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The Octofoil, January/February 1968

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

VOLUME XXIII
NUMBER 3

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.

Jan. - Feb. 1968

MICHIGAN, HERE WE COME . . .

Detroit The Place

July 18th The Date

This year, Ford, G.M.C., and American Motors won't be the only people making news in Detroit. The Ninth Division Association also plans to make headlines when it holds its Annual Reunion in the Motor City.

The boys from the Detroit Chapter have taken a page from the motor magnet's manual and have put the 1968 Reunion on an assembly line. Each phase of the reunion has been assigned to a different chairman, and each chairman will be responsible for getting one particular operation into perfect shape.

When July 18th rolls around the Reunion Chairman, Bob DeSandy, will fit each individual operation into the overall plan, and thus assure the members of the Association a smooth running and enjoyable reunion. Bob will be aided by Bill Meadows - Co-Chairman, Joe Casey - Treasurer, Bruce Mior - Golf, James Brunner - Program, Joe Casey - Registration, Elmer Wagner - Publicity, Bill Meadows - Dance, Jim Dawson - Banquet, John Bonkowski - Memorial Service. HOSPITALITY will be provided by the entire Detroit Chapter.

Everyone, especially Old Soldiers, love a parade. If you doubt the veracity of this statement, come to the Reunion and you will change your mind when you see the Old Reliabilities stepping off on their march to the Memorial Service. Each year we grow more portly and our aches and pains become more pronounced, but when that military band sounds off we forget everything but the cadence.

Heart-felt Gratitude

This is to express my heart-felt gratitude to you and all the Officers and Members of the 9th Infantry Division Association for the many kindnesses and expressions of sympathy. You have always been so good to Paul and me.

Paul devoted a big part of his life to the Association and I am sure never regretted a moment of it. He always considered himself so fortunate for the association and friendship with you and all the members of the 9th Division.

Paul's well written obituary in the Octofoil and all the letters of condolence have been a source of comfort. I have written Father Connors in a feeble attempt to express my appreciation for the Memorial Services and dinner in Worcester. Everyone has been so good to me.

Please assist me in conveying my appreciation to all of Paul's and my friends for their kind consideration in my time of sorrow.

Sincerely,
Tippie Plunkett

This year the Detroit Chapter went all out to secure the services of a suitable band for the parade. John Bonkowski went right to the top; he requested the assistance of Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi of Detroit and through the Congressman's help we were able to secure the services of the 70th Division Band. Major General Carl J. Dueser, Commander of the 70th Division has advised John that the band will be ready and waiting at 1000 hours 20 July 1968. So get your feet in shape and be prepared for a lively march through downtown Detroit.

The Statler-Hilton Hotel still has plenty of rooms available for the Reunion, and the rates are very reasonable. \$10.00 for Singles, \$15.00 for Doubles, and \$17.00 for Twins. Don't forget that the room rates include free parking. These special rates will prevail for three days preceding and three days after the Reunion, so if you plan to arrive early and depart late, you can still take advantage of the special rates. When making your reservations at the hotel be sure to mention that you are attending the Ninth Division Reunion.

All reports coming out of Detroit indicate that the members of the Association will have a wonderful time in Detroit. This year when making plans for your vacation keep in mind the dates July 18th through the 20th and set them aside for the Ninth Inf. Div. Reunion in Detroit.

Nephew Serves With Ninth

During World War II, Lou Vivolo of E. Boston, Mass. served with the 9th. M. P. Co. Now his nephew, PFC Joe Vivolo, is in Viet Nam serving with C Co. of the 47th.

Young Joe was wounded in action, but after two weeks in the hospital he returned to duty and is now back in action. This is the spirit that made the Ninth Division famous. Let's hope that this young soldier continues to have good luck and returns home safely.

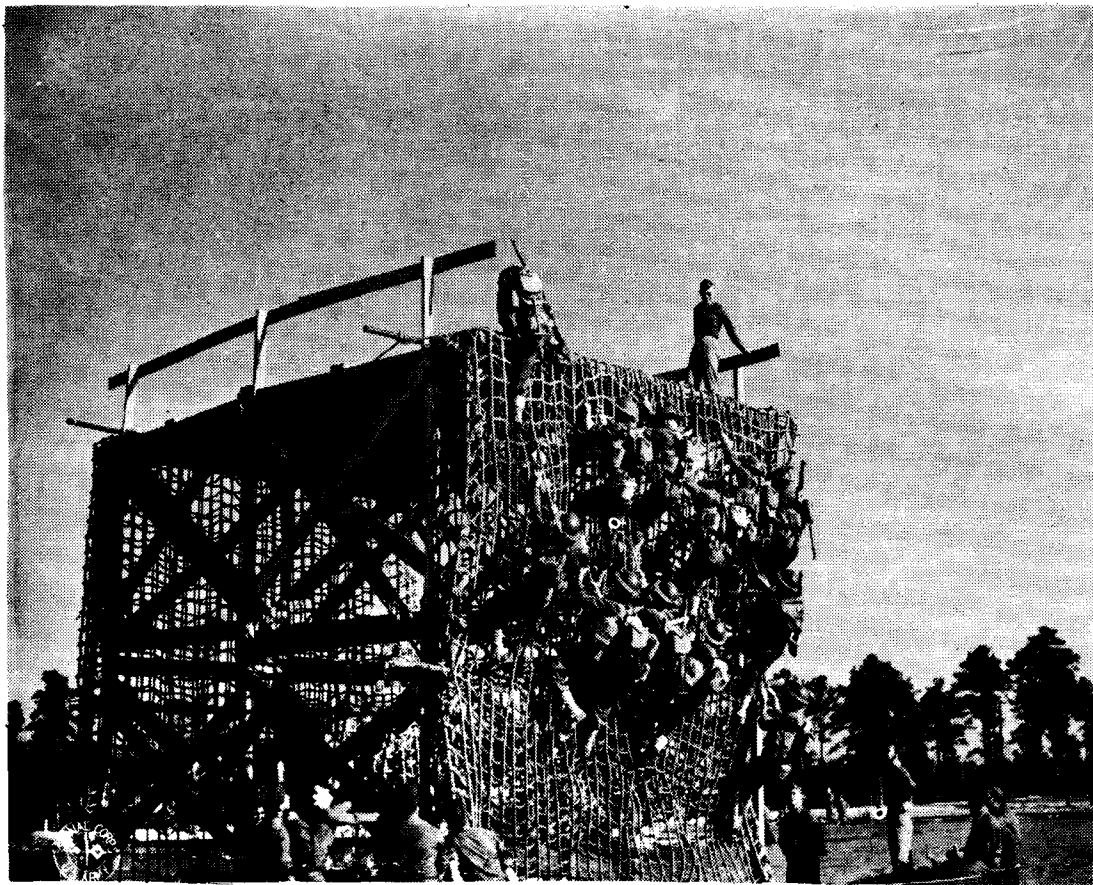
Thanks General

General Craig took the time to write in answer to the question in the last Octofoil. Who named Old Reliabilities? The answer is on page 313 of our history book "8 Stars to Victory." General Huebner, V Corps Commander, is credited with the nickname.

