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The Octofoil, November/December 1953

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

Volume 8
Number 10

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

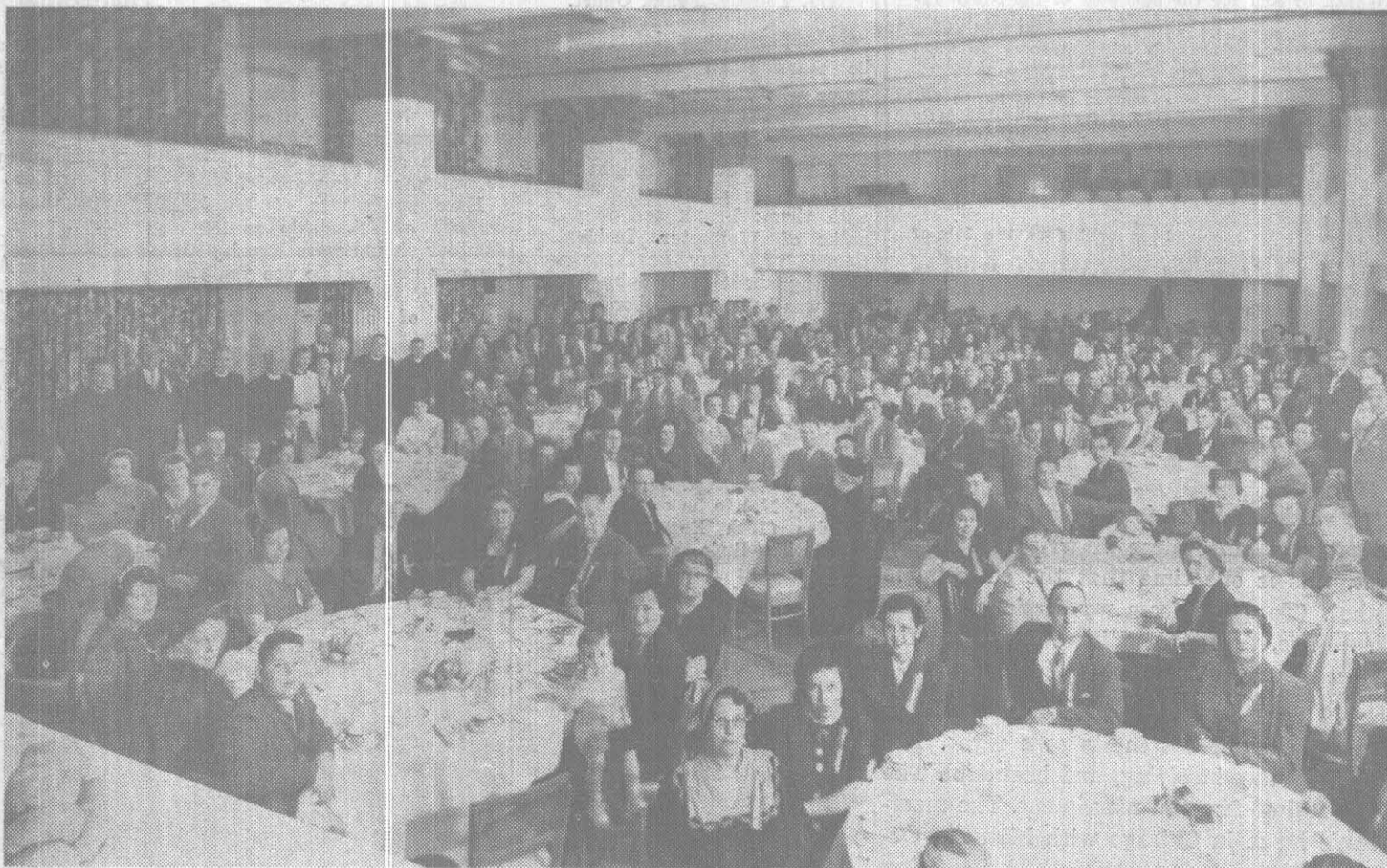
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Jersey City (3), N. J., P.O. Box 428

267

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1953

OVER 600 PEOPLE ATTEND THE NINTH MEMORIAL MASS



Hotel Sheraton Banquet Overflows With People

MAIL BAG

From a way across the states in Whittier, California we heard from Sol R. Silverman of 1224 High Street asking about the Association; we were pleased to send him that information . . . Herbert L. Schonman of 5616 N. St. Louis St. in Chicago, Ill. sends with his 54 dues the following note, "Sorry that I had to miss the Convention but was on the West Coast on business at the time Please convey my very best wishes for the coming holiday season to all and especially the old buddies of Co. M. 60th Inf."

Speaking of Holiday greetings, we are pleased to announce that Sgt. Steve Budrick sends his to all the men of the Association from the land of rice and hills, Korea . . .

John A. Owsianik of 96 Draper Ave., Mendon, Conn. says "Hello to all the old group" . . .

Major Julius E. Clark, Jr., of 106 Alabama Street, Enterprise, Ala., (formerly Capt. of the A-T Company 47th Inf.) sends the following news note. "Recently returned from Formosa where I had the pleasure and privilege of once again serving with Lt. Col. Ray Inzer and M/Sgt. Mantes both old 47th men. Seldom a month passes that I do not see the Octofoil proudly worn on the right shoulder. Presently Clark is the S-3 of the

135th Inf. 47th Div., stationed at Camp Rucker in Alabama. Edel would like to hear from some of the old gang of the Anti-Tank Co. of the 47th Inf.

