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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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9-1-1967

## The Octofoil, September/October 1967

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

JOHN J. CLOUSER  
901 GRACELAND STREET  
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS  
60016



VOLUME XXIII  
NUMBER 1

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Association Dues: \$4.00 per year — \$1.50  
will be earmarked to pay for The Octofoil

Weehawken, N. J. 07087 — 412 Gregory Ave.

September—October, 1967

## Taps Sounded for Paul Plunkett

### TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE 9th. INFANTRY DIVISION ASS'N.

By now most of you know we have lost a dedicated member of our association, Paul S. Plunkett.

Paul was our devoted Editor. Very few of us knew how much Paul put of himself into the Octofoil.

He was a lot of things to a lot of people, but to the members of the 9th he will remain the Octofoil.

He was very active in the V.F.W. He was past Commander of the Franklin County Council of V.F.W.; Quartermaster of the Military Order of Cootie's. At the time of his death he was Post Commander of Benson Hough Post #3424.

It was my privilege to know Paul for over 20 years. Since the inception of the Octofoil, except for a short period, Paul was the Editor. Not only the Editor but the linotype operator, mailer and anything else connected with a paper.

Paul was not only devoted to the Association and the Octofoil. He was devoted to the Division while a member of the 60th Infantry. Paul was over age to enlist, however being Paul Plunkett he was in the Infantry. The writer recalls one incident regarding this. General Eddy and Paul knew each other from in the 1920's. After the landing in Africa General Eddy approached Paul and inquired what a man of his age was doing in the Infantry. The typical Plunkett reply was "Now you know General, you have a fouled up Army."

We all extend to Tippiie, our greatest sympathy.

Paul D. Keller  
President

### CONDOLENCES

26 August 1967

Dear Mrs. Plunkett:

I have just received word of Paul's death and hasten to send you my deepest sympathy. This passing of an old and good friend is indeed a tragic loss.

Please accept again my heartfelt condolences.

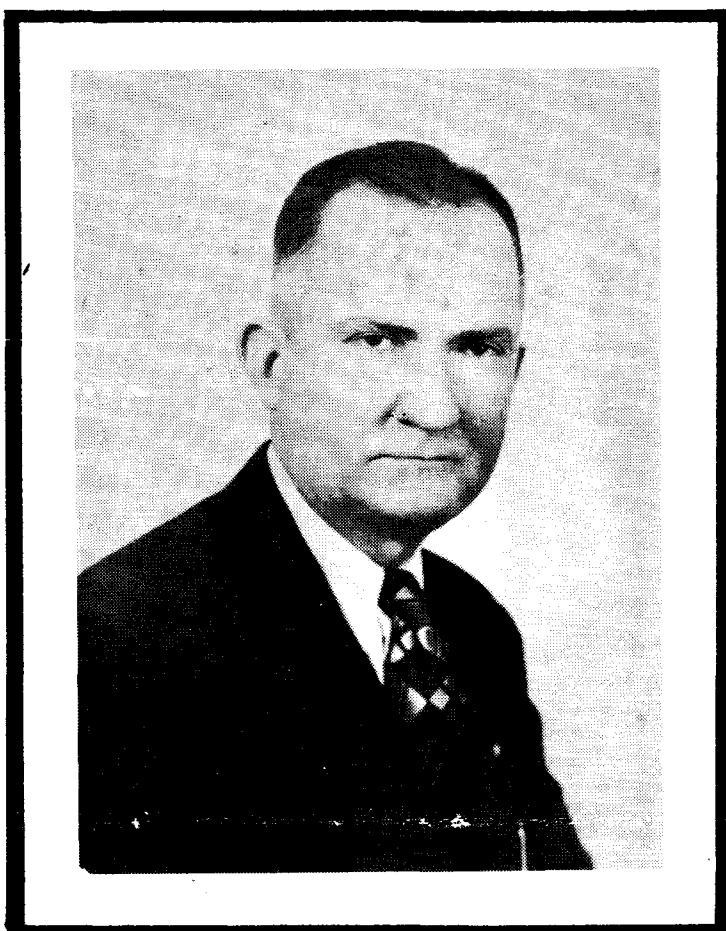
Sincerely,  
W. C. Westmoreland  
General,  
United States Army

September 11, 1967

Dear Mrs. Plunkett:

Your note to me and the Memoriam of Paul's passing came as a complete shock. You know I had known Paul for many years and thought most highly of him. I was not even aware that he was having any physical difficulties. We will all miss him.

He has left his mark on all of us in the Ninth Infantry Division. He worked so steadfastly and devotedly in the memory of all those who are gone, and through it he established a



*The United States of America  
honors the memory of*

PAUL S. PLUNKETT

*This certificate is awarded by a grateful  
nation in recognition of devoted and  
selfless consecration to the service  
of our country in the Armed Forces  
of the United States.*

*Richard A. Downing*  
President of the United States

memorial for himself in the hearts and minds of all of us. Please accept my deepest sympathy.

Sincerely,  
Otto Kerner,  
Governor,  
State of Illinois



Mrs. Paul Plunkett  
286 Zimpfer Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43206

Dear Tippiie:

There are sufferings which sympathy may not make lighter. But speaking on behalf of our patients and staff, we share in your loss of Paul. Our feelings stem from bonds of friendship forged through your unselfish service to our hospital. We hope that knowledge of our

On August 20, 1967, Paul Plunkett, Editor of the Octofoil passed on to his eternal reward. Paul had suffered a severe attack of emphysema and after being in the hospital for five days, his heart gave out and he succumbed at the age of sixty-two. From the day he first wore the Octofoil until the day he passed away Paul treasured in his heart a deep and enduring love for the Ninth Infantry Division.

During World War II, the Infantry was classified as a young man's service, but Paul was the exception. He spotted his companions in the 60th. Inf. fifteen years and still matched them in endurance and performance. While overseas he further proved himself to be a soldier who could function efficiently even while under the stresses and strains that are the Combat Infantryman's lot.

Paul possessed another distinction which made him unique. He was one of the few men in the Division who had a son serving in another combat outfit.

After the war when the Association was taking its first faltering steps, Paul was one of the prime movers who provided the impetus that propelled the Association along the road to success. He served on the Board of Governors and on many of the Committees that set up the rules and policies under which the Association is still operating today.

Of all his contributions to the Association, his most notable one was the job he did as Editor of the Octofoil. During the war the Division was a compact unit bound together by an esprit de corps that was second to none. When hostilities ended and the members of the Division returned to civilian life, they were dispersed throughout the fifty States and settled down in great metropolises, in small towns, and on farms and ranches. If the esprit de corps of the Division was to be retained, then some means of communication had to be provided so that the members could keep in touch with one another. The Octofoil provided that means of communication and Paul was the sparkplug that kept the Octofoil running. He garnered news from members in all parts of the world, and he published it in a manner that gave pleasure to all who had the good fortune to receive a

copy of the paper. The readers eagerly awaited each new issue, and if some poor soul failed to receive his copy, his walls of anguish could be heard in Columbus and in Weehawken.

Collectively the members of the Ninth Infantry Division earned the title of "Old Reliable." His right to this title was never more fully demonstrated than it was during the week prior to his last illness. Paul had not been feeling well for some time, but despite this handicap he worked day and night to get the last edition printed and mailed, as a matter of fact the last batch of Octofoils went into the mails on the day that Paul entered the hospital. Ninth Division people have a reputation for getting the job done, Paul upheld that reputation until the very end.

The passing of Paul Plunkett represents a great loss to the Association, and he will be sorely missed by all his old comrades from the Ninth. While it has been said that Old Soldiers fade away, it can never be said that the memory of Old Soldiers fades away, because we know that we will remember Paul for a long, long time, and with each passing year the memory of Paul Plunkett will grow more precious.

