

College of the Holy Cross

CrossWorks

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

9-1-1968

The Octofoil, September/October 1968

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil>



Part of the [Military and Veterans Studies Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, September/October 1968" (1968). *The Octofoil*. 167. <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/167>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the 9th Infantry Division Association at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Octofoil by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.

THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 7

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1968

PITTSBURGH DATES SET

Fr. Connors To Hold 24th Memorial Service

In November 1945, millions of ex G.I.'s eagerly awaited the approaching holiday season. Uniforms had been shed and for the first time in four years they could look forward to a peaceful Christmas at home with their loved ones. War time memories grew dimmer and were supplanted by visions of happier times that lay in the future. It was a time of unending activity, weddings were planned, engagements made, and careers launched. The war was over and done with—a thing to be filed away and forgotten with other unpleasant experiences. However, in those halcyon days there were men who could never forget the events that had transpired during the previous four years. Like Lincoln at Gettysburg their concern was for the brave men who had died in defense of their country.

FATHER CONNORS REMEMBERED

Father Edward Connors was one of these men. He served with the Ninth Infantry Division in all its campaigns and had comforted many Old Reliabilities in their last moments. Father Ed could never forget these men and he vowed that no matter what others might do, he would always remember them in his prayers. In November 1945, Father Connors said the First Memorial Mass for the fallen members of the Ninth Infantry Division. It was said in a small parish church in Worcester, Mass., and was attended by a group of Ninth Division men who lived in the vicinity. When November 1946 rolled around, word of the Memorial Mass had spread and attendance had doubled. Men of all Faiths gathered to honor our dead. Paul Plunkett, our beloved late Editor of the Octofoil often remarked that there were more men of other religions in attendance at Mass, and they sometimes outnumbered men of the Catholic Faith.

STEADY GROWTH

As the euphoria of the first peace time years wore off, the former members of the Division began to realize the significance of what Father Connors was doing and they flocked to Worcester to join him in honoring their buddies who died while wearing the Octofoil. Attendance was no longer confined to residents of Worcester, now men were coming from all parts of the country. Over the years, attendance at the Memorial Mass has grown steadily and last year almost four hundred Ninth Division people attended the Mass.

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

The Memorial Services at Worcester are a public expression of the reverence that we have for our honored dead. They call to mind the fact that the freedom we enjoy today was gained for us by the sacrifices of many brave men. They are also an inspiration to the young men who today are

being called on to make the same sacrifice, to these young men the Memorial Service offers proof that America does not forget those who served her with honor.

NOVEMBER 10, 1968

This year Father Edward Connors will say the Twenty-Fourth Annual Memorial Mass on November 10, 1968, at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, Mass. He hopes that all former Ninth Division men, no matter where they may be on November 10th, will join him in his prayers for our departed comrades. If you wish to attend the services you can get further information by writing to Father Connors at The Immaculate Conception Church, Gold Star Blvd., Worcester, Mass.

RECEPTION AT SCHOOL HALL

On Saturday evening, November 9, 1968 the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church will host the members of the Ninth and their families at a buffet dinner that will delight all the old chow hounds. Plenty of "seconds" on everything with all the food prepared and donated by the good people of the parish. We might add that beverages will also be served with a little something extra to wet your appetite.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Most of the out of towners will be staying at the Holiday Inn located in Worcester. A large section of rooms have been reserved for members of the Ninth. If you make reservations be sure to mention this for rooms that weekend may not be too easy to be had.

After Church services on Sunday, a short ceremony will be held at the Memorial located on the Church grounds overlooking Gold Star Boulevard. From there the members go to dinner and we must say it is one of the most reasonable priced dinners we have ever attended. Father Ed promises to have the gang on their way home before dark.

LADIES AUX. REPORTS

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Ninth Infantry Division Association held their annual business meeting Friday afternoon, July 19, 1968 at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, site of the 23rd. annual reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

The following ladies were elected officers for the Auxiliary: President, Betty Boden, Box No. 58, Chester, Pa.; Vice Pres., Veronica Kreye, 337 20th St., W. Brooklyn, N.J.; Sec.-Treas., Tippi Plunkett, 286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206 (re-elect); Chaplain Estella McInverney, 2451 Webb Ave., Bronx, N.Y., Our Gold Star Mother.

At the conclusion of the business meeting the remainder of the afternoon was spent socially with light refreshment furnished by the Detroit Chapter. It was most enjoyable.