PAY YOUR

1968 DUES NOW!!!

SCRAMBLING FOR RESERVATIONS IN DETROIT



MOCK BOAT PRACTICE (Fort Bragg, N. C. - 1942)

GENERAL O'CONNOR ADDRESSES TROOPS

The following is taken from the Division newspaper, The Old Reliable. An address by the Commanding General, Major General George O'Connor

I receive a number of letters from parents and relatives of members of the Division. One came recently from Mrs. Beverly Lasher, whose son, Richard, of Company C, 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry, was killed in action in August. She has been writing to members of Company C but due to DEROS and the Infusion Program her contacts have been scattered and she did not know the name of the new company commander.

Being concerned about the effect that the protest marches might have on the men serving here, she asked me to have the letter below posted on the bulletin board. I think it is so good that you should all share it:

"By now, each of you has heard about the protest march on the Pentagon. I imagine every one of you has questions in your mind you would like to have answered.

"You deserve to know what the responsible citizens think about this so-called protest. As a mother who recently lost her son while fighting with the 9th, as a property and business owner, and an active participant in politics and civic affairs, I feel I am as responsible as anyone.

"Let me tell you what I would tell my own son. First of all, you all know 'protesters' can be hired by the day, the week, or what-have-you. Their rates depend upon what is expected of them. Carrying signs calls for a certain rate, singing for another, etc. Where does this

money come from? We both know the answer to that question. The same source is also buying weapons for North Viet Nam.

"Then there are other protesters. The ones who are protesting because they don't like the world they have inherited. They really don't know if they like it or not -- because they've never had the courage to face that world! They're more to be pitied than censured.

"Next there are many people who have very limited knowledge, and also lack the ability to acquire further knowledge. They chant, 'Thou shall not kill' as they protest. They're right. The Bible does say this. But the same Bible also states that there are certain principles we must defend and certain rights worth fighting for.

"Freedom for all is one of these things. If they truly knew

the Bible, they would know that our involvement in Viet Nam is not the first time Christians have had to defend the weak and oppressed. Freedom is an obligation . . . not a right. "Some of the protesters were on 'trips' (LSD and other escape drugs). We can't hold them responsible for their actions while under the influence of these drugs.

"There are a few remaining protesters who do not agree with the administration of the conflict in Viet Nam. This is their right. None can argue with this. But, aren't you there, fighting to defend the right of free men to disagree and protest?

"As a reasonable citizen, I feel that if they would protest in a dignified manner, through

proper channels, they could accomplish a great deal more and, at the same time, gain support from other Americans. After all, you are fighting and dying for a cause with dignity and courage. We at home should do the same.

"In closing, let me say this to you, my adopted sons: these protesters are mostly of a legal age to be called adults. They can never be called men. On the other hand, most of you are not of a legal age to be called adults, but every one of you has earned the right to be called men.

"Twenty years from now, this country will be managed by you men. You will have responsible positions in government, industry, educational establishments, and the military. These same protesters will still be protesting.

"It takes personal courage to accept responsibility. Each of you has an abundance of this commodity. I am most sincere as I say to each of you . . . I am so very proud of you. Thank you -- just for being there."

Mrs. Lasher closed her letter with these words: "My son was very proud to serve in the 9th. In his words, 'Mom, the 9th is the best damn outfit in the Army.' Based on the letters I receive from you young men, I concur."

God bless you, Mrs. Lasher.

Remember the Dates

Remember the dates for the 1968 Reunion - July 18, 19, 20.

★ THE OCTOFOIL ★

Form 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J. 07087
OCTOFOIL ASSOCIATE EDITORS Walter O'Keefe & Daniel Quinn

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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.

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26th Field Message Center

Gentlemen:

Happy New Year.

Yes, may the year 1968 be a happy and prosperous one for the men of the Ninth Infantry Division Association and their families. May the year 1968 be a happy and victorious one for the men who wear the OCTOFOIL in far off lands.

Old man winter is true to form at this time of the year in New England. We have snow, about one foot of it. Does anyone want some? We did not get down to the 13 degrees below that Green Bay had, but we have been pretty close to it during the first three days of the month. So, if you are a skier or skater, come to New England now.

The men in blue of the United States Postal Service again made many trips to 95 Washington Ave. with Christmas Greetings from men of Service Battery 26FA and from other units of this great division. Thank you, very much.

Everett Grigsby added a note to say that he is now in the used car business. So, if any of you are out in Seward, Nebraska and need a car, why not stop in to see Everett of 26FA.

Paul Furbush, Bill Bongiorno, Mac Hurn, Roy Cortese, Bill Andrews, Ed Kral, Anthony Ponticello, Earl Landon, Elbert Turner, Charlie Zablow, Carl Lucas, Pergl, Joe Albanese, Jim Daniels, Peter Greco, Clem LeBlanc, Jerry Langer, John Brazil, Red Truscello, Dick Malone, Cecil Williamson, Arnold Leach, Harold Wallace, Elmer Roscoe, John Murray, Paul Griffin, Robert Porter, Lew Orticari, Ike Blitzstein and Joe Bolow are a few more of the boys who wished the McKenzie family a Merry Christmas.

Jim Boyle asked about Travis Seymour. If anyone can spare a minute and six cents (new postage rate), I wish that you would send a card or note to Travis Seymour, 3422 Skyway Drive, Memphis, Tenn. 38127. Travis was with Service Battery 26FA all of the way from Ft. Bragg to Pfaffenhoffer.

Two weeks after he spent a wonderful weekend in Worcester, Arnold Leach entered the hospital for a hernia operation. He is now on the road to recovery. Too bad he has to miss the good skiing up St. Albans way.

Paul Griffin is planning to make this his last year of service. Paul, now a Lt. Col., is stationed at Ft. Meade.

A great reunion was held in Houston two months ago. Harold Wallace and Elbert Turner wandered out of the hills of Tennessee back in 1939 and found their way to tent city at Bragg. There they met for the first time. Both were assigned to Service 26FA in the 9th Div. area at Bragg. Some five years later, both were discharged and went their separate ways. Elbert got lonesome for the good life so reenlisted about the time of the Berlin Air Lift. Now both are in Texas but about 500 miles apart. Elbert, now a civilian, found the time to visit Harold in Houston. What a reunion! To add to the merriment was Bernal Lareau, also of Service 26FA, and now of Houston. On his way back to the hills for a vacation this past summer, Harold Wallace stopped in Memphis to see Seymour. That visit meant much to Travis.

Mrs. Harold Huber and Mrs. George Wilkinson continued the custom started by their husbands many years ago.

Ted Schmidt, John Clouser, Bob Mason, Dick Rogers, Ches Mischler and Ernie Spear from Hdqtrs. 26FA also remembered the McKenzie family.

Walter O'Keefe, Tom Boyle, Bob Rumenapp and Carl Ward are members of our great Association who took time out during a busy time of the year to wish us a Merry Christmas.

During the long winter nights start a letter writing campaign to members of the old gang. Get them to Detroit for our 1968 Convention.

Sincerely yours,
Joe McKenzie
95 Washington Av.
Waltham, Mass.
02154

☆☆☆

Remember The Dates

Remember the dates
for the
1968 Reunion
July 18, 19, 20.

Art Schmidt Unable to Report

For many years, Art Schmidt has been an indefatigable reporter for the Octofoil. Almost every issue that went to press contained a lengthy article written by Art. These timely and informative reports on the activities of the New York Chapter were widely read by the members of the Association.