To Paul's widow, Tippiie, and to all the members of Paul's family we offer our deepest sympathy and we hope that it will be a source of solace for them to know that their sorrow is also our sorrow.

thoughts may help disperse your clouds of sorrow. We would like to reflect some of the brightness your understanding efforts have brought to us on many dreary days.

Sincerely,

RICHARD A. DOWNING  
Adm. Asst. to Chief of Staff  
Veterans Administration Hosp.  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

### TELEGRAM

Mrs. Paul Plunkett, care of  
Woodward Funeral Home, East  
State St., Columbus, Ohio

PRAYER FOR SYMPATHY  
I OFFERED MASS FOR PAUL  
THE CONGREGATION OF OUR

PARISH WILL PRAY FOR HIM  
AT SUNDAY MASS WILL  
WRITE LATER.

Father Edward Connors

The word of Paul's demise spread quickly through the ranks of the Association, and it wasn't long before Tippiie Plunkett and Dan Quinn were deluged with letters of condolences from members in all parts of the country. Limitations on space prevent our publishing all the letters in their entirety, but the following letters and excerpts are typical of the messages that were received.

(Continued next page)

## THE OCTOFOIL

Forms 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J.  
OCTOFOIL ASSOCIATE EDITORS Walter O'Keeffe & Daniel Quinn

**NATIONAL OFFICERS**

PAUL KELLER, President, 139 Pinewood Drive, Columbus, Ohio  
FRANCIS MAHER, 1st Vice President, 14 Davenport St., Worcester, Mass.  
FRANK OZART, 2nd Vice President, 2241 S. Marshall Blvd., Chicago, Ill.  
WILLIAM MEADOWS, 3rd Vice President, 19367 Dale, Detroit, Michigan  
HARRISON DAYSH, Judge Advocate, 4303 Carriage Court,  
Rock Creek Highlands, Kensington, Md.  
DANIEL QUINN, Secretary, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N. J. (201-866-8195)  
THOMAS BOYLE, Treasurer, 39 Hall Ave., Somerville, Mass. 02144

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

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Anthony Varone, Kings Park, L.I., N. Y.  
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Brig. Gen. Edwin Randle (Ret.) 503  
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N. J.  
Board Member Emeritus  
Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Retired)  
Honorary Chaplain Emeritus  
Father Ed Connors, Worcester, Mass.

The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are \$4.00 per year with \$1.50 of the \$4.00 earmarked for six issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N. J., of any change in address.

Published six times yearly: July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th 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 everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

Copy must be received on or before the 10th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th. Photographs must be received on or before the 5th day of publication month.

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

VOLUME XXIII    SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER    NUMBER 1

### NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASS'N. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, Natl. Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.,  
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J.

Enclosed please find 1968 dues for:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

I was a member of:

Battery \_\_\_\_\_; Company \_\_\_\_\_; Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ 9th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year	\$ 4.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Three-Year Member	\$11.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Octofoil Automobile License Disc	\$ .50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decals 25c; (5) five for	\$ 1.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
"Eight Stars to Victory" (Pictorial History of 9th Division in action.)	\$ 2.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ladies' Auxiliary Member	\$ 1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat Route Map	\$ .50	<input type="checkbox"/>
60th Infantry History	\$ .50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coat Lapel Octofoil Pin	\$ 1.25	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please give credit to the following Chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐

New England ☐ Michigan ☐

Ohio ☐ Fayetteville-Fort Bragg, N.C. ☐

## STUDENTS EXPRESS THANKS

Two young people who have received Ninth Infantry Division Scholarship awards, have written to Dan Quinn and expressed their thanks in the following words:

Miss Ellen Nelson writes: "This letter is hardly adequate for me to express my sincerest thanks to you and to the Ninth Infantry Division Association for your attempts to help me continue my college education. I truly appreciate it, and for the second time and for another year, I say thank you very much."

Philip Huber said: "Through the Octofoil I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Scholarship Committee and

the members of the Ninth Infantry Division for awarding me one of the Ninth Infantry Division Scholarships.

I expect to enter Baldwin Wallace College, Berea, Ohio, in the fall, where I hope to prove the faith which the committee has shown in me.

Perhaps my mother, sister, and brother will see some of my late father's friends at the Ninth Division Memorial Mass in Worcester in November. We were all sorry we could not attend the Mass last year. I am glad that as I grew older my Dad gave me the opportunity to meet his friends from the Ninth Division."

## CONDELENCES (Continued)

Capt. R. "Scotty" Hirst, 60th Inf., writes: "Many has been the year since I was shocked by the passing of a man as I was by the news of Paul's passing. Unfortunately I never had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Paul, but we will all long remember his effort for the 9th Div. Association."

Dear Mrs. Plunkett,  
Mrs. Jesse R. Davis, Sr., of Hebron thoughtfully informed me of the news of Paul's death last Sunday. It was a great shock to me as I am sure it was to all his many other friends. I have a long letter from Paul on my desk now which I intended to answer soon.

Paul was an out-going person and had a great many friends. He once wrote me he couldn't leave Columbus permanently because he loved to walk down the street and be greeted by so many people he knew and who knew him. It was his hometown. He had a great capacity for friendship.

He loved the 9th Division, and the Association, and his job in getting out the Octofoil. I just don't know how we will get along without him for it was the Octofoil which held the Association together and every member looked forward to each issue. Once I sent a copy to another division association which produces a very poor paper and told them, "Here, this is what a Division Association publication should be like." I even enjoyed the jokes Paul used for fillers. Some, I have cut out and pasted in a notebook for use in speeches.

You have my deepest sympathy. I wish I could offer some words of comfort, but I feel that your main comfort will be, as time passes, the memory of an outstanding man whom everyone who knew him was proud to call his friend.

Mrs. Randle joins me in deepest sympathy.  
With warmest regards,  
Edwin H. Randle.

My Dear Mrs. Plunkett:

This is one of those letters that I find most difficult to write but one that I could not let go unwritten. In my own modest way please let me extend to you my heartfelt sorrow and grief in the death of your dear husband "Paul." I am a former 9th Div. man having served as a Cpl. with the 26th Field Artillery Battalion of the 9th Div. Just today a letter reached my desk notifying me of the death of your dear husband and my buddy. I refer to Paul as my Buddy because he was a 9th Div. man even tho I did not know him personally - every man who was with our great Division during, before and after World War II was a very dear Buddy of mine - because the 9th Div. and every man who served with the 9th Div. and was a wearer of the Octofoil is very dear to my heart for I have an abundance of love for that great and fabulous outfit of fighting men. Just this past summer another one of our Buddies "Bob Woodside" passed away down in a Veterans Hospital in Florida.

Paul served his country honorably and proudly but now his work is done and taps have been sounded for a very proud and gallant soldier - my eyes are wet as I type this letter for it brings back so many memories of Ft. Bragg, the landings in North Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium and Germany - almost as if I were there right now - so in the memory of Paul Plunkett - I salute you Paul - and may God now give you peace and quiet and rest -

Dear Mrs. Plunkett I know our dear Lord will be with you and he will not forsake you and it may take a little time but our most loving Saviour will ease that ache and grief that now lingers within your heart. I am enclosing a Verse of comfort

and as you read its contents I know it will bring great relief and peace to your heart. God Bless you dear Mrs. Plunkett and if there is anything I can do to help you to find peace and comfort you must feel free to contact me at any time.

