawley and their family in Shippensburg. They both looked just great.

We attended the Tri-State (Pgh.) Chapter meeting and had a delightful time with Earl and Dot W., and Clarence M. We also made many new acquaintances.

In New Cumberland, Pa., Bill and Betty Foster were most gracious hosts with bed and board — they took us on a tour of their shop — *fantabulous!!* We found Bill's bottle collection fascinating.

cont.

We stopped to see Leroy Tobias in Reading, Pa. We missed Toby, but had a short but most interesting visit with Florence and Miss Clara.

Then, on to Leon and Rose Swedlow's in New York. Although Rose was extremely busy (she is a fireball of energy; teaching, attending school, working) they still found the time to take us on a "cook's tour" of Manhattan, which we thoroughly enjoyed. Incidentally, Leon is some good "cooker". While we were visiting them, we saw Marty Stipicevic (whom Chuck hadn't seen since April of 1945).

On our way home, we couldn't go through "Joisey" without saying hello to Max and Sophie Goodman. Had an excellent meal with them in their very, very lovely home — a most enjoyable visit.

With the exception of George Phillips, all of our visits were with members of the 269th Engineers.

Chuck has attended many previous reunions without me, and the "little ones". But once the children and I started to attend with Chuck, we really look forward to the reunions. So y'all come. We'll look forward to seeing you there.

Memorial Day, 1978

For many of us our thoughts go back to a wartime era. For some of us our memories go back to our loved ones. Once again we never neglect our possessive instinct of respect of mind and heart; of a traditional day, "Memorial" or "Decoration" Day. Knowing the Fighting 69th and 777th Tank Battalion buddies with great interest join in the many programs and parades of their cities or little home towns. With understanding of regard of our duties of a Quieter and Sincere "day". With the passing meaning of respecting "our buddies" of across the seas and years. We can still hear "The power of prayers" their passport of Devotion, their voluntary servitude to our country. A photo on a stand or table, a picture on the wall, an inscription on a marker or stone; are the many folded years of thoughts and memories, we now cherish deeply in this heart of ours. Memorial Day or Decoration Day "Let us never forget this privilege of respect." An unforgetful admiration of a pot of flowers, with warm words and a "minute of silence" from a podium, a few shots in the air, illuminating the purpose that lingers in our hearts and mind of your buddy or mine, or your loved one or mine. As we join the many large crowds in this fine country of ours to see a beautiful piece of cloth: "Our American Flag" do its work on "Memorial Day" or Decoration Day".

Guy Ungaro
C-777th Tank Battalion

A Letter from Paul Staub

Dear Loar,

It's been many years since I've either written or spoken to you, (far too many, I admit). A good deal has happened, and I thought I would like to pass it on.

Last year, as you know, the Russians celebrated the 30th anniversary of the end of World War II. I was invited to help celebrate with an invitation to the Russian Embassy in Washington. I hesitated going as I wasn't sure who would attend. I knew through the bulletin that Bill Robertson was going to Russia, but

I hadn't heard anything about the shindig in Washington.

To make a long story short, I went. The Embassy was packed, but it was very strange, in spite of all the people there, Frank Huff and I found each other, neither one of us knowing the other would be there! Of course, we have changed a little in the past 30 years. Needless to say, we carried on for a few moments, and when word got out to the people around us, they wanted to know about the patrol we were on. We were then introduced to the Russian Ambassador, who enjoyed the story, and then proceeded to assign 2 officers to us for the balance of the evening to see that we had a pleasant time at the reception.

Before leaving the Embassy, Frank and I were presented with a commemorative coin (a Ruble) that had just been minted. All in all, it was a very enjoyable evening and brought back many memories.

I just received the last issue of the Bulletin, and the front cover about Fort Ehrenbreitstein also brought back memories. As the years grow longer the facts become somewhat cloudy, but check this with Bill Robertson. Bill, myself, and the rest of the I&R were assigned to a Ranger Outfit. I don't recall any of the reasons for our being there, but I do remember firing on the Fort, capturing prisoners, and securing the Fort. Also, when the troops came into town, we were sitting on the steps waiting for them.