In the past few months, Art has become strangely silent, and we thought that he had laid his pen aside and had taken a sabbatical leave. However, we have discovered that his silence was not voluntary but had been forced upon him by personal obligations at home. His uncle had been taken ill and required frequent visits to the Doctor's office, Art was pressed into service as a chauffeur, and now as we go to press Art informs us that his mother is in the hospital awaiting surgery.

Due to these unfortunate occurrences, Art has been unable to pursue his regular activities. However, he has promised that when things return to normal he will get back into harness and resume his reports on the doings of the New York Chapter.

During January and February winter clamped its freezing grip on New York City, but icy winds and low temperatures failed to keep the New Yorkers away from their monthly meetings. They turned up at the 69th Reg. Armory in large numbers and proceeded to make plans for the coming year.

Harry Orenstein, the new President, presided over the meetings and quickly proved that he will keep things moving during 1968. He selected dates for the Memorial Service, picnic, and Fall dance, and also appointed committees for all these events.

Several members proposed that the Chapter charter a bus for the trip to Detroit. Harry agreed to give this proposal wide publicity and promised that, if enough members are interested, the Chapter would undertake this endeavor.

One familiar face was missing from the meetings. John Rizzo, an Old Reliable of the New York Chapter, was hospitalized and unable to be present. We understand that John is now resting at home but will have to take it easy for a few months.

At the January and February meetings, all Committee Chairmen reported considerable progress in their activities, so it seems as if the New York Chapter is set for another successful year.

Members

Out

West

We don't have a Chapter in the Pacific North-West, but we do have many faithful members out that way. Franklin Gunter, L Co. 47th, lives in Tacoma, Washington; recently we received his dues and a nice note from his wife, Florence. Another resident of that beautiful part of the country is Al Lee, 2nd Bn., 47th. Al makes his home in Salem, Oregon. His wife, Grace, sent in Al's dues and told us that they had heard from Charlie Pollard, another 47th man and a friend of AP's. We hope that our members on the Pacific Coast continue to keep in touch and keep us posted on the happenings out that way.



CHANGE OF COMMAND - Ralph Witzkin, retiring President of the New York Chapter, hands over the gavel to his successor, Harry Orenstein. George Apar, Installing Officer, looks on.

John Thornton

Sends Regards

Dear Dan:

Do hope this card finds you in good health. Received the Sept.-Oct. Octofoil several days ago, and sure was very sorry to hear about our wonderful friend Paul Plunkett passing away. He sure will be missed by all. I was very happy to have known him for a few weeks when I was assigned to the 60th Reg., shortly after the 9th landed in France. He was always happy to be of help to everyone, but such is life, may his rest in PEACE.

Glad to know that you and Walter O'Keefe are taking over his work, and it will live up to Paul's standards. Sure hope this affair in Viet Nam comes to an early end, so all our men can come home.

Sincerely,
John Thornton
Co. D 60th Inf.
1320 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago, Ill 60610

PAY YOUR 1968

DUES NOW!!!!

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASS'N. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, Natl. Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.,
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087

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 ☐

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund _____ ☐

Three-Year Member _____ \$11.00 ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP _____ \$50.00 ☐

Octofoil Automobile License Disc _____ \$.50 ☐

Decals 25c; (5) five for _____ \$ 1.00 ☐

"Eight Stars to Victory"
(Pictorial History of 9th Division in action.) \$ 2.00 ☐

Ladies' Auxiliary Member _____ \$ 1.50 ☐

Combat Route Map _____ \$.50 ☐

60th Infantry History _____ \$.50 ☐

Coat Lapel Octofoil Pin _____ \$ 1.25 ☐

Please give credit to the following Chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐

Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐

New England ☐ Michigan ☐

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

"THE PAWNS OF WAR"

CHAPTER 2 (Continued)

by WILLIAM M. KREYE

Basic Training and Garrison

The following morning we started on a three day maneuver of troops by the staff, and it was ended about fourteen miles from our barracks. It was horrible to get lost on hikes or patrols because the wanderer at Fort Bragg might drift into an artillery firing range. This post was the largest artillery post in the United States and there was lots of territory to roam around in, about twenty-five square miles of it. But we didn't get lost, we had to hike those miles back to our barracks and then get ready for the usual inspection the next morning. Right, it was Friday evening once again.

Many things were learned by the privates on the maneuvers and in garrison, such as policing up match sticks, cigarette butts and paper. Sometimes this was done at night if flashlights were available or the moonlight was shining. They received special instructions of how to dispose of cigarette butts after smoking. To remove the tobacco from the rice paper covering and to roll the paper into a tiny ball, was the method prescribed.

For a short time, Wednesday afternoons were devoted to recreation on the regimental parade field where soft ball was the chief activity. One night during the week was devoted to a night problem. It was on a night problem that I knocked over a pup tent and woke up Captain ROBERT J. WATSON, the commanding officer of "D" Company who never knew what hit him. If the night problems exceeded past 0200 hours, we would be granted the morning off from the usual routine.

Sunday morning we had to march over to the Colonel's quarters at 0800 hours to police up the grounds. At the Saturday morning rifle inspection which was held at 0900 hours, we had an outside formation. The ranks were opened to leave about three paces between files and while the inspecting officer came through the ranks and looked at the cleanliness of the rifles and the men, the first sergeant followed with his little blackbook. If a soldier failed to pass the inspection, he was certain for at least two weeks of kitchen police or other extra duties.

Problems became more severe as every week there was a three day maneuver, then they increased to five days. On Monday mornings about 0400 hours, the problems would start and on Friday evenings they would end. The soldiers were tired at their return but still they had to prepare for the Saturday morning, the discipline prevailed. Following Saturday morning, the soldiers had a day and a half of free time to rest up for the following week's maneuver providing he had been a good boy and not on guard duty.

Jiggers, a very small red boring pest, were more annoying to the field soldier than ticks or any other pests were. It was weeks of itching and scratching before the pests stopped digging under one's skin. The medics advised the men to apply small pieces of adhesive tape over the bites. WILBUR V. HOVEY had a very good relieving remedy and that was to apply horse liniment to the affected area. The horse liniment made the skin of the individual burn for a few seconds but the jiggers couldn't stand it either and they began popping out of their hid-

ing and digging places. There had been a few cases of snake bites but this was at a small degree.

There were other mishaps. On one maneuver in the field, "C" Company's kitchen turned out spoiled food and the entire company had ptomaine poisoning. There were a few accidents caused by overturned vehicles. The personnel carriers were overloaded to simulate combat conditions. At night the trucks and other vehicles did not use their headlights and some of them ran into a ditch off the road. The vehicles capsize with their personnel of between forty-five and fifty-two men fully equipped with rifles and equipment. Soldiers were injured or killed by the impact of other bodies, rifles and equipment.

However, although the incidents I reveal make it seem everything was bad, there were more good things than the bad. There was plenty of entertainment within the post grounds at the service clubs, theatres and elsewhere. The most important thing was, although it was still peace time as far as the United States was concerned, this was the basis for the build up of a mighty fighting machine.

CHAPTER 3

Baseball and Soft ball

In order for you to appreciate more fully the coming sports events, I have to present to you a short background of my sports career before I entered the service. I must admit that I played some kind of ball since I was about eight years of age. I started playing a game called punch-ball. It was a game played with a rubber ball and each participating team had five or six active players who fielded the positions without gloves such as pitcher, first base, third base and two outfielders and, optional, a catcher. The pitcher served the ball on one bounce to a batter who in turn waited for the pitch to his liking. The batter hit the ball with his bare fist. This game was very similar to a game that followed shortly later called "stick-ball" where the batter used a broom stick handle to hit the ball.

