



71ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Red Circle News

AUGSBURG, GERMANY

Vol. 24, No 2

71st Division Association Newsletter

July, 2010

2010 REUNION EDITION ROCHESTER NY AUGUST 25-28, 2010 – SEE PAGES 3-6

HISTORY/HISTORIAN-XXVII

I am pleased to see that the two articles that were predicted for this issue of the RCN have actually come about, one with a welcome assist that was not known when the January 2010 issue went to press. On 9 March I had an unexpected phone call from Stan D. Howell expressing interest in the up-coming Gleeman story. At the time, his voice sounded so young that I immediately associated it with a son of a former Gleeman, as Morris Flygare was, and this jump-to-conclusions led to an amusing, if not embarrassing situation for me until I came to realize that Dr. Stanley D. Howell was the real thing- a former Gleeman himself: He offered to send a copy of his "Danube Sym-follies Album" and an update to cover the three-month period of activity for the group, after the September publication of the Album. I have attempted to augment the present article with his contributions that apply; the remainder will appear in Part 2, the actual "album" part with photos from show-skits, and numerous snapshots that were literally stripped from the Stan's own photo-albums. I cannot tell you how much contributions from our readers are appreciated, since presently, there is very little material in the hopper for future issues. Already, my Editor and good Co C, 66th Inf buddy, Bob LaPine, is making rumbling noises about a Final Issue, that I try my best not to hear. But it is inevitable. We continue to need contributions, both in factual historical material and in the other kind, to help meet the costs of printing and postage. We continue to need and appreciate the interest of second- and third-generation members of 71st families, some of whom are already showing up in Red Circle issues. If you are proud of what your dad or grand-dad did (or claims he did) in WW-II dig a little deeper, get more involved, and consider that someday (please, not yet!) you may be the one to take on a function of the Association, the Reunions or the Red Circle News - thereby helping to keep our collective memory alive. You can do it! After that rant, that I had not planned to make, I have to mention two good prospects for the future. I am currently in correspondence with

George A. Livergood, son of John Russell Livergood, formerly of ASTP at Stanford, who roomed two doors down the hall from me on the 4th floor of Encina Hall. By straining my imagination, I can almost see him, but not quite. He became one of us in the 66th, serving in Regimental HQ Co. later as communications Wire Chief. The Livergood family is planning a Europe-Revisited-type tour to follow the Division's and 66th's route to Steyr. I was pleased to offer them information and lessons learned, from our 1995 junket of the same name. I have hopes for some good stories out of this project.

The second item is already a "sure-thing" since the Editor has received permission from the author, Pete Sims, to excerpt from his extensive account: Blue Mike: The Story of Company M, 14th Infantry in World War II. Pete published this whopping book, running to 357 pages, with 92 illustrations, by private press in 1997. It is now out-of-print. I have one of the last three copies on extended loan while I work on this. Too much by far for a "reprint" in the RCN. I am now reading it with an eye to including selected events in Co M's experience, in each of our future RCNs. If you have never read Blue Mike, and I had never seen a copy, you will be instantly at home, no matter which unit you served in. Thanks to Pete's fabulous sources of facts and information and his objective viewpoint and irrepressible sense of humor, it is as though you are there every day, in the CP, in the day room, in the fox-holes under 88-fire, wherever, with Capt. Sims, his officers and EM. It's a tour-d'force, where even the details have details. In case there is space in this issue to begin this series I have selected an experience everyone can relate to - the Troop Convoy - from leaving Camp Kilmer on 25 January 1945 to reaching LeHavre on 6 February. Good reading, good memories, and thank you, Capt Sims for the opportunity:

Leo T Kissell (Co C, 66th Inf)
6331 Mesedge Drive
Colorado Springs CO 80918-1814
(719) 531-9662

TAPS

Ault, Howard D	Co G, 5th Inf	2 Marple, Elmer M	Hq Co, 5th Inf
Blahosky, Fred J	Co E, 14th Inf	McDaniel, Earl T	Co L, 5th Inf
Bodie, Kester J	2Bn Hq Co, 5th Inf	Moore, Howard M	Air Section 609th FA Bn
Bollinger, Joe H	Co E, 66th Inf	Nesmith, Marshall B	Svc Co, 5th Inf
Breneman, John J	Med Det, 14th Inf Hq Co	Oliva, James F	Btry B, 564th FA Bn
Cathony, Edward C	3Bn Medic, 66th Inf	Pavichevich, Raymond	Hq Co, 5th Inf
Crayne, Ferne B, wife of Clarence	Co A, 5th Inf	Pelletier, Arnold	571st Signal Co
Deets, Joseph	571st Signal Co	Powell, Virginia, wife of Richard S	Btry Co, 564th FA Bn
Finkelman, Wolf	Gunskirchen Survivor	Rankin, Mary V, wife of Conan C	Co H, 5th Inf
Gahlsdorf, Richard J	Co G, 66th Inf	Rizzo, Michael E	Btry C, 609th FA Bn
Garver, Merlin L	Btry C, 607th FA Bn	Rizzotti, Marion A, wife of Anthony	771st Ordnance Co
Griffith, George D	571st Signal Co	Rowden, Wayne M	Cannon Co, 66th Inf
Hall, Dale L	Co M, 66th Inf	Semmel, Evelyn M, wife of Thomas A	Co A, 66th Inf
Hall, Kenneth A	A-T Co, 66th Inf	Sorenson, Jean K, mother of Allin and Donald	5th Inf Soldier Chorus
Heymont, Irving	5th Infantry	Spitkovsky, Albert J	Btry A, 607th FA Bn
Isaacson, Melvin H	Hq Btry, 608th FA Bn	Stewart, Thomas	Co A, 5th Inf
Jones, John T	Co I, 5th Inf	VanScyoc, Wayne C	3Bn Hq Co, 5th Inf
Joy, Dean P	Co G, 5th Inf	Vekony, A John	Co B, 66th Inf
Krieger, Hans M	Hq Co, 5th Inf	Weber, Lawrence A	Co A, 271st Eng Bn
Lindberg, Phyllis, wife of Donald J	Co C, 66th Inf	Wood, Harold	3Bn Hq Co, 66th Inf
Litafik, Maxine, wife of Gaza	Co I, 66th Inf	Wright, Robert F	Co M, 14th Inf
Lovell, Robert J	71st Division Hq	Wroot, Marie P, wife of Wallace	Co K, 66th Inf
Mallett, Jack M	Co L, 66th Inf		
Margulies, Alex	Hq Co, 5th Inf		

MOUNTAIN POST HISTORICAL CENTER

Phase I of the MFHC Begins! The weather may have been cool, but the excitement at the groundbreaking for Ft Carson's new artifacts facility was anything but. On April 29 MG David G Perkins and LTG (Ret) Edward Soriano helped break ground for an artifacts facility which will be incorporated into the overall design of the MPHC complex. The new facility will display 4th Infantry Division artifacts, while design continues for the MPHC.

MG Perkins, CG of the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, commented on the importance of Fort Carson to both the Army and the defense of America. Pointing to the memorial markers that stand in Ft Carson Park, he noted that, for hundreds of brave men and women, a view of Pike's Peak was one of the last things they saw in the rear view mirror before going off to fight.

LTG Soriano, Chairman of the MPHC Board, agreed and remarked "Today is a milestone for us – we have a 3-phase operation here. This is Phase I. Phase II will be

a larger historical operations building, and Phase III will be the final 30,000 square foot MPHC facility.

Thousands of soldiers have come through Camp Carson-Fort Carson in its 68-year history, making lots of contributions and lots of sacrifices. What better way to recognize what they have done for us than to build a long-lasting historical center – physical evidence of our commitment and our support of our soldiers."

The artifacts building is expected to open in early 2011.

The larger museum support facility, to be constructed by the Army at an estimated cost of \$10 million dollars, is scheduled to begin in 2012. It will house conservation and storage of historical artifacts.

In Phase III the community MPHC project will complete the complex, providing permanent display space, an auditorium, and gift shop. When completed, the entire center will be an icon for Fort Carson and the Front Range community, and a tribute to all soldiers who served at Fort Carson.

71st DIVISION ASSOCIATION 2010 REUNION ROCHESTER NY, AUGUST 25-28, 2010 PROGRAM

HOTEL



Our hotel will be the Doubletree Hotel, located at 1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester NY 14623. Check in date is Wednesday, August 25, 2010, and check out date is Sunday, August 29, 2010. Room rate is \$101.46 including all taxes, for a king-size room with sofa bed, single or double. The hotel offers free shuttle service to and from the airport, from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM.