Most Sincerely,  
a 9th Div. Buddy,  
Robert Mason

## VERSE OF COMFORT

There are no dead, those gone before--  
Have just stepped thru an open door--  
Just passed into a land un-seen--  
Still near-- With just a wall between  
The door may close- the wall conceal--  
But nothing's lost that's truly real--  
They still are ours- these loved ones all--  
They wait for us beyond the wall--

There is a home not made with hands--  
Beyond its golden door--  
Awaits the one who's now away--  
Not lost-- just gone before--  
And in that home- not made with hands  
The Master will prepare--  
A place for you, and when he calls  
You'll meet your loved ones there.

Author: unknown....

## GEN. RANDLE SENDS SYMPATHY LETTER

Dear Dan,  
A letter from Paul Keller says you are getting out the next edition of the Octofoil.

I am saying nothing you don't well know when I say that we shall miss Paul Plunkett in many ways, and not the least as editor of the Octofoil. I think we are all just beginning to appreciate what he meant to and what he did for the association.

He wrote me a long letter not long ago saying he had a heart condition. He didn't think it amounted to much, but his wife worried about it, and the doctors advised him to move to a warmer climate. But he didn't want to leave Columbus where so many friends were, where when he walked down the street so many people knew him.

I advised him to come to Florida for 6 months every year. That way he could keep his home in Columbus and still avoid the long dreary winters. I think he was thinking seriously about doing it. But he waited too long.

We all loved that guy.  
Cordially yours,  
Edwin Randle



Gold Star Parents attend Memorial Service at Boston. L-R: Rev. Gerald Rowan, Mrs. Michael McInerney (New York), Mrs. Hetty Bullock (Fayetteville, North Carolina), Mr. Michael McInerney (New York), Dan Quinn, Sec.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE SET FOR NOV. 5 AT WORCESTER

In all parts of the country Ninth Division men are preparing for their annual trip to the Memorial Services at Worcester, Mass. Every November for the past twenty-three years Father Connors has been holding these services at his church. They have proved to be a powerful magnet which draws Ninth Division men from all points of the compass.

This year the services will be held on Sunday, November 5th. On the Saturday evening preceding the services, the members of Father Connors parish will provide a buffet supper for the Ninth Division men who are in Worcester. The supper will be served in the famed Connors Coffee Shop.

At 10:15 a.m. on Sunday morning Father Connors will celebrate a Memorial Mass and after the Mass a dinner will be held at the Wachusett Country Club. Every man who ever wore the Octofoil should try to attend this Memorial Service. It is interesting to note that there are as many non-Catholics attending as Catholics, all gathered on this day to honor our dead.

The members of the New England Chapter have been assisting Father Connors in preparing for this event, and they have reserved a block of 150 rooms at the Holiday Inn in Worcester. Anyone who intends to stay overnight should contact the Holiday Inn to make reservations.

## PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN CHOSEN FOR '68 REUNION

The important task of publicizing the 1968 Reunion has been assigned to Elmer Wagner of Bay City, Michigan. Elmer has gotten off to a fast start by contacting the officers of the local chapters; he has requested their assistance in securing adds and boosters for the Reunion Journal.

Anyone who desires information pertaining to the Journal or the Reunion should contact Elmer at his home address,

Route Four, Bay City, Michigan 48706. He is especially anxious to hear from members who live in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

The Secretary's office has supplied Elmer with the names of members who reside in the above mentioned states; however, you may know of someone who is not on our mailing list. If so contact them and give them Elmer's address.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT  
AND CIRCULATION

(Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

1. Date filed: 9-16-66. 2. Title of Publication: THE OCTOFOIL. 3. Frequency of Issue: Bi-Monthly. 4. Location of known office of publication: 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J. - Hudson County. 5. Location of headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publisher: 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N. J. - Hudson County. 6. Name and address of the Publisher and Editor: Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J.

7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given.)

Name and address: None.

8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or other securities (If there are none, so state):

Name and address: None.

9. Paragraphs 7 and 8 include, in cases where the stockholders or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relations, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock or securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner. Names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders of a corporation which itself is a stockholder or holder of bonds, mortgages or other securities of the publishing corporation have been included in paragraphs 7 and 8 when the interests of such individuals are equivalent to 1 percent or more of the total amount of the stock or securities of the publishing corporation.

10. This item must be completed for all publications except those which do not carry advertising other than the publisher's own and which are named in Sections 132.231, 132.232, and 132.233, Postal Manual (Sections 4355a, 4355b, and 4356 of Title 39, United States Code):

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. copies printed (net press run).....	1,650	1,350
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales.....	None	None
2. Mail subscriptions.....	1,590	1,275
C. Total paid circulation.....	1,440	1,260
D. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means.....	110	90
E. Total distribution (sum of C and D) .....	1,550	1,350
F. Office use, leftover, unaccounted, spoiled after printing .....	100	None
G. Total (sum of E and F -- should equal net press run shown in A) .....	1,650	1,350

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct.  
DANIEL QUINN, Editor and Publisher, The Octofoil.

THE MEMORIAL FUND OF  
THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
Scholarship Information

The Memorial Fund of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was established by the members of the association to commemorate the memory of their comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice in battle. As a part of this fund the association established a scholarship program. Scholarships are awarded each year to relatives of men who served in The Ninth Infantry Division. Each scholarship is for one year.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A person who wishes to apply for a scholarship must be related to a man who served with The Ninth Infantry Division. Children of former members of the division will be given first consideration, but children of men killed in combat given first preference. Applicants who are not children of former members of the division will not be considered unless no child of a former member qualifies.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The following procedures must be followed by those wishing to apply for the scholarships:

1. Send a letter of application, written in expository form, to the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following: name, address, age, and sex of the applicant; name, address, and occupation of the applicant's parents or guardians; the name and address of the secondary school the applicant is attending or has attended and graduated; the name and address of the college the applicant expects to attend; the vocational goal of the applicant; and the name of and degree of relationship to a former member of the division. The unit and dates of service in the division of the former member must be included.
2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include at least the first seven semesters of the applicant's record.
3. The applicant must have a counselor or principal of the high school he or she is attending write a letter of recommendation to the chairman of the scholarship committee.
4. The applicant must take the PSAT which is given every October. The applicant must see that the results of the PSAT are sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee. These results may be included with the high school transcript or sent to the chairman from the College Entrance Examination Board. The SAT of the CEEB may be submitted in lieu of the PSAT.
5. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.
6. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.
7. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee after the applications have been considered.
8. Recipients of the scholarships may apply for renewal of the scholarship each year. A copy of the student's college grades, a financial statement, and a letter requesting renewal of the scholarship should be sent to the chairman by March 15.
9. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, 901 Graceland St., Des Plaines, Illinois 60016.

MRS. WOODSIDE WRITES  
TO SECRETARY QUINN

Mrs. Lela Woodside, widow of the late Robert writes to Secretary Quinn:

Dear Dan:

In response to your very nice letter, I wish to say it will be a great privilege to receive the Octofoil. Bob was so very proud to have been a member of the association and we both, always read each and every article in the Octofoil. One of the members whom Bob had never met, read in the Octofoil of his illness and kept him in fairly good spirits. It was Robert Mason of McKeesport, Penna. Also Charles Harvey and many others. Due to the Octofoil he received many cheery notes and get well wishes. Paul and Tipple Plunkett wrote him often and he looked forward to hearing about the association. I thank you for the Octofoil and will be patiently watching for them.

Most Sincerely,  
Lela Woodside,  
12408 Florida Ave.,  
3 Palm St.,  
Tampa, Florida

PESTEL  
COMES  
THROUGH

Dick Pestel is a handy guy to have around during a crisis, and he proved his worth last month when Paul Plunkett passed away.

Dick immediately contacted the National Officers and the Officers of the local chapters, and he arranged for the floral pieces that were sent by every Chapter in the Association.

Dick took care of the many details that had to be settled and he provided Tipple with a strong shoulder to lean on during her time of sorrow.

