

died at Camp Morton. Official figures put their number at 1,763 out of the entire prison population of 12,082. They were eventually laid to rest in a special section of Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. The photographs used in the book, some taken by the author, add immediacy to this sorry story.

JAMES J. BARNES is professor emeritus of history at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana. He and his wife, Patience, have recently published a three-volume collection of documents titled *The Civil War through British Eyes* (2003-2005).



*August Willich's Gallant Dutchmen*  
*Civil War Letters from the 32nd Indiana Infantry*

Translated and edited by Joseph R. Reinhart

(Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2006. Pp. xi, 262. Illustrations, notes, bibliographic essay, index. \$35.00.)

Joseph Reinhart has done an impressive job of translating, editing, and annotating sixty letters written by members of the 32nd Indiana Infantry, the state's "only German regiment" (p. 2) in the Civil War. Part of the Army of the Ohio, the 32nd fought at Rowlett's Station in Kentucky; Shiloh, Stones River, and Missionary Ridge in Tennessee; and Chickamauga in Georgia. Reinhart discovered these letters, most of them written between August 1861 and December 1863, in the German-language newspapers the *Louisville Anzeiger*, the *Cincinnati Volksfreund*, and the Indianapolis *Freie Presse von Indiana*. Reinhart also includes notices by the editors of the newspapers; chapter introductions with maps and photographs; an epilogue summarizing the life and death of the officers following the war; appendices on the "Original Officers and Color Sergeants"; a descriptive history of the 32nd Indiana Monu-

ment; a list of books containing Civil War letters and diaries by "Native Germans"; and a bibliographic essay. In his chapter introductions and fifty-two pages of detailed notes, Reinhart provides information on battles, skirmishes, and marches; qualifies and corrects accounts of the numbers killed and injured on both sides; and gives an ongoing overview of the war as seen from the perspective of the men of the 32nd.

The most interesting letters, seventeen in all, were written by an infantryman who called himself "Artaxerxes." Highly literate, poetic in his description of landscapes, self-possessed, and sometimes speaking with a sarcastic edge, this unidentified author from Cincinnati emerges as an authoritative voice. Another dozen letters were written by Carl Schmitt of Evansville, a native of Bavaria who had fought in Germany during the revolutionary uprisings of

1848-1849 under Colonel August Willich, the well-respected Prussian-born organizer of the regiment. One of the motifs in the letters is the pride taken by the officers and infantrymen in their colonel's leadership qualities and in his paternalistic affection for them. The soldiers also express ethnic pride in their courage and their important contributions to the Union cause. Aware that nativists questioned their patriotism as "foreigners," the German Americans had something to prove, and took defiant satisfaction in proclaiming it in print.

As complement and contrast to the letters in the Reinhart collection, where literate, liberal, and freedom-loving Forty-eighters speak, anyone interested in Indiana Germans should also read *A Lost American Dream: Civil War Letters (1862-63) of Immigrant Theodore Heinrich Brandes in Historical Contexts* (2005). Brandes was a poor, barely literate Catholic day laborer who came from a farm near Münster to Oldenburg, Indiana, where an aunt and uncle lived. He married an Oldenburg woman, and moved with his family to Cincinnati.

Brandes, who had served two years of military service in Germany, became a paid voluntary substitute for a draftee twenty years his junior, in Company D of the 83rd Volunteer Infantry Regiment of Indiana. His letters tell a story of hardship and misery, of having to drink water that he says not even his pigs would drink. He died in the summer of 1863, weeks before he was to be discharged, of diarrhea, lung infection, and swollen feet. His letters reveal no devotion to freedom, great leaders, moral principle, or ethnic pride. In different ways, Antaxerxes and Brandes are both part of, and help to tell, the German American story.

NORBERT KRAPP, who lives in Indianapolis, is emeritus professor of English at Long Island University. His books include *Finding the Grain* (1996), a collection of pioneer German journals and letters from Dubois County, Indiana; *The Country I Come From* (2002), nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry; and *Invisible Presence* (2006), a collaboration with Indiana photographer Darryl Jones.



*These Men Were Heroes Once*  
*The Sixty-Ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry*

By Carolyn S. Bridge

(West Lafayette, Ind.: Twin Publications, 2005. Pp. xvi, 414. Maps, biographies, rosters, index, CD of regimental poetry and song. \$24.95.)

It is appropriate that Carolyn S. Bridge is listed as compiler rather than editor of this volume on the 69th

Indiana Volunteer Infantry. She provides only five pages of preface and introduction and offers occasional