Wilton Taylor of Lost Hills, Cal. sends a news item telling of the granting of permission by the Combat Forces Journal for the "Octofoil" to publish the recent article. "And they marched every one" by General E. H. Randle. Wilton tells us that it's soon to be the 11th Anniversary of our D Day in North Africa. Happy memories, fellows and good luck and write to the Octofoil and send pictures so we out here can tell what you are doing and what you look like 11 years later . . .

From N. J., Chick Hennen of 3455 Irving Ave. N., Minneapolis 12, Minn., comes the following open letter:

"I had planned writing Dick Storey to congratulate him on his election as president of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Upon reflection, however, I thought it would be more to the point that I should write an open letter to the Octofoil, congratulating myself and the membership at large upon having a man of Dick's stature and leadership ability at the helm.

(Continued on page 4)

Connors Coffee Shop Adds Pleasant Atmosphere to Make This a Perfect Weekend

All roads on November 8th, 1953 led to just one town in the United States as far as 600 people of the 9th Infantry Division Association were concerned and that was Worcester, Mass. There is no question but that each year brings more and more people together into Worcester for this Mass Pilgrimage. It was evident from the tenor of the folks who gathered in the Parish Hall of the church at the Memorial Service and at the Banquet that Father Connors has very definitely succeeded in attaining a formula for a perfect weekend.

There is no doubt that the men who came, came to do honor to a fine man and to participate in a wonderful cause. The most surprising fact that is becoming more and more apparent about these meetings is that we are now beginning to see men who make this weekend a must. When you stop to analyze this you can only find one possible answer, Father Ed's leadership of this phase of our Association.

There is an infectious feeling of belonging that is impregnated into all who attend. The three words one sees in front of the church, "This Is It" were seen in the eyes of people who knew not of us personally, but who know the kind of a group we represent and what our purpose in Worcester was. You saw it in the men and women who assisted in the Coffee Shop, you saw it in the eyes of the men who in the men and women and children who served coffee and cake in the parish hall. It was a feeling

of kinship and respect for us because we had come to pray for the men who can no longer pray for themselves.

Yes, very definitely, "This Was It".

This was the 9th Memorial Mass. The first meeting place on Saturday night, November 7th, was held in the Parish Hall of the Immaculate Conception Church and this new innovation is known as

Connors Coffee Shop

This year Father Ed has adopted a new system of serving food within the Coffee shop. To see such an array of food and hear the pleasant sounds of harmony (at times) in song, really made us all feel truly welcome. Father Ed can certainly be proud of his parishioners. They went all out to help towards making the Coffee Shop a wonderful affair. The entire room was set up in cafe style and each group had its own table. The boys of the New England chapter really did a magnificent

job in setting up some fine art work displays of regimental and division insignias. In addition to the fine home style song fests, the group was treated to viewing some fine films that were taken at last year's meeting. The tables were overlaid with all sorts of food: cakes, cookies, meats, delicatessen, coffee, soda and beer.

What more can one ask for! To fill your stomach with good food and fill your soul with good companionship is truly the apex of any successful evening.

Table Hopping

Going from table to table here is some information that always makes good news . . . for example, W. W. Clarke, (formerly with Division Artillery Headquarters) who lives in San Francisco and is now a flight engineer with United Air Lines, heard about the affair and while on a stop over in Newark decided to drive up and meet some of his friends. Talking to Baja,

(Continued on page 2)

THE OCTOFOIL

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Published each month by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News articles, feature stories, photographs or art material from members will be welcomed and every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition. Please address all communications to the "Octofoil" 9th Inf. Div. Assoc., P. O. Box 428, Jersey City 3, N. J.

Extract from the certificate of incorporation of the Ninth Infantry Division Association: This Association is formed by the officers and men of the Ninth Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an ever lasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to members and former members of the Division.

Copy and pictures must be received on or before the 15th of each month to guarantee publication.

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November-December, 1953

Number 10

An Editorial Epithet

After each issue of the Octofoil is completed and ready for the press, the last remaining piece of written business is the editorial. But, this is one time that the editorial is going to be an epithet. (To quote from my dictionary, "An epithet is a term". . . Yes, truly this epithet is a term for the 9th Division Association.

The last 35 or 40 days have included four wonderful events and each event is important in its own right. The Worcester Mass was very awe-inspiring, and beautiful. The New York Dance was full of fun and merriment. The meeting in John Huffman's home in Chicago with Matusik, Oczart and Reemer was enjoyable and fruitful. The meeting in Leonard Ignaszak's place of business in Milwaukee was provocative and stimulating.

Here were four extremely varied meetings that had one net result. The blending of past memories with today's thoughts. Father Ed has taken the spiritual road and has certainly paved this road with hard work and an inner zeal to see that his boys get together and remember the lads who can't come back. The New York gang employed the opposite means by using the path of merriment and entertainment. The Chicago meeting was concerned with re-vitalizing a chapter's activity program. The Milwaukee meeting was dedicated to starting a local chapter.

Each affair and meeting though varied had one common denominator, to hold this Association together.

We, in this Association, have a lot to be thankful for. We have men from all walks of life who want to keep the lamp of friendship forever burning within the framework of our Association. Their paths are varied and different but the end results are the same.

With this forward type of manpower and constructive thinking we cannot and must not vanish as an Association as have a great many other army associations. We have proved our solidarity by making a very handsome profit on our Washington convention. We know our members want to attend conventions and reunions, we know we have the right kind of leadership to lead us onward to greater solidarity and achievement.

