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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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## The Octofoil, November/December 1968

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# 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 8

Nov - Dec 1968

## Man Asst. Div. Commander

Cleveland Celebrates Gen. Westmoreland Day

Gen. Gunn Led Bn. Of 39th Infantry During World War Two



General William C. Westmoreland receiving from "our own" Michael Mysyk, the "General Benedict Crowell Gold Medal" for his high service to this country.

### Association Plays Cupid



Most of us consider the Annual Reunion as an event primarily devoted to nurturing old friendships. We seldom realize that many new friendships have their beginnings at these annual reunions.

This fact was brought home to us recently when we read a wedding announcement that appeared in a Pennsylvania paper. It stated that Miss Alexis Jean Overton had wed Mr. John Sabato. The announcement seemed typical of the many wedding announcements that appear in local papers all over the country, but what made it of special interest to us was the fact that we knew of the events that led up to this happy wedding day.

Alexius' father, Cecil Overton, served with the 47th Inf. John's father, John Sabato, served with the 39th Inf. Both men are active members of the Association and have attended many reunions. In 1963 both of these "Old Reliabilities" took their families to the Springfield reunion. It was there in the Land of Lincoln that Alexis and John met for the first time. The young people participated in the various reunion activities and began a friendship that culminated in their marriage five years later.

**1969 Reunion  
July 24-25-26**

Dear Members:

On November 18, 1968, I had the honor of attending a grand banquet held for General William C. Westmoreland at the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel.

The banquet was presented by the Cleveland Post, American Ordnance Association, and they also presented to General Westy, the "General Benedict Crowell Gold Medal" for his high service to this country. This day was also proclaimed as the "General William C. Westmoreland Day" in Cleveland.

I attended this grand banquet and presentation, as a representative of the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, in the absence of Mr. Ralph M. Besse, President of the Utility Company.

I also had presiding, Mr. Stanley C. Page, President of the Cleveland Post, American Ordnance Association, announce that I was representing also, the "Ninth Infantry Division Association" for this grand occasion.

I am sending to you a photograph of General Westy and me. This photo was taken in the General's suite before the presentation of the "General Benedict Crowell Gold Medal" to him.

With many wishes for a Blessed Holiday Season to You and Your Families "MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year."

Sincerely Yours,  
Michael H. Mysyk

Dong Tam - Brigadier General Frank L. Gunn Assumed duties as Assistant 9th Division Commander from Brigadier General Elvy B. Roberts in a ceremony Oct 16 at Division headquarters.

General Roberts received the Distinguished Flying Cross from General Julian J. Ewell, Division commander. He also became the first senior officer from the Division to win the Vietnamese Army Distinguished Service Award. General Roberts' next assignment is USARV Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations.

General Gunn, of Crawfordville, Ga., comes to the 9th Division from his assignment as Commanding General, U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Hampton, Va. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for setting a record of over 200,000 recruits in one year.

After receiving his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant from the University of Georgia in 1941, General Gunn joined the 9th Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., as a platoon leader. He began a meteoric rise to battalion commander during the war, and, for a short period served as regimental commander.

During World War II, General Gunn participated in eight campaigns in Africa, Sicily and Europe, attaining the grade of lieutenant colonel in four years. He earned two Silver Stars for action in Africa and received a third Silver Star when his battalion captured the first German general officers of the war and 800 additional prisoners during the Normandy campaign.

General Gunn recalls the most memorable episode of his World War II service as the fighting at Bad Godesberg, Germany, just prior to the crossing of the Remagen Bridge on March 7, 1945. General Gunn's battalion, the 2nd 39th, had just taken Bad Godesberg and had established headquarters in the Rhine-Dresden Hotel.

General Gunn set up his command post in the same room of the hotel that Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and Adolph Hitler had used for their meetings prior to the war. His battalion had just captured General von Schleiben and Admiral Hennick, the first two general officers taken in the war.

"We had just opened a bottle of Rhine wine when word came

down that the Remagen Bridge had been taken and we had to cross it that night," recalled General Gunn. "Mine was about for fourth battalion across, so the Germans had really zeroed in on the bridge by the time we got there."

During this first infantry crossing of the Rhine since the Napoleonic Wars, the 2d 39th lost 33 men that night on the bridge. For some reason the Germans were using armor-piercing ammunition instead of high explosive, or the casualties would have been higher.

In addition to his bachelor of science degree from the University of Georgia, General Gunn has attended Yale University, Command and General Staff College, U.S. Army War College and University of Pittsburgh Graduate School.

"I am delighted to be back with the 9th Division," the General said. "It was a tough proud division in Africa, Sicily and Europe, and the 9th is building a reputation for the same brand of courage in Vietnam."

His awards include three Silver Stars, the Distinguished Service Medal, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, and both the French and Belgian Fourragere.

### Mrs. Harry Flint Joins "Paddy"

Sallie Emery Flint, 82  
Army Officer's Widow

Sallie Emery Flint, 82, widow of Col. Harry A. Flint, died December 8, 1968, after a stroke at her home at 4000 Cathedral Ave., N.W.

Mrs. Flint had lived in the District eight years. She came here from Burlington, Vt., where she was a member of the Vermont Society of Mayflower.

She also belonged to the Colonial Dames Descendants. Col. Flint was killed in action in France in 1944.

Mrs. Flint is survived by a daughter, Sallie F. von Kann and two grandchildren, Curtis and Lisa van Kann, of Washington.