Room reservations must be received at Doubletree by August 10, 2010.

Phone: 585-475-1510

Fax: 585-427-8673

Toll-free Phone: 800-222-8733

Check facilities and room amenities at www.doubletree.com.

REUNION REGISTRATION AND HOSPITALITY ROOM HOURS

August 25, 2010 Wednesday

Jefferson Room 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

August 26, 2010 Thursday

Jefferson Room 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Please note: to attend the Thursday August 26 tour, you must arrive by Wednesday evening, August 25.

Hospitality Room is available each day until 11:00 PM. Wine, Beer, Soft Drinks, and Munchies will be provided.

TOURS

Thursday, August 26, 2010

George Eastman House



Report to bus at 9:15 AM

Bus Departure from hotel at 9:30 AM

Private House Tour begins at 10:15 AM and is 45 minutes long.

Self-guided tour of exhibits and gardens.

Depart George Eastman House at 11:30 AM

Arrive at Irondequoit Country Club 11:45 AM

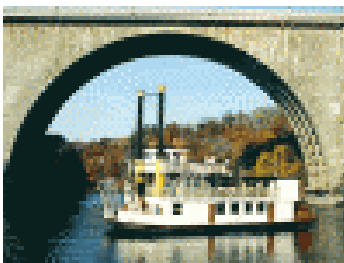
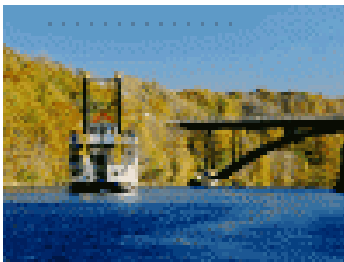
Buffet Luncheon at no charge, compliments of Simon and Jo Braitman.

Depart Irondequoit at 1:35 PM



Arrive at **Strasenburgh Planetarium** 1:50 PM
 Presentation : Mysteries of the Great Lakes and Walking With Dinosaurs
 Double feature – 75 minutes – seated beneath the Planetarium's 65-foot dome, one of the world's largest, and enjoy a spectacular show on the giant screen.
 Total cost for the tour day \$26.00 per person.

Friday, August 27, 2010 **Harbor Belle Paddlewheel Boat**



- 4 Report to bus at 10:15 AM
 Bus Departure from hotel at 10:30 AM
 Board Harbor Bell Paddlewheel Boat at 11:30 AM
 Depart from River and tour Lake Ontario and Irondequoit Bay
 Includes Buffet Lunch
 Depart Charlotte Pier 2:30 PM; arrive back at hotel at 3:00 PM
 Cost \$34.00 per person

Saturday, August 28, 2010 **New York Wine and Culinary Center**

Report to bus at 10:30 AM
 Bus departs hotel at 10:45 AM
 Arrive at the New York Wine and Culinary Center at Canandaigua, NY at 11:30 AM
 In a comfortable Theater setting you will enjoy your salad and choice of entree.
 Select one entree per person:
 Grilled Boneless Pork Chop with shallot and sage crust, olive oil crusted potatoes and red wine sauce, or
 Tilapia Filet, pistachio crusted, with vegetable risotto and wilted greens, or
 Butternut Squash Lasagna with Bechamel and Marinara sauce
 Luncheon will be followed by a Dessert Demonstration:
 Upside-Down Empire Apple Tart with Cinnamon whipped cream
 All followed by a showcase of New York State Wines, with a certified wine instructor and wine tasting
 Depart Culinary center at 3:00 PM, arrive at hotel at 4:00 PM
 Cost \$46.00 per person.

PROGRAMS

Friday, August 27, 2010

Business Meeting: 3:45 - 4:45 PM
Mixer: 6:00 PM

Saturday, August 28, 2010

Memorial Service: 5:00 PM
Group Photo: 6:00 PM
Banquet: 7:00 PM

71st DIVISION ASSOCIATION 2010 REUNION REGISTRATION

PLEASE COMPLETE ENTIRE FORM AND MAIL WITH CHECK

TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN JULY 29, 2010

TO: JOSEPHINE BRAITMAN 11 BAY POINT CIRCLE ROCHESTER NY 14622-3334

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO 71st DIVISION ASSOCIATION

1. YOUR NAME _____ BADGE NAME _____
2. ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____
3. ZIP _____ PHONE (____) _____ 71st DIV UNIT _____
4. SPOUSE/GUEST BADGE NAME(S) _____

5. IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION (CIRCLE ONE) YES NO

How Many Total

6. REGISTRATION FEE (\$40 PER PERSON) _____ \$ _____
7. FRIDAY 08/27/10 MIXER (\$46 PER PERSON) _____ \$ _____
8. HORS' D'OEUVRES, ENTERTAINMENT AND 2 DRINK TICKETS
9. SATURDAY 08/28/10 SIT-DOWN BANQUET (\$44 PER PERSON) _____ \$ _____
10. MUSIC AND DANCING CASH BAR

11. SELECT YOUR ENTREE:

12. PRINT COUNT AND INITIALS BELOW CHOICES:

13. ROAST PRIME RIB OF BEEF, NATURAL AU JUS, RED LISS POTATOES, FRESH VEGETABLES:

14. NUMBER: _____

15. _____

16. CHICKEN MARSALA, PORTOBELLO MUSHROOMS, MARSALA WINE SAUCE:

17. NUMBER: _____

18. _____

19. VEGETARIAN ENTREE (CHOICE OF ONE):

20. VEGETABLE RISOTTO (CREAM BLEND OF FRESH VEGETABLES, CHEESES, SEASONINGS, AND ITALIAN RICE):

21. NUMBER: _____

22. _____

23. OR:

24. MEDITERRANEAN FLAVOR PASTA:

25. PENNE PASTA, SPINACH, WHITE BEANS, ARTICHOKE HEARTS AND OLIVES, FINISHED WITH ROMA TOMATOES, PARMESAN CHEESE, AND GARLIC

26. NUMBER: _____

27. _____

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR REGISTRATION PAGE 2

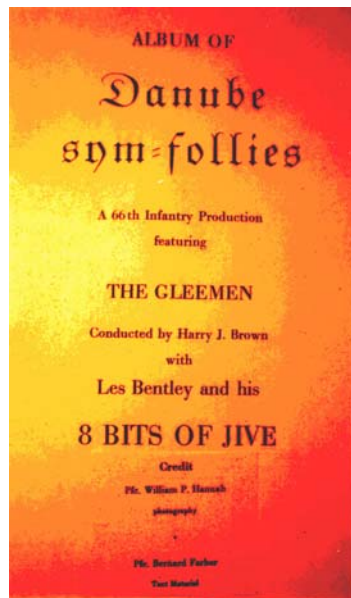
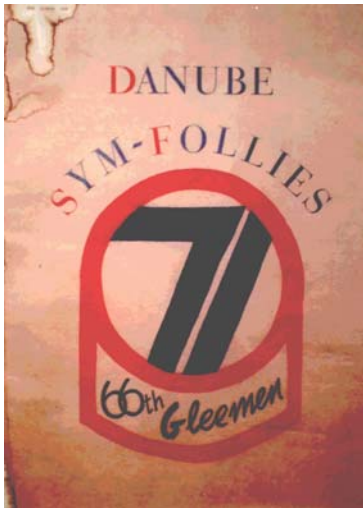
26. THURSDAY TOUR – GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE⁶, LUNCH AT ICC, STRASENBURGH PLANETARIUM
27. DEPART 9:30 AM RETURN 4:15 PM (\$26.00 PER PERSON) _____ \$ _____
28. FRIDAY TOUR – HARBOR BELLE PADDLEWHEEL BOAT, BUFFET LUNCHEON
29. DEPART 10:30 AM RETURN 3:00 PM (\$34.00 PER PERSON)
- _____ \$ _____
30. SATURDAY TOUR – NEW YORK WINE AND CULINARY CENTER – CANANDAIGUA NY
31. DEPART 10:45 AM RETURN 4:00 PM (\$46.00 PER PERSON) _____ \$ _____
32. SELECT CHOICE OF ENTREE:
33. GRILLED BONELESS PORK CHOP WITH SHALLOT AND SAGE CRUST, OLIVE OIL CRUSTED POTATOES, AND RED WINE SAUCE
34. NUMBER _____
35. _____
36. PISTACHIO CRUSTED TILAPIA FILET, VEGETABLE RISOTTO, AND WILTED GREENS
37. NUMBER _____
38. BUTTERNUT SQUASH LASAGNA WITH BECHAMEL AND MARINARA SAUCE
39. NUMBER _____
40. _____
41. INCLUDES DESSERT DEMONSTRATION – UPSIDE DOWN EMPIRE APPLE TART WITH CINNAMON WHIPPED CREAM
42. FOLLOWED BY A GREAT SHOWCASE OF NEW YORK WINES, WITH A CERTIFIED WINE INSTRUCTOR AND WINE TASTING
43. CHECK TOTAL, PAYABLE TO 71st DIVISION ASSOCIATION \$ _____
44. DESCRIBE ANY DIETARY NEEDS WHO _____
45. ALLERGIC TO ANY MEDICATION WHO _____
46. SPECIAL MEDICAL PROBLEMS WHO _____
47. IN EMERGENCY NOTIFY: NAME _____ RELATIONSHIP _____
48. ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____
49. HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER (____) _____ CELL PHONE NUMBER(____) _____
50. ALTERNATE NAME _____
51. HOME PHONE (____) _____ CELL PHONE (____) _____
52. QUESTIONS:
- PLEASE TELEPHONE JOSEPHINE BRAITMAN AT 585-323-1409
- OR EMAIL JOSEPHINE BRAITMAN JBRAIT1128@AOL.COM (TYPE 71ST QUESTION IN SUBJECT LINE)