Yes, we have a great group of men in this outfit. . . And all of them, if they had the opportunity, would want to say the following to all of you. . .

Keep this Association going; keep your local chapters going; and pay your dues. . .

And to all of you, and to your families. . .

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Over 600 People Attend

(Continued from page 1)



CAFE STYLED TABLES — Shown in foreground: Mr. and Mrs. Ledwin, Frank Ogart.

your reporter was informed that he married an Air Evacuation nurse who flew the Santa Maria Casablanca run during the war. George and Mrs. Levesque of Portsmouth, R. I. brought along some guests and decided to stay with them; Frank and Mrs. Kapulka of Worcester. Incidentally George and May Levesque were beaming about their baby Margie who was born on October 29, 1953. George by the way was with the 48th F. A. John H. Jagling told us that he recently moved from Reading to Lawrence, Mass. Ronnie Murphy related that on September 6, his wife Mary gave birth to a delightful girl named Ellen who checked in at 8 lbs. and 3/4 ozs. Not to be outdone George Buhdza (15th Eng.) just raved about his little girl Terry and told us that Terry was born on Nov. 5 and he and his wife Antoinette are really living now. . . George Leggett (84 F.A. Hqs. B'y) recently graduated from the Mass College of Pharmacy and he and Dolores are now living at 29 Bradley St. in Dorchester, Mass. Frances B. McLaughlin (84th F.A. B'y) just sat listening and then said "But I have just built me a new home at 74 Highland St. in Canton, Mass., and my two daughters, Karen Ann and Donna Marie are really living it up. . . But John J. Ahern (34 F.A.) had even better information because he spoke about the twins that were born on June 26, John who came in at 5-12 and Kathleen at 4-14, in addition John J. has three other delightfults, Daniel 7 years, Timothy 5 and Marie age 2.

Seated in one corner of the room was the following group of ladies just talking while their respective husbands were re-fighting the war Mrs. Thomas Delmone, Mrs. Jerry Nelson, Mrs. Frank Podsiadlo, Mrs. Red Byrne and Mrs. Nate Balich.

About 11:30 P.M. the group started toward their homes to get some sleep so we would all be able to attend the early morning mass.

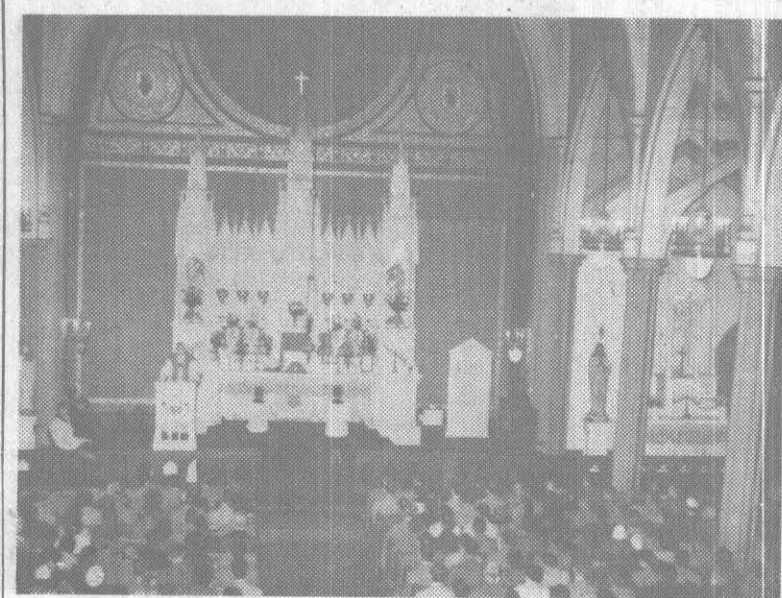


Mrs. T. Delmone, Mrs. J. Nelson, Mrs. F. Podsiadlo, Mrs. R. Byrne and Mrs. N. Balich.

Morning Mass

"This Is It". The familiar sign was displayed in front of the church welcoming the morning worshippers, and as usual, the smiling face of Father Ed was there to welcome us to worship.

Here again was displayed the warmth of friendship as the old familiar shouts were heard, "Well, I never expected to see you" and, "Well, if it isn't", these are the sounds of old friends meeting



CHURCH SERVICE

again. Even if it is just once a year one could sense the true meaning of old comradeship being revived.

As each x-9th man filed into the church he was given a ribbon with the numeral 9 displayed on a background of a red, white and blue. The ribbons displayed on the coats and lapels of the men stood out, because of the great number of men who wore them. This audience was composed of members of all religious sects, for those who attended came to silently pay their respects to the men who did not return, and the feeling that permeated that group was

together at Connor's C.P. It is a thrill to have you with me again. However, I know that if it were only to come and visit me, we would not have the crowd. . . for you have many other things to do, and many obligations to fulfill. I know, and you know, that the reason for so many to come here each November is more compelling and more solemn than a mere visit. We gather here to honor and prayed for our dead of the Ninth Division, and we wish to manifest to their bereaved that we still remember.

This occasion has a challenge for each one of us. And I think that it is this. We all should be deeply grateful. When you were overseas, your constant question was — "When shall we be home again?" Thank God, we are home. And for that we should be grateful. May every Ninth Division man express his gratitude by doing all he can to make his home a place of goodness and happiness and prayer. It is my prayer that you will meet the challenge — so that all Ninth Division men may be richly blessed by Almighty God. . .