## THE OCTOFOIL

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

**NATIONAL OFFICERS**

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**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

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Ralph Witzken, Hillside, N. J.  
Charles Tingley, Silver Spring, Md.  
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Peter Cusack, West Roxbury, Mass.  
Richard Pestel, Grove City, Ohio  
John Rizzo, Long Beach, N. Y.  
Richard Wilson, Woodbury, N. J.

1971—  
George Apar, Franklin Square, N. Y.  
Frank Ozart, Chicago, Illinois  
Robert Winkleman, Palatine, Illinois  
James Bruner, Flint, Michigan  
Charles Jones, McLean, Virginia

Board Member Emeritus  
Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Retired)  
Honorary Chaplain Emeritus  
Father Edward Connors, Worcester, Mass.

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

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

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

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

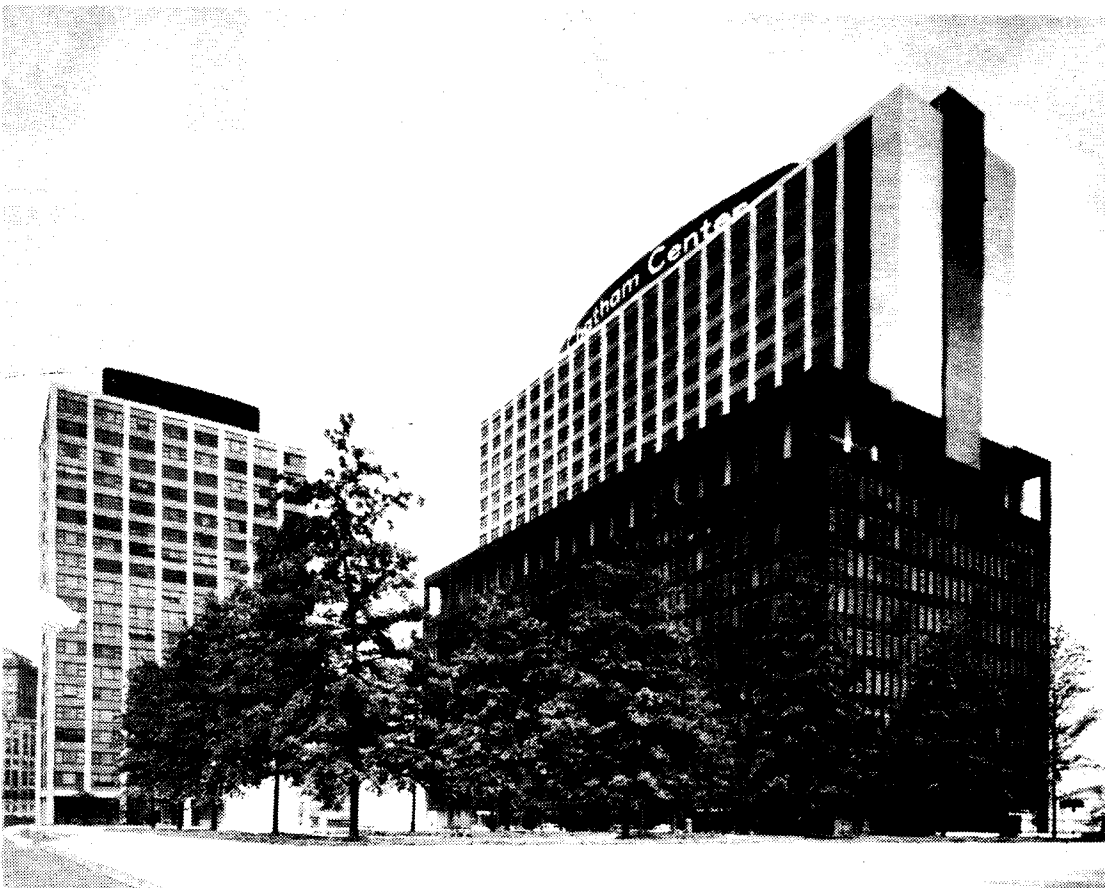
Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

Nov.-Dec., 1968

VOLUME XXIII

NUMBER 8

## This Is It Fella's



PAY  
1969  
DUES  
NOW

The small park shown in front of the Chatham Center may very well be the camp site for the Thursday evening get together or first night at the Pittsburgh Reunion. Plans are in the making for holding an

outdoor night amongst the stars instead of the usual hotel ball room. Although it appears to be ground level this park is actually five stories above the street below and will provide plenty of privacy.

## Board Of Governors Hold Meeting

The 90th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held on November 9, 1968 at 5:10 P.M. at the Holiday Inn Motel, Worcester, Mass., attended by Messrs: Herbert Olsen, John Rizzo, Richard Pestel, Robert Winkleman, James Brunner, Charles Jones, Richard Wilson, Ralph Witzken, Peter Cusack, Frank Ozart, 1st Vice President Vincent Guglielmino, 3rd Vice President William Meadows, former Presidents Emil Langer, John Bonkowski, Francis Maher and Walter O'Keeffe, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, Treasurer Thomas Boyle and former Board member Ronald Murphy.

Upon a motion duly made by John Rizzo and seconded by Robert Winkleman it was voted to: Dispense with the reading of the 89th Board meeting.

Thomas Boyle the treasurer was then called upon for his report. Boyle gave the members the quarterly report. Upon a motion duly made by James Brunner and seconded by John Rizzo it was voted to: Accept the report of the treasurer.