I played third base on a punch-ball team called the "Trojans." This was an exceptionally good team and it was about the best in western Brooklyn. Some of my associates were FRAN BERTINI, JOHN NEGRI, RICHARD CALLAN, JOE TOTINO, FRANK SANTORO, WILLIE MILAZZO, JOE ERIGO, FRANK MAGNAVITA, the LOTITO brothers, the LEMBO's, RED ROGUS, FRANK CONNORS, JOHN WALSH, the O'NEIL's, the HICKEY's, who accompanied me on this type of game plus many others.

In my teens I played on an amateur baseball team called the "Wings." This was also a very good team and I had played occasionally on other teams. I pitched and I played first base but I did little of either on this team as the home-run hitter was HARRY McKICKA, the first baseman, and some of the best pitchers around were VINNO and McCOY. My weakness was my hitting but nevertheless I became the regular center fielder because I could go and get those fly balls.

When I was nearing twenty, a friend of mine, FRANK GALLUCCI, was talked into and challenged to play a local social club, "The Smiling Boys," soft ball although FRANK wasn't associated with any team. I had played soft ball from time to time such as at Public School #10 and on Sunday picnics. I had gained respect and recognition throughout the neighborhood from my efforts in punch-ball and in soft ball as being a good hitter. FRANK got together his brother DOC, PORKY TARTAS, SKRUB (who would become my brother-in-law in a few years and whose real name was JOHN J. SKROBINSKI) and me to play against this team. We picked up four or five teenagers to fill in with us.

SKRUB, DOC and I put on such an exhibition in our three straight wins over "The Smiling Boys" that we played for them by request until the Selective Service Act broke up the team. I played short stop which was my natural position in this game of softball. I was not a professional nor did I show any promise of making ball playing a career. I just loved to play the game.

At Fort Bragg, I played soft ball on the 1st Battalion Detachment team. However, because ROBERT F. WALLEY played short and there were no takers for third, I played third base. I got stuck with third in every game I played in the Army.

The detachment had a few good soft ball players at this time such as GEORGE E. SHEEHAN, FUDIE P. ZULLO and WALLEY but the best teams in the 1st Battalion were "B" and "C" Companies. "C" Company was good enough to beat the professional team of Raleigh 6 to 5.

The 1st Battalion Baseball Team had been organized sometime before I got the notion to practice with it. I had no idea that I could have made the team. I just wanted to loosen up the old "soup-bone." Every morning I went down to the baseball diamond where the team held its practice sessions. Each day I picked up the baseball and I trotted to the pitcher's mound. I always threw to the second-string catcher, CHARLES I. JOANS, and I threw mostly to the batters just to get the ball over the plate.

My control improved immensely as I threw about two hours each day which proves that practice makes perfect. I started to analyze myself as far as pitching was concerned. My fast ball was not fast enough as it did not have that hop as baseball players refer to a fast ball that the batters swing at and they miss. I had a very effective sharp curve which could perhaps get me by for about three or four innings. Pitching my curve, I had to grip the ball very hard and after a while the ball would rip the skin off of my knuckles. I would then loosen my grip and the curve would lose its effectiveness.

With the practice I was getting on the mound and the additional sideline throwing to JOANS, I developed a new pitch. I called it the "finger ball." It took quite a bit of mastering before I could develop it and then control it. My "finger ball" was thrown similar to a curve for a right hand thrower except the ball was held between the thumb, index and next fingers. The baseball was held loosely near the finger tips. While the arm was in motion, the fingers were twisted as well as the snap of the wrist, just as the ball was released from the hand. The result was a slow breaking curve something like a slider.



ANTI-TANK CO., 39th Infantry puts on a firing demonstration for General Stout, visiting foreign Officer. (March, 1942, Fort Bragg, N. C.)

The difference was a slower pitch with even slower variations of speed or faster pitches on the following succession of throws.

Thereby, I became a thrower of a fast breaking curve and of various slower "finger ball" curves. The batters would either hit the ball on the ground or they would pop it softly into the air. Very seldom did they strike out or did they get the good wood of the bat on the ball to hit it very hard.

One morning while I was on the mound as usual, the activities were promptly interrupted by the manager of the team, Lt. BOLIN. It seemed the regulars who were mostly professionals were in a batting slump. The manager, who didn't know me except from seeing me on the practice mound a few times when he was there, ordered me to pitch with everything I had. JOE GRAVINO, the first string catcher from "B" Company and who was big league material if I ever recognized it, put on his catching equipment and he came out to the mound. JOE was a fine hitter and he had a good arm, also looked great behind the plate. It was his first experience to catch me and he wanted to have a few signals so he would know what was coming. In my surprise, amazement and excitement I completely forgot about the "finger ball" and I agreed to the following: 1 for a fast ball, two for a curve, three for a knuckler, and four for a pitch-out.

After the first man entered the batter's box and he was a right hand hitter, GRAVIN O flashed two fingers which called for the curve. I took my wind-up and I threw my fast breaking curve. The batter instead of pulling back, stooped over. The ball curved sharply and it hit the batter on the head. After a little grumbling, rubbing and a few unmentionable words, the batter was ready to try again. The catcher flashed the same signal and I threw the same pitch. Who said that lightning didn't strike twice in the same place? Well, the ball did curve as the batter again stooped over and again he was hit on the head by the pitched ball.

After the batter picked himself up off the ground, he charged out after me raving mad with the bat in his hand. The catcher grabbed him from behind as a tackler brings down a ball carrier in a football game. Everyone ran out on the diamond including the lieutenant. The officer started to eat me out but soon GRAVINO stopped him with this remark, "Someone ought to show that man how to bat. Those two pitches were over the center of the plate for perfect strikes if the batter didn't get his head in the way." From that moment on I was a member of the 1st Battalion Baseball Team as if this incident had anything to do with it.

WALLEY played shortstop and BEN KISH, former professional football star who played for the Brooklyn Dodgers

and for the Philadelphia Eagles, who was a member of "C" Company, played on our baseball team. Lt. Colonel WILLIAM R. SCHMIDT, commanding the 39th Infantry Regiment, endorsed the game and he watched many of them to his enjoyment. Although I didn't play in too many games, the games I did participate in, my "finger ball" was very successful. JOE GRAVINO remarked on a few occasions, "BILL, you throw up a watermelon and they can't hit it." I was selected for the 39th Regimental Team but I had to leave the team for a special map making assignment for the replacement of Lt. Colonel SCHMIDT, Colonel CAFFEE. The map was for the West Point cadets to follow and trace the progress of a live ammunition firing problem. I made the drawings and HARRY G. PAVLUK, master of the bow and arrow, did a magnificent finish of it with his painting.

In basketball such men like TAFF, CROWLEY, FERRONE, LARKIN, BARDWELL, LAMBERTI, PERTRUKA, CUMMINGS, FLANAGAN and HOPKINS starred for the 39th in their second anniversary of sport activities.

Sergeant HENRY HOUVIG of Company "F" defeated OSSIE SAMPSON of Anti-Tank for the 39th heavy weight title in boxing. The 39th boxing team lead by Lt. ANTHONY ORTENZI, Western Maryland football and boxing star, headed the team into the Carolina State Golden Glove tournament. They came out victorious featuring two wins for Company "K's" EDIE TANSEY. The 39th boxing team defeated the 60th boxing team for the division championship. Company "H," 39th won the boxing trophy.