Father Connors' address was followed by an address of Welcome by our Association President, Richard Storey.

Seated at the Dias were: Mrs. & Mr. Olson from Randolph, Mass., Gold Star parents who incidentally were celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary Father Murphy (Navy Chaplain), Father Olson, Richard C. Storey, Miss Olson, Father Leddy, Father Lawlor and Father Burke. . .

one of remembrance and deep thought.

Dinner at the Sheraton

This year as usual there were just about enough chairs and tables to go around to take care of the crowd.

But, as always each and every person attending sat down to enjoy a wonderful dinner which started off in the following manner. . .

Grapefruit de Safi-Thala (A good beginning!) then Soup de Maknassey-El Guettar (Sip to the strains of "Flashlight Freddie on Arabian Nights"); Chicken (peutetre) de Bizerte (This is one bird we plucked) and we'll Tro-In-A Potato!! (Prmia), Biscuit de St. Lo will help you fill the Falaise Gap Aqua Chlorine de Meuse (remember the adage — Don't count your bridges unless you can swim). Combination Ziegried Salad With Hurtgen Sauce (This is to be eaten slowly and how! Remagen Souffle. A surprise, wasn't it! Coffee of the U.S.A. is always good for everyday. . . and of course, Semper Et Ubique. . . Objective Finale. . . This menu was prepared with careful skill and consideration. ALL IST KAPUT. . . Father Connors Welcome Address

Father Connors Welcome Address

Hi Gang! Here we are again — our 9th Memorial Mass and get-

Harry B. Logan of New York won a door prize donated by one of the members.

Entertainment

This year the members of the parish of the Immaculate Conception Church out did themselves in performing for the group. Johnny Hines M.C.'d the show and then introduced Michael Eagean and Catherine Williams, Jay Leonard who sang Danny Boy accompanied by Mrs. Hines, Mrs. Evelyn Wayne sang In Dublin's Fair City, the Jimmy Lintgate sang "An Irish Lullaby". The finale was a cute little girl who danced an Irish Jig and really thrilled the entire audience with her interpretation. (Your reporter must apologize for not catching the name of this little girl).

Some People We Met

Jerry Keohane, Angie and Henry Gargiulo, Albert and Margaret Ferrante, Rudy and Tony Madonno have really established a notable record. These nice people have made all of the 9 Memorial Masses to date and that's truly a record.

George F. Levesque (A-84th F. A.) has a new job now, he is a Senior Supervisor of the Vending Stand program for the Rhode Island State Bureau of the Blind. Ernest Di Marzio (84 F.A. Hqs.) is now living with his family, David and Gertrude at 14 School St., Newton, Mass. George Swanson of the 9th Q.M. is anxious to contact some of the men of the Q.M. company, George is now setting up his tent at 100 Pine Street in New Haven, Conn. Vincent Recchia of 77 What Cheer Ave., Providence, R. I. was there. Joe Albanese with brand new car came down from White River Junction Vermont...

Gold Star Guests

Mary Thompson of 365 Cambridge St., Worcester, Mass., her son S/Sgt. Ed. J. Thompson of the 9th Recon. Louisa D'Orazio of 33 80th St. of Waltham, Mass. Mrs. E. Lessard of 1032 S. Bridge St., Worcester, Mass., mother of Conrad J. Lessard of the 34 F.A. Bn. Mrs. Joseph Reilly of 45 Cottage St., Brockton, Mass., and Mrs. McClatchey of 707 17th Ave., Munhall, Pa., sister of James McClatchey, 84th F.A. Joseph and Catherine Reilly of Cottage St., of Brockton, Mass., parents of Bill Lawrence who was with the M.P. Bn. and their guests Mrs. Frank Finnegan with Cathy, Marie and Billie...

Frederick Talarico of Service Company 84th F.A. Battalion told us that on October 2nd his wife Rose gave birth to Joseph who weighed at 4 lbs. 15 oz. Fred is now living with Frederick, Jr. at 99 W. Union St. in Pittsfield, Mass. and Jack Kargar of Hqs. Battery 84th F.A. remarked that on June 15 Edward Barry arrived into the world at a great 6 lbs. 6 oz. Jack and Ruth are now living at 27 Verndale in Brookline Mass.

At approximately 3 P.M., the crowd started to disperse to all parts of New England and home. The one thought upper most in the minds of many was that this indeed had been a grand weekend. Before they started to say "Good bye" you could hear the familiar ring "Well I'll see you back here again next year"... This then was the finale to a fine time in Worcester...

Welcome to Three New Members...

Julius Lefkowitz, 118 S. 2nd St., Brooklyn.

Leo R. Gully, 1128 1/2 Mango Av., Maring, Iowa. (G. & Sv. Co. 60th Inf.)

Anthony Moleca, 15 Boylston St., Jamaica Plains, Mass. (Medic with the 60th F.A.)

'54 Dues Are Now Payable



Jerry Keohane, Angie and Henry Gargiulo, Albert and Margaret Ferrante, Rudy and Tony Madonno. They have made nine straight Memorial affairs held by Father Connors.

One of our members sends us the following news item that appeared in the Nov. 6th issue of the Catholic Free Press regarding CONNOR'S COFFEE CASUALTIES, written by Canon Peppergrass. Your reporter thought it good copy...

Where Angels Fear....