REMEMBERING THE DANUBE SYM-FOLLIES: THE 66TH'S ANSWER TO THE 5TH INFANTRY CHORUS (PART I)

7

Morris Flygare (Son of John Flygare, Co A, 66th Inf), Stanley D Howell (A-T Co, 66th Inf), and Leo T. Kissell

Those with long and/or good memories will recall the RCN issue for December, 1998 whose cover page featured a group photo of the 5th Infantry Chorus and an article submitted by Allin Sorenson, son of chorus member Don Sorenson (Hq Co, 5th Inf). Now, some 12 years later, Editor LaPine received a copy of an Album commemorating the analogous performers of the 66th Infantry Regiment: "The Gleemen of The Danube Sym-Follies." Both groups were talented, dedicated, and performed frequently over our segment of the ETO during the summer and fall of 1945. Both groups were sanctioned by their respective Regimental Commanders, performed at a high level of artistic excellence and brought much prestige to their respective units.



Left: Album Cover; Right: Program Title Page

The first Album was submitted by Morris Flygare, son of Gleeman John W Flygare (Baritone), and after I mentioned our intention to do an article on the project, I was pleased to have a call from Dr Stanley D. Howell (Bass) who offered to send me another copy of the Album, an extension of the Gleemen's activities after the first Album was printed, a wealth of comments, and photo material. When it arrived, I found myself with an embarrassment of riches, and the dilemma of how to interweave the new material with the old, without wrecking the format of the Album. Since some change is

inevitable, I have decided to include the text and record of the Sym-Follies performances in this first installment. The Photo Album of personnel, skits and related snap-shots will be in Part 2. I wish to thank Morris Flygare, his father John, and Stanley Howell for making this great but nearly forgotten enterprise available to us and the RCN readers



"18 September 1945/SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation./To all members of the 'Danube Sym-follies' show. I take great pleasure in commending you for your outstanding performance of artistic work. The show that you created ranks with the best of the professional shows of similar pattern. In more than forty of its presentations you have already entertained approximately 50,000 soldiers, in Munich, Ingolstadt, Augsburg, Oberammergau, and numerous small towns inaccessible to the USO shows.

"Through all these presentations you have received unanimous applause and acclaim of all who were fortunate enough to have attended. This has been further borne out by numerous letters of appreciation I have received from high ranking officers throughout the Army.

"You should derive a tremendous amount of satisfaction in the knowledge that you have contributed so much to the morale and entertainment of so many thousands of soldiers. For my part, having directed the organization of this cast over a year ago at Fort Benning, I am filled with pride at the successes that you have attained and I should feel very remiss in my duties if I did not express in writing the pleasure that I have derived from this organization and the splendid cooperation that you have always given me."

A. J. REGNIER, Col. 66th Inf, Commanding



Fig. 4. S/Sgt Harry John Brown who took over the direction of the company in the early stage of its development. Below is his farewell message from page 4 of the Album.

Gleemen:

"An utter emptiness engulfed my soul" Words fail me completely. for it's very difficult to express the great joy within me.

We've traveled many miles with our show and have just as many successes to our credit. We've performed with an expert degree of showmanship in all types of theatre settings, from bombed out Messerschmitt factories to the elaborate Nurnberg Opera House. In all cases, we have mastered the situation; we have proven ourselves real troupers.

May the memories of our journeys and wonderful experiences working and living together stay with you always, and may I thank you all, sincerely and humbly, for being such a swell gang!

My best to you always.



In Concert. Conducted by Harry John Brown
Stan Howell is far left, second row

THE GLEEMEN Text by Pfc Bernard Farber

Sixty-five voices lifted in song.....

With a repertoire ranging from our own beloved hits of Tin Pan Alley to the beautiful "Ave Maria" by Schubert, and the folk songs of the Russians, the 66th Infantry chorus has brought much-needed entertainment to GI's throughout the American occupation zone. Playing anywhere - from rest camps to Red Cross clubs - from small isolated Batteries and lonely outposts to packed theatres and radio audiences of larger cities - they have brought a little light into the life of the lonely GI - making him feel a little closer to home. A few days after the last shot was fired in the ETO, Col Regnier ordered this little group, known then as the "Serenaders" - or the "Canaries," behind their backs - to be reactivated. The task of reorganizing the chorus, rechristened "The Gleemen," fell to Sgt Merle A. Strom of Headquarters Company. From then until the regiment moved to Steyr, Austria, it was a common sight to see the members of the chorus trooping every morning to the Volkstheatre just outside the downtown area, "C" rations in hand, to



C- Rations at Steyr

practice. At first, the practice went well. Everyone was enthusiastic, but the day came when things didn't go so well. The sessions dragged by slowly; it was dull, uninteresting work. And then one calm day, from the back of the theatre came a wide-eyed, dark curly-haired young man whose vocabulary seemed restricted to something sounding like "Howarya?" Every song he announced was prefixed with a long drawn-out "a-n-d." He waved his arms erratically when he conducted. But it wasn't long before the gang got used to him, and from then on he proved to be the spark the show needed. His name - Harry John Brown of the Oak Park, Illinois Browns.

At this time on the far side of the Enns River, across from Steyr, were the Russians. In International circles it is customary for leaders of friendly nations to entertain one another. The Russians, being amiable people, toasted and were toasted by the American Generals at garden parties. There came a time when the Gleemen were asked to sing for the Russians.

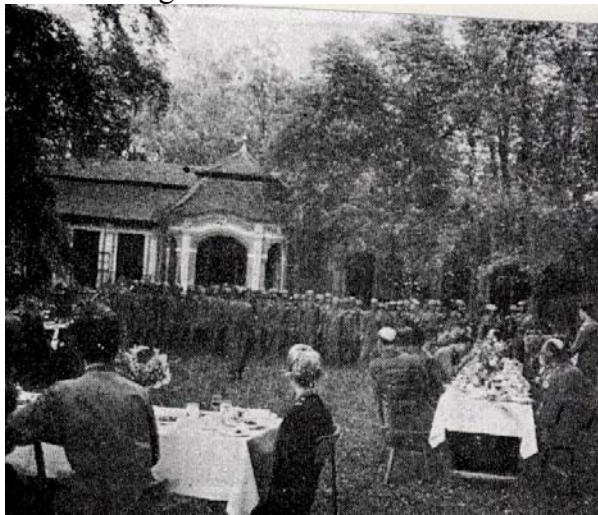


Fig. 7. Gleemen Entertain Russians

At first, they were going as mounted infantrymen, but the horses had not acquired an ear for music, and the Gleemen had not the balance and rhythm of the equestrian. So, they had to content themselves with marching into the party with regular uniforms, steel helmets and carbines slung across their backs, singing the "Riff Song." They thrilled the Russians with their singing of "The Lord's Prayer." The Gleemen were pleasantly surprised to find that their own Harry John Brown not only spoke Russian like a DP, but also downed his vodka in true Cossack style. Their first performance was a success. After this there was a short interval at Bad Hall where the Gleemen stayed long enough to learn "Oklahoma" and the words to a Cossack oldie, "Polushka Poyle" ("The Volga Boatmen")



Fig. 8 Dillingen an der Donau

Then they moved to Dillingen an der Donau,) the Jesuit college town, home of the Hofbrauhaus, the Convict Brewery, center of Bavarian social work, and the home of several hundred cows. Here they took over the Knaben Berufsschule music room and proceeded to whip the show into shape. There were auditions and then rehearsals for this show that was to be the last word in comedy. The show, called the "Danube Sym-Follies," was written by Steve Hambalek and Bernie Farber, with Joe Steinmetz acting as Producer, and "Pat" Patrick, assisting them all. A good job was done by all, and in late June the show hit the road.