Upon a motion duly made by John Rizzo and seconded by Ralph Witzken it was voted to: Borrow the sum of \$1000.00 from the Capital Fund to be returned upon receipt of Capital Gains from the Mutual Investments. This money to be used in the General Fund (or working fund).

James Brunner reported for the Detroit Reunion with the Financial Report showing a profit of \$465.51. This money was turned over to the Association. Upon a motion duly made by Peter Cusack and seconded by Richard Pestel it was voted to: Accept the Detroit Reunion report.

Upon a motion duly made by John Rizzo and seconded by Richard Wilson, it was voted to: Grant the Michigan Chapter a gratuity of \$100.00 for a job well done.

The secretary was then called upon for a report on the progress of the 1969 reunion to be held in Pittsburgh, Pa. The

secretary who is Co-chairman of this affair reported that in September Herbert Olsen and Walter O'Keeffe joined him in Pittsburgh to make plans and meet with members living in the area. The site selected the new Chatham Center operated by Howard Johnson Motor Lodge. The dates - July 24, 25 and 26th. The members were briefed on the plans and the facilities offered at the Center, such things as free swimming, use of steam baths, free parking at all hours were some of the topics. More details will be printed in the Octofoil. All in all the Co-chairman promised the members that the 1969 Pittsburgh will be one of the best reunions ever held by this association.

The President then called upon the Chapters for their reports. John Rizzo reported for the New York Chapter and told of the Dinner and Dance that was held in October. A Christmas party planned for December 8th at the Elks Club in Union City, N.J. with 35 children from a local orphanage being invited. Election of Officers will be held in December at the regular meeting. President Olsen thanked Rizzo for his report.

Frank Ozart reported that the Illinois Chapter recently held a Fish Fry for the members with a good turnout of the membership. Election will be held for next year's Officers and a Christmas party is planned for December 7th. The Chapter members hold their meetings at the Moose Lodge, Forest Park, Illinois.

Richard Wilson reports the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter held their picnic in August with a dance slated for the fall and a New Year's Eve night out on the town with the lady folks picking up the tab. Dick concluded his remarks and informed the board members that the meetings are held at the Holiday Inn in Gloucester City, N.J. on the last Saturday of the month. Any members in the area at that time are invited to the meetings.

Jim Brunner reports the Detroit Chapter members meeting on the 2nd week of December for a social and short business meeting. They plan to celebrate the conclusion of the 1968 reunion and reports.

Thomas Boyle reports that the New England Chapter holds regular meetings and socials, either in Boston or Worcester.

Richard Pestel reported progress for the Ohio Chapter.

The Board members had a brief discussion on the site and time of the next Board meeting. Pittsburgh being the location and the middle of April or so for the time preferred.

Upon a motion duly made by Jim Brunner and seconded by Richard Pestel it was voted to: Reimburse Herbert Olsen, Walter O'Keeffe and Dan Quinn for transportation expenses to Pittsburgh on their recent trip to firm up dates for next year. This expense to be charged to the 1969 reunion.

Ralph Witzken briefed the members on his committee's report for the study of a possible merger with the New Ninth Infantry members in Viet Nam and this association. A meeting of this committee is planned for early next year.

President Olsen adjourned the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
Daniel Quinn  
National Secretary

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### Remember The Dates

↓  
**1969 Reunion  
July 24-25-26  
Pittsburgh**

### TRIP TO THE E.T.O.?

How many members would be interested in a two or three week trip to Europe in the summer of 1970? Many associations such as ours have been conducting these tours and they have proved successful in many ways. Your secretary was looking into the possibility of a trip to take place right after the reunion in New York in 1970.

Let us know your feelings towards a trip like this especially if you would be interested. Of course the families of our members would be included.

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### 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 1969 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 ☐

Three-Year Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$11.00 ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 ☐

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

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 ☐

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

by WILLIAM M. KREYE

This is the sixth installment.

## KASSERINE PASS

Throughout the occupation of Birkedam, Rouiba, Bougie and Setif, a certain top sergeant was hounded by two of his personnel. Each one took turns at drinking but everynight when either one returned and was looking to beat his head in, there was no top-kick. Fortunately, for the sergeant he got word of it and he would hide and disappear for the entire evening up in the attic.

Then disaster came on February 14, 1943, the sudden rush of German tanks, men and equipment hit Faid Pass where French forces couldn't hold. On to Sbeitla and Kasserine Pass raced the foe where the 3rd Battalion of the 39th Infantry and the Anti-Tank Company as well as French, British and other American units were vastly outnumbered, captured, forced back and annihilated. The United States 1st Armoured Division made their sacrifices at Sbeitla to hold up the German armoured advance.

The artillery of the 9th Infantry Division was alerted and on their way within hours of the first warnings of the attack. They left Tlemcen on February 17th and they covered approximately 777 miles with all of 411 vehicles. With Brigadier General S. LEROY IRWIN as artillery commander, the artillery arrived four days later after many mishaps, roads jammed with feleling Allied troops, muddy roads, and warnings that they were too late. Despite these warnings the guns went into firing position and plastered the approaching Germans with a completely unexpected torrent of howitzer and trajectory fire. The 9th Infantry Artillery was not too late, they stopped the main thrust of the three thrust which broke the back of the attack. A great deal of credit must be given as well to those British anti-tank, tank and artillery units and the 1st Armoured Division of the United States who sacrificed themselves to slow-up and stop two other simultaneous Axis drives.