By Canon Peppergrass

Connors' Coffee Casualties

Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! Something new has been added! The annual reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division will start this year with the grand opening of Father Connors' Coffee Shoppe, Saturday evening, Nov. 7, at the Immaculate Conception Hall. Added to the majesty of the Memorial Mass for their deceased members, which makes one of Worcester's truly great affairs, will be a wave of informal prayer that Father C. has nothing to do with the actual making of the coffee. Because of the coffee he made and served at his various headquarters during W. W. II, he has gained a reputation that you could scratch matches on.

The list of casualties caused by that coffee has never been compiled. Suffice it to say that when they cleaned out the pot after three years, they found the skeleton of a pastel mink in the bottom of it. Instead of buying a new pot they cleaned the old one by boiling a solution of potash, lye,

solum, lanolin and White Rain in the thing. It was left alone for a few minutes while this "wizard's brew" was percolating. And when Fr. Connors returned there was a badly corroded cup sitting there with a note propped against it that read: "I just had a cup of your coffee and it was somewhat better than usual." The poor G.I. was buried three days later with full military honors. The report of the autopsy read simply: stomach AWOL. His Epitaph reads:

"Private Johnny took a drink But he will drink no more; He thought 'twas largely H2O Not H2SO4".

"I've been invited to this party. I'll go. I know I will. I'm perfectly sure I'll drink a cup of that coffee against the advice of six doctors, all the men of the Ninth Division and the entire membership of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses; not to mention a direct prohibition from my Aunt Abbe... Gee how I dread it!

Convention Report

The probabilities are that most of the members of our organization wondered what had happened at the last convention, so without further adieu here is the thought that counts the most... The financial report...

Net profit \$ 425.00
Convention Income \$ 3505.00
Convention Expense .. \$ 3080.00

This report is indeed a tribute to all of those who worked so hard to make this convention successful. But one can easily see conventions are an expensive item and, if they are handled well, they can be financially rewarding.

So, with pride and pleasure we point with pride that we made a handsome profit of \$425.00 from the 1953 convention in Washington, D.C.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

After a very fine visit with Leonard Ignazie the proprietor of the Gold Key Tavern, of 364 North 27th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Len is now in the process of getting together the lads and lassies in the Milwaukee area to form a local chapter. All you members who are in this area contact Len at the Gold Key for further information.

He has the set up to hold a meeting and the place to make a meeting worth while.

Washington, D. C. Chapter Elects New Officers

On Wednesday, October 21st, the Washington, D. C. Chapter of the 9th Infantry Division Association held a scheduled meeting at the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen's Club in that City. The principal item on the agenda was the election of officers and these are the results.

Harrison J. Daysh, President; William Robey, Vice-President; and Anthony B. Micke, Secretary-Treasurer.

Tony Micke was unanimously re-elected to his post as the Secretary-Treasurer in view of the fine and capable work he has rendered to the chapter. Those present at the meeting also tendered their appreciation to the retiring President, William Peverill, for his creditable efforts in guiding the Washington Chapter through one of its most active years which culminated in the chapter's successful sponsorship of the Association's Annual Convention held here last July.

After adjournment the membership enjoyed the telecast of the Bobo Olson versus Randy Turpin middleweight bout and had a few "Brews" out of the larder of the Chapter treasury. The new executive committee will set the time and the place of the next meeting.

New York Affair Tops All Hotel New Yorker Jumps

This was one affair that really jumped from start to finish. Usually the New York dances are the nice calm type. But this one really had the gang moving. The success of the affair can be placed upon the entertainment and the jovial mood of the participants.

Bob Clayton and his orchestra provided the jive and some rather handsome entertainment followed. Needless to say, the type of reception accorded the entertainment was something that cannot be captured on paper.

The Mistress of Ceremonies astounded the group with her rendition of some real old fashion Be-Bop and her floor antics were keenly observed by Harold Pepper, Hermonio Suarez and Frank Rizzio. As a matter of fact, the only answer as to whether or not they had a good time is to ask them personally.

Jumping around after the Bom's A Daisey, and the square dances, we settled down to talk to some folks who we haven't seen for quite a spell. Bernie and Ann Friedkin (he was formerly with the Blue Band) talked freely about his wonderful family... Vito Colaianni told us about his troubles and we have settled that score... Arnold Tomanek of Service Company, the 39th Infantry came with Mr. and Mrs. K. Walker all the way from 439 Ringwood Ave. in Midvale, N.J. Ed Cloud (Div. Hq.) travelled in from Bound Brook, N.J. with his guests, Bill Stuart and Florence Oboch, Betty Chernock and Mr. and Mrs. Jay Turner... At another table was spotted Bernie and Mrs. Stein, Frank and Winnie Hastall (formerly with Div. Hqs., 39th and 47th) incidentally this was one of the first affairs that Frank has attended and from the good time he had I doubt whether he will miss any future affairs... Pat and Al Bruchac, Charlet Cleaves, Heather and Wally Wasserman, Phil & Silvia Orloff & Ernie & Mrs. Siegal and Ellen and Ed McCue... Julius Lefkowitz of 118 S. 2nd St., Brooklyn, N.Y. was another face that we hadn't seen around before... Vito Colianni and Hank Bialous and Fred Gloub shared a corner table with the Monsatto's...

We were indeed fortunate to have as one of our very special guests, Mrs. Mae Spencer, our first Gold Star Mother. Her daughter and son-in-law were in attendance with Mrs. Myrtle Guglielmino Mrs. F. Rizzio, Mrs. Marie Quinn Mrs. Anna Troiano, and Mrs. Ruby Gandolfo.