Ladies, please send your 1969 auxiliary dues into Tippi. She will mail your membership card right back to you. Please include your zip code in your address.

We had a wonderful reunion in Detroit, Mich. and our 1969 Reunion will be held in Pittsburgh, Pa., and we know it too, will be great.

35TH ANNIVERSARY



Rt. Rev. Msgr. Anthony F. DeLaura, Pastor of St. Rocco's Church, Glen Cove, New York, recently marked the 35th anniversary of his ordination with a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving.

Pictured with Msgr. DeLaura is Emil Francisoa, his able assistant when they were hitting the trails through France way back in 44, and on the left is Ray Borthwick, also of the 47th Infantry.

Chatam Center Headquarters



Some of the most important decisions pertaining to the 1969 Reunion have already been made. The dates have been selected and the reunion headquarters chosen. When it came to getting started on the reunion plans, President Herb Olsen and Secretary Dan Quinn didn't let any grass grow under their feet.

QUICK START

Early in September, Herb, Dan, and Walt O'Keefe flew to Pittsburgh and looked over prospective sites. After much window shopping and careful consideration they decided on the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge located in Chatam Center. This Motor Lodge is a far cry from the ones we are accustomed to seeing along the nation's highways. It sits atop a ten story office building and every room has a breath taking view of downtown Pittsburgh.

Chatam Center itself is the crown jewel in Pittsburgh's world famous Renaissance. Only a four-minute stroll from the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh, Chatam Center is served by major highways, public transit lines, airline limousines, and taxi cabs.

MANY CONVENIENCES

Completely air-conditioned, Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge at Chatam Center features a year-round swimming pool and a health club. Free parking for registered guests in a 2,200 car indoor parking garage. You park and pick-up your own car so there is never a valet charge for this service. The Lodge contains two large restaurants - one, a Red Coach, offers specialty fare and a cocktail lounge, the other a Howard Johnson's offers economically priced meals and a cocktail lounge. A modern motion picture theater is contained within Center and can be

reached by elevators from the lobby of the Lodge.

GOOD DEAL

During the negotiations at Pittsburgh, Herb and Dan were shrewd bargainers and could have held their own with the sharp Indian traders who frequented Fort Pitt in the early seventeen hundreds. They succeeded in obtaining the following rates for the reunion: \$14.00 for Singles, \$18.00 for Twins, and free accommodations for children aged 12 or under.

The fact that parking is absolutely free makes these rates even more attractive. The Howard Johnson Lodge is only two years old, and its rooms and facilities are equal to those found in the finest hotels in the country. Members attending the 1969 Reunion will be living in the lap of luxury.

CHOICE DATES

The Association traditionally holds its Reunion on the last week-end in July, but sometimes hotel accommodations are not available for these dates. This year we were lucky and accommodations were available. The Twenty-Fourth Annual Reunion will be held on the 24th, 25th, and 26th, July 1969. We have made a special effort to announce these dates as early as possible, so that you can take them into consideration when planning for your next year's vacation.

THE OCTOFOIL

Forms 3679 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J. 07087
OCTOFOIL ASSOCIATE EDITORS Walter O'Keefe & Daniel Quinn

NATIONAL OFFICERS

HERBERT OLSEN, President, Randolph, Mass.
VINCENT GUGLIEMINO, 1st Vice President, Floral Park, N. Y.
CHARLES KOSKIE, 2nd Vice President, Schiller Park, Illinois
WILLIAM MEADOWS, 3rd Vice President, Detroit, Michigan
HARRISON DAYSH, Judge Advocate, Kensington, Maryland
DANIEL QUINN, Secretary, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J.
THOMAS BOYLE, Treasurer, 39 Hall Avenue, Somerville, Mass.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

<p>1966— John Boden, Chester, Pa. Herbert Olsen, Randolph, Mass. Ralph Witzkin, Hillside, N. J. Charles Tingley, Silver Spring, Md. William Andrews, Comstock Park, Mich.</p> <p>1970— Peter Cusack, West Roxbury, Mass. Richard Pestal, Grove City, Ohio John Rizzo, Long Beach, N. Y. Richard Wilson, Woodbury, N. J.</p>	<p>1971— George Apar, Franklin Square, N. Y. Frank Ozart, Chicago, Illinois Robert Winkelman, Palatine, Illinois James Bruner, Flint, Michigan Charles Jones, McLean, Virginia</p> <p>Board Member Emeritus Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Retired) Honorary Chaplain Emeritus Father Edward Connors, Worcester, Mass.</p>
---	---

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.