29 June 1945 - The premier was held in the officer's club in Nördlingen, home of the Third Battalion 66th. The audience was small, about 90 officers and enlisted men, but it was the toughest audience the group ever played to, and the Gleemen knew it. They came through in fine style!

3 July 1945 - On this day they hit Wertingen and the 5th Infantry. It was a raw, cold day when the Gymnasium with no stage and no lights. Gleemen arrived, and the "I'll try, Sir" boys were trying to build an outdoor stage but finding it impossible to hold down tarps in a 40-mile-an-hour gale. The show was finally put on in a small, rotting Gymnasium with no stage and no lights. There were two performances that day both starting tough, but both audiences settling back and enjoying themselves.

5 July 1945 - They faced their first full-house in Günzburg. There they played in a huge Gymnasium, complete with stage and lights, and a statue of "Superman" with Nazi flag in arm, on guard above the back door. The 14th Infantry went wild, especially over "Polushka Poyle," with trumpets.

6 July 1945 - In Neu Ulm they played the Panther House of the 635th TDs. They will remember it as the house with the nudes on the wall.

8 July 1945 - In Neuberg, General Henning of Division Artillery waited for over an hour for them. With dust still in their throats, and heads still muddled from riding, they stepped on the vast, well-equipped stage of the ex-Kaiser's tiny, gilt, personal opera house, the Kaiserhof, for a brief performance. Afterward the General wrote to Colonel Regnier: "I almost went again tonight." They played a second performance on the second story of the Gasthaus in rain. Despite the fact that there was no stage equipment, they gave a bang-up show.



Fig. 9. Gleemen, Always on the Move

11 July 45 - On this day, the local boys who had made good returned to Dillingen. Something new had been added to the show during their travels. Les Bentley and the Eight (later Ten) Bits of Jive to round off the rough edges. The home-town crowd seemed to come to jeer, but left cheering.

14 July 45 - The immense Ludwigsbau concert hall looked empty because half of its 5,000 seats were unfilled. The great spotlights shown from the ceiling on the choral ensemble, making them seem a motley group of lonely men strung out on the vast circular stage with its high flowery backdrop. After the "Oklahoma" finale, General Willard G Wyman jumped on stage saying, "It was a great show, gang." Of "Tea for Two" violin-soloist Bentley, he asked, "Where have you been hiding?"

15 July 45 - Orchestra leader Paul Gunther was startled when the Gleemen interrupted his concert and evicted all civilians from the Hochstadt auditorium. The only backdrops for the stage were the ferns and the reverse sides of the orient lecture maps. That was the Sunday evening when it was too hot to sing wearing combat jackets. The 271st Engineers agreed that the boys sang as well in shirt sleeves.



Fig. 10, Gleemen with P-51 at Gablingen Airfield

24 July 45 - The Gleemen photographed almost every plane at the Gablingen Airfield near Augsburg, mostly in group poses. The men of the 355th Fighter Group, fresh from England, fed them all the beer they wanted after the first show, oiling their vocal chords for the second performance. They were really in shape for that one. Even the cartoons of 85-pointer "Sad Sack" on the walls seemed to get a kick of the Sym-Follies.

26 July 45 - The Second Battalion built a stage for the Gleemen in an old farm machinery works, more recently a DP lager, in Lauingen. For backdrops there were pieces of Rhineland scenery and the window that Tiso climbed through. The Gleemen followed a USO show in Lauingen. The 2nd Battalion boys liked the Sym-Follies the best. It was here that the Gleemen noticed that some men of the Regiment were following them. One Major in the Medics had just seen the show for the 5th time.

31 July 45 - The Gleemen went without lunch for the privilege of singing for General George S Patton, Jr, "Old Blood and Guts," commander of the Third Army. The General applauded the longest and the loudest. Clad in typical Patton style, the high cavalry boots, the highly shellacked helmet with the Third Army insignia under the pyramid of four stars, wearing the black pistol with the four white stars on the grip, riding crop in hand, he saluted Brown, congratulated him stiffly, and paused to bow to the Gleemen before departing.

1 August 45 - The next stop was the bombed-out Messerschmitt factory outside Augsburg where the 136th AAA had built an outdoor stage next to the EM club. On the walls were the inscriptions: "Ich bin jung, mein Mann ist alt, Ich bin heiss and er ist kalt." At first the Gleemen assumed they would put on their performance in the large windswept hanger where Jack Benny (and Liltin' Martha Tilton) had appeared the week before, but they decided to use the newly built stage. In the audience were Frauleins of every nationality including Scandinavian. For a while the Toonerville Trolleys going past threatened to spoil the show, but even that failed and the event was a success. After the show, the AAA gave the Gleemen beer and a bus. (Somewhere, we acquired an old German bus. It was fixed up and we used it numerous times. Much better than a bunch of 2-1/2 ton trucks:)

3 August 45 - They stopped at Bobbingen on their way to Diessen to play for the 103rd Division Artillery. Here announcer Jamison was in to pinch-hit for announcer Strom.

A BREAK FOR GLEEMEN

4 August 45 - In Diessen, playground of the 71st Division, they found a suite of rooms reserved for them in the exclusive Hotel Benning. On Sunday morning they gave a concert in the High Baroque local church. It was also in Diessen that the Gleemen had a

chance to catch up on their night-life. It was wonderful, with entertainment everywhere. The 71st Club under the Strand Theatre., Colorful Coney Island, swimming,



Fig 11. A Sunday Morning Concert in Church, Diessen

sun-bathing. The polka rhythms of Heinrich Edelweiss and his accordion And BEER everywhere. Speed boats, cutters, row boats, sail boats, and the old double side wheeler, "Robert E. Lee," a floating paradise for beer guzzlers and camera fiends. It was an enjoyable recess.

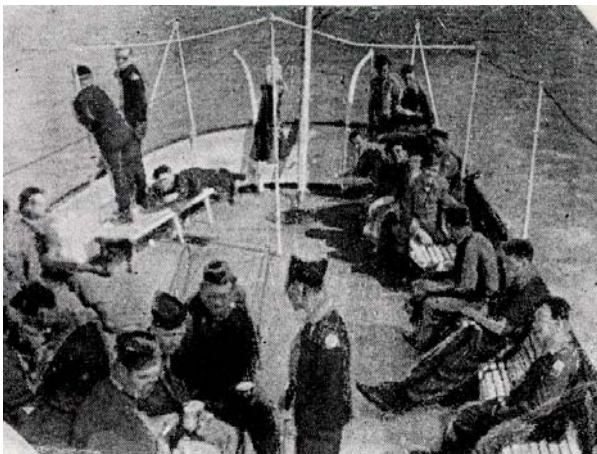


Fig 12. A Floating Paradise

7 August 45 - from Diessen, they went to Schongau and the 9th Evacuation Hospital The things they will remember best when they think of Schongau were the hot showers, the rich, creamy ice cream with all the fresh peach flavor locked in. Camels and Luckies were given to those unfortunates who missed their weekly cigarette ration. And naturally there was plenty of that prima bier.

11 August 45 - This was the day they played for the 39th Infantry, the AAA-0 boys. The AAA-0 News said, "Tops in the ETO." The MP said, "You're out of uniform."

13 August 45 - Again the Gleemen crossed the Danube on a ferry at Neuberg, this time for a three-day stand at Ingolstadt, area of the 9th Division Hq. They won't soon forget the nice, comfortable soft-pine slats of the (mattressless) beds they had at the Division CP.



Fig. 13. Gleemen Cross the Danube on a Ferry

There was the party at the Red Cross Club with coffee and donuts, the Barbasol song, Laura, and a re-cap of the show. There was a platform in an open field where we played for the 746th Tankers; where the Gleemen "interrupted this program to bring you rain."