John Kurtz of 1936 Route 33, Hamilton Square who was with Company F of the 60th Infantry would like to contact some of the lads who were with F Co. So then let's give John a great big assist and make with the pens and pencils.

Mr. and Mrs. Iannuchi and Mrs. and Mr. Trevalise and Mrs. and Mr. Merchante were certainly whooping it up at their table. Or shall we say that from the vantage point they had a full view of the entertainment...

Vincent Gulielmino brought along Sylvester Vitolo and the Mrs. and Nick Chironis... Henry Caladaro and his spouse really danced the light fantastic all night.

Now comes the time to tell all... We had posed some really wonderful pictures of all those mentioned above... But as usual these affairs some times turn on the pixies in the camera. To make a long story short, the entire lot of bulbs that were used were not very good. One has to blame it on something... so let us suffice to say that the only pictures that came out at all were those taken of the entertainers, and at the next New York meeting your truly will be glad to explain each ruined snapshot...

With every affair one must pay tribute to the hard working men who were responsible for all the elaborate pains taken to make this affair a real evening entertainment... A posie to Bruchac, Harry Orenstein, Larry Greenman, Don

Miele, Dan Quinn, Mike Gatto, Harold Pepper and Harold Wax for a very successful affair.

Julius Lefkowitz was awarded a fifth of glory as a door prize, and the \$100.00 war bond was won by Name unknown — of Levittown, and the table radio was won by a friend of Stan Putts.

For those who missed this grand affair all we can say is that it was really the greatest...

When the New York gang has an affair they really have it... The ladies wish to thank the dance committee for their thoughtfulness in providing a corsage for every woman who attended the dance. It certainly lent the final grand touch to a dance that was so capably directed. The New York chapter can be most proud of the job they did. We hope their future affair will be as successful as this one was.

Local Chapters of the Association!

New York Chapter

Sec. H. Pepper
P.O. Box 1168
N.Y., N.Y.

Meeting place:

Gerdas Restaurant
112 East 18th St., N.Y. 3, N.Y.
Tel.: GR 7-9817

Meeting Time:

1st Frid. of each Month

Phila. Chapter

Sec. Jack O'Shea
1049 So. 52nd St.
Phila, Pa.
SA: 7-5299

Meeting: 1st Frid. every Month
P.R.R. Amer. Leg. Post 204
3202-04 Chestnut St.
Phila, Pa.

Buffalo Chapter

Sec. Henry J. R. Golabiecki
265 Cambridge Ave.
Buffalo, N.Y.

Northern Ohio Chapter

Sec: William C. Mauser
6632 Bliss Ave.
Cleveland 3, Ohio
Endicott 1-1007

EUCOM Chapter

Sec. M. Sgt. Willie F. Unsell
c/o Sec. Gen. Staff Hq.
7th Army, APO 46, N.Y., N.Y.

Detroit Chapter

Sec: Robert J. De Sandy
1685 Faircourt
Gross Pointe Woods 30, Mich.

Twin Cities Chapter

Sec: Richard W. Sims
3932 Brunswick
St. Louis Park, Minn.
Phone Wh 3311
Meeting — New Years Eve

New England Chapter

Fred B. D'Amore
75 Webster Street
East Boston 28, Mass.

Columbus Chapter

Sec: Glenn O. Moore
22 East Gay St.
Columbus, Ohio

Illinois Chapter

Secretary, Theodore Preston
3356 N. Springfield Avenue
Chicago 18, Illinois
Phone: Juniper 8-3576
Meeting place: 3346 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Second Friday of the month.

Wash. D.C. Chapter

Sec: Anthony B. Micke
7 Underwood Place, N.W.
Washington 12, D.C.
2nd Mon. of each Month at
Hotel Statler, Wash., D.C.

13 Days With the 60th Infantry In the Hedgerows of France

(Reprinted from the 60th Regimental History)

For the magnificent coordination and unity displayed in action from 11th through the 18th of June 1944... which contributed largely to the fall of Barneville" the Go Devil Regiment was awarded the 'Croix de Guerre with Palm' by the French Government.

The Big Picture on July 1, 1944: the continent was permanently invaded. The Germans could not push the invader back into the sea—Cherbourg had settled that. Next problem was getting out of the peninsula. The enemy still held the high ground north of La Haye du Douve; south of Carentan was more marshy land which was practically impenetrable; and around Caen the enemy had massed his armor and dug a defense in depth. He was now concentrating on holding the invaders in the peninsula.

The invasion beaches were now smoothly running ports and the

cut out a section of the hedgerow and hid a big gun or a tank in it, covering with bushes. Also they tunneled under the hedgerows from the back and made the opening on the forward side just large enough to stick a machine gun through. By and large the hedgerow pattern was this: a heavy machine gun hidden at each end of the field and infantrymen hidden all along the hedgerow with rifles and machine pistols.

You had to dig them out. Attacking squads sneaked up on the sides of the hedgerows while the rest of the platoon stayed back in their own hedgerow and kept the



The Hedgerow terrain that challenged the ingenuity of the 9th Division doughboys.

land roads were choked with transport and the fields piled high drenched aloft from dawn to twilight with ammunition. Allied fighters The fighters kept the Luftwaffe grounded, and cubs kept the enemy's guns silent so that roads and lanes remained open.

3 July attacks through Carentan and southward toward La Haye du Puits were made. The U.S. First Army Pivoted on Caumont while the British Second Army kept the German Armor engaged in the sector of Caen. But rain and terrain had this offensive bogged down within a week. General Bradley decided to stop and get set for a heavier blow.