It's strange, I haven't thought about this since it happened, but the Bulletin struck a nerve. If you have a chance, see what Bill Robertson recalls and let me know if I'm all wet, or just getting senile.

Hope this letter finds you well. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

With fondest regards,
Paul Staub

"TFZ"

"TFZ" — Do these initials mean anything to you? If you were a part of it, they do. They stand for "TASK FORCE ZWEIBEL".

"TASK FORCE ZWEIBEL" consisted of the following:

2nd Platoon, Company C, 777th Tank Battalion
1st Platoon, 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion
Company "F", White Battalion, 273rd Infantry Regiment
Assault Gun Platoon, 777th Tank Battalion
Tank Section, Battalion Headquarters, 777th Tank Battalion
Four light tanks, Company "D", 777th Tank Battalion

TFZ, known as Task Force Zweibel, commanded by Lt. Col. Zweibel of the 777th Tank Battalion, played a prominent part in the 69th's advance from the Rhine and the capture of Leipzig. It was this Unit that took the city hall in the heart of downtown Leipzig after a fifteen hour battle with the frenzied defenders of this fifth city of Hitler's Reich. It was about 1800 on the 18th of April that TFZ moved into Leipzig with infantrymen atop the tanks. In a crushing push through heavy machine gun, small arms, and anti-tank fire, the task force barrelled their way into the center of the city. There they consolidated their position and remained overnight. In daylight, TFZ located the City Hall and opened up with all guns at point blank range of one hundred and fifty yards. Fire was maintained for nearly two hours until an ultimatum asking for unconditional surrender was accepted by the German commander. Captured were one Major General, 170 enlisted men, and 13 Gestapos. The City Hall and Nazi flag were turned over to the Commanding General of the 69th by the Task Force Commander. The American Flag was raised over the City

Hall after the arrival of the Commanding General.

The above article was passed on to us by: Guy A. Ungaro
215 W. Vine
Alliance, Ohio 44601
C-777th Tank Bn.

Fred O. Metzger Writes

Dear Earl,

Enclosed is a photo copy of our Christmas letter telling of our activities throughout the year. We will be unable to attend the National Reunion as we are due to rotate on or about 4 September 1978 to the Mainland. I am due to retire the end of May, 1979, and am looking forward to it.

My best to all
Fred O. Metzger

Aloha, and the Season's Greetings to You!

When you Mainlanders have all the snow you want, you can ship the new falls over (none of that used stuff, please!) We'll take it. Today our weather report says: Fair skies, probable high 86°F, low 70°F, surface winds over the island, temporarily light southeasterlies.

Our tour in this Paradise ends September '78. Much too soon! Wasn't it only yesterday we arrived? We were just too busy to keep track of time this year — and here's why —

On the 19th of March we sailed off into the Pacific South Seas. We missed the "Cannibal Islands", but found Christmas Island (Br.), Bora Bora (didn't stop) and Raiatea, Tahiti, one of the most beautiful islands of French Polynesia, with deep, lush vegetation and unexpected slopes to the sea. Native dancers greeted us with fragrant flower leis and a hula, the Governor's representative welcomed us with a short speech, then we taxied to the quaint Hotel Bali Hai to be served rum punch and a buffet lunch of Tahitian and French dishes. As drums boomed, fire-walkers tip-toed over hot rocks — amazing!

Next there was Rarotonga where natives in costume came aboard and sang hymns, as it was Sunday, and Nuku'alofa, Tonga, the only remaining kingdom in the Pacific; and we lost a day at the International Dateline.

We anchored off New Zealand three times — Wellington, Lyttelton-Christchurch, and Dunedin — and were entranced by every bit of it. It's a sportsman's paradise you know, deep- and fresh-water fishing, deer hunting (the season's always open) besides swimming, sailing, boating, and golf. The seasons are the reverse of ours, so it was their fall, but gardens were yet gorgeous with masses of brilliant colors. Bettie's camera seemed forever posed in the air, clicking.

Dunedin, particularly, we liked. It's the Edinburgh of the South, a church settlement given the Gaelic name for Edinburgh. It's a university city with several theological colleges and more than a thousand acres of public parks. Here also is our U.S. Navy Support Forces, Antarctica, the jumping off point for "Operation Deep Freeze" in Antarctica. We were enthused by their descriptions and movies of life there, and wanted to jump off, too, but they said our passports were not adequately validated!

So we sailed again — into the magnificent scenery of Milford Sound, cliffs of unparalleled grandeur rising hundreds to thousands of feet above us, waterfalls tumbling and foaming, and at deck level, little trees, ferns, and mosses. We sailed in and out slowly, then we sailed on, this time over rough wind-tossed seas (no casualties!) to Tasmania, the only insular Australian state, well-known for its apples and honey. It's one of the

world's most mountainous islands and its industry is copper mining, zinc refining, and textiles. A friendly isle, historic and scenic.

Next, it was north to Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, a beautiful city with many parks and gardens, wide avenues and boulevards, conservatories, fountains, trees, shrubs, and flowers. We found and petted those lovable, hugable koalas and took photos as they munched their eucalyptus leaves and blinked at us, then we sought out the Fairy Penguins of Phillip Island, and paid with wave-washed shoes as we photographed them waddling out of the water and up the beach at dusk.

Several days later we docked at Noumea, New Caledonia, the Riviera of the South Pacific. — So much like France in the architecture of its stone buildings, and the ease of its people! The highlight there was their world-famous aquarium — the only one in the world with a collection of living and growing fluorescent coral. Its tanks were miniature fairylands through which floated bright, colorful little fish.

Next was the very picturesque town of Lautefa, Fiji Islands, a golden sunset, and arrival at Apla, Western Samoa, our last stop. We found interesting houses there — each a round pebbled area, columns supporting a thatched roof from which could be dropped matted curtains in case of rain; straw mats are laid on the floor for sleeping.

Aboard ship at sea, from the multitude of enticing activities, we chose bridge. In the morning we had a lesson and in the afternoon we played duplicate. The pros aboard were bewildered by the Metzger Mangle System, resulting in our walking away with more than our share of the prizes. (Given one more day, they would have caught up with us, we know — but, short thereof, did we have fun!) And Fred as a Black Jack dealer on the Casino night, and as Pirate Simbad, member of King Neptune's court, guarding the Polliwogs — life was never slow! We sailed 12,360 nautical miles, recrossing the dateline 20 April (Meridian Day) and arriving back at Honolulu 26 April.

More of our families have visited this past year, Fred's brother and his wife (Milton and Eleanor) for the second time even. We took them camping over on the Big Island, Hawaii, on the very brim of Kilauea's caldera. Eleanor sought some volcanic rocks for her grandchildren, and therewith aroused the ire of Madame Pele, the Hawaiian volcano Goddess. She threw back the rocks innocently acquired, but Mme. Pele sought her revenge. What an explosion of mishaps we encountered! — Lost baggage; ants in our beds, flat tires, and an almost disastrous return on Seaflyte, the jet-foil cruiser. High, rough waters invaded and killed her engines, she sank down from her foils and wallowed for hours amidst the dark mountains of water which rose beside us, leered through the windows, and tossed us away into the darkness — an interminable night!

Fred claims now to have an accord with Mme. Pele, and will send her lava to those requesting it — C.O.D., of course!

We don't yet know the locale of our assignment next September, although we will request Fort Devens. Fred will retire from that assignment about May '79. Then comes the Big Decision — where to settle? Your suggestions are still welcome, as well as your related comments pertaining to the area's cost of living and tax on retired income, if known!

To you all — *Mele Kalikimaka and Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!* (We've finally learned how to say it!)

Fred and Bettie

It is with deep regrets that we have to inform you that Mrs. Fred Metzger passed away suddenly from a heart attack April 22, 1978. She was a retired Major from the U.S. Army and will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in September when Mr. Metzger returns to the mainland.

The Following from Chuck Moore:

Dear Earl:

Although I have attended around 12 reunions, I don't recall meeting you. Due to circumstances, I have been unable to attend for the last 5 years. I was remarried two years ago this summer, and will be there in '78. My wife cannot wait to meet all of the friends I've met over the years at the reunions. Sorry to hear that Loar Quickle was ill and couldn't make it last year. Hope he is well and recovered to be with us this summer. He has worked hard every year to make the reunion a success. Now for some sad news that I hope you can have printed in our next Bulletin. Our Buddy, Ivan C. Gadd (E-271), passed away January 26, 1978. His address: Ivan C. Gadd, 2021 Hoge, Zanesville, Ohio 43701. I'm sure his wife, Jane, would appreciate hearing from some of his old buddies. Sorry to say, Earl, but I may have you beat on being the youngest member. At least I was named the youngest at a reunion in Washington, D. C. several years ago. I was born August 20, 1927. I joined the 69th in Shelby at the age of 16 and was a B.A.R. man in E-271 until after V.E. Day. Will celebrate Birthday "51" at the Reunion. If you see Loar, Clarence Marshall, or any of the old gang, tell them "Hello." See them this summer.

Yours Truly,
Charles L. Moore
6744 Middlebranch Road NE
N. Canton, Ohio 44721
E-271

Bill Beswick Writes

Dear Earl,

I received your letter a few days ago, this is the first chance I have had to answer it. I have been rather busy, but I hope things slack off for a while now.

I have written an article for the bulletin. I did not know who to send it to. I was going to send it to Loar the next day when I received your letter. I did not know who was going to take care of the bulletin. Who is? I hope you can print it as it is. If you have to edit it, I guess you must. If you think it is too long, please let me know.

As far as a Virginia Chapter, we do not have one as such. Tom Maupin from Charlottesville, Va. was going to try to form one and I was going to help him, but it fell through. I don't know why.

Now, for the T.D.'s. We don't have a chapter as such. We do have our Get-togethers every year and have a very good gathering as well as a good time. As a rule, when we have a gathering, I have always sent in a write-up. If you still want it, let me know. We are having a Get-together in April in Gettysburg, Pa. In fact, that's where I was this past weekend.

I don't know if you are aware of it or not, but we have 400 and some T.D.'s on the roster. I have sent letters to each of them since 1966, at my own expense.

You asked about the hospitality room for us at the reunions. Yes, we have always had one, or at least for the past few years. We usually have 30 to 40 fellows attend these reunions. I think we should have a room with water since we

have so many from our group attend, without any charge. And I will take the room near it to help take care of it. Yes, please send me the details on the room, etc.

Please send me a list of the officers, Chairman of the Board, Editor, etc. Thanks a lot.

I am going to have to cut this short now as I want to write Clarence Marshall and send him some address changes and a couple of new addresses.

Sincerely,
Bill

Glenn L. Felner Challenges

I would like to challenge your claim to be the youngest member of the 69th Division — my date of birth is June 18, 1926, which gives me a 50% chance of being younger than thee.

In fact, when my unit crossed the Rhine (Company E, 271st Infantry and the R & R Platoon of Headquarters of the 271st), I participated in the first Passover Services on German soil by our troops. In being the youngest present, I had the honor of asking the four questions.

I have not as yet been to a reunion, but look hopefully forward to 1978 in Pittsburgh.

I am married to Ayleene, have a daughter, Nancy, 21, and a son, Tom, 19. I enlisted after one semester of college and had a quick basic training at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, then joined the 69th at Tent City, France.

Cordially,
Glenn L. Felner

[Editor's note: Looks like you are the youngest until someone else challenges.]

The Oldest to Date

Saw your request for the oldest living member of the 69th. Charles A. Tanzi, Sr. will be 70 years old on February 2. He also celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary last November 21. He was a member of the 724 Field Artillery Battalion.

Mrs. Charles Tanzi

Robert L. Ober Passed Away

Robert Ober, a past secretary of the 69th Infantry Division Association, passed away on April 5, 1978. He was secretary for several years, just giving up the office last August at the Mountain Shadows reunion. He was also active with the Central Pennsylvania Chapter out of Harrisburg. Bob, as we knew him over the many years, was an active reunion attendee with his wife, Doris. He will be greatly missed by all of us, not only in Pittsburgh this year, but for many more reunions to come. Bob lived in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Our sympathy is with Doris during these days of sorrow.

Former Members of B-Battery, 724 Field Artillery Relocated

With valuable assistance from **Albert J. Bukovec**, 146 E. 272nd St., Cleveland, Ohio 44132, we have been able to relocate quite a few of the former members of this Unit. Mr. Bukovec supplied your Editor with a list of 91 names and addresses to work with. Some of the addresses were current, others were of World War II vintage. Listed below are the names and addresses of the men that we have just recently relocated, with comments from some of them.

Jack Adams, 400 Idaho Ave., Lorain, Ohio 44052, wife's name, Ida, and three sons — Jack, Jeffrey, and James.

Arthur C. Babbitt, 5 Hale St., Worcester, Mass. 01604, wife's name, Rita, two children — Alan and Doreen. *I am a machinist, and my daughter is a registered nurse. My son will graduate from Coyne Electrical and Technical School.*

Charles Becker, 2241 Disston St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19149, wife's name, Edith, one son, Howard.

Kenneth L. Fredrehsen, RFD #2, Walnut, Iowa 51577, wife's name, Margaret, one Daughter, Nancy and four grandchildren. *I farmed before I entered the service. When I got my discharge, I came back to the farm. Since then we have enlarged our farming operation, we also feed cattle and produce hogs.*

Robert S. Fitzgerald, R. 1, Box 66, Roseland, Va. 22967, wife's name, Mable, and one daughter, Susan. *Live on a small farm. On January 1, 1976, I retired from DuPont with 36 years service. Now devoted to farming.*

Lewis W. Green, 712 Sugars Bridge Road, West Chester, Pa. 19380, wife's name, Margaret, no children. Storm window business, home improvements field.

Jack C. Houston, 9760 Zig Zag Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, wife's name, Barb, two daughters — Doreen and Pamela. I returned to the University of Cincinnati where I finished school, and then went to work with a major Oil Company for ten years in the northern part of Ohio. Returned to Cincinnati, and am now in the wholesale marketing of gasoline and oil.

Mike Losh, 2583 East 38th Street, Lorain, Ohio 44055, wife's name, Evelyn, four children — Dianne, Dennis, Daniel, and Doreen. *Children are grown up. Youngest will graduate in June. We have 6 grandchildren. I spent 41-plus years working in U.S. Steel Corp. pipe mill. The last 14 were as a foreman. On March 31st of this year I took early retirement at the age of 59. Nothing to do but fish and play now. I plan to attend the reunion this year.*

Henry C. Wietmarschen, 8310 Roland Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45216, wife's name, Ruth, one child, Don. *I was employed for 26 years with I.R.S. [Revenue Officer]. Retired May 7, 1974. Now employed part-time as a delivery man for a local Drug Store.*

John J. Pierce, 910 N. Front St., Reading, Pa. 19601, wife's name, Sophie, three children — Mary Ann, Stephen, and Rosemary. *I have been working in a specialty steel mill as an Inspector for 37½ years. My three children are all school teachers, two elementary and one in high school.*

Walter F. Johnson, 3685 Churchview Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15236, wife's name, Edna, two daughters — Linda Lee and Barbara. *My two daughters are married, and we have three grandchildren, two boys and one girl. The wife and I live alone and will celebrate our 35th Wedding Anniversary on August 25, 1978.*

Huey Jetter, 4479 Yates Road, College Park, Ga. 30349

Former members of the 69th Division or Attached Units Relocated

THE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND COMMENTS BELOW ARE FOR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE 69th DIVISION OR IT ATTACHED UNITS THAT WE HAVE JUST RELOCATED

Donald F. Bailey, 175 Lewis Road, Northport, N. Y. 11768, C-879 FA. Wife's name, Shirley, two children — Gin and Donald. Employed by Long Island Lighting Company. (Editor's note: Mr. Bailey sent in the name of John Trampler who is already on our Association mailing list.)

Donald M. Keiser, 5427 Cottonwood Drive, Lawton Oklahoma 73505, Ser. 880 FA. *As a former member of the Fighting 69th I am interested in obtaining information of the Association. I was assigned to Service Battery 880th Field Artillery in August of 1943 for about six months. I was then transferred to Ft. Meade and a little later to Camp Patrick Henry for shipment to North Africa as a replacement. I was then shipped over to Italy where I joined the 141st FA Bn. for the rest of the war. I sure have some memories of the 69th at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where we went on pass. I am interested in joining your Association if I am eligible. I just retired here from the Army at Ft. Sill last September after 3 years of service. I had a break in Service after World War II. My home of record is Williamsport, Pa., however I have settled here in Lawton, Oklahoma. Now, if it is at all possible, my wife and I would like to attend the reunion in Pittsburgh. It hinges on my new job. Will close for now, and thanks for listening to my chatter.*

Robert J. Hughes, 332 E. 4th Street, Shillington, Pa. 19067, C-661st TD Bn. This name was sent along to us by Charles Yannul, also of C-661st.

Edward Sarcione, 110 Boxwood Circle, Hamburg, N.Y. 14075. *I am interested in attending the 69th Reunion. Please send further information. I joined the Association once and paid dues about ten years ago in Philadelphia, but never heard about future meetings. (Editor's note: We apologized to Mr. Sarcione for not keeping in touch with him. Apparently the registration sheet from the Philadelphia Reunion was not handled properly.)*

Lloyd W. Fike, 506 Francis St., Ellwood City, Pa. 16117. *I would like to have some information on the reunion of the 69th Division, August 18th to the 20th. I read a little about it in the Uniontown Newspaper.*

Early Bird Dinner Cruise

EARL WITZLEB NEEDS A HEAD COUNT FOR THIS EVENT PRIOR TO AUGUST 15th. PLEASE COOPERATE BY SENDING IN YOUR RESERVATION EARLY SO THAT IT WILL BE A COMPLETE SUCCESS. DON'T GET LEFT OUT BY BEING LATE.



the 69th

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San Francisco, Cal.
Can. 272

Byron E. Collins
906 Indiana, Box 334
Graham, Texas
I-271

Eugene Deremer
New Paris, Pennsylvania
B-777th Tk. Bn.

Harold Dobbratz
Box 28, R.R. 2
Holton, Ind.

James Dowd
84 Ferry St.
Newark, N. J.
B-724

E. A. Fowler
12514 Winexburg Manor
Silver Spring, Md.
Div. Hq.

William F. French
634 E. Ocean Ave.
Boynton Beach, Fla.
Ser. 273

Ivan C. Gadd
2021 Hoge
Zanesville, Ohio
E-271

Most Rev. R. O. Gerow
P.O. Box 2130
Jackson, Miss.
Hon. Life Member

Robert F. Halliday
Harbor Square Bldg. D.
Nantucket, Mass.
C-272

Maurice H. Hill
710 N.W. 16th Ave.
Gainesville, Fla.
H-273

Robert L. Ober
660 Groff Ave.
Elizabethtown, Pa.
Hq. 273

John Pitner
215 Trainer St.
Chester, Pa.
E-272

Jackson B. Randall
3077 Washington Road
East Point, Ga.
Div. Hq.

Ted W. Shelley
4316 Poinsettia Dr.
Lima, Ohio
E-272

James R. Shilling
6872 W. Stanton Road
Stanton, Mich.
Ser. 777th

Adam J. Sparks
1022 Norwood Ave.
McKeesport, Pa.
M-271

William J. Strowhouer
826 Blyth Ave.
Drexel Hill, Pa.
Hq. 273

Edmund J. Strzalka
1808 W. Chicago Ave.
Chicago, Ill.
C-661st

Robert M. Tignor
5570 Valley Lane, RD 1
Solon, Ohio
69th Recon.

Bernard Wattman
1035 Disston St.
Philadelphia, Pa.
At-271

J. Howard Welsh
806 Washington St.
Cumberland, Md.
G-271

Harmon W. Yokley
Route 1
Sewanee, Tenn.
D-273

Odell W. Zimmerman
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