ANNUAL PICNIC  
AND REUNION

The Ohio Chapter held its annual picnic and reunion at Dick Pestel's farm, on Aug. 27.

A fine reunion was enjoyed by a number of families. A business meeting was held and officers for the coming year were elected. President, Dick Pestel; V. President, Dave Boring; Sec.-Treas., Jess Davis.

The Ohio Chapter offers their help to the Michigan Chapter for the 1968 Reunion.

We enjoyed having Jess Davis Jr. as a guest. He recently returned from the 4th Inf. Div. in Vietnam. We enjoyed his company, as well as the company of his charming girl friend. The writer apologizes for not recalling her name.

We all greatly missed the presence of Paul Plunkett and Tipple. Members attended from all over Ohio. We look forward to our next picnic.

Many thanks to Dick and Edie for their hospitality. Anyone from the Association in the neighborhood of Columbus, should stop and see Dick and Edie. The barn is decorated with a great number of Octofoils, really different.

## News Notes

Charles B. Harrison, Rt. 3, Box 311F, Kinston, N. C., formerly with D Co. 39th Inf. wrote asking about the last reunion but he was mainly interested in trying to locate a couple of old buddies. Harold Hale and Edward Lewis were the friends that Charlie was trying to locate. The secretary's office was able to supply the address of Harold Hale (8 High St., Middletown, R. I.) as he is an active member of the association. Ed Lewis, like so many others, had fallen by the wayside with his membership

JIM LEOPOLD VISITS  
OLD BATTLEFIELDS

A few years ago Jim Leopold, who served as an Officer with G and E Companies of the 47th Inf., visited Tunisia and France. During his travels he took many color photos of areas where the Division saw action. Jim has been kind enough to send us some of the pictures, and they reveal startling changes in the landscape of Tunisia. Believe it or not, but the road to Kasserine is now adorned with a

modern Esso gas station and the streets of the town are lined with fancy apartment houses. If the color photos are suitable for printing we will publish some of them in the Octofoil.

Jim had been living in Scarsdale, N. Y., but he apparently got home-sick for the Land of Lincoln because he has advised us that he is now residing in Highland Park, Ill.



Jim Leopold of Highland Park, Illinois, formerly with E & G Companies 47th Inf., sent these pictures taken a few years ago in Tunisia. 24 years ago Jim wouldn't be caught standing in the roadway looking at this sign.

60th MAN CORRECTS  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Ninth Division men have never been braggarts who went around boasting of their exploits; however, they do sound off when some other outfit tries to take credit for an action that was fought by the Ninth.

In the August 6, 1967, issue of the Congressional Record, Rep. Daniels of New Jersey inserted a tribute to the 78th Division. The article was quite lengthy, and among other things it credited the 78th Division with the capture of the headwaters of the Roer.

A 60th Inf. man, Chick Hennen, Brigadier General USAR, was quick to note this faux pas in the Congressional Record, and he sent Dan Quinn the following letter:

"Dan - As one of the watchdogs of the fair name of the

Ninth Infantry Division I must take umbrage of an insert to the Congressional Record of August 7, 1967. Enclosed is the copy of the record which praises the exploits of the 78th "Lighting" Division.

While not wishing to minimize the fine record of the 78th, I do believe that the 9th should be given the credit for taking the headwaters of the Roer.

The best first-hand information on the subject would come from Major General John Van Houten, Ret. He was there and I was with him."

We hope that Chick has advised Rep. Daniels of his error, and that other members of the Association who reside in the Garden State will drop the Representative a line.

but an old address was mighty helpful in locating Lewis, now living at 1841 S. 51 Court, Cicero, Illinois. Charlie became a member of the association and thanked the secretary for his assistance. He writes "I am joining the association and I am real proud to have been a member of the 9th Inf. Div.

Colonel Daniel B. Adams (former C. O. of Anti-Tank Company 47th Inf) wrote for information on the last reunion held in Boston. The Colonel had read the reunion notice in a Veteran's magazine. He and his wife, Alice, attended the reunion and he rejoined the ranks by becoming a member of the association. Dan lives in Southern Pines, N. C.

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## SCOUTING FOR LOST MEMBERS

Recently my wife, Idola, was returning from Oklahoma and stopped for gas in Topeka, Kan. The attendant noticed the 9th decal on the windshield, and said he had served in the 9th. E. K. (Gene) Brayton, 1510-1/2 Van Buren, Topeka, Kan., G CO. 60th Inf. My wife mailed him a copy of the Octofoil. Thought you might mail him the next one along with an invitation to join. He didn't know anything about an association.

Regards,  
Paul D. Keller  
President

## SINCERE THANKS

To the members of the 9th Division Association and Auxiliary members.

May I express my deepest appreciation and thanks for the many, many, flowers, telegrams and messages of condolence at the death of my beloved husband, Paul S. Plunkett, and all those that shared in my sorrow your thoughtfulness will long be remembered.

Mrs. Paul (Tippie) Plunkett

## THOSE ATTENDING FUNERAL

During his lifetime Paul Plunkett took a lively interest in the affairs of many organizations. Through these activities Paul formed many enduring friendships among the members of the V.F.W., the Cooties, the Printing Trades Union, and the Ninth Infantry Division. The huge attendance at Paul's funeral service was an excellent indication of the number of friends that Paul had made. Of all the delegations at the funeral, the one that would have pleased Paul the most was the one from the Ninth Infantry Div. Association.

Led by National President Paul Keller the following members represented the Association: Dick Pestel, Columbus, Ohio; Jesse Davis, Hebron, Ohio; Dave Boring, Columbus, Ohio; Leo Hope, Columbus, Ohio; Charles R. Harvey, Cincinnati, Ohio; Don Crosskill, Fremont, Ohio; Mike Mysyk, Cleveland, Ohio; John Bonkowski and his wife Rose, Detroit, Mich.; Betty Rumenapp, Detroit Michigan, and Walter O'Keeffe, Ridgewood, N. Y.

## DOCTOR REJOINS RANKS

Robert C. Polson, M.D., formerly with the 2nd Bn. 60th Infantry, wrote last summer asking about the Boston Reunion. When the secretary's office filled him in on the details of the reunion and the association, the Doctor became a member of the Association.

He lives at 1422 Polk Street, Great Bend, Kansas.

## THE STATLER-HILTON TO BE HEADQUARTERS IN MICHIGAN JULY 18, 19 and 20 FOR '68 REUNION

The members of the Michigan Chapter have selected Bob DeSandy to be Chairman of the 1968 Reunion. William Meadows will be hld Co-Chairman. Others named to head committees are as follows:

Registration.....Joe Casey  
Publicity ..... Elmer Wagner  
Banquet ..... James Dawson  
Memorial Service & Gold Star-  
..... John Bonkowski  
Dance ..... William Meadows  
Program ..... Leonard DeBell  
Golf Tournament ... Bruce Moir

The committee members are doing their darndest to make sure that the 68 Reunion will be tops. The room rates etc., will be printed in a future issue of the Octofoil.

## GEN. RANDLE STARTS SECOND EDITIONS OF SAFI ADVENTURE

Publication date for the 2nd edition of SAFI ADVENTURE will be November 9th, General Ed Randle announces. The first edition sold out in two months, due to the national publicity the book received. And the orders still kept coming in. There are over two hundred back orders on hand.

"I did not want to do a second edition," the general says, "but neither did I want to disappoint all those people."

It is not a history, but a fast-moving story of the pre-dawn landing at Safi, French Morocco, by the 47th Combat Team on November 8, 1942.

The story is told in the third person and the edition is limited to seven hundred and fifty copies.