During this great defensive display and action, all units of the 9th moved, and the 39th Infantry Combat Team joined the division. We were rushed to the Kasserine Pass as our commanders were itching for a clash with the enemy. The division immediately went into position and began patrolling around Sbeitla and Kasserine. Our orders were to hold our positions at all costs if the enemy tried to return again.

Lt. BROMLEY became the new S-2 officer at the 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry. We established two outposts which were about fifteen miles apart and they were just about as far from the command post. I was left at the command post with the understanding that I was to plot the enemy situations on the map board while the Operation's sergeant, MARTY KRASOVETZ, would plot the friendly troop positions. This procedure will change in the near future where MARTY will plot both situations. This will

leave me to operate at the outposts with my men or be available for patrol work. It was more exciting and adventurous being away from the command post but the knowledge of what was transpiring along the front will be missed.

When it was realized that the men on the outposts were not receiving any food rations, I was appointed by the company commander, Captain GALLOWAY, to personally see that they were delivered food. When I arrived at the first outpost, they were eating fried chicken and I commented that I was coming out there if they were eating like this. When I arrived at the other outpost, the eating situation was about the same as it was at the first outpost, more chicken. The Intelligence Section would never starve that was for sure if they had to steal it from the enemy.

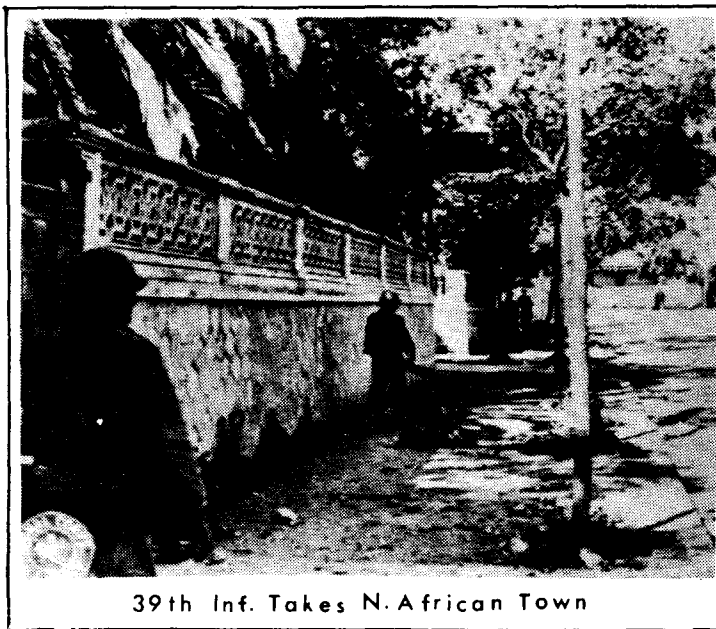
I observed from this outpost the surrounding terrain features and spotted what appeared to be a lake. I heard so much about mirages that I thought I was seeing one now in this somewhat dry country of North Africa. When I returned to the command post, I checked a military map and sure enough there was really a lake there. Lakes in this part of North Africa were either dried out leaving deposits of salt or they were milky colored with a very large salt content similar to the Great Salt Lake near Salt Lake City, Utah.

At night they wanted motor patrols and there was no evidence of where the enemy had retreated to. Here again, we were assigned a jeep and a driver from the motor pool but this time there was only one vehicle. BROMLEY showed me the route to take from his map and I memorized the details. The road we had to take was nothing more than a dirt cart path. Enroute a few miles, we reached a portion of the path which was covered with the water of a stream. The water covered the cart path for several yards. As the jeep passed through the water, its wheels got stuck in the mud. After many hours of pushing and pulling, we managed to get the vehicle free and we returned to our base as the time element had transpired.

The next night we managed to get past this stretch of mud. However, we came to a puddle of water situated right in the center of the cart path. The driver had his choice of passing the puddle on the left or on the right. As you probably guessed, the driver drove right into it. We were stuck again. This time we were unable to free the jeep. So, I alone went out hunting for some type of communications to contact 1st Battalion for help. I soon ran into a guard from the 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The guard was very jittery and extremely cautious. At rifle point he wouldn't allow me to move a muscle until his company commander arrived. The captain said that there was radio silence and if there wasn't a radio silence, he wouldn't be able to send a message because of the unknown code. However, he

would do even better by sending a three-quarter ton truck with a winch to pull us out. After that was accomplished and again time had expired, we again returned to our base.

The third night we started off with two jeeps and a towline and everything went fine. We passed the obstacles which we had encountered the nights before and we started to get somewhere. Motor patrolling was very dangerous because anywhere a vehicle roamed there could be Teller mines or an anti-tank weapon waiting in the brush. Then we came to what appeared to be a river but visibility was very poor and it was very dark. As I searched my recollections of the details of the Lieutenant's map, I couldn't remember seeing a waterway on the French military map he was



39th Inf. Takes N. African Town

using when I memorized it. So, once again we failed to complete our mission because we didn't continue to explore the waterway. There was a chance that we had lost a turn and once again we returned to our base this time for more information.

The next morning we took off with the lieutenant and again with two jeeps. The map didn't reveal any waterway although we were on the right trail the night before. This time we crossed the river which was about fifty yards wide but it was very shallow. We were approaching near the town of Sbeitla where days before a mighty tank battle raged and where the Germans used dive-bombers on the American tanks. There were many knocked out tanks from both the Axis and the Allies which would make a gigantic junk pile.