Meanwhile, the 60th took a seven day break at Les Pieux. 9 July saw them in a forward assembly area south of Carentan. 14 July began one of the weirdest periods the regiment had experienced to date. The enemy troops were composed of SS and fanatical elements of the 3rd Parachute Division. Very few would submit to capture and as a consequence practically no battalion took prisoners.

The terrain in northwestern France was a checkerboard pattern of fields surrounded on all sides by immense hedgerows—ancient earthen banks, waist high, all matted with roots, and out of which grew weeds, bushes and trees up to twenty feet high.

The fighting was of necessity always in small groups, approximately platoon strength. Working forward on both sides of a country lane, one company would be responsible for clearing the two fields on either side of the road as it advanced. That meant there was only one platoon to a field, and with the understrength from casualties, it usually boiled down to from twenty-five to thirty men to a field.

The Krauts used the earthen barriers well. They put snipers in the trees and they dug deep trenches behind the bed of hedgerows and covered them with timber so that it was almost impossible for artillery to get at them. Sometimes they dropped up machine guns with strings attached so that they could fire over the hedge without getting out of their holes. They ever

forward hedge saturated with bullets. They fired rifle grenades, mortars and bazookas to keep the Jerry down. Usually, when the pressure was on, the German defenders would pull back a few hedgerows and dig in anew, leaving only a small delaying force on the abandoned hedge. Often our squads would move along the front of the hedgerow, lobbing grenades over to the other side; the fighting was only a few yards apart, but it seldom came to hand-to-hand combat. The remaining Germans came out with their hands up, or they tried to run for it and were mowed down, or they wouldn't come out at all—and a grenade would be thrown into the position, thus permitting them to remain permanently. And then on the next hedgerow.

That was the general pattern. Actually, each of the innumerable fights was a separate little war fought under different circumstances. For instance, it might be in a woods instead of an open field. The Krauts would be dug in all over the woods in little groups and it was tough getting them out. Often, as the 2nd Battalion did in the case of the woods near Champs de Lesque, you just moved around the woods and let later units care for the pocketed Krauts. Or you might go carefully through a woods, clean it out thoroughly (as "George" Company did the Bois du Hommet) and another company coming along a few hours later, would find it full of Jerries again (as "Item" Company did).

Day after day replacement were received and assigned to various units so that no unit would become too depleted by the heavy casualties suffered in the fighting in this sector. Sometimes no one knew where the enemy was or where friendly troops were and many replacements would be lost before they even reached their units. The front was all mixed up. There were Jerries all over the place.

They would be shooting at you from behind and from the flanks. Or a company would go so far out ahead of those on either side that it would have to swing around and fight to its rear. Or you'd fire into your own buddies thinking you were in German territory. It was

hard to distinguish by sound for both German and American troops were using the other's captured weapons.

"Easy" Company once got the assistance of a bulldozer which punched a few holes through some hedgerows for them. Most of the companies would have tanks attached when they called for them. In the long drives, the companies went for several days without letting up. Ammunition was carried up by hand. The daily diet was one K ration and little or no water. When relieved, by having another company pass through, the rest period lasted a few hours, and then forward again. Chances for getting through that sort of fighting aren't very good. You stop thinking about it and begin wondering about when and how you're going to get it. Sometimes you have a little more than you can take and you begin thinking about why it takes so goddam long to get hit and if it wouldn't be a good idea to stick a foot or something out of your hole when the shelling starts.

But war is a funny thing, and most of the time you feel as though you can't leave your buddies just yet—wait for the next few attacks. Wait until the green guys get a little better zeroed in. Sometimes you even turn down a chance to go back to the rest area for fear the boys are going to need you in the night attack. This was fraternity has a queer constitution—dictatorial and democratic all at the same time. You might say that a prerequisite for membership was: self-respect and character. Like most of the other incongruities of war, it was directly contradictory to all normal ideas of self-preservation, and yet, at the same time it was directly associated to the noblest ideals for the preservation of society.

18 July—elements of the 60th Infantry Regiment were dug in on the high ground overlooking the St. Lo-Perriers highway. Orders from higher headquarters would allow no further forward movement from this point. They remained in position seven days, continually harassed by heavy enemy mortar, artillery, tank and indirect machine gun fire. 24 July the lead elements were pulled back for a large bombing mission. The succeeding attack never materialized due to weather conditions and the 60th found the Krauts had re-occupied their former positions making a reconquest necessary.

MAIL BAG

(Continued from page 1)

I succeeded Dick as S-3 of the 60th Infantry Regiment as the result of a land mine explosion just south of Cherbourg, as I know wehereof I speak.

Last time I saw our new prexy was at the Memorable Chicago Convention. I'd like to repeat the reunion at the same place. Those eastern cities are a little far off for us Westerners. (I'm writing from Ohio, but am here on business for just a few weeks).

To all my old friends in the GO-DEVIL Regiment and any and all of the Ninth I extend a warm invitation, "Come up and see me sometime".

Carney L. Johnson of 2019 Louisiana St., New Orleans 17, La., sends his thoughts via Uncle Sam's mail... Although it is over eight years since my discharge many times while relaxing, my thoughts drift back to the loyal and true buddies I had in old George Company of the 60th. May the Lord look down on all of them, bless them and all of the other GIs all over the world. Best wishes to the association and may it double, no, triple its membership in the coming year.

Kendall Guilford of 23 Omar Terrace, Newtonville, Mass., send us the latest information regarding 9th Signal men.