A great many letters were received from people who purchased the 1st edition, but one General Ed likes best was from Martin Bergman who said, "The most interesting thing was seeing the invasion through your eyes, as commander, and seeing it through my eyes as a rifleman - age 21, young, immature and full of pep and vinegar. Certainly puts a different light on the entire battle. Very happy that you wrote the book and that I have a copy."

Unlike the 1st edition, this one is illustrated. It sells for \$5.75 postpaid and that will about cover cost of publication. The general says, "I made nothing on the 1st edition and I expect to make nothing on this one. It was a labor of love."

To obtain a copy, send postcard to THE ELDNAR PRESS, 503 Althea Road, Belleair, Clearwater, Florida, 33516. A statement will accompany book.

Every book will be autographed. If you were in the 47th Combat Team and were at Safi please state your unit and it will be mentioned in the autograph.

## KLOOZ SPROUTS BEARD



John Klooz, of Sullivan, Ohio - formerly with C Co. 9th Med. Bn. - was seen at the Boston reunion with the above beard. He dressed one night at a dance as an "ole Aa-rab." George Albert and John came strutting in as two Shieks. Needless to say they caused much merriment wherever they appeared.

PAY  
1968  
DUES  
NOW

## VINCENT GUGLIELMINO HONORED BY NEW YORK CHAPTER

Each year the New York Chapter selects a member to be honored as "Man of the Year." This year the Chapter selected Vincent Guglielmino, and the "Man of the Year Award" was presented to him at the Chapter's Annual Dinner and Dance. Over two hundred members and friends of Vinny's were present to see him receive the award. The entire group rose to their feet and gave "Guggy" a standing ovation when he stepped to the dais to accept the award.

The award given to Vinny, on October 6, 1967, is long over-

due. For many years he has unstintingly devoted both his time and his talents to the Ninth Infantry Division Association. His activities have been both on the local and the national level. Besides being one of the main springs of the New York Chapter, he has also served as a member of the National Board of Governors and for the unprecedented period of fifteen years he has filled the office of First Vice-President of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Vinny is well deserving of the honors given to him and we hope that he can continue to serve the Association for many, many years to come.

QUESTION - Is any allowance paid for funeral expenses for a person who has had military service?

ANSWER - An allowance of \$250 is paid toward the burial expense of any person who had other than dishonorable wartime military service, or who had a service-incurred disability resulting from any military

service. This expense is not payable if funeral expenses are met from sources other than members of the immediate family, i.e., if they buy fraternal organization burial insurance, etc. An additional allowance for transportation of the body is allowed if the eligible veteran died in a VA hospital. DAV MAGAZINE

## MEN OF THE 9th INF. DIV.

Gentlemen:

My sister, widowed wife of the former Sandy Hook Pilot and Capt. of the Coast Guard who had three ships sunk under him outside of N. Y. Harbor returning from visiting her son on leave from the 3rd Marine Div. was with me while being interviewed by my representative "Wild" Bill Kessler of the V.F.W. who was quite a hero in his own right at the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Kessler told us that the V.A. will absolutely refuse any further compensation outside of the 50% I now receive for Traumatic Arthritis of the spine and right hip. The V.A. contends I must have affidavits of the arthritis of my hands, shoulders, ribs, hips, knees, ankles, toes etc. while in service. The V.A. has for years admitted I am

100% disabled but does not have written proof. I trust that many of the men will remember the difficulties I had trying to keep up with the Company in Sicily because of my legs and hips. Also that I was held on S.D. in Normandy, could not dig fox-holes or take care of my equipment because of my hands etc.

I know many of my buddies have written Combat Affidavits which the V.A. has chosen to ignore. I must have more of the same, especially from Medics, pertaining to the rest of my body.

I am sorry to keep bothering you men with my personal troubles but it means so much to me and my family.

The very best to all of you,  
The indispensable Pvt.  
George A. Morgan

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the LADIES' AUXILIARY of the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Tippie Plunkett, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ninth Infantry Division Association Ladies' Auxiliary  
286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206

I would like to become a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Enclosed is check or money order for \$1.50 for 1968 dues. Please mail my membership card to—

Name .....

Street .....

City ..... State .....

While attached to the 9th Infantry Division my ..... (state relationship, whether the Ninth Division man was a husband, father, brother, son, etc.)

was with ..... give company, regiment, battery, attached unit, etc.)

Make checks or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail to Secretary-Treasurer Tippie Plunkett, 286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206. A 1968 countersigned membership card will be sent immediately.

By order of the President:

MRS. THERESA CUPRYS, President.

## EX-POW'S SEEK CONFINEMENT PAY

American ex-prisoners of war will petition Senator Everett Dirksen, R-Ill., to submit a bill to the U. S. Senate to pay the ex-prisoners of World War II \$5 per day of confinement by the enemy.

Henry R. Kirker, Sr., Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War Inc., held a meeting in his home for all ex-prisoners of war and civilians who were interned by the enemy during World War II.

"This meeting," he said, "was to obtain signatures for the petition to be sent the senator."

Funds could come from the "frozen enemy assets," about \$400 million, controlled by the senator's committee.

"The death rate among ex-prisoners of war is very high," he said, "in comparison to the general population because of the treatment they received at the hands of the enemy."

When they surrendered, both the Japanese and Germans destroyed all records, making difficult to prove service-connected disability in order to receive a disability pension, said Kirker.

**PAY YOUR 1968 DUES NOW!!!!**

## 9th MEDICS ARE ROLLING THEM BONES

Heeding the advice of Dr. Kaufman in the March-April issue of the Octofoil, the 9th Medics had a good turnout at the Boston reunion. We hope that they will also "sound off" and write to the Octofoil about themselves, what they are doing, etc.

## REMEMBERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

John Mull of Braintree, Mass. and Fred Cline of Bandy, Va. donated to the Scholarship fund. Many thanks to John and Fred.

## FAUX PAS!

The sales manager's wife called her husband's office and told his secretary: "I am at the airport and will be leaving in a few minutes. Will you please tell Mr. Smythe I forgot to turn off the electric blanket on his side of the bed this morning?"

"Yes, I'll tell him," the secretary replied. "And who shall I say called?"

## QUICK ON THE DRAW!

An inquisitive cowboy ambled up to the blacksmith and picked up a horseshoe without realizing it just came out of the forge. He immediately dropped it, shoved his burnt hand into his pocket and appeared nonchalant. "Kinda hot, wasn't it?" inquired the blacksmith.

"Nope," replied the cowboy, "it just don't take me long to look at a horseshoe."

## OOPS! SORRY!

Among the floral displays received by a new store on the occasion of its opening was one that bore a card reading, "Deepest sympathy." The store manager immediately phoned the florist.

The florist was unusually disturbed by the error. "But what about the party that received the card intended for you?" he moaned. "It read, 'Congratulations on your new location.'"

## NEWS NOTE

Victor Roberts, formerly with H Co., 60th Inf., now living at 12 Knickerbocker Drive, Newark, Delaware, had a setback recently when he had an accident while on a construction job. The scaffold he was working on overturned, resulting in a trip to the hospital for 32 days. However, Vic is now up and around.

# "THE PAWNS OF WAR"

by WILLIAM M. KREYE

## FOREWORD

### Chapter 1

### NEW RECRUITS

Why was this story written? The truth had to be told--especially about the deeds of the Ninth Infantry Division. It is my tribute to a bunch of guys who unfortunately got selected into the 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment Intelligence Section. Some were smarter and greater than the others but as individuals they were all great fellows to know. To think that I was their guardian, advisor and their leader is unbelievable. For those who did not make it--it is a pity, a shame, and a waste of human life.