SEPTEMBER OCTOBER 1968
VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 7

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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

1. Date filed: 9-24-68. 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 4536 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	1,255
C. Total paid circulation.....	1,440	1,165
D. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means.....	110	90
E. Total distribution (sum of C and D)	1,550	1,255
F. Office use, leftover, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	100	95
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.

GAINING MOMENTUM

The New York Chapter had another large turnout for the September and October meetings. Frank Fazio reported that the Chapter's outstanding social event of the year will be held on Saturday, October 19, 1968, at the Chamber of Commerce Dining Room at 24-16 Bridge Plaza South, Long Island City. With Chairman Fazio and his committee of Walter O'Keefe and Al Bruchac pooling their talents and ideas for the annual Dinner-Dance, it's going to be an evening to remember.

In addition to the Dinner-Dance there will be a New York Chapter member honored for the Man of the Year Award. The man selected is honored for his efforts on behalf of the Chapter.

Chairman Walter O'Keefe reported on the bus trip to Worcester for Father Connors Memorial Mass and Dinner being held on November 10, 1968. O'Keefe informed the members a bus had been chartered and that reservation for rooms at the Holiday Inn can be made at the same time the members make bus reservations.

After reading the picnic report the President thanked the committee for the excellent job they did and for the wonderful time the members and their families had at the picnic. Several members gave their versions of the Detroit Reunion. Ralph Witzkin was appointed Chairman of the Christmas party that will be held on December 8, 1968, at the Elks Club in Union City, New Jersey. Jack Scully provided the refreshments after the meeting.

Sincerely yours,
 Harry Orenstein
 President New York Chapter

"Safi Adventure" Selling Out Fast

Dear Dan,
 Getting in contact with Algood paid off. He ordered 3 copies of "Safi Adventure" though I don't know why he did not do it long since if he belongs to the Association.

That is the trouble. A lot of them intend to buy a copy, but just put it off.

Would you put a little story in the next Octofoil that the 2nd edition is running out fast. Next week or the week after the National Observer - editions published on both coasts - is running an advertisement for me. I figure that will come close to cleaning out most of the remaining copies and there aren't going to be any more.

Did Holt Rast ever send in an application for membership? I sent him the entire copy of the Octofoil in which you suggested I get him to join up. I drew a red pencil circle around the story and another around the membership application. He ought to join. He is a big shot builder in Birmingham.

Met a man yesterday at our Retired Officers Club luncheon who came to the 47th at tent city with the original cadre. He was a Staff Sergeant by the name of Alerie Sanders. Was in Headquarters Company. Left the 47th with a cadre for the 8th Division. Then went to OCS School. Is retired as a Major and living here in town. We sat together at the luncheon and talked 47th. I sold him a book, and didn't have to twist his arm either.

Mrs. R. Joins me in love to you and your BW.

Cordially
 Edwin H. Randle.

TWENTY SIX FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION SERVICE BATTERY

Twenty three years ago this past summer we parted as friends wondering whether or not we would see one another again. We had many pleasant memories to live with during our many years with the NINTH.

Through the untiring efforts of our great Fr. Connors it is possible to see one another again. His purpose in life is to console the sick and bereaved, and to pray for the dead. This we can do with him when we attend

THE TWENTY FOURTH ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS
 Immaculate Conception Church
 Grove Street, Worcester, Mass.

Sunday, November 10, 1968 at 10 O'clock

Les femmes et les hommes of Immaculate are not experts with French Cuisine but they do have a delightful buffet for those who arrive on Saturday. Plans have already been made by these wonderful people to make your short stay most enjoyable. Please send your reservation to Fr. Connors.

Change your records to read: Lorey K. Bland, 1721 Smith St., Greenville, North Carolina; Dominic Curro, Moved, No address; George J. Malone, 2614 So. Vandalia, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Edward Ianetti, 8 Elm St., Rutland, Vermont; Quintino Pergiovanni, 30 Davis Rd., East Hartford, Conn.; Louis Truscello, 59 Gardner St., Arlington, Mass.; Mac F. Hurn, 1552 Fifth Ave., Belmont, Calif.; Everett Grigsby, South Columbia, Seward, Nebraska.