There were fifty Flying Fortresses returning from a mission in formation but there were two Messersmiths undetected within the formations. Suddenly, all the planes scattered, machine guns spattered bullets and flak was fired from the ground guns all over the sky. Where we were riding, it was raining shrapnel.

One of the Messersmiths was hit and the plane was falling to the ground close to us. The pilot jumped out as his parachute opened just above the ground. He was killed

instantly upon the impact of his body with the earth as his paracute opened to close to the ground. His plane went up in flames just a few yards away from his body.

The motor patrol was completed and nothing much of importance happened in Kasserine as the enemy failed to try it again. The Americans had the privilege of having three first-class infantry divisions in North Africa at this time composing the U.S. II Corps, the 34th, the 1st and our 9th. It was my belief that the Germans were very clever in regard to war tactics. I had heard so many things about World War I about German trickery that I figured they had not lost their skill. To survive I tried to figure out what our opponents would try to do.

The Germans had been practicing war all their lives and they were skilled at it. On the other hand, the Americans were faster thinkers and sometimes acted without the fear of being killed. This, I believe, was the big difference in both armies plus the will of free people. The American learned fast and he usually did the impossible. Now the American's wanted a front of their own, not under British supervision and they would soon get it.

were the non-coms and also to get to know "the lay of the land." We had patrolled a spell as RAY followed me over the terrain and I figured it was about time that we should have come in contact with the other outpost. It was seconds later that we were challenged by a "D" Company guard. He inquired, "What are you fellows doing in that mine field?"

My heart suddenly became a large lump in my throat. I turned by body from my knees to my head toward RAY without moving my feet and I instructed him not to move but to listen carefully. I advised him to follow my footsteps and to duplicate each of my steps, not to make any extra ones. This would lessen the possibility of setting off a mine if I hadn't already. Although it may have been only minutes, it seemed to be hours before we cleared the German mine field. I believe, our feet never touched the ground after that sentinel's warning. When we knew we had cleared the danger area, we had crossed a white tape which signifies the existence of a mined area but there had been none prior to this. It was a very bad start for our first operation in El Guetar and a "bad omen" for the days to come.

The next morning the 1st Battalion was on the move forward. While we advanced through the oasis, an enemy plane approached at low altitude which made it come upon us too suddenly for the usual precautions. Someone jumped into what appeared to be a foxhole but it turned out to be a ventilation shaft connected to an underground passageway. This G. I. fell some thirty-five feet down to the bottom and he was probably the first casualty at El Guetar. He was lucky at that, suffered only a broken leg and he probably missed the entire campaign.

Here, with the 1st Infantry Division, the "Big Red One," TERRY ALLEN's outfit on the left and the 9th Infantry Division, General MANTON S. EDDY's, the "Octofoil" on the right less our 60th Infantry Regiment, we will attack the Gafsa-Gabes axis to Relieve the pressure on General MONTGOMERY's Eighth British Army to our southeast. Principle handicaps would be that the Americans were apparently green, there was a lack of adequate maps, and most important of all, the enemy knew the terrain too well.

The attack was launched on March 28th, 1943, and for the next eleven days a bitter fierce battle would rage for hills 290, 369 and 772. During these days and many more to come, an infantryman had to rely upon himself. He had to live like an animal and he had to adjust his existence with the elements of nature. A canteen of water, food and the ammunition that he carried, had to last him for a full day and sometimes several days before he was able to renew his supplies. There were no shelters of any type for him to run under when in the latter campaigns, it rained or snowed. He had to crawl through dirt and mud. He prepared himself to meet any difficulty which the enemy had waiting for him. He had to be able to take it, and more important, he had to be able to dish it out. The most difficult part of the fighting to him was the few yards to his immediate front. He wouldn't have known or have realized what was really happening in his sector until someone told him. It was weeks or even months before he was able to get enough water to wash his face and hands. It was a luxury for him to take a bath.

## Chapter 13 EL GUETAR

If there was such a thing as "hell on earth," here it was about to begin. This was the baptism of "the real filthy war" and "the battle for survival." The 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry had moved a long way by motor truck convoy and the last miles were approached on foot just as it was getting dark. The rest of the 39th and the 47th Infantry were in the vicinity too. El Guetar was just like an oasis I had read about with its tall palm trees and green vegetation with the surrounding terrain chiefly sand, hills and stumps of dried yellowish grass.

With Lt. BROMLEY now at the head of the 1st Battalion Intelligence Section, the section came to an area where the lieutenant stated that we, the enlisted personnel, would form a security outpost with a walking sentinel. The walking sentries would contact another outpost manned by our "D" Company personnel. In turn there would be a number of these outposts circling the battalion command post which was situated somewhere in the huge circle made by the outposts in a canvas tent.

When the lieutenant departed for the command post, I decided that Corporal RAY BALDWIN and I would make the first patrol to see how things would go as we



# "THE PAWNS OF WAR"

continued

The enemy was very crafty. He made artificial gun replacements to fool the eyes of our air force and our observers. The guns were made out of wood with sand bags piled around in dug-in positions. It seemed they prearranged artillery and mortar fire in the wadis as shells crept up the sides of hills following the wadi. Each shell exploded about forty feet apart usually missing many of us.