Lt. M.K. RATTEREE, star of basketball, football and baseball for Presbyterian College took over the basketball schedule of the 39th. Although "B" Company won the most games, Company "F" won the playoff and the title between "B," "C" and "F" Companies. Basketball featured JACK FERRONE of Company "C," high scorer with 210 points and speedy BOBBY RYAN of the Band with 209 points. Lt. BOLIN, all around athletic star from Davidson College and former football coach, managed the 39th baseballers.

Just one more highlight about baseball, one day there was a mix up in orders. I was sent on a detail instead of being allowed to arrive at the baseball field for practice. When the manager noticed that I didn't appear, later I was summoned to report to him. When he learned of what happened, he ordered me to go to sleep in the recreation hall. It was a great pleasure and a marvelous opportunity to play on the 39th Baseball Team.

(Continued next page)



Breaking Camp — Rock Hill, N. C. — October, 1941

Brigadier General RENE E. D. HOYLE replaced Major General JACOB L. DEVERS as commander of the 9th Infantry Division. Shortly later, the outfit entered the Carolina maneuvers which lasted for about ten weeks around the vicinity of Rock Hill, Chester and Lancaster, South Carolina and near Rockingham, Hamlet and Monroe, North Carolina.

We ate supper usually after dark and we couldn't smoke nor have lights of any type when we were in the field. It would be the first maneuver on which "C" rations would be used exclusively. The officers had their dinner table set with plates, table cloth, and their orderlies served their food. They lit candles upon the table which looked like a big birthday party. While the meal was in full swing, an enemy plane flew over surprisingly and it dropped a simulated bomb, a flour sack, right in the center of the table.

CHARLIE WARNECAK, very talkative and a great guy to know who hailed from Bound Brook, New Jersey and who would become the assistant supply non-com in the 1st Battalion Headquarters, heated a can of meat and beans without puncturing a hole in the can before heating and the can exploded. There were beans on helmets, on shirts and trousers, and beans on everything. I had been attacked by a swarm of bees. However, my bites did not swell. I reported to the aid station with the bee bites all over my hands, wrists and face. Before I had a chance to explain what had happened to me, the medics diagnosed my case to be jigger bites.

On one occasion we had about fifty prisoners of all ranks from the rank of captain down. I was appointed to take them back to our regimental stockade with little RALPH ALESSI to take up the rear guard. I aligned the prisoners in a column of twos with the highest ranking men at the head of the column. I started them off and I let them set their own pace and it was a good fast one. How RALPH ever kept up to us, I'll never know. I made no indication to stop for a break but after about ninety minutes of practically running, the captain conceded and he asked for permission to halt for a rest. This request was granted and after resting awhile, we resumed our hike.

When we reached a town, we heard rumors that the phase of the problem had ended. The prisoners wanted to go on their way but I couldn't permit that as I had orders to take them to the regimental stockade, the whereabouts I had no idea. One of our majors appeared and he advised that I telephone regiment for alternate instructions. I did and the prisoners were freed to return to their units. However, they wanted transportation back but I indicated their means of travel by pointing to their feet. By the time these maneuvers would be over, the enemy would know that they had faced a cruel, hardened, disciplined bunch of infantrymen getting to be known throughout the eastern seaboard by all their comrades in arms.

The Carolina maneuvers was featured, as far as the Intelligence Section was concerned, by JOHN LIHACH and yours truly on two different occasions, by the rescue of lost night patrols led by the regimental S-2 non-coms. Also by the abandonment of a group of Intelligence boys along the Pee Dee River who existed for ten days without government food rations before they were missed at the command post. They were fed by a civilian couple who brought them sandwiches, coffee and doughnuts. The referees who lit flower pots along the roads to indicate that artillery fire was landing in a particular area were asked a few questions. One of the big questions was, "Is that artillery fire friendly or enemy?" If it was friendly, then there was nothing to worry about. Finally, the maneuvers ended November 28th, 1941, and some of the outfits hadn't yet reached their barracks when December 7th and the real war had started with the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

As a tribute to the civilians of North Carolina and of South Carolina, in 1941, the selectees, who were mostly from the states of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, joined the 9th Infantry Division, there seemed to be a resentment against these Yanks, by the small minority of business people in the town of Fayetteville. Little did we realize that the "rebel" flag still flew over the South. But, we'll have to remember that this was chiefly due to the fact that Fayetteville was the nearest

outlet for the soldier to go to. Most government issued (G.I.'s) went there for a little relaxation. Others, who had more of the "green stuff" to spend, traveled beyond Fayetteville. Perhaps, the soldiers drank too much or they didn't behave on many an occasion, such as at the Town Pump.

On the other hand, the hospitality of the Carolinians was more than generous, as I will vouch for out of my visits to Raleigh and Rock Hill. Even on the Carolina maneuvers, the people of North and of South Carolina went out of their way to serve us coffee, doughnuts and sandwiches many miles away from their homes. They also invited many of us to their homes for a friendly visit which usually included a home cooked meal.

The outfit trained intensively to harden the men. Thus, the Ninth became the show division of the states. The outfit trained in all aspects of the Army including marine training. The soldiers became "killers" and this became apparent on various occasions. Twice "A" and "B" Companies of the 39th Infantry Regiment beat up each other in fist fights with no holds barred. 1st Battalion Headquarters Detachment had two of its men killed at a "C" Company beer party. The Ninth trained for Japanese combat. Many a soldier did a lot of griping and usually he had good reason to do so.

The personnel of the outfits would change beyond recognition before the following year

would pass. After the first of the year, 1942, the division would be attached to the Amphibious Corps, Atlantic Fleet. Many feet will get wet and the Army will introduce a new antidote which will be "Sea-sick tablets."

CHAPTER 5

Guard Duty and Other Incidents

The outfit went back to living in tents for a couple of weeks at a place called Mott Lake. This was similar to the ordeal that the National Guard endures when they go away to camp in the summertime. There was the actual firing of military weapons to familiarize us with other weapons in the infantry such as mortars, machine guns, rifle grenades, handgrenades, flame throwers, demolitions and so forth. Here we lived in a tent city to enjoy more of the southern sunshine, the scrub pines and the powdered sand that made Fort Bragg unforgettable.

About the only outstanding incidents I remember about Mott Lake were these. A mortar section demonstrated the firing of an old type mortar shell which was coal black and about the size and the shape of a mason's redbrick. They floated a small raft with a flag on a staff upon the lake and they fired these antique mortars at this target without any success.

One night there was a demonstration of the thirty caliber water-cooled machine gun. Every fifth bullet that left the machine gun was a tracer so that the spectators could follow the shooting. After one burst from the weapon, the woods were set afire and everyone was sent out to fight the forest fire. I'll never forget the chlorine water bags which were erected at the end of the company streets. The liquid tasted like medicine.

Returning to the Ninth Infantry Division area, after our vacation at Mott Lake, we found that guard duty was considered a privilege for every soldier who was appointed to serve on it. A company usually had this privilege for a twenty-four hour period when it was relieved by another unit. There were enough men assigned from a company to chase prisoners (G. I.'s who had goofed somehow) and to handle three reliefs of the guard post positions. Each company's guard performed in a formation similar to a rifle inspection called the "Changing of the Guard." Men from the company finishing their guard duty honored the newly arrived members of the relieving guard.