There was a big hall on the second floor of the building in Ingolstadt with a large Nazi swastika, covered with a Ninth Division patch. They had a mob that night, with the nurses screaming at every pause in the performance. That was the day the Japanese capitulated. (When the atom bomb was dropped and the Japanese surrendered, there were many thankful prayers and the Gleemen thanked President Harry Truman for saving us from that invasion.) The Gleemen also gave a show for the Division Artillery, and every evening they got lost looking for a bridge across the Danube that wasn't there.

24 August 45 - Nestled high in the Alps...Nearer My God to Thee....is Oberammergau, where every 10th year the Passion of Christ for mankind is portrayed by the inhabitants of the Alpine village, in the enormous 6000-seat Passion Theatre. In the play, 700 performers stand under the glass roof of the broad stage to act the Jerusalem street scenes. No artificial make-up, no artificial lighting,, a 70-pound cross for Christ to bear, the simple set of rough, sturdy table and stools for the "Last Supper." The theater guide, the girl who plays "Virgin Mary." Later the Gleemen paid a visit to the shop of the woodcarver who plays "Christ," and who carves His image on statuettes of the Cross. There are many things to see at Oberammergau. The cable-cars to the top of Germany, The Winter Olympics Stadium and Jumps, The dazzling Schloss Linderhof where King Ludwig-II invoked the royal prerogative of insane

excess. It's a 22-carat madhouse, with a Moorish Kiosk, an artificial Grotto (with lake and scallop-shell boat) and the first electric lights in Germany and the painting of "Tannhauser on the Venus Mount." 12



Fig. 14. On the Passion Theater steps with the "Virgin Mary."



Fig. 15. At "Christ's" famous Woodcarving Shop. (With "Virgin Mary," Steve Hambalek, and Harry John Brown

There is the formerly secret Messeerschmitt plant that appeared to be a Bavarian Tourist Lodge,, taken over to house the USFET Information and Education School. There is the Firefall late at night that originates from the great cross on the peak of the mountain. The Gleemen's performance at Oberammergau was far above average, both musically and as pure entertainment.



Fig. 16. The USFET, I & E School

30 August 45 - The 818th Engineers sent their own trucks to carry the Gleemen to Leipheim, without covering tarps. On the way back a storm drenched them and forced them to seek shelter in the 14th Infantry CP. For the next day's show, the Engineers sent trucks with soft cushioned seats and adequate cover. The Gleemen had coffee after each performance.

5 September 45 - The Armed Forces Network (AFN) did it again. The Gleemen recorded three 15-minute programs to broadcast over AFN, Munich. A far cry from the powerful little 5-watter down in Pineville, the 100,000-watt Munich station is twice as Herculean as the largest in the States. The studio mansion is on a narrow side street off Ludwigstrasse , or was it Leopold Platz? Munich, Capital of Bavaria.... Munich itself was a mess, although they did have the trolleys running. Half the city was rubble There were bathtubs hanging in mid-air, with only a single drain pipe holding them up where the third floor used to be. There were store fronts with nothing behind them Theater posters announced the feature film, "Kraft Durch Freude," playing at the Munchner Lichtspielhaus, which was a field of broken bricks.:Everywhere the Gleemen went they got lost. Then fifteen minutes from "woof," they transcribed the broadcasts in the half-finished studio. Afterward they played a show at the Red Cross Club where Tiso-Durante (Roland J. Tiso, Co C, 66th Inf) brought down the house. They returned to Dillingen that night, much in need of a rest. 16 September 45 – Dillingen: the Gleemen knew that this would probably be their last performance before a 66th audience They put everything they had into every note and every gag, the singing had never been better. It was the first presentation of Brown's "Memorial," with Richard Boynton reading the words. Afterwards, Colonel Regnier came backstage to congratulate them

and shake Brown's hand. "Tops," he said "the best show I've seen in Europe."

13

The Gleemen laid their costumes away and waited, then resumed their tour of Europe, for their job was not finished. Whatever happened, the fun they had enjoyed since that first day in Steyr would be a souvenir they would treasure long after forgetting combat experiences. Their most valuable loot would be Memories.

That ends the text by Bernard Farber in the "Gleemen Album," but the adventure continues, thanks to the welcome contribution of Stan Howell (Bass). (LTK)

On Page 12 of the Danube Sym-follies Book, the story ends in mid-September. But hold on - in October we were "hired again" to do a tour of the 15th Corps area which included the 1st Division and the 102nd Division. This took us out of our area to towns such as Nurnberg and Bayreuth. In Bayreuth we performed in the Wagner Festspiel Haus that had escaped bombing. The Nurnberg Opera House had been bombed.

In November, we moved as a group to Garmisch-Partenkirchen. We were assigned to the very large Sonnenbichl Hotel, located north of town. I believe that it later became part of the American R&R center for our troops in Germany.

The main thrust of our November-December activities was to create a Show for the season, to be called "Christmases I Have Known." We rehearsed in the Red Cross Club of Garmisch. A few Red Cross girls were included in the cast. The building not only had donuts, coffee and girls, but it had a fine theatre and stage, compared with some of our earlier venues.

The Christmas show included a few songs I remember, depicting music from early age to later years. Such as: "Don't Wait 'Til the Night Before Christmas to be Good!," "I Had a Little Talk with the Lord," and "White Christmas." The Gleemen performed three times there. "Christmases I Have Known" was a great success.

From Steyr, Austria in May to Garmisch, Germany in December, there were about 75 performances in all, including the three Christmas shows. After Christmas, small groups of Gleemen had passes to visit various places such London, Paris, Switzerland, etc. My group enjoyed Paris and London before returning to Garmisch. At that moment a great production of GI-Entertainment had come to an end: The Division was breaking up. Some men went home on the point system; others, like me, were assigned to other divisions for more occupation duties.

Thank you, Colonel Regnier for the whole concept of choral troop entertainment.

THE MEN OF THE GLEEMEN – FIRST TENORS



Row 1, Herbert A Bachman Sr, Ira L Minton, (Leader)
Dewey E Bovender
Row 2, Milford T Benson, Morris L Lashwood
Row 3, Edward R Squires, Gordon Y Taylor
Row 4, Raymond L Zager, Darrel L Ross

MEN OF THE GLEEMEN – SECOND TENORS



Row 1, John W Dias, Charles W Coon, John S Lauder
Row 2, Joseph J Kozaritz, Raymond H Lundgren,
Clifford R Evans
Row 3, Charles R Hargitt, John R O'Harra (Leader),
Kindall D Emde

MEN OF THE GLEEMEN – BARITONES



Row 1, (Leader) Richard C Boynton, John R Jamieson, Andrew A Menna Jr, Roland J Tiso
 Row 2, Jack Murray, Unidentified, Unidentified
 Row 3, Bill H Ichter, Esai Berenbaum, Henry M Stock, Drexel E Richardson
 Row 4, John W Flygare, Unidentified, Dale B Moore, William P Scone
 The unidentified men are DeWayne Campbell, Donald K McDill, James W Eddy

MEN OF THE GLEEMEN -BASSES



Row 1, George H. Slack; (Leader) John W. Embree.
 Row 2, John M. Martin, Rudolph Gronbeck, Gordon A. Wells.
 Row 3, James A. Worley; Clarence B. Jorgenson; Henry K. Eddington
 Row 4, Stanley D. Howell, Robert R. Wakeman, Hubert V. Roach

14 LES BENTLEY and HIS 8 BITS of JIVE (Later - 10 Bits of Jive), with John Timmerman, Piano



"Way down upon the Danube River, far, far away
 There's where I long to go spazieren'
 There's where the Frauleins play ..."

Leslie Bentley, Violin; Steve Martin; Vincent Desilate;
 Ermo J. Nanni, Felix Wrona, Jere Osborne, Raymond Tenerowicz, Coleman Dowell, John Timmerman.
 (Herbert Blakher joined the Combo after our 1st tour, thus changing the name to the "Ten" Bits.

(So ends Part One of the Gleemen Saga, the men of the musical group and highlights of the entertainment experience. I have enjoyed working on this article immensely, and only regret that I may be one of the few who never attended the Sym-follies or a performance of the 5th Infantry Chorus, either. Time and place were never right. There was near-miss, in that I did truck from Gundelfingen to Augsburg to attend the Jack Benny/Martha Tilton USO Show with Al Raymond and the 71st Great Big Band, a week before the Gleemen were there. I did know their great comic, Roland Tiso of Co C, 66th. To be fair, I do know Richard Eichenberger, founder and last conductor of the 5th Infantry Chorus, through our mutual friend Calvin Y. Rogers (A-T Co, 66th) and have heard, in concert, his fine Columbine Chorus of Colorado, at the Broadmoor Hotel. That's enough name-dropping for one paragraph. Stay tuned for Part Two of this story featuring the photo-album of the Gleemen, some of their gags - one of which is still funny - and additions- from the albums of Dr. Stan Howell.