Our final objective was Hill 772. There were supposed to be a tired group of about one thousand Italians and Germans who needed the urge to give up. All objectives were supposed to be taken in three or four days, but it was a different story. The Germans forced the Italians to fight fiercely or be shot down trying to retreat or withdraw from their positions. Although the fighting was rugged and devastating, the Americans didn't give up an inch of ground. This place became an inferno as well as a prearranged stronghold for the Axis. It also seemed the enemy had air supremacy as well as they kept annoying our artillery positions.

My personal observations and experiences during these days will not reveal the usual monotony of war such as bullets whizzing overhead or that shells are bursting here and there but I will try to reveal the interesting parts. We'll take these other things for granted although they are harassing and they do produce casualties. We will also have to omit the possibilities of the enemy's command or their mistakes as it had to be the cunning or the stupidity of the Allied command to produce victory or defeat. Furthermore, a soldier low in rank had no knowledge of these possibilities. We will also have to dispense with the knowledge gained from military field manuals about warfare somewhat and we will learn the habits and the methods of our enemy, the hard way through experience. Some of the enemy's units will be practically destroyed three or four times in the coming campaigns.

The 1st Battalion Headquarters Company, 39th Infantry moved up into a draw. We stopped for a break and my Intelligence group, less the lieutenant, were resting on one side of a slope. I received some word of presumption or intuition (I would get many of these warnings) that this was not a safe place for the men. So, I moved them to the other slope just in time to miss a barrage of enemy shells which raked the unprotected location that we had been in previously. The command post finally established in a hollow level piece of real estate which was approximately fifty yards square surrounded by low hills.

Before long, it became too congested in this area. Another command post, an ammunition dump for mortars, fox holes for men, mortar sections, half tracks and eventually an aid station were all situated in this small parcel of land. I had dug almost half a foxhole when I was summoned out on a mission, intending to finish it when I returned. When I did return hours later, there was a half track dug in my position. Later, it was here that I was assigned as a special road guard to direct "Blood and Guts," General GEORGE S. PATTON, Jr. to our command post as the shells sprayed the road and the

entire area. It was evident that the enemy had observation of the high portions of the road as they would fire on the vehicles as they came over the second ridge. They made ready for the vehicles after the Americans passed over the first ridge. I learned that the general earned the Silver Star that same day.

GENE GOLDBERG and I, who were resting and we were having a chat about this and that, as our backs rested against a little noll which was about five feet high and about as round as we sat on the ground, an enemy shell burst on top of the noll. It covered us with soil but did not harm us. I made this remark which didn't seem very funny at that time. "If those Heinies don't watch out, they're going to kill somebody."

That evening Lt. BERNHARDT, Communications Officer, asked for volunteers to go on a patrol to look for Colonel CHARLES H. CHEATHAM, who had replaced Colonel ROSENFELD as commander of the 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry, and he was apparently lost. There must have been at least a dozen volunteers who stumbled quietly through wadis, over dead soldier's bodies, followed German telephone lines up and over hills as we were haunted by the cry of a jeckel. I believe that at some part of our travels during that night we were on the slopes of Hill 772, but this is hard to substantiate.

When the patrol returned the next morning without the colonel, I discovered that we had been looking for as well the entire 1st Battalion. The 1st Battalion Headquarters Company less the members of the patrol were the only ones holding the position in front of the enemy. The "lost battalion" had circled and they had arrived at the regimental command post. After all units were reorganized again, the battalion was set to move forward in a column of companies. We, the members of the Intelligence Section, were to follow at the tail of "C" Company. We only proceeded a few yards beyond the initial point when the entire column was raked with machine gun fire. Lt. BROMLEY came quickly along as he was down on his knees ducking the bursts or running at almost top speed. He pointed out a place for us to establish our outpost.

To get out of our safe hiding place which was protection from the machine gun fire, we had to expose ourselves to the fire. As a prearranged plan, we all made a dash together for a five foot embankment between burst of fire in order to make it before detected by the enemy. Our timing was perfect and once over the embankment, we were safe from those bullets. Just as we got away from the column, enemy mortars started to spray it. We established our outpost between the tips of three hill tops and we managed to set up a telephone connecting us with the 1st Battalion command post. This place proved to be the safest spot if not the quietest in the area for the next few days. There was a real "no man's land" in the valley to our immediate front. We could observe the advance in skirmishes of the "Raiders," the 47th Infantry Regiment. These men would advance over terrain which seemed to be like the rolling waves of the ocean. They would get over the top of one noll when the enemy automatic weapons opened fire. They seemed to fall head first into the next draw.

Whether any were hit or not? We couldn't tell. Then, the enemy's mortars would cover the draw from one end to the other. We didn't expect to see a soul move after that, but once the mortars stopped, the charge started all over again. The same procedure went on for days. The enemy was well camouflaged and in excellent positions. It seemed they could hit any spot with their mortar and artillery fire.

One day MATI who was snooping around below the outpost came back with the news that he had located a ration dump. However, this dump was abandoned by the Americans and the enemy kept a ring of shell fire around it to keep any Americans away. We were short on supplies and it was almost two miles back to our command post and it would be another two miles hauling the food supplies back. JOHN LIHACH and MATI, on their own initiative, invaded the ration dump. They brought back a case of "C" rations and a five gallon can of water. Later, MATI decided to go back for more rations. When he returned, he claimed there was a wounded American soldier down there. He and STANLEY CABAN carried this fellow up to our outpost. The wounded man was from "A" Company of the 39th and MATI knew him as he had been a staff-sergeant with them previously. The wounded man's legs were riddled with bullets. He told us that after he was hit by automatic fire, he had no power in his legs. He moved his body by pushing with his hands and sliding on his hind-quarters, dragging his useless legs behind him almost five hundred yards before MATI discovered him.