All guards had to memorize their "General Orders" and also had to know the "Special Orders" for the particular post they were to roam as a sentinel. There was a certain soldier who always received Post Number 1 which was a walking sentinel post. He had to walk this post in a counter clockwise encirclement of the guard house barracks and the prisoners' stockade. The post had to be walked in a military manner at right shoulder arms and at a pace at attention.

All personnel within sight of the guard had to be challenged and recognized. The sentry was on post for two hours and off post for four hours on reserve to chase prisoners and be on reserve in case of unusual emergencies.

One night this sentry was walking Post Number 1 and the streets were lit up by the lights at each end on the barracks which made visibility very good on a clear night and this was a very clear night. A very embarrassing incident occurred as he made a left turn at the end of the guard house. He just happened to see out of the corner of his eye the Officer of the Day approaching about a barrack length away. After he made his next turn as the officer was approaching towards his back,

he knew for sure if the O. D. stopped him, the O. D. would ask him all kinds of questions. So, out of the O. D.'s sight, he ran like blazes around the buildings and he came up behind the O. D. a few yards away unnoticed. He was sure that the O. D. had noticed him as he just made his turn at the other end of the barrack and the O. D. didn't expect the sentry to be behind him. He thought he saw the O. D. jump from surprise when he hollered, "Halt, who goes there?" Passwords were exchanged but no questions were asked about special or general orders.

Prisoners were double timed to do certain details around the area as punishment, but the sentry had to double time, also, to keep up with the prisoners as he carried his rifle, ammo and other equipment. I wondered sometimes who was actually being punished? It was said that if a prisoner escaped the guard had to serve out the prisoner's sentence.

JOHN J. MCGUIGAN and PAUL C. TAYLOR had joined the Intelligence Section for a short time. MCGUIGAN transferred to the paratroopers, reason more money, and TAYLOR went to our motor pool. MARTIN KRASOVETZ, STANLEY CABAN, WILLIAM H. SOLLIDAY and HYMAN CEPPOS joined the section and things were beginning to shape up.



ARMY DAY, 1942 - Troop landing on enemy shore. Demonstration put on for civilians. (Fort Bragg, N. C.)

CHAPTER 6

American Defense

At the sound of war, the entire outfit was alerted by 2300 hours on December 7th, 1941 to move out. We all expected the move to be towards the Pacific area. We didn't get to sleep that night as we had to pack and be ready to move secretly by morning. We did move but we convoyed to Raleigh, North Carolina, the capital of the state. All utilities were guarded by the Army and the 1st Battalion Command Post was stationed at the State Fair Grounds just outside the city limits. There was guard duty and more guard duty while we sweated out Christmas furloughs. Some of us were fortunate to get home for a few days, others were not as fortunate.

I had been assigned to guard the main gate at the State Fair Grounds with orders not to let anyone into the grounds unless the soldier or individual had an authorized pass. When the Governor of North Carolina tried to enter, I wouldn't allow him entrance. Someone forgot to issue him a pass or get me special orders to allow him through. The next moment I was relieved of my post.

Eventually, the civilian home guard was formed and the 9th Infantry Division was finished of this defensive security. The outfit returned to its barracks at Fort Bragg. All units and staff personnel had code names such as Abel for "A," Baker for "B," Charlie for "C," Dog for

"D" Company, Red for 1st, White for 2nd, Blue for 3rd Battalion, Notorious for the 9th Infantry Division and similar code names for the officers and other units. It was part of the security used in message sending and communications.

One day while I ran the obstacle course with my gas mask on, I tripped over the first hurdle and I fell and smashed through the remaining four hurdles. As I lay there too shocked to move, the officer in charge ran to me. He asked, "Is the gas mask damaged?" He had no concern for my welfare whatsoever.

I was planning to be married to that wonderful girl who lived across the street from my home in good old Brooklyn. I wanted to get a furlough and we had none since I entered the service. The only leaves granted were three day passes and those special passes some of us got at Christmas. I had read the procedure a private must go through which was to get permission from the first sergeant to see the company commander. I was denied this privilege and my fiancée wrote the commander a letter requesting a leave of absence for the groom to be.

To complicate matters more, we were issued the new Girand M1 rifles and we had to zero them in on the rifle range. It was the first sergeant's brilliant idea to grant seven day furloughs which were coming up shortly according to the firing scores. This meant that the soldiers with the highest scores would go first. If you remember the first time we fired for the

record with the Springfields, after MANSON the next in order were the regular Army men. Well, after the scores were counted this time, NICK GIRARDI, who was the bugler, tailor, barber and all around necessary man in the detachment, had the highest score. Then came STANLEY CABAN and I, then LESTER L. NEAL the highest scorer for the regulars.

Well, anyway, the issuance of the furloughs were made out and in the confusion there was a week's difference in the dates of my furlough and the wedding plans. To correct the situation I had to change furloughs with STANLEY CABAN but in the end everything worked out to perfection.

During the spring and summer of 1942, the Ninth changed greatly. It learned a new type of warfare sending unit after unit aboard transports in the Chesapeake Bay to stage amphibious attacks on Solomon's Island. I was promoted to corporal and LT. TERRELL replaced LT. REEVES as S-2. There had been many changes as the men from the 9th were sent out on cadres to form other divisions.

(continued next issue)

FRANK LOVELL REMEMBERS

Enclosed is my 1968 dues, plus a little something for the Scholarship Fund. Wish it could be more, but right now I have three out of my five going to college.

Sorry to hear about the death of Paul Plunkett, although I did not know him personally. I'm sure, however, the Octofoil, like "Old Glory," will be scooped up by willing hands and be carried on to new heights. Still haven't got over the shock of Charlie Fabre's death and also just recently Tom Collins of the 34th F.A. Bn., at whose funeral mass in Swampscott, Mass., I met Father Connors.

I read a few books last year that might interest some of the ex-9th men. One is the book on the French Foreign Legion by Alfred Perrott-White. It is about an ex-English soldier serving in the Legion, named Eustace Richard. The last two chapters are about his view of the other side of the battle of Port Lyautey and his eventual happy ending of being retrained by the 60th F.A. Bn. The other book is by a German author and is the other side of the invasion and is especially interesting on the period of June 17-18-19. It was written by Paul Carell and entitled "Invasion - They're Coming."

Happy to report a very busy and exciting year, as I am, among other things, associated with the Boston Red Sox.

Hoping all is well with you and the 9th Inf. Association.

Yours truly,
Frank Lovell
Former CWO
60th F.A. Bn.
25 Pomfret Street
West Roxbury, Mass

Tip of the Hat

Many thanks to Frank Lovell, Gordon Taylor, Harold Selter and John Thornton for sending donations to the Scholarship Fund.

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. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.
5. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.
6. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee after the applications have been considered.
7. 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.
8. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, 901 Graceland St., Des Plaines, Illinois 60016.

Chaplains on Sick Call

Recently, we heard from two former Ninth Division Chaplains and were sorry to learn that they both had been ill.

Father Kines paid his 1968 dues and reported that eye cataracts kept him away from the Memorial Service and are also preventing him from teaching this semester. The Rev. Propst writes that he is still under the doctor's care as the result of a heart attack he suffered last year.