Stanley Sailors, 912 E. 12th St., Falls City, Nebraska, Ken found out that Eddie Milinek of Craig, Colorado had died and John Lee is at the Leffler Hotel in Leipsic, Ohio... John M. Ablett died in 1952.

Rooster of 9th Signal men... Guy W. Blackwell, 1305 Baxter St. Johnston City, Tenn., Frank Corcoran, 4037 Vista St., Philadelphia Pa., Morris Sandow of 2160 East 8th St., Brooklyn, N. Y., Jerry Robacker of 605 Center St., St. Mary's, Penn., Abe Minister, 1697 71st St., Brooklyn, N. Y., Max Witriol, 431 New Lots Ave., Brooklyn 7, N. Y., Pete Malak, 1223 W. Becker St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Kenneth Shinn c/o of Tolson Drug Co. of Jefferson City Mo., Robert Douglass, 2511 W. Ewing, S. Bend, Indiana, Milton B Sloan, New Hope, N. C., Johnny Whitley of 210 E. 4th St., Tifton Georgia, Daniel A. Malpass, Route 1, Box 12A, Wilmington, N. C., Irwin R. Stockwell, Spring Green

Wisconsin, RDF No. 3 and John B. Simmons of 1928 Santos St., Route 5, Abilene, Texas.

Boardman F. Lockwood reports on some information regarding Winchester, England. Boardman and Mrs. Lockwood arrived in Winchester last Saturday, October 3 and put up at the Manor of God-Begot they were warmly received by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bell, who unfortunately were not in Winchester during the War but who knew of the 9th Division through having entertained General Eddy at dinner in February. Boardman also relates that members of Division Rear, A. G. Section will be interested in knowing that they met aboard the Ile De France, former M/Sgt. Gordon A. Anderson who was returning for his "Stateside" leave after 6 years in the Far East with the Standard-Vacuum Oil Co., currently stationed in Manila, P. I.

From Waltham, Mass., on November 16, 1953 the News-Tribune had published on the front page a picture of a fireman climbing a ladder, with the following editorial lead: "Up, up, up in the sky went Santa Claus as Waltham's annual pre-Christmas parade took place yesterday. Densely packed spectators in Hall's Corner are part of an estimated 75,000 who saw the colorful procession. The jolly old gentleman is making his way on Waltham Fire Department ladder to the roof of Grover Cronin store en route to Santaland." Well, who do you think Santa was... from inside news sources we discover that it was one of our own X-9 men, Jim Scannell of 107 Adams Street, Waltham. Jim was formerly with the 26th F.A. but was later transferred to the 88th Division.

New York Chapter

Meeting of the 9th Infantry Division Association, New York Chapter of November 6th was called to order at 9:45 P.M. Minutes were read, and the motion made by Jim Bruno that minutes be accepted as read.

Discussion on the dance was the next item. Mike Gatto reminded the members present that the dance was open to members and their friends. A motion from the floor was made regarding the setting up of a welcoming and reception committee as part of the duties of the dance committee. The next detail was the dinner in conjunction with the installation of officers at the January meeting. Discussion was withheld pending the December meeting with the appointment of a committee. A further point was brought up of a possible Memorial Service to be held in the New York area. Al Wadalavage reported that he met with no success, so the group decided to try and contact other clergyman who would be able to handle this type of affair.

Doctor Seslowe then opened the floor to nominations for President; the following names were submitted: George Apar, Doc Sternlicht, G. Trevoles, and for Secretary, Dom Miele. Nominations were then closed. Larry Greenman was the winner of the raffle; the prize was the recent book by Dr. K. After the business session was over, films were shown. Next meeting is scheduled for December 4th at 8 p. m., same place.

The 60th Infantry Regimental History books are now on sale and can be bought for \$1.00 a copy. This is a hard covered, beautifully bound book that was printed in Germany and is now available to all men of the 9th Division Association.

LATE NEWS FLASH!

Charley Fabrey was elected President of the N.Y. Chapter. A beer party will be held on January 15, 1954 at Gerdes Restaurant, 112 East 18th St., in N. Y. to welcome the new officers of the New York Chapter.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Stan Cohen, National Sec.-Treas.
Post Office Box 428
Jersey City 3, New Jersey

Enclosed please find 1954 dues for:

Name Serial No.

Street Address

City Zone State

I was a (Battery member of (Company Regiment 9th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member\$3.50 per year ()
Sustaining Member ()
THREE YEAR MEMBER\$10.00 ()
Life Membership\$50.00 ()
Octofoil Auto License Disc\$1.00 ()
Eight Stars to Victory\$3.50 ()

(Pictorial History of 9th Div. in Action)

Ladies Auxiliary Member\$1.50 ()
Decals\$.25 apiece — 5 for \$1.00

Please credit the following chapter:

Philadelphia () Illinois () EUCOM ()
Buffalo () Columbus () Greater N. Y. ()
Columbus () Pittsburgh () Wash., D.C. ()
New England () Northern Ohio () Detroit ()
Twin Cities ()

Explanation of Dues:

Non-Chapter member all payment of dues to Nat'l.
Chapter Member: \$1.00 for chapter, \$2.50 to Nat'l.
Ladies Auxiliary \$5.00 to chapter, \$1.00 to Nat'l.
Three Year: \$3.00 to chapter, \$7.00 to Nat'l.
Life Member: \$12.50 to chapter, \$37.50 to Nat'l.
Sustaining Member: Chapter to receive 1/3 of amount over \$35.00, balance to National.