It will be worth the wait, I assure you. LTK)

WELCOME TO BLUE MIKE

Published in 1997, the Activities of Company M, 14th Infantry, courtesy of Capt W P "Pete" Sims, its CO and author of the book. Sheer size precludes reprinting the whole thing, but we will offer episodes that everyone can relate to in their own experience. (LTK)

PART ONE : Convoy to Le Havre

January 25, 1945 - Camp Kilmer, New Jersey

During the early morning Co. M assembled with full pack and equipment in snow above the ankles. Shortly, we boarded a train for the short trip from Camp Kilmer to the harbor where our troop ship was waiting. At the dock we were met by the Red Cross ladies, who passed out hot coffee, doughnuts, chewing gum and candy. The air was cold, so that hot coffee really hit the spot.

At the designated time we started up the gangplank single file. Each man was issued a meal ticket, told not to lose it, and was directed down into the hold to the compartment designated for Co. M. Everyone familiarized themselves with their quarters, bunks were made and packs stowed. We had gotten settled by 1200. We had our first chow aboard ship. We had the afternoon and evening to get acquainted with our new surroundings.

Co M was one of the first units to board the ship. The reason for this was that we had been designated one of the ship's Police and Sanitation Companies. Our specific assignments were by platoons. The 1st MG Platoon was responsible for cleaning three "heads" in the fore part of the ship, while the 2nd MG Platoon had the same assignment for the aft portion. The mortar platoon had the assignment of sweeping and swabbing decks for a designated portion of the ship. There were other P&S companies aboard, so the responsibility for keeping the ship clean was not ours alone.

January 26, 1945 – Aboard ship

At 0400 we became aware that our ship was moving. Many men went up on deck to get a last look at the good of USA. Just as dawn was breaking our ship glided out of New York harbor and past the Statue of Liberty. We soon learned that we were on a US Navy transport ship, the "General J. R. Brooke." This was good news to us because we had heard the Army transport ships had round bottoms and were not so well-stabilized as Navy transports.

After we were settled aboard, each man was issued several paper "puke" bags and a Red Cross ditty bag containing a sewing kit, cards, dice, cigarettes,

15 paperback books and a number of other goodies. Life aboard ship was a new experience for most of us and the Navy language over the ship's PA system was a whole new world. It did not take us long to learn the instructions and some will always stick in our memory. Some of those worthy to mention were, "The smoking lamp is lit," "The smoking lamp is out," "Sweepers man your brooms, clean sweep down fore and aft," and "Report to the fan-tail for mail call." The most popular for some was, "Mess call for Section Easy One at 1815 hours."

Entertainment consisted of a daily mimeographed newspaper giving the progress of the war, musical entertainment every night and two picture shows during the trip. Most men spent their free time in their bunks writing letters, reading or just being seasick.

January 27, 1945 - Aboard ship

After the first full night at sea, those subject to seasickness were getting really sick. Those unfortunate ones just seemed to get sicker as the trip progressed. I was woozy from the start and seemed to never get any relief from the swaying motion. Mess call was an ordeal if you had only the slightest "mal de mer." You were required to wear your life jacket, be in the correct mess line at the correct time and to have your meal ticket available to be punched. Just after you have had a refreshing breath of fresh sea air, you enter the mess area where the pervading smell of the infernal coffee urns hits you in the face. If you weren't seasick when you went in, the coffee urn smell made you sick. The coffee urns were huge, each with a coffee sack of a gallon or two of coffee. I don't believe those urns had been fully cleaned since the ship was commissioned. After that, I didn't believe I could ever again drink coffee made in an urn and enjoy it.

We almost capsized tonight. At about 2200, General Quarters was sounded throughout the ship. Everyone thought it was a drill until we saw the concern on the faces of the Navy men. Everyone went to their quarters. Lt. Stewart and Lt. Thode were sitting on their bunks discussing the possible reason for the call for General Quarters when suddenly the ship made a wild lurch. Lt. Thode had his steel hat hanging on a peg above his bunk. With the lurch, his helmet flew across the room and landed on Lt. Stewart's bunk. The first reaction was "Boy, that was a big one." Thereafter, things settled down. The next morning, Lt. Stewart spoke with one of the ship's officers about the big lurch the night before. He was told that our ship was next to last in the right-hand file of ships. There was a tanker immediately behind us as the last vessel. The General Quarters call was for a submarine alert. Our ship was ordered to circle

and change places with the tanker since the tanker had no fire power. The sub was presumed to be somewhere near, behind the tanker. At the time of General Quarters, we had a relatively inexperienced man at the helm of our ship. He made the circling turn in the wrong direction and too sharply. While turning out of the wind, the ship was hit broadside by a very large wave. Our ship listed to an angle of 45°. The Navy officer said that if our list had exceeded 47°, we would have turned turtle and capsized.

I'm still not so seasick that I have to drop out of the poker games. To date, I'm \$82 ahead.

January 28, 1945 - Aboard ship

Lt. Thode is blessed with a cast iron gut. No matter how rough the seas, it doesn't bother him in the least. He's always telling us how great the chow is and that there isn't enough to do on board to keep busy. Today he had to tell us that the chow was the best he had eaten since being in the Army and even told us they had tablecloths and napkins at evening mess. We, who were the sickest, could easily have choked him. This evening he wrote a letter holding on to the pad and table as the ship swayed from side to side. Appropriately, one statement in that letter said, "Lt. Sims has been sick from the first day out and is easily one of the most miserable creatures I've seen in a long time." For a boy from the flat lands of Montana who hadn't been on more water than a full bathtub, Lt. Thode was very lucky. It was not surprising that Lt. Thode was the first in line when the ship's library opened this morning. He checked out a copy of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" and by evening was more than half way through it. He also noted that the PX aboard ship had almost anything he could get at a post PX.

Cpl. Martin D. Ritz soon got acquainted with the Navy expressions over the PA system and never missed a meal. He was one of the lucky ones who was not subject to seasickness. He often checked with others who were sick, and asked to use their meal tickets. Hence he was able to eat twice for certain meals when he was especially hungry.

The light down in the hold of the ship is not too bright and makes writing letters difficult. There is also difficulty in sleeping in bunk beds. It seems you are awakened every time the guy above or below you moves.

It's a fairly good day today. The wind is not too strong and the sun tried to break through the clouds occasionally in the morning.

January 29, 1945 - Aboard ship

The mortar platoon was given the duty of sweeping and swabbing down all decks and ladders (stairs, to the

16 civilian) fore and aft, twice a day for a specified section of the ship. They never had to worry about the time of day because the Navy PA system would come on at the correct time with the familiar, "Sweepers man your brooms, clean sweepdown fore and aft."

Pfc. George H. Padginton occupied the lowermost bunk of a six tier bunk set-up. Pfc. Robert F. Wright had the next bunk up. As soon as our ship reached the open sea, Pfc. Padginton began to get seasick, a condition that was to prevail for the remainder of the trip. Pfc. Wright, thinking Pfc. Padginton would surely die before landing, took it upon himself to help his friend in any way possible. He would make him get up and go to the "head" when things got too bad, even to lending him a hand there and back. He would bring him food from the chow line but Pfc. Padginton just couldn't eat anything. By the time we finally landed, Pfc. Padginton was nearly totally dehydrated, as were many others. I was not that sick but I, too, did have a sense of nausea for the entire trip. For a farm boy who had never been to sea, the constant feeling of wanting to "flip my cookies" was most uncomfortable. In my first letter home to my wife, I wrote, "If you ever wish to see me again, they will have to build a bridge or you will have to come over here; I won't come home by ship." Pfc. Ovie S. Bea was one of those who was seasick. He thought the boat would never get to France.

I'm getting more seasick all the time but I still manage to stay in the poker games. I'm \$162 ahead.

January 30, 1945 - Aboard ship

The convoy was composed of several troop transport ships, cargo ships, fuel ships and escorting destroyers. We stayed in a predictable pattern throughout the voyage with the exception of the destroyers. They cruised at will. They were interesting to watch as they often fired depth charges when a submarine was nearby. This evening, after dark, I was topside and got into a conversation with a young naval officer from the ship. The destroyers were cruising and dropping depth charges. I asked the officer "What is all the hubbub?" He told me that as best they could figure, there was an enemy submarine somewhere between us and the troop transport that we could see outlined on the horizon. I began to realize the seriousness of getting a convoy safely across the Atlantic. This explained why the convoy zigzagged and took eleven days to get to England, while coming home after the war with lights on, the trip would only take five days.