Here are the men of Service Battery who were in Worcester last year; Jerry Langer, Manny Efron, Arnold Leach, Elmer Roscoe, Joe Albanese, Soto Lembesis, Pergi, Bill Bongiorno, John Murray, Clem LeBlanc, Ed Ianetti, Lew Orticari and your reporter. Many will be present again this year as it is a MUST for most. Are you going to be among those present?

After his trip to Worcester last year Arnold Leach had to enter the hospital for an appendectomy. I saw Landon and Bill Andrews in Detroit this past summer. Lt. Col. Paul Griffin had planned to retire from the Army this fall. Everett Grigsby is in the used car business. Harold Wallace, Bernal Lareau, and Elbert Turner carried on a long talk fest when they met in Houston shortly after my last letter. Harold and Bernal live in Houston and Elbert lives 800 miles away. Bill Sacco is back to work after being absent for two months due to a back injury. Are you saving your money? As of now Harold Wallace is planning to be in Worcester next year. Harold sent a note a short time ago. His employer is moving to larger quarters and Harold is working long hours to help the business operate until the tough job is completed. Joe McKenzie, Jr. has been awarded a scholarship by our association and is now attending The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

Wherever you go to Church on November 10, say a prayer for those who have gone. Wherever you go to Church on November 10, say a prayer for those who have gone.

1969 Pittsburgh-----Your Convention City 1969

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

TIP OF THE HAT

Mrs. Agnes Stidman Cooper remembers the Scholarship Fund by sending a donation to same. Her son was the first recipient of the Scholarship Awards and received the Louis Becker Award.

Also remembering the Fund, Ward Payne included a donation when he paid his membership dues.

TAPS SOUNDED

While in Pittsburgh, we received the sad news that two more Old Reliables, Michael Brogan, 1st Bn, 47th Infantry and Ray Piefer, 60th Infantry, had passed away.

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 196 9dues 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

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" \$ 2.00
 (Pictorial History of 9th Division in action.)

Ladies' Auxiliary Member \$ 1.50

Combat Route Map \$.50

60th Infantry History \$.50

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.

THE PAWNS OF WAR

by WILLIAM M. KREYE

This is the fifth installment of Bill Kreye's story of the 39th Infantry from the days in Fort Bragg till the end of the War in Germany - the years 1941 to 1945.

CHAPTER 11 BOUGIE & SETIF

We moved from Rouiba via French civilian broken down buses. Occasionally, the troops had to disembark from the buses to render a push to get the buses over the hills to the seaport on the Mer Sea called Bougie. Here we occupied a French-Arab school house and here we would live entirely on British field rations. We bought eggs (erf in French) from the Arabs at black market prices. These eggs didn't taste too bad but the shells were very hard and you practically needed a hammer to break them.

The Arabs, in general, were not like the ones I had seen in the American movies. Some never bathed, wore shabby dirty rags and the fleas played leapfrog as they laid or sat in the streets. If one of them had a toothache, he went to the butcher shop and the butcher would cut it out with his big knife.

It was at Bougie that the Intelligence Section averaged over five miles per hour on our hikes which extended over sixteen miles with no breaks enroute. I always figured that ANDERSON's calculation of translating kilometers into miles or that his watch was running fast when he estimated the mileage on these hikes. All I knew was, it was a tremendous, unbelievable pace. CONRAD did discover that his men would stiffen and tire more quickly if they stopped for the usual ten minute break every hour which is standard procedure in American distant marches. I knew one thing for sure and that was I was developing the second layer of blisters on the bottom of my feet.

We dug slit trenches on the side of the mountain above the school some two hundred yards away. Every time the civilian air-raid sirens blew, we had to run to our slit trenches. One night there was a short circuit as the sirens blew about eight times and each time we had to go to the trenches, running up the hill on each occasion.

DON WONG, cook's helper, and I were the only two to take ice cold showers out in the court yard of the school. All others, if they bathed at all, visited the public bath house where a male servant helped you wash as you laid in the heated water. I tried it once and I felt worse after attending that creepy place so I took one of those icy school-yard showers.

The company stood reveille every morning in the small court yard in front of the school. The only entrance to this court yard was a narrow doorway

from the school building where one person could pass through it comfortably. However, at reveille time one morning as roll call was in progress, an enemy plane flew over. It seemed the entire company dashed through this narrow passage-way all at the same moment. No one seemed to be injured but reveille was dispensed with from that time on while we resided at this location.