While we treated his wounds, gave him food and water, and made him as comfortable as possible, we phoned the medics to bring out a stretcher. It was in the daylight shortly later, that BILL SOLLIDAY spotted the position of one of the enemy's well camouflaged machine gun positions. He spotted the position because one of the occupants tossed a piece of white paper just as BILL was scanning that area with his binoculars. Unfortunately there was nothing that could be done about it as everyone seemed to be so busy or confused that even the stretcher bearers didn't come out. We were ordered to abandon this outpost and to return to our command post.

We took turns piggy-backing the wounded man over the hills. When we got back, there was a desperate need for men to carry ammunition and food up to the front lines. We carried on our shoulders a can of water and a case of rations or a box of ammo. It was here that a new weapon had joined the 9th, a regiment of mules to carry supplies.

BILL SOLLIDAY, a young fellow who was considered too quiet, was a fearless, chivalrous individual on the battle field. He was not only an ideal battle comrade but also had been an ideal garrison soldier as well. His mannerisms stressed cleanliness. He was prudent in his knowledge of wild life and of rural shrubbery. He could practically live off of the land.

(continued next issue)

## 24th Memorial Service

During World War II the men of the Ninth Division never let inclement weather interfere with their operations. In Africa they fought under the blazing tropic sun while sandstorms whirled around them. In Europe they endured the freezing winds and snowstorms that swept the battlefields of Germany. They always surmounted all obstacles and went on to take their objective. The veterans of the Ninth still retain the tenacity which stood them in such good stead during their eight campaigns in the E.T.O. They proved this on November tenth when four hundred Old Reliables braved weather that was reminiscent of the Battle of the Bulge to attend Father Connors twenty-fourth Memorial Mass at Worcester, Mass. Philip F. Murphy covered the event for the Worcester Telegram and he filed the following story with his paper.

### NINTH DIVISION ANNUAL EVENT

Gen. William C. Westmoreland, when installed as Army chief of staff earlier this year, introduced his former chaplain, the Rev. Edward T. Connors, to President Johnson as the "Green Major."

"Green for three reasons," Westmoreland said. "First because he's a wild Irishman, second because he never polished his brass buttons and they turned green, and finally, after three years overseas he was as green a soldier as he was when he started."

Father Connors is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester. General Westmoreland is just one of hundreds of Army "buddies" he keeps in contact with.

So, it's no surprise that when the "Green Major" offered his 24th annual Mass for the 4,581 Ninth Division soldiers killed in World War II, more than 750 "Ninth" veterans, wives and children filled the church.

The annual memorial was started in 1945 when some of the Worcester area division veterans asked their chaplain if he would "say a Mass" for their friends "who didn't make it back."

It has grown in scope, and in support by those who make the annual pilgrimage here, to the point where Father Connors is "amazed" at how many more turn up each successive year.

### ALL RELIGIONS

They come from all over; they belong to all religions.

From the way they talked many look forward to the event with as much enthusiasm as they await an annual vacation.

The men from outside the state often arrive early Saturday so they'll have extra time to trade war stories. A buffet is prepared by the women of Father Connors' parish and served Saturday night in the church hall.

Some former Ninth Division men donate about a carload of beer each year, a surefire aid to the recall of more war stories.

### BRIEF SERVICE

After the Memorial Mass Sunday morning, a brief service was held outside the church at a monument erected six years ago in tribute to the division's fallen heroes.

Both yesterday's ceremony and the one held Nov. 6 two years ago drew the season's first snow to Worcester.

A dinner at Wachusett Country Club, West Boylston, attended by 500, ended the year's memorial.

General Westmoreland unable to attend, sent a telegram conveying his personal regards to "the gang" and a message to be read at the service. He praised the "reliable, versatile" Ninth for World War II performances in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, Saint-Lo and Remagen.

### SERVED IN DIVISION

Gen. Westmoreland was a young officer with the Ninth during World War II. He attended earlier Memorial Services but was unable to attend this one.

The Division is in Vietnam now. Its current commander, Maj. Gen. Julian J. Ewell, wrote praising the former chaplain for holding the service. He also

asked that the men now serving with the Ninth be remembered in his prayers.

Among the speakers at the dinner were City Council Vice Chairman Gustaf Coontz and Judge Wesley E. Melquist. Father Connors was master of ceremonies.

When Father Connors celebrated his first Memorial Mass only a small handful of Ninth Division men were in attendance. These men passed the word along to other Old Reliables and before long men from all over the country were attending the service.

Now the word has been passed over the great Pacific and the men of the new Ninth are aware of the solemn event that takes place in Worcester every November. Major General Julian J. Ewell, Commanding General of the Ninth Infantry Division sent the following message to Father Connors. Dear Father Connors:

Your annual Memorial Service for the men of the 9th Infantry Division who gave their lives in World War II is a testimony to both their dedication and your remembrance of their sacrifice.

May I ask that you also remember in the celebration of the Mass and the service to follow, the men of this division who now serve in Vietnam? Your prayers for their guidance, and for those who have given their lives in this conflict, would be most appreciated.

As you have said, true patriotism is indeed a spirit of reverence. I am sure that your services this year will again prove an evidence of this spirit.