We hope that the good Chaplains make speedy recoveries and soon return to active duty.

Seeks 47th History

John Mrugala served with the 47th and is anxious to obtain a copy of the Regiment's history. Unfortunately, copies of this publication are no longer available. If anyone has an extra copy of the history and wants to send it to John, you can reach him by writing to Box 11, Barnesboro, Pa. 15714.

John reports that Mrs. Mrugala has recovered from her recent operation and that the entire family is in good health and looking forward to attending the 1968 Reunion in Detroit.

CLAIM FOR SERVICE- CONNECTED DISABILITY

There is no time limit for a veteran to file a claim for a disability which he believes to be service-connected. However, it is best to file the claim as soon as possible after discovery of the condition in order to obtain prompt determination and treatment of the disability.

Engineer Made Vice-President

The 15th Engineers were always famous for their know-how and tenacity. Today, these qualities are highly valued by industry, and when a company finds a man with these attributes, they move him to the top.

A. J. Forrest, who served with the 15th Engineers, was recently promoted to Vice-President by the Crucible Steel Co. The following excerpts were taken from a Pittsburgh paper:

"Crucible Steel Co. has announced the appointment of A. T. Forrest to the new position of Vice President Engineering for its Midland Division. Forrest holds two degrees from Carnegie - Mellon University (Carnegie Institute of Technology). He received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering in 1940, and a degree in industrial management in 1950.

He is a veteran of World War II, having served in the 15th Engineer Bn., Ninth Infantry Division, through eight campaigns and three invasions. He retired from the service in 1963 as a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. He has published several papers appropriate to engineering and the military.

Congratulations, A. T. It is welcome news to hear that another member of the Division has made good.

Remember the Dates

Remember the dates for the 1968 Reunion - July 18, 19, 20.

Pittsburgh Members Wanted

Bob Mason of McKeesport, Pa., writes that he is trying to contact former Ninth Division men who live in the vicinity of Pittsburgh. Bob believes that many Old Reliabilities reside in this area, and he feels that, if they could get together it would be possible to reactivate the Pittsburgh Chapter.

If you are interested in this venture, you can reach Bob at 611 Gross St., McKeesport, Pa. 15132.

47th Men Meet at Camp-Out

Lost Hills, California sounds like a town far removed from the beaten path, but so long as Wilton Taylor resides there, it will be well known to the Editors of the Octofoil. Wilton keeps a close tab on the affairs of the Association and maintains a lively correspondence with your Editors. He has sent us many photographs that were taken at Bragg and overseas and we intend to print some of them in future editions of the Octofoil.

Wilton doesn't devote all his time to writing; he is also an active member of the National Campers and Hikers Association, and spends a lot of time combing those California hills in search of Ninth Division members. At a recent camp-out Wilton met and signed up Forrest N. Nolph of El Monte, California. Forrest served with G Co. of the 47th and is one of the old timers from Fort Bragg.

Keep up the good work, Wilton. We enjoy hearing from you and hope that you hit some more pay dirt in those California hills.

Jim Bates is Heard From

The following letter was received from the wife of Jim Bates, now Sgt. Major serving in Viet Nam. Jim was in F Co. 39th Inf. and is now with the 43 Medical Group, APO 96240 San Francisco, California.

10 January 1968

Dear Dan:

Please find the enclosed check for Jim's dues for 3 years.

Jim is still in service and since June has been in Viet Nam. He is serving with the 43rd Medical Group and said he would rather be with an Infantry Division. He served in Korea with the 3rd Infantry and, as you know, with the "Fighting Ninth." So it is easy to understand his statement. I guess the saying, "Salt in the blood, you can't leave the sea." So when the mud gets in your face it is hard to be anything but a dog face soldier with a rifle over your shoulder.

With God's help we hope to be wherever the association meets this year. Jim's enlistment is up May 31, '68 and he is going to retire. So looking forward to the reunion this summer. We were able to attend the one in Philadelphia in '63 and we had a time that will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,
June Bates
59 Woodlawn Ave.
Metairie, La.
70001

Ben Kovacs Sends Dues

Dear Friends:

Just a few lines to let you know that all is o.k. I missed the reunion last summer, but the family enjoyed a trip to Wisconsin to visit the Kellys (Lyle) living in Fond Du Lac. I hope to see the members at the reunion this summer.

Ben Kovac (47th Inf)
140 Bouton St.
So. Norwalk, Conn.

PAY
1968
DUES
NOW

Taps Sounded

It is our sad duty to report the demise of the following Old Reliabilities:

Raymond Dunn, of 742 Granville Road, Newark, Ohio - formerly with the 39th Infantry.

Thomas F. Collins, of 55 Winshaw Road, Swampscott, Mass. - formerly with Hq. & Hqs. Bty, 34th F.A.

Harry A. Stewart, 4402, 28th Street, Mount Rainier, Md. - formerly with M Co. 47th Infantry.

James J. Sullivan, of 2217 Donning, Westchester, Illinois - formerly with the A Bty. 26th F.A.

Joseph B. Pacer, 4318 S. Trumbull Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Russel Wych, of 633 John Street, Belvidere, Illinois - formerly with the 47th Infantry (Ex-POW).

George Emig, Glenshaw, Pa. - formerly with Service Company 60th Inf.

Wild Bill Calms Down

A card from Bill Zweil, Cannon Co. 47th, reveals that he has run into some rough weather. Bill entered the V. A. Hospital at East Orange, N. J. and is now undergoing treatment. They must be doing all right by Wild Bill because he has nothing but praise for the hospital and its staff. Bill is a rugged campaigner and we are willing to place a wager that he will be up and around within a short time.

Bill's home address is 175 Gold Street, North Arlington, N. J. How's about sending him a cheer up note.

Old Sarge Writes

Old Sarge Steve Burdick writes to let us know that he is still on the go. He enclosed the names of a couple of former Ninth Division men and the secretary's office is checking them out for possible membership for the association.

Steve was formerly with G Co. 47th Inf. and is living in South River, N. J. Thanks a million, old Sarge - we will be looking forward to meeting you at the reunion in Detroit.

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.

Mauser Family Enjoyed Trip

Dear Friends,

It hardly seems possible that another year has rolled by. Perhaps 1968 is the year our Lord will come. In Matthew 24:42 & 44, our Lord says, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Bobby says, "I am now 9 and in the fourth grade at Barton School. This past summer I got a big black rabbit, and named him Ears. Also this summer I was on a baseball team. It was called Jensen Carpet. I think I did very good for the first time. I joined Cub Scouts this year. I am having a lot of fun making things. Right now we are working on a pine wood derby racing car. I hope I win!"

Barby says, "I am now 12-1/2 and in the seventh grade at Lake Worth Junior High School. I still take Piano Lessons and this year started taking Oil Painting Lessons. I am now in Cadette Girl Scouts and enjoying it very much. Just recently I started playing the Piano for the little kids opening Sunday School Assembly. I still have my cat, Tiger. I keep busy with Piano, Art and Homework."

Bill (formerly Billy) says, "I am presently attending Lake Worth High School and in the tenth grade. I will become 15 next month and hope to get my driver's license. I am still playing the Baritone Saxophone in the Mighty Trojan Band. This past summer, at Pony League baseball practice, I fractured my ankle in two places and was on crutches for 6 weeks. I have been surfing for approximately one year now and enjoying the sport very much. I have just purchased a new surf board for \$175.00 and a wet-suit to help keep me warm for winter surfing. Because of my age, I have transferred from Troop 205 to Explorer Post 205 with some of my older friends."