January 31, 1945 - Aboard Ship

The weather has improved during the past two days and the ship doesn't roll so very much. We do get some

news of the outside world each day. We form quite a cheering section for the Russians and are anxious to see them get in high gear again. We know they have had tremendous losses in battle on the eastern front but to most of us it seems they have been dragging their feet for too long. President Roosevelt got a commitment from Premier Stalin that Russia would immediately begin a two-front offensive on the German heartland. Thus far they have dawdled on the commitment.

I write on only one side of the paper in my letters home. These letters must pass through a base censor. Any objectionable word or statement regarding military information will be cut out by the base censor. If so, the other side of the page would then be spoiled. The letters we receive are subject to the same treatment.

I'm having more seasickness. The poker games are still going strong. I have just completed the book "Studs Lonigan," but it's hard to concentrate when I am feeling so rotten.

February 1, 1945 – Aboard Ship

Each morning all men stood bunk inspection followed by calisthenics topside to keep in good condition. Additionally we held practice alerts and all units would fall out topside to an assigned area. Then we would watch the Navy crew go through their alert assignments. Tonight we saw two movies, "The Road to Singapore" and "Johnny Eager," both old films but a very welcome diversion.

February 2, 1945 – Aboard Ship

Yesterday and today have been beautiful sunlit days; not the cold, damp, overcast days we have been experiencing.

The 2nd MG Platoon is busy about an hour each day cleaning their assigned "heads" as they are called by the Navy, "latrines" as referred to by the Army or "toilets" as known to the civilian. Lt. Thode had to stick around after the job was done, for inspections by Majors, Lt. Colonels and Colonels. He always referred to these inspections with tongue-in-cheek as "terrific responsibility."

February 3, 1945 - Aboard Ship

We have been socked in solid fog for most of the day. When the sun doesn't come out the morale goes down accordingly.

Lt. William A. Davis of Co. I, Lt. Stewart, and Capt. Edwards have started to grow mustaches. The rest of the officers are still neutral. I am suffering almost continual seasickness. I spend most of each day in my bunk. I'll be awfully glad to see dry land once again.

February 4, 1945 - Aboard Ship

- 17 To occupy time aboard ship, we kept poker games going nearly constantly. When one man dropped out someone would step in to take his place. Just about the only reasons to drop out were going broke or seasickness. This is another day of nearly solid fog. We must be getting close to England and the fogs of London we have heard so much about.

February 5, 1945 - Aboard Ship

After dark the "General Brooke" pulled into and anchored in the harbor at Southampton, England. This was an unscheduled stop because the English Channel was socked solid with fog and considered unsafe. Many of us went topside to see the harbor lights which were few. For many of us it was our only look at England during the war and afterwards.

February 6, 1945 - Aboard Ship

This morning the "General Brooke" weighed anchor and proceeded across the channel to LeHavre, France. While in the channel our ship laid-to while a dispatch boat pulled along side for transfer of selected personnel.. Lt. John Eisenhower was a member of the 14th Infantry. He was the son of the ETO Commander, General Dwight Eisenhower. Lt. Eisenhower and two or three other personnel were taken by the dispatch boat back to England. The "General Brooke" then proceeded on to LeHavre. After docking we got our first look at the port city of LeHavre. It was a shattered mess. Nearly everything had been heavily damaged by shellfire.

Although the city had received some damage from bombing during the period when it was occupied by the Germans, the real damage came from the US fleet. After her the D-Day landing west of LeHavre, the German command elected to retreat from the city. The US fleet with its big guns was lying offshore. Bombardment had begun prior to the German evacuation and continued for one full day afterwards. The Germans did not bother to designate it as an "open" city and the French FFI had no way to contact the US Fleet. Hence, the French people of

LeHavre never did feel too friendly toward the American GI.

A portion of the 71st Division disembarked at 2100 hours. The 14th Infantry, including Co. M and other units will be sleeping aboard the "General Brooke" and will not touch French soil until tomorrow.

February 7, 1945 - Camp Old Gold, France

At 0700 hours, Co. M went single file down the gangplank of the "General Brooke," carrying everything we had brought aboard to 2 1/2 ton trucks and started to

drive to a destination unknown other than that which we had been told, "a training center."

LeHavre was in shambles with hardly an untouched building to be seen. Even the streets were badly damaged in places. Cpl. Martin D. Ritz was one who was amazed at the devastation of LeHavre. He couldn't believe that any one town could be so badly damaged by bombing and shellfire. Soon we were beyond the outskirts traveling east through the Normandy countryside. Our first impression was that of neatly manicured farm plots all bounded by the proverbial French hedgerows.

Thirty kilometers later we arrived at "Camp Old Gold." There were three of these camps scattered at various points in Normandy; all named for a brand of cigarette. The other two were "Lucky Strike" and "Philip Morris." The Germans had been pushed out of western and southern France some five months before, so that the life of the French civilian had returned to some semblance of normalcy with American occupation. Camp Old Gold was a disappointment to say the least. We had hoped for better but hadn't really expected it. Camp Old Gold was a sea of tents and mud, located about one kilometer from the town of Doudeville, France. We were unloaded and assigned a camp area. The first order of business was erecting pyramidal tents which slept six to eight men. We carved out our own tent locations and a company street.

WEB ADDRESS

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18 **LATEST UPDATE ON "BLOODY EASTER: THE DESTRUCTION OF THE 6TH SS MOUNTAIN DIVISION "NORD".**

LTC (Ret) Stephen M Rusiecki

In the January 2008 edition of the Red Circle News, I provided an update to everyone on the status of my book about the 71st Infantry Division's battle to destroy the 6th SS Mountain Division "Nord" in early April 1945. Many of you contacted me regarding the status of the book, which, at the time, was with the Aberjona Press. At that time, I believed the book would be completed sometime in 2008. Unfortunately, the troubled economy had an adverse impact on Aberjona Press, and they struggled to decide whether they could handle a book that exceeded 500 pages in length. In January 2009, I decided that, after two years of negotiating, the time had come to move on. I pulled my manuscript back from Aberjona (a painful decision given Aberjona's superior reputation) and sought another publisher.

The distinguished U.S. Naval Institute Press (USNIP) of Annapolis, Maryland, heard about the book and asked to review it. I'm happy to report that they loved it and will publish Bloody Easter in September 2010. In fact, the Association of the United States Army (known to many as AUSA) will co-sponsor the book, and they are timing the publication to coincide with the October 2010 AUSA convention in Washington, DC, where I'll likely have the opportunity to speak about the book along with a book-signing opportunity.

I apologize for taking so long to provide all of you with this latest update. I was disappointed in having lost two years with Aberjona, and I was hesitant to provide any more erroneous information until I had signed a book deal and had a hard publication date. I know that many of you contacted Aberjona directly for an update, and the great folks at Aberjona have since forwarded those requests to me.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as well as your untiring support of this book project. I'll contact everyone through the Red Circle News as soon as the book hits the stands. Although I have yet to arrange this detail with USNIP, I will try to ensure that all 71st veterans who purchase a copy can do so at a royalty-free price, which will be a significant discount to you. Frankly, this book is for you and about you. Without your great bravery and sacrifices, our world would be a much different place today. Thank you!

HITLER DEAD

Adolf Hitler, for 12 years the master of Germany and the man who set out to conquer the world, died yesterday afternoon, the German radio at Hamburg announced last night. Declaring that Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, commander-in-chief of the German Navy, was

7th Clears Munich

Yank Armor Across Elbe

Munich, capital of Bavaria and home of the Nazi movement, today was completely in the hands of 7th Army troops.

Far to the north, troops of the U.S. 2d Armored Div. linked up with British units under Field Marshal Bernard L. Montgomery's command, pushing east from their Elbe River bridgehead in a move to clear the Baltic coastal plain and seal off Denmark from the greater Reich.

Allied gains along the southern base of the front, from Lake Constance to the junction of the German, Austrian and Czech borders.

(Continued on Page 4)

Reds Gain on Baltic, Race Into Moravia

MOSCOW, May 1 (Reuter)—Capture of Stralsund, on the Baltic Sea opposite the island naval base of Ruegen, was announced tonight in an order of the day from Marshal Stalin.