We had increased the personnel of our Intelligence Section with the arrivals of GENE GOLDBERG, LAWSON and LOUIS MATUSEWSKI. We called MATUSEWSKI, MATI for short. Lt. ANDERSON and I were assigned as Special Police to aide the British (Red Caps) Military Police to keep law and order as far as the American troops were concerned by breaking up fights and riots which usually happened throughout the town of Bougie.

An ammunition ship was sabotaged in the harbor and it burned for several days. It lit up the town during the nights and the shells on board continually exploded as the projectiles flew all over the town. Finally, a tug and its crew got a rope on the ship and pulled it to the other side of the harbor where it eventually burned itself out and sank.

An enemy bomber flew over the mountain to approach the harbor and it dropped a bomb which exploded about a hundred yards above the school house grounds. A terrific explosion rocked the building which had walls about four feet in thickness made out of a composition cement, mud and clay. The walls trembled under the impact but the building stood intact.

MATI took three kinds of "C" rations, meat and beans, hash and stew and he mixed them with British canned mixed vegetables. It wasn't a delicacy that you find in a high priced restaurant but it was something different for a change. British rations were not inviting to your taste either with their milk and sugar already mixed in their weak tea which was a little better than hot water. Nor were there many appetites for their mutton or the Sultana pudding. The best of all was the British liquor ration which all non-coms received in the English Army but not in the American although we were attached to the British First Army.

To brighten up our spirits, ANDERSON tied a long string to a roll of candy life savers and as he ran around with the string and candy trailing behind him, remarked, "Look at the booby-trap I found." But, one morning about 0200 hours, Lt. ANDERSON entered our dark sleeping quarters. The section slept all in one school room with other members of the company. He awoke me and he told me to get the section ready to move. I asked him what had happened? He stated that the Germans had landed at a cape some fifteen miles east of Bougie. Only the

tion. We stayed at this town just long enough to get acquainted with it. It was time to move on again and we would miss it temporarily until it wore off, the French movies and the liquor we drank at the British Sergeant's quarters in the old fort. This time it was to Setif, a town much inland and well within the Atlas Mountains.

Setif was a little town which consisted of a main street of about three United States city blocks in length. It was cold and there was snow. Yes, there was snow. Did you ever hear of snow in Africa? Well, here was inches of it. For that matter, who ever knew that around Algiers east



A Welcomed Change Of Pace - Martha Raye sings for Falcons in North African cork grove

Intelligence Section was going to see what was developing.

We arrived at our destination but everything was calm and very quiet. We chased every light that appeared and investigated what it was. Then, we observed east of this town (name unknown) a light shining from the ground up into the sky and it was coming our way. What was it? When it was very close to our position, ANDERSON told me to hop in a jeep with a few men and to intercept whatever it was coming our way.

When we were almost on top of this shining light, we stopped our jeep and we made ready for it. It was a jalopy sedan automobile which had one headlight burning and the headlight was shining straight up in the air. We halted the vehicle and RAY BALDWIN approached the driver's side. The driver reached for a 38 revolver as RAY shoved the muzzle of his M1 rifle into the man's face. The man surrendered his revolver before the rifle muzzle would be jammed down his throat.

As this was happening, I approached the other side of the vehicle. I opened the door and I grabbed the first man my hands came upon. I pulled fiercely each man and I practically threw them out of the car. There were about fourteen Arabs and how they all fitted into that car I still don't understand. STANLEY CABAN, BILL SOLLIDAY and JOHN LIHACH would catch them and then search them for concealed weapons. When we were finished with them, we practically threw them back into the auto. Then, we let them drive on and to proceed, only to be stopped again by ANDERSON and his group. Again they received about the same treatment of unloading and reloading as our group trailed behind.

Early in the morning at sun-up we returned to Bougie with a negative report of enemy ac-

We, the Intelligence Section, stood four hour road guard shifts with the British Red Caps and the French police. I took the first shift during a snow storm and I nearly froze as there was no shelter to protect us from the blinding wind. We had to stand there and take it as the blizzard raged on. I did a little suggesting to the Red Cap who was in charge of our threesome about erecting a tent as there was little activity if any along the road. The next day, the next time I went on this road guard, the British erected an eight man size canvas tent. They also provided lanterns and wooden horses to put across the road to block the traffic. All vehicles were stopped and they were searched for enemy personnel trying to sneak back to our rear areas. One afternoon an Arab walker passed us by and for no reason that I could see, the French policeman cracked him across the face. Perhaps this type of treatment was the only kind that they understood.