Sincerely,  
Julian J. Ewell  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

★ ★ ★



## 1969 Reunion Pittsburgh

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Reunion will be held on the 24th, 25th, and 26th, July 1969.

Completely air-conditioned, Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge at Chatham 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.

## Busy New Yorkers

The fall season has been a busy one for the members of the New York Chapter. Their activities started early in October and wound up in late December.

In October the Chapter held a Dinner-Dance at the Queen's Chamber of Commerce Restaurant. After slacking their thirst at a cocktail hour the members sat down to a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. They finished off the evening by quaffing beer and dancing to the music of J. Embers' band. Frank Fazio made all the arrangements for this affair and he set up a program that provided a lively time for everyone.

The New York Chapter presents its "Man of The Year Award" at this affair. This year Ralph Witzken was the recipient of this treasured award. Over the years Ralph has labored hard for the Chapter and he is truly deserving of the honor that the Chapter gave him.

In November the Chapter chartered a bus for the trip to Worcester. The members and their wives filled every seat in the bus and they enjoyed a smooth trip to the Memorial Service. November was also the month in which the Chapter nominated Officers for the coming year. A well rounded slate was chosen and the members vote in December.

In December the Chapter held its Annual Christmas Party at the Elk's Club in Union City, N.J. During the past few years the members noticed that the number of children attending the Christmas Party has fallen off. This was due to the fact that most of the member's children are now young men and women and it will be a few years before the grandchildren will be arriving. Since Santa Claus and Christmas Parties are primarily for children the members decided to invite some orphans to this year's party.

Thirty-five boys and girls from St. Peter's Orphan Asylum in Newark, N.J., were invited to the party. Santa Claus had presents for everyone and there was plenty of candy, cake, ice cream and soda for all the tots. The Association had reserved the bowling alleys at the club and the older children had a good time knocking over the pins.

Ralph Witzkin, Dom Miele, Frank Fazio, and Jack Scully worked very hard on the party and they did a job that the Chapter can be very proud of. George Frankel rates an "Oscar" for his performance as Santa.

Sincerely yours,  
Harry Orenstein  
President New York Chapter



The dinner at the Wachusett Country Club after the Memorial Mass and Services at Father Connors Church in Worcester, Mass. Shown left to right, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lynch, Gold Star parents of Captain Paul Lynch, Father Edward P. Marshall, Father Gerald Rowan (former M.P. with the 9th), Herbert Olsen, President of the Association and standing behind Herb, Father Edward Connors.

## Taps Sounded

It appears that with every issue of the Octofoil we have the sad duty to announce the demise of several "old Comrades". Called to their final reward and their last roll call were

John F. Forni of F Co. 47th Infantry  
Horace West of Hq Co 60th Infantry  
George Swanson 709th Ord and 9th Q.M.  
Edward J. Mycek Co I 47th Infantry

May they rest in peace.

## Thanks From Student

Tempus fugit. It seems like only yesterday that Vincent Lepore received his first Ninth Division Scholarship Award and now we find out that he has already embarked upon his Senior Year in college.

Dan Quinn received the following letter from Vincent. "I'm writing to thank you for the financial assistance I have received from The Ninth Infantry Division Association for the past four years. I have been working in West Virginia this past summer. I have just returned and am now settling down to my last year of college.

"Please express my sincere appreciation to all the members of The Ninth Infantry Division Association for their generosity to me."

## Silver Anniversary

One of the hi-lites of the last reunion in New York City was the entertainment at the Friday night beer party. The orchestra of Pete Mezzapella provided music for this portion of the program. Pete, a member of the New York Chapter, has many friends among the members of the Association.

We know that his friends will be happy to hear that Pete recently celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary. His daughter, Annette, gave her parents a surprise party at Friede's Fireside Inn in Smithtown, N.Y. Almost a hundred friends and relatives gathered together to wish Pete and his better-half "Good Luck." Pete took the night off but the members of his orchestra provided music for the festive occasion.

## Drop A Line

Our old pal Vince Scuccimarrri who has been confined to the Veterans Hospital since a way back when, sure would like to hear from any of the old gang who wore the Octofoil. Drop him a line in care of F.D.R. Va. Hospital, Bld. 6, Montrose, N.Y.

☆☆☆

PAY  
1969  
DUES  
NOW

## TIP OF THE HAT

Always a very thoughtful guy Emil Langer recently sent a donation to the Memorial Fund in the name of an old family friend, Mrs. Agnes Skrivan who passed away on October 24, 1968.

Also remembering the Memorial Fund were Daniel Taggart, 60th Inf., James Tomasco, 15th Eng., and Anthony Carmeci, 39th Inf.

## "Westy" Remembers

When a man becomes the Army Chief of Staff he shoulders responsibilities that keep him on the go twenty-four hours a day. Despite the magnitude of his duties General Westmoreland is never so preoccupied that he forgets his comrades from the Ninth Infantry Division.

When the men of the Ninth honored their fallen comrades at Worcester the General was unable to be present but he remembered the occasion and sent the following message to Father Connors:

"I am proud and humble to have a part in honoring the gallant men of the 9th Infantry Division who gave their lives for our country. The battle streamers of the 9th are part of the history of the United States, put there by men who placed duty above self. The regiments that made up the 9th Division performed magnificently at Meuse-Argonne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Alsace-Lorraine. In World War II, they added North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, Saint-Lo and Remagen to the lexicon of American history. Today in Vietnam, Long Thanh, Rach Kien, My Tho, Ben Tre, Can Tho