When the war called us to action, it was to change our lives one way or another for many a year. When WORLD WAR II ended in 1945, most General Issues laid down their weapons, put on their civilian clothes again and adventured through the custom of adjusting their manners to the peaceful way of life. It was not easy for those who had been taught and drilled to kill to make the drastic accomplishment. But, for each one to make the adjustment, there was plenty of time to do it.

With the intent to forget the horrors, the filth and the nightmare of war, there was always the possible belief that someday, someone would mention something about my group. It was many, many years later that I realized who could tell the happenings, adventures and the deeds performed more accurately than yours truly? I could tell quite a bit of the real story, the way I saw it. However, it is not the whole story by a long shot and it could not be told by one or any small group of men alone. To be more modest, this story will be probably the only mention ever of these great men.

My deepest gratitude and sincere thanks for the few kind people who have contributed to this story such as CHARLES SCHEFFEL, WILLIAM H. SOL-LIDAY, JOHN S. KUJAWA, PAUL S. PLUNKETT, FRANK FIDLER, CAROLYN V. KREYE, my daughter and ROBERT W. KREYE, my son.

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I entered the United States Army by virtue of the Selective Service Act on January 10, 1941. After the usual routine such as a physical and so forth, I was sent to Camp Upton, Long Island, New York. I took an Intelligence Quiz with the results very impressing. I had been in good physical condition as my vocation, a junior mechanic in the plumbing field, had given me muscle. I tipped the scale at 208 pounds and I was six foot, one inch tall. I had not proven to be very smart when I attended James Madison and Abraham Lincoln high schools and I only completed about two and a half years. I loved baseball and football as I was an ardent fan of the Brooklyn Dodger's Baseball Team and of the New York Giant's Football Team.

Although I had only played occasionally in the amateur ranks, I had been very fortunate in softball, punch-ball, baseball and football games. I was usually the lucky fellow that came up with the winning hit or the decisive defensive play or the long run. These sports' activities had given me somewhat of a reputation and respect throughout my neighborhood which was South Brooklyn, N.Y.

I had to be one of the lucky ones to get in the first draft. It would be for one year's duration, so I thought, and I didn't intend to put much effort into it. I was assigned to Tent #15 in Company "I" at Camp Upton. The following day was filled by the issuance of clothing (anything but the right sizes were handed out), inoculations, processing, making out allotments and insurance policies. We were read for the first time, the Articles of War.

Now it started, the grand old routine of reveille, chow, calisthenics, close order drill, extend order drill, chow again, more exercises until retreat finally rolled around. This went on day after day. The new recruits learned how to count from one to four; left, right, left, right, one, two, three, four. If the recruit didn't gripe before the day ended, there was something wrong with him. One way to get out of routine was to tell

the drill sergeant where to get off. He would put this character on kitchen police or digging sump holes.

In Tent #15, I was associated with four regular guys, VALARIE, BROOKS, HALL and DRIER. There was also a lazy, helpless creature by the name of MATES (a name which is fictitious, of course). He wouldn't lend a hand with any chores especially with the sanitary measures within the tent.

The weather was extremely cold and damp. The temperature was down around zero and the dampness with these low temperatures was colder to a human body than sub-zero ones found in the northwestern states during the winter season. But, Long Island was like that, very damp. The dampness during the swimming season magnified the sun's rays to play havoc upon the bathers and the metals in automobiles and in buildings. The salt in the air was another harmful factor.

Inside our tent there was a small pot-belly stove. The flue pipe extended from the stove upward through the top center of the canvas. After the fire within the stove had gone out for the third consecutive night in succession at approximately the same hour, 0200 hours, BROOKS and VALARIE were the first to be awakened by the sudden decline in the temperature and the penetrating cold dampness. Soon all five of us would be up trying to revive or restart the fire. MATES didn't move a muscle.

BROOKS and VALARIE rolled MATES from out of his cot onto the bare, dirt floor. He was ushered outside wearing nothing except his white long-johns. He was persuaded to fetch a ladder and he was forced to climb up the outside of the tent. He was directed to clean the chimney strainer which was inserted in the flue. All this was performed in the darkness of the night. He was then encouraged to put away the ladder and to fetch a supply of coal. The coal bins were situated so far away and so were the latrines and the shower rooms that it was said that a soldier needed a three-day pass to make the trip. MATES was unanimously appointed and elected the tent orderly for the duration of his stay.

Most of the new recruits slept with all their clothes on during the coolest nights. It was a strenuous task to get on one's shoes in the mornings as the cold dampness had penetrated them and it made

them stiff. We had only five minutes from the sound of the bugle call to fall out in formation for the roll call. Another hazard was to get on our wrap leggings around our pants' legs which had been carried over from World War I.

There were about two hundred men in each company. One morning, as the company was about ready for the roll call, only about fifteen men were present. A private first-class was acting as a corporal and a buck sergeant was acting as a first sergeant. These two had control of all the new recruits in Company "I" and their word was law. The sergeant ordered the acting corporal to get the rest of the stragglers out from the tents, but there were none to be found. I could picture what was running through the sergeant's mind having all these men missing. He probably thought all the men had deserted. These absentees had gone during the night to the shower rooms and latrines where there were large stoves operating and they could keep warm.

After the roll call, the formation was usually dismissed. Most of the soldiers, not to be late for the call, put on their shoes, overcoats and caps with just their long-johns underneath their overcoats. When they were dismissed after the roll call, they returned to their quarters and they finished dressing into their proper attire. However, on one occasion, the men weren't dismissed. They were kept in the ranks. They were taken for a little close order drill as the weather warmed up a bit. They were marched through the mud puddles and many a white woolen leg appeared as the men stepped along in formation. There appeared to be just an overcoat with an overseas cap resting on the collar of the coat as the coat moved leglessly along within the ranks. This was RALPH ALESSI from Jamaica, New York, one of the shortest but the most comical fellow in the group. His overcoat ended at the soles of his shoes.

After a few days, the recruits were learning the ropes. They didn't salute privates first-class anymore. They didn't ask captains for a light from their cigarettes. The recruit was also finding out that extra effort did not pay off. It was hurry up and wait in anything the Army did. The soldier was just a pawn in the big chess game of war and he had to be moved.

I finally realized the cause of our stove troubles in Tent #15. However, there were no chimney supplies available to remedy the situation as the flue pipe was too short and we needed another piece of flue. Someone found a wooden box and we raised up the stove by placing the wooden box beneath it. This solved the shortness of the flue pipe and everything went well until the coming Saturday morning. When Saturday morning arrived, it was our first inspection. The first-sergeant entered our tent and he yelled "attention." We had to snap to and come to the position of attention beside our bunks as the captain entered. He looked around within the tent and everything seemed to meet with his approval except for a couple of apples which were setting on the wooden tent frames supporting the canvas. Just as he and the first-sergeant were about to leave, the captain spotted the wooden box beneath the stove. He raved and he instructed the sergeant to have the tent dismantled and erected again in the proper manner.

We, the occupants of the tent, were victimized to do the tent work. There were regulations prohibiting civilians from entering the company streets and certainly from the tents as well. We had just finished the work on our tent when our guests arrived and we were supposed to greet them at the dayroom. My visitors consisted of: my fiancée, VERONICA, my mother and my father, HENRIETTA F. and AUGUST A. KREYE (pronounced Cray); my aunt CLARA; my aunt and my uncle, LILY and WILLIE; and their four children, LOUIS, CLARA-BELLE, JOHN and FLORENCE. Besides all these relatives of mine and the six occupants of the tent, there were seven more visitors to see the other fellows. The captain should have walked in then. We would still be peeling spuds at the mess hall.

What they handed out at the mess hall was for the birds. Was there a scarcity of food? When they served stew, for instance, you got a spoonful of gravy with two or three peas in it. My mother had brought along with her many goodies. By the time evening was spent and we had retired, the occupants of Tent #15 had consumed all this food.