In Setif a free-for-all got started in a town cafe. It seemed that if we didn't have Germans, French, Italians, Arabs or British to beat up, we had to fight amongst ourselves. At reveille the following morning, two sergeants displayed black eyes as a result of the night before tussle. Sgt. ARTHUR SCHNEIDER of our Communications Section was missing from the roll call and he was hospitalized with one of his fingers almost chewed off. He was an innocent by-stander and I believe it must have been quite a brawl.

Finally, the day came when we moved to the west as the high command thought something might be brewing in Spanish Morocco. Spain was still neutral but it was always feared that she would enter the war on the side of the Axis at any opportune moment.

All these months we were occupational troops at Birke-dam, Rouiba, Bougie and Setif, the British 1st Army had the objective of advancing through Tunisia to eventually capture Bizerte and Tunis and cut off the escape route of Rommel's Afrika Korp. Then they would probably start a second front against these enemy forces in Libya with eventual capture. However, Von Arnheim, commander of the German Infantry troops opposing the British 1st Army, was too sly and too shifty and, no doubt, this group was one of the best in the German army.

Time after time the British pushed Von Arnheim's forces off of the Green Bald Mountains in the Atlas chain. Also at first the wet weather hampered the supply operations. Each time the British attacked, the Germans retaliated and pushed Alexander's forces back further from whence they had started. The Afrika Korps knew every trick of war and they did not hesitate to utilize them.

(continued next issue)

☆☆☆

PAY
1969
DUES
NOW

While we were stationed here, we lost Lt. CONRAD V. ANDERSON, who was transferred to "A" Company, 39th Infantry and later to "C" Company as their company commander as he was promoted to captain. And, I must say that we of the Intelligence Section would miss his great leadership but most of all his personal concern for each of his men.

The old philosopher says that the trouble with good advice is that it usually interferes with our plans.

MAIL CALL

Our mailbox is a favorite target for the members of the Association. They keep us informed on what's happening around the country. The following messages are typical of those that were in the mailbox when we returned from Detroit.

Ray Gidde, a former M Co. 60th member and his family from Superior, Wis. came down and spent a Sunday with us, a few weeks ago. Both visits were very much appreciated and enjoyed.

Although not fully recovered from the accident I had in 1965, I did return to work last July, even though the doctors at the Madison V. A. Hospital said that I never would.

Hope this finds you and every former 9th. Division man and their families in the best of health and spirits.

Running a reunion is not a one man show, it requires team work and many helping hands. When Dan Quinn assumed responsibility for the 1969 Reunion he realized this and immediately set out to line up a team that could get the job done.

He got out his trusty typewriter and began to contact members who reside in the "Steel City." The Old Reliables rose to the occasion. When Herb Olsen, Walt O'Keefe, and Dan arrived in Pittsburgh, the boys from Pittsburgh were on hand prepared to go all out to make the 1969 Reunion a smashing success.

The following members answered Dan's call, Robert Buck, George Kopac, Paul Lischak, Herman Seibel, William Stokam, and Robert Mason. These fellows feel honored that their city will be host to the 9th Div. and they intend to do everything possible to make all the visiting firemen feel at home and welcome in Pittsburgh.

Dear Mr. Daniel:

I have just completed 385 page manuscript ready for publication on the history of the 126th. Ordnance (Medium Maintenance) Company. This company with a T/O strength of 150 men was assigned (though unattached) to the 9th. Infantry Division from April, 1944 through May 15, 1945, serving and traveling with that Division in all campaigns on the Continent.

This is not only a complete history of the organization but rather goes into intimate detail of the company's activities, individual anxieties, hopes, frustrations, accomplishments, route of march, etc., all interspersed daily with the Division's activities. A good portion of the book is dedicated to the 9th., while activities of the VII CORPS and 1st Army are interwoven into its' theme.

During the above period we worked in close harmony with 709th. Ordnance Lt. Maint. Company and performed maintenance for other branches of the Divisions as well. Years ago we attempted to become part of the 9th. Division Society, but lack of response from the Society prompted us to forget it.

There is no doubt that this book would be interesting to many members of the Division, especially those serving during that period and I am wondering what your thoughts are with regard to advertising forthcoming publication in next issue of "Octofoil". I will be very happy to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Kindest Regards,
Meredith L. Butterton

The capable vice-president of a large company died suddenly and the brash junior executive asked the president: "Do you suppose I could take his place?" "It's fine with me," exclaimed the president, "if you can arrange it with the undertaker."