The family enjoyed a full two-week vacation in June, which included a stay with Dotty's folks in Fork Union, Virginia, and attended a family weekend retreat at Black Mountain, N. Carolina. We really had a ball at Maggie Valley where a cable car carried us up to the mountain-top and Ghost Town. We all got brave and took the ski-lift chair back down. A short distance further we visited Fontana Dam. We were all impressed by the beauty and grandeur of God's creation in the Great Smoky Mountains. Then on to Atlanta where we spent a night at the home of Carol and Marve Carlson, gracious friends from our former church in Cleveland.

We are most pleased and thankful with Bill's progress in the business office of the beautiful John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital where he soon begins his fourth year.

Auf Wiedersehen and may the Lord bless each one.

The Musers All - Bill, Dotty, Bill, Barby, Bobby 1414 Hillcrest Drive Lake Worth, Fla. 33460 Christmas, 1967 (Bill Mauser was with the 84th Field Artillery, Bty C)

☆☆☆

Remember The Dates

Remember the dates for the 1968 Reunion July 18, 19, 20.

REJOINS RANKS

Aaron L. Alpert writes, "I was a member of the Association several years ago. I feel it's about time that I should again become a member."

I have been kept abreast of what the association is doing due to the interest of Harry Orenstein. I also, at this time, want to congratulate Harry on being the new President of the New York Chapter. Harry is a diligent, hard worker for the association.

My kindest regards.

Aaron L. Alpert 9th QM
326 West Rock Ave.
New Haven, Conn. 06515

Ramblings

Hello Dan:

Just a note and my check for 1968 dues, while I have it on my mind.

The last issue of the paper had quite a change in appearance and for ease of reading. The passing of Editor Paul Plunkett will be quite a loss to the association, especially to you and the active group that keeps the association together.

With sincere wish for a successful 1968.

I remain,
Al Fessender
E Co. 60th Inf.
14 Cedar Avenue
Jamestown, N. Y.

Dear Dan:

I just now realized that I have not yet paid my Association dues for the year 1968. To the best of my knowledge, it is the first time I have ever been in arrears, and I apologize sincerely. Through THE OCTOFOIL, the Association keeps warm so many fine memories, and keeps alive so many fine friendships, that I never wish to relinquish my good standing in it.

Being tucked away in this far corner of the country I never see any fellow members, so you will notice I am also requesting that you send me an Octofoil License Disc. Maybe if I sport that on the car, some fellow member may flag me down some day.

I join all my fellow members in expressing my thanks to you for the excellent and devoted work you have accomplished for the Association. We all owe you a debt of gratitude.

Yours truly,
John K. Moore
60th Inf. A&D Co.
N4, 12th Ave. East
El Rancho Village
Bradenton, Fla.
33505

Dear Dan:

My wife and I had a wonderful time in Boston. We met a lot of my friends that I hadn't seen since 1945. May see you in Detroit.

Sincerely,
John Brandi
400 Buckeye St.
Tiltsville, Ohio
Div. Hq. Co.
43963

☆☆☆



-412 Gregory Ave.

Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

ILLINOIS CHAPTER REPORTS

Mrs. James J. Sullivan wrote to Mike Belmonte that her husband James, age 46, former member of the 26th F.A. passed away on November 17, 1967. Jim was stricken with a Cerebral Hemorrhage. Surviving are his widow and three children. Mrs. Sullivan lives at 2217 Donning, Westchester, Illinois. Our deepest Sympathy to Mrs. Sullivan.

Another former member of the 26th F.A. - Joseph B. Pacer, died on January 12, 1968 of a heart attack. Surviving is his widow, whose address is 4318 S. Trumbull Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Jim Sullivan and Joe Pacer were active members in the Illinois Chapter and will be missed by many friends.

SICK CALL

Mrs. Roger Elmer was hospitalized and is doing fine. Also Roger Elmer was hospitalized but is now up and around. We wish both of them a speedy recovery.

Bud Remer was also laid up with a bout with the "pumper" and attended the January meeting and looks "real good". Can you imagine Bud drinking plain "Seven Up" - well it did happen.

Frank Ozart
47th Infantry

Gen. Knowlton To Succeed Gen. Fulton in 9th Div. Post

LONG THANH - Brigadier General William A. Knowlton is replacing Brigadier General William B. Fulton as Assistant Division Commander of the 9th Infantry Division.

General Knowlton joins the Old Reliables after serving as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for the Military Assistance Command Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (MAC CORDS).

General Fulton will report to Ft. Polk, La., as deputy commanding general.

While still a colonel, General Fulton joined the embryo 9th Division at Ft. Riley, Kan., in Feb. 1966 as assistant to the Division commander. The Old Reliables had just been activated and he assisted in organizing and training them.

A month after arriving in Kansas, General Fulton became commanding officer of the 2d Brigade. Under his direction, the brigade was molded from a handful of officers and non-commissioned officers into a full-strength, combat-ready unit.

General Fulton led the brigade to Vietnam last January, and immediately launched operations in the Mekong River Delta. In March, the Brigade moved into Infantry base camp in Vietnam, Dong Tam, the southernmost U. S. Infantry base camp in Vietnam, to conduct operations deep in the Delta.

In mid-June, the 2d Brigade teamed up with Navy Task Force 117 to form the first U. S. Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) since the Civil War. He was promoted to brigadier general Aug. 16 and was appointed assistant Division commander on Aug. 31.

Before leaving Vietnam, General Fulton received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm and the Vietnamese Honor Medal during a special ceremony at Vietnamese Marine headquarters in Saigon.

IS YOUR OCTOFOIL ADDRESSED WITH TELL-TALE RED INK?

It means you are about to be placed on the delinquent list and this will be your last issue of the Octofoil until dues are paid. If you are among the back sliders get on the ball and send your membership to the secretary's office, Dan Quinn, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J. 07087



MONSCHAU, GERMANY

The above photo was sent to us by Elmer Wagner and shows downtown Monschau as seen from bridge. The same angle of this picture is shown on page 278 of "8 Stars to Victory". The 47th Infantry occupied this town way back when. The old ruins on top of hill on west side of town can be seen in Elmer's photo also picture in "8 Stars". Elmer has many photos taken on a trip to Europe a few years ago and we are hoping he will permit us to use a few of them from time to time.

REQUEST FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS

FOR 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. REUNION

July 18, 19, 20, 1968

Statler-Hilton Hotel
Detroit, Michigan

Please reserve for the undersigned, room reservations, as checked, for dates noted:

Name -

Address -

City -

State -

Zip -

Single Room () \$10 Double Room () \$15 Twin Room () \$17

Rates prevail three days preceding the reunion and for three days after the reunion.

FREE PARKING

Date of arrival

Approximate time of arrival A.M. P.M.

Date of departure

Request for Space in Souvenir Program

ATTACHED IS COPY FOR AN AD in the color printed 1968 Ninth Infantry Division Association Reunion Program.

Full Page \$25.
Half Page \$15.
Quarter Page \$10.
One-eighth Page \$ 5.
Booster ads \$ 1. - name and unit.

Send all ad copy, checks and money orders to: Michigan Chapter, c/o Elmer Wagner, Route 4, Bay City, Michigan 48706