Finally, the company was alerted to move to a permanent camp and I was selected as a supernumerary. A supernumerary was a soldier who trailed along

with the others and if there was a space vacant which needed filling, he filled in. The railroad was about a mile away from the tent city. I lugged my two barrack's bags and myself at the end of the long column of troops. I wasn't picked to go for the train ride and I had to return back to tent city. I understood that this bunch that departed headed for the 60th Infantry Regiment. This time I was assigned to Tent #7 in Company "I." My bunk buddies were BROUSH, DUDA, PETERS, ESPOSITO and DAVIDSON. DUDA lasted the day and then he was sent to the hospital with pneumonia.

We had the divine pleasure of having my mother and my father visit with us again. This time they left a roast chicken. BROUSH advised me to save a leg of the bird. The next morning the supply corporal was invited to enjoy it. He then inquired if we wanted to render our services at the supply tent. We did it and it was easier than close order drill and so forth. We counted knives, forks, spoons and mess kits.

Once again, the company was alerted to move and I was once more appointed as a supernumerary. This time I made the trip. After eighteen hours of side-tracking and riding, six short-arm inspections later, I arrived at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

fantry Regiment of the newly formed 9th Infantry Division. There through a loud speaker system we were welcomed and the processing continued. One by one each soldier's name, serial number, and to which company the individual was assigned was shouted through the speaker. I believe, on account of my good standing on that Intelligence Quiz taken earlier, I was sent to 1st Battalion Headquarters Detachment which would consist of approximately forty-eight enlisted men. Connected to the detachment would be the officers of the battalion staff but they would reside in the officers' barracks across the parade field.

To familiarize one's curiosity with the pre-history of the Infantry units forming the 9th Infantry Division, the 39th and 47th Infantry Regiments served in World War I under the command of the 4th Infantry Division while the 60th Infantry Regiment saw combat with the 5th Infantry Division. Now these three regiments, the 60th, 47th and 39th would be partners under the 9th Infantry Division in a new triangular division instead of the box or square division consisting of four regiments. Each regiment would be a combat team, a unit to engage an enemy by itself, if necessary. The three regimental divisions would improve the maneuver-ability and

private's pay for each specialist's stripe. Officers were in a distinct class of their own and they had to be saluted. Non-commissioned officers from the rank of staff-sergeant and up were in a class of their own with special privileges. A warrant officer came between the non-commissioned officers and the commissioned officers.

Now, the robust hardships began as the rough test of reconditioning commenced. We, the recruits, thought that thirteen weeks of basic training would endure, but it seemed to last indefinitely through our stay at Fort Bragg. The personnel of the detachment were split up into small groups and they were sent to line companies for their basic training. I went to "B" Company and I began my thirteen weeks as the number one scout of a platoon. I had to learn the various signs and hand signals to relay back to the main body of the platoon as I crawled and I observed in the prescribed military manner. This was a stress in physical ability. The sergeant in charge of the platoon, Sgt. WALTER D. HUBER, impressed me with his ability to handle his rifle. He tossed it around as if it were a toothpick.

We were taught the nomenclature of the parts of the rifle, other fire arms and equipment until we could handle them while our eyes were blindfolded. All

a boar in red. Along the bottom are the words, "Dune Vaillance Admirable." These are the symbols for the part that the 39th encountered in World War I in the Aisne-Marne and Meuse-Argonne sectors.

The men of the 1st Battalion Detachment, 39th Infantry were attached to "D" Company's mess hall for food rations. The privates of our detachment supplied the kitchen police and the table waiters for the "D" Company mess. The detachment got the worst of the deal as they were served last. Ten men at a table would fight for seven potatoes, for instance, and there were no seconds. It was too expensive for the private to eat at the Service Club too often. I went from 208 pounds down to about 167 pounds within a period of six months.

The following was a list of the personnel attached to the 1st Battalion Headquarters Detachment, 39th Infantry Regiment about April 1941. The first nine men listed were regular Army personnel:

FRANK J. KOCJAN, ELMER J. LOUTH, BEVERLY L. MURPHY, LEWIS B. COBB, WARREN G. FROST, RALPH D. RITCHIE, LESTER L. NEAL, NICK P. GIRARDI, RICHARD H. HAYNES, LINDSAY P. HILTON, WILBUR V. HOVEY, JOSEPH BREN KANE, WILLIAM M. KREYE, FRANK D. LAMB, JOHN NIEWEROSKI, HARRY G. PAVLUCK, RAYMOND P. PISANI, HELIODOR PRATS, FRANK RUSSO, WILLIAM J. REILLY, EDWARD L. SADOWSKI, PAUL C. TAYLOR, WM. J. TORNATTA, RALPH C. ALESSI, JACK M. BRUNETTO, WALTER L. DEAN, ABRAHAM J. DEFISHER, JOHN M. FISHER, ARTHUR L. FLANIGEN, JOHN LIHACH, CARMELO LLAMAS, ALTON J. LOYSEN, JAY F. MANN, HERBERT C. MANSON, JOHN J. MCGUIGAN, FRANK L. MUEHLEISAN, ROBERT G. MUNZE, JOHN L. SCHMUCKER, GEORGE E. SHEEHAN, GEORGE A. SIMON, ALBERT SULTAN, ROBERT P. WALLEY, CHARLES F. WARRENCAK, DON WONG, FUDIE P. ZULLO.

The Ninth Infantry Division was composed and made up of the following units:

60th INFANTRY REGIMENT, 60th FIELD ARTILLERY BAT'N, 47th INFANTRY REGIMENT, 84th FIELD ARTILLERY BAT'N, 39th INFANTRY REGIMENT, 26th FIELD ARTILLERY BAT'N, 34th FIELD ARTILLERY BAT'N, 9th DIVISION ARTILLERY, 9th QUARTERMASTER BAT'N, 9th MEDICAL BATTALION, 9th RECONNAISSANCE TROOP, 15th ENGINEERS BATTALION.

Second Lieutenant CHARLES W. SAMPLE, who was our detachment commander, summoned me into his office in reference to a \$6 overdrawing of my monthly pay. We could draw post exchange checks against our pay in advance, something like a charge account. I was advised to cut down on future expenditures and to try to make up the deficit by the next month's payroll. I reached for my wallet and I handed the commander \$6 in cash. He reflected on his face a moment of embarrassment. This was probably the first irregularity of its kind to occur in the service.

Before receiving our Springfield 1903 rifles, we had used broom sticks. We practiced trigger squeezing, aiming and the nomenclature all over again. We marched to the rifle range to zero-in our weapons. Targets were set at 200, 300 and 500 yards. Most of the firing was at a slow tempo. At the practice firing I showed good promise. A few days later, we returned to the rifle range to fire for the record. The overall results were very poor. HERBERT C. MANSON was tops with a 176 out of a possible 200

points. Most of the regulars followed him. My score was a very poor 155.

Then there was the bayonet course. It consisted of ten dummies, of which six contained small targets to be pierced with the bayonet which was affixed on the front end of the rifle. Officers checked and they watched the progress of the individuals running the course. They checked the butt strokes and the parries.

A total of 66 points were possible for the bayonet score. Six points were deducted for each miss of a target and two points were deducted for not parrying, improper butt stroke and the failure to fire two blank cartridges at the end of the course. If the soldier did not finish in the required time, he was disqualified.

When I ran the course, I missed all six of the targets and I failed to finish in the required time. In fact, no one in the Intelligence Section qualified. Lt. SAMPLE pleaded with our group to qualify and he advised us to try it another day for the second and last try. We all felt sorry for the lieutenant as he was a very likeable young fellow and a square shooter. We reran the course then and there. All of us qualified as experts.