Harold Rissue M Co. 60th Park Falls, Wis.

Enclosed find a copy of an article I clipped out of the Duluth, Minnesota News Tribune. It has to do with our present 9th Div. and of some of the things that are happening to them and of what they are doing now in this present conflict.

From the way this is written up it sounds like it is the same old fighting outfit that it has always been. They seem to admit they are never too young or too old to learn and are more than willing to do just that, which seems to be what it takes to make a top fighting outfit.

Sorry I couldn't make the reunion but other commitments made it impossible. I had the good fortune to have a visit with Cole Gronseth a few days ago. He was in Park Falls visiting our paper mill with whom he does quite a lot of business.

Edward Kilmer Cannon Co. 39th Burlington, Vt.

Enclosed is check for renewal of my annual dues. I have been in communication with Tom Orband.

Because of summer session teaching duties at the International Students Program in English at St. Michaels College, Windsor, Vt., it is unlikely I will be able to attend the 68 National Reunion in Detroit. Nevertheless, I would like to be remembered to any of the old Headquarters Co. and Cannon Co. members of the 39th who might attend the reunion.

I wish to let you know that Father F. B. Vanholme, a member of the Society of St. Edmunds, passed away in Houston, Texas on Feb. 20, 1968, at the age of 64. He had been 39th Regimental Chaplain during 1941-42. Later he went to the Pacific Theater where he saw service with a combat outfit and was wounded.

He retired from the Army in 1961, after 21 years service, with the rank of Lt. Col. Since 1961, he had been Chaplain at a V. A. Hospital in Houston. I am sure many former members will remember him. He was a soldier's priest in every sense of the word.

Dick O'Connor 84th F. A. Whittier, Cal.

Just a line to let you know we are still alive out here. Our oldest boy Rick, is a door gunner on a copter with the 10th Cav., a part of the 4th Division. He is up at Plehieu and is getting his belly full of action. He will be there till next January.

Everyone else here is fine, give my regards to the New York City boys.

Dear Mr. Quinn,

I wish to thank you, Mr. Clouser, the Scholarship Committee, and all members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association for their consideration in giving me a scholarship.

I hope to use the scholarship to the best of my ability so that I may show my appreciation by accomplishment.

Yours truly,
Guy A. Meadows

**Remember
The Dates**

↓
**1969 Reunion
July 24-25-26**

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

-412 Gregory Ave.

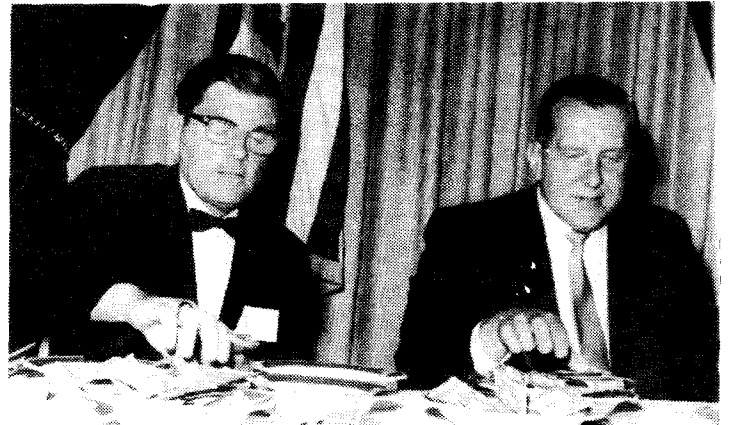
Weehawken, N. J. 07087



Last issue we gave a lot of space to pictures of the men on parade in Detroit. The members of the fair sex demanded equal time, so here they are stepping off in the Motor City, on the way to the Memorial Service.



The Cadre gets together for the 1969 Pittsburgh Reunion plans at a recent meeting held in the Chatam Center, left to right Herman Seibel, George Kopac, Bill Stokan, Bob Buck, Dan Quinn and Paul Leschack. Not shown (they were too busy trying to learn how to operate the camera) Walter O'Keefe and Herbert Olsen



Counting the loot. Tom Boyle and John Clouser tally the contributions collected at Detroit for the Ninth Infantry Division 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.
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.

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 1969 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 1969 countersigned membership card will be sent immediately.