Marshal Rokossovsky's 2d White Russian Army had also advanced to within 30 miles of Rostock, and Gennin, Malchin, Waren and Wensenberg, important communications centers, have fallen.

On the southern front, the Soviet offensive in Czechoslovakia advanced swiftly following capture of Moravska-Ostrava in the north. Collapse of the whole area back to Prague, the Czech capital, was indicated.

The battle of Berlin had developed into a gigantic mopping-up operation. Though some Germans were still fighting frantically, the Nazi defense was broken and many Volksturm units were laying down their arms, sometimes lining whole

streets with white flags.

Against this, however, some SS battalions had made suicide pacts to go down with the buildings they were defending.

Col. Gen. Bersarin, Soviet commandant in Berlin, is re-establishing normal life in occupied areas. Some factories have been reopened, and power stations and water works will be in operation Thursday. Twenty hospitals have been opened.

Marshal Zhukov's forces had taken 14,000 prisoners in Berlin, while Marshal Rokossovsky was credited with 8,000.

Hitler's successor, the radio stated:

"It is reported from Der Fuehrer's headquarters that Der Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, has fallen this afternoon at his command post in the Reich Chancellery, fighting to the last breath against Bolshevism and for Germany."

Death Is Not Explained

The announcement did not explain how Hitler, who was 56 years old 12 days ago, had "fallen." Russian forces in recent days have been battling toward the massive Chancellery that Hitler built in the Wilhelmstrasse, in the center of Berlin.

The broadcast reported that on April 13 Hitler named Doenitz as his successor. Then Doenitz came on the program with a fiery promise to keep up what he termed "the struggle against Bolshevism." He said the Germans would fight American and British forces to the extent that they hindered his fight against Russia.

There was no indication as to the whereabouts of Hein-

(Continued on Page 4)

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE 71ST DIVISION ASSOCIATION

20

From the Files of W. P "Pete" Sims (14-M)

by Leo T. Kissell

The actual date of the first Founding Meeting was 7 May 1985, "at the banquet in Linz, Austria when it was decided to organize, and have a reunion next year, somewhere in the United States, to be decided later. Officers were chosen and Kenneth A. Hall was chosen for Sec-Treas." So writes Ken in his first recruiting-letter to "Veterans of the 71st Division." There had been an occasional local or mini-reunion in the years since the 71st deactivated, with the most prominent being early-on, 17 July 1948, with a large banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. At the Head Table were Generals Wyman and Rolfe among other Top Brass. In the wide-angle photo submitted to the RCN and published in the March 1996 issue, all wives were lovely and all veterans, young and handsome - Ah, remember the Days: The photograph was sent to the Editor by Irving Heymont (5th Infantry). That early event was sponsored by the 71st Division Society, which existed from 1947 to about 1952.

Unknown to most of us at the time, some 32-years later, a prototype of "Europe Revisited" was being organized by John W Earle (Hq Co, 14th Inf), to leave from New York's JFK International Airport on the evening of 30 April 1985 bound for Frankfurt, with excursions to Heidelberg, Bad Neuheim, Fulda and Bayreuth. By 4 May they were touring Nürnberg and continuing to Regensburg and following the Danube into Austria. Although we never got that far, the group enjoyed a truly generous amount of Vienna before leaving by motorcoach to Linz for their banquet and the Founding session on 7 May 1985. The next morning was an "excursion to nearby Steyr for a "special luncheon to mark the 40th Anniversary of our meeting with the Russian Army on 8 May 1945." Later that afternoon they motored via Salzburg back into Germany, staying the night at Hotel Eder in Gmund am Tegernsee. The next day it was "Bye-bye Birdie," via München on TWA back to JFK at 4:05 PM. Truly, a full and remarkable ten-days. Unfortunately, and there several unknowns in this story. Neither Pete Sims nor Dorothy Hall have been able to locate a roster of the persons included on this historic junket, or a written account of the experience. A few photographs survive from this event. Figure 1., taken in Fulda, Germany, has printed on the reverse: "First 71st Inf Div Reunion / May 3, 1985 / Vaclav, Andrew / from Peter Falcone." also: "Kordell, Robert T." and "on the left - John Earle / 4th from left - Ken Hall." Figure 2. has the men posing in a large room in "Linz, Austria - May 1985," while Figure 3. has the ladies and two youngsters in the same location.. This was the defining moment for the Association, but unfortunately only a few of the participants have been positively identified. If you were there and can help identify people in the groups, please send the names to Leo Kissell.



July 17, 1948
71st Division Reunion Dinner
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City



The 1985 Tour Group at Fulda, Germany, May 3, 1985



Ladies of the 71st (and two grandsons) at Linz, Austria, May 7, 1985



Men of the 71st at Linz, Austria, May 7, 1985



May 8, 1985 – John Earle and Bürgermeister Heinrich Schwartz with the Reunion Tour Group in front of the Steyr City Hall

NAZIS QUIT!

Doenitz Gives Order

Unconditional surrender of all German forces was announced yesterday by the German radio at Flensburg.

Grand Adm. Doenitz, successor to Hitler, ordered the surrender and the German High Command declared it effective, the German announcement said.

There was no immediate announcement from the capitals of the Allied powers, but Associated Press and Reuter correspondents assigned to SHAEF stated unofficially that the Germans had surrendered unconditionally to the western Allies and Russia at 0241 Monday (ETO time).

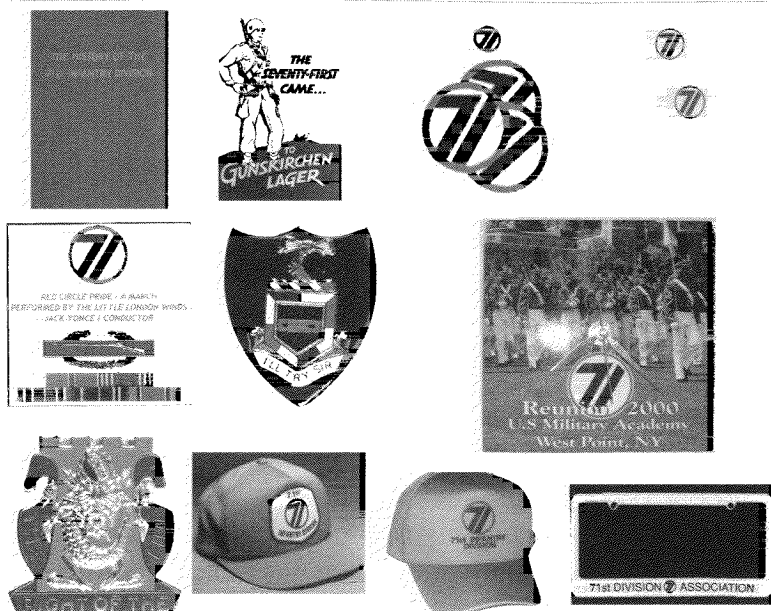
High German officers formally surrendered the German forces at a meeting in the big red schoolhouse which is Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters, the AP and Reuter reported.

Although there was no Allied announcement, the British Ministry of Information said that today (Tuesday) would be considered as V-E Day.

Not waiting for formal confirmation of the peace news, New York and battered London, beflagged as never before, began celebrations.

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23



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A BIT OF HISTORY! KILROY WAS HERE!

This story was sent by Mike Wilson to Bob Mulford, who sent it to Harold Gatslick, who sent it to the Editor. This might solve the mystery of "Who the heck was Kilroy?" In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the REAL Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article.

Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts had evidence of his identity.

Kilroy was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war. He worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet.

Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets would not be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty the riveters would erase the mark.

Later on an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters and asked him to investigate. It was then that he realized what had been going on.

The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets did not lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his checkmark on each job he inspected, but added **KILROY WAS HERE** in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long

nose peering over the fence, and that became part of the Kilroy message. Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks.

Ordinarily the rivets and chalk would have been covered up with paint. With war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint over them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before the war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long haul to Berlin and Tokyo.

To the unfortunate troops outbound in these ships, however, he was a complete mystery. All they knew was that some jerk named Kilroy had been there first. As a joke U.S. servicemen began placing the graffiti whenever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived.

Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable. (It is said to be atop Mt Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of the Arc d'Triumphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the Moon. And as the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for the oncoming invasions by U.S. troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GIs there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo!

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave to his nine children a Christmas gift, and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy front yard in Halifax, Mass.

Editor's comment: --m(^0^)m--