There were other events too, such as the hand-grenade throwing course, the gas chamber, the moving target range and the obstacle course. Then the Intelligence Section attended Regimental Intelligence School which was to last for a period of twenty weeks and none of the personnel attending were granted any three day passes during the weeks of instruction. The school was very interesting due to the efforts and the wisdom of Lt. CHARLES O. KATES and Lt. RICHARD M. DAVIS.

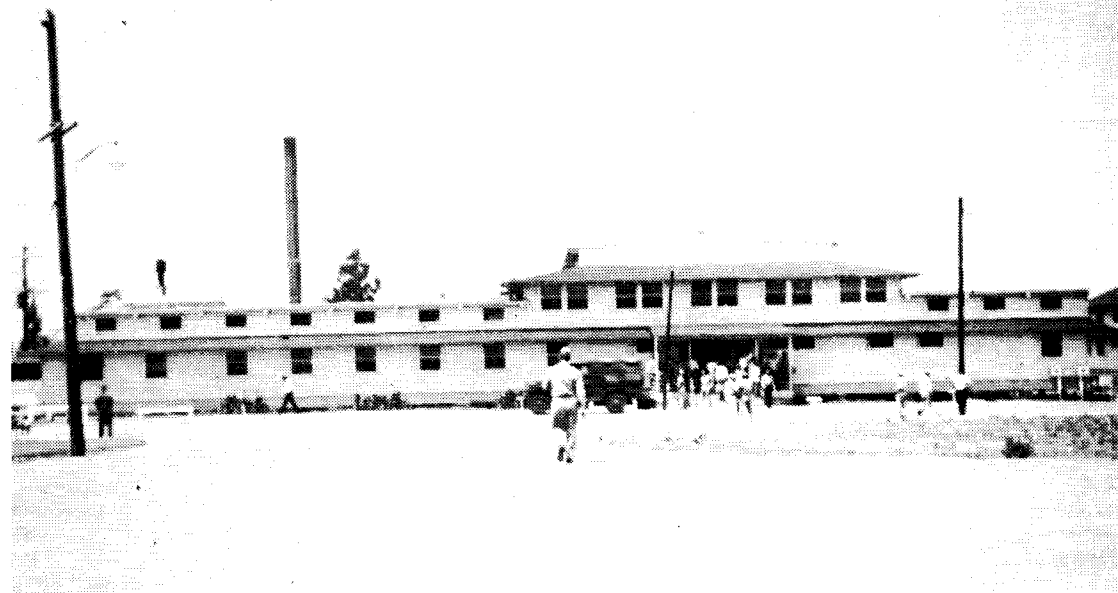
I picked up this schooling very quickly and I received a recommendation from the school. I was promoted to Specialist 5th Class. As I specialized in map reading, JOHN LIHACH was very apt and he specialized at patrolling. There was one satisfaction or reward which stood out above all others being a Specialist 5th Class. There was no kitchen police nor any table waiting to contend with.

In the mornings, the entire battalion was ordered out in shirtless attire at 0545 hours to double time around the regimental area. When calisthenics arrived and there were various wrestling holds demonstrated by husky Lt. JAMES H. COOK, football star from Tennessee, he was supervised and corrected by Lieutenant Colonel WILL H. GORDON.

The outfit had been on many hikes. Gradually working the mileage up from five to fifteen miles, on a day in July 1941, the entire regiment went on a 25 1/2 miler. At the start the distance was unknown to the enlisted men. It was started after an early breakfast and each man was allotted one canteen of water. We had a lunch break enroute. We sat alongside the dusty road as we ate our sandwiches. These dusty roads would never be forgotten by the soldier who hiked at Fort Bragg as Longstreet and Chicken Roads.

The march was continued and many men became exhausted from the intense heat. Reaching a crest of a hill which seemed to be the ninety-ninth ridge top, we heard the familiar sounds of the 9th Infantry Division Band which signalled the end of the "death march." We marched into our selected bivouac area where we pitched two-man pup tents in the shadows of the sunset. Supper was eaten in the usual style, hot and mixed in one's mess gear under the moonlight.

(continued next issue)



Service Club at 60th Area

## Chapter 2

### BASIC TRAINING AND GARRISON

*W*

he, the newly arrived recruits, disembarked at a railroad in the Ninth Infantry Division area. Here were rows of two story new white barracks which were arranged to make a city of its own. This new city was situated about one mile west of the Main Post. The barracks were constructed to provide unpaved streets between them. At the rear of the barracks were the maintenance and the motor pool areas. At the front were the mess halls and beyond the mess halls was the parade field which extended the entire length of the regimental area. There were three similar areas, each separated with about two hundred yards of scrub oak and scrub pine. The area westward was the 47th Infantry area, and the area eastward and nearest to the Main Post was for the 39th Infantry. On the other side of the parade field were the officers' living quarters and the regimental staff buildings. On the other side of the main road was the artillery area and other attached units to the 9th Infantry Division in a similar barrack arrangement like the three infantry regiments.

I was sent and assembled at the parade field of the 39th In-

fantry Regiment of the newly formed 9th Infantry Division.

In a year or two, the men attached to these units will be proud to have been a part of the 9th Infantry Division. The insignia of the Ninth is the "Octofoil." It is known as the red and blue octofoil, a design of eight petals with a white center which presents a colorful insignia. Red and blue are the colors of the division flags and the white is the color of the numerals found on division flags.

At first, there was friction between the regulars and the selectees, but this was ironed out in due time. The 1st Battalion Headquarters Detachment, 39th Infantry consisted of the Ammunition, Pioneer, Communication and the Headquarters Platoons.

The Intelligence Section was composed of eight enlisted men with a lieutenant at the head and it was a part of the Headquarters Platoon. S/Sgt. LOUTH was the S-2 sergeant, Corporal COBB was his assistant, Pfc. JOHN LIHACH, Pfc. JOSEPH KANE, Pfc. HERBERT MANSON, Pvt. JOHN FISHER, Pvt. HARRY PAVLUCK and strictly private me made up the section at this time. But there will be many changes in the future which will be almost impossible to keep track of.

Ratings and pay were hard to get for the enlisted man. Pay for privates was \$21 per month for the first three months, then \$30 a month. PFC's received \$36 per month, corporals \$54, buck sergeants \$66, staff sergeants \$78 per month and so on. There were also specialists ratings earning \$3 above the \$30

training was performed according to a schedule and it was planned in a manner that we didn't have much time for ourselves. After drill hours on Friday evenings, we cleaned our clothes, our equipment and the barracks to pass the usual Saturday morning inspections. Everything in our possession and near our bunks had to be cleaned, arranged and aligned in the manner prescribed by the Soldier's Hand Book. The inspecting officer came through the barrack with white gloves on his hands and tested various parts of the interior for dust. In the old Army most of the soldiers had a duplicate set of certain kinds of equipment to display at these inspections. Thereby, they saved themselves lots of equipment cleaning. The soldier's firearms had to be cleaned and oiled. It was company punishment if a speck of dust was found in the rifle bore by the inspecting officer.

Each regiment had a "coat of arms" which the soldier displayed with pinned jewelry on the lapels of his jacket of his class "A" olive drab uniform. The "coat of arms" of the 39th Infantry Regiment is on a shield of blue for the color of the infantry. Above the shield is a head of a falcon holding in its peak a green leaf of the 4th Infantry Division of which it was a part in World War I. The "falcon," fierce fighting bird atop of the 39th Infantry insignia is symbolic of the regiment's history. Across the center of the shield is a fleur-de-lis argent, "grove of cress" signifying the regiment's first success in the Aisne-Marne offensive. In the upper left hand corner is a gray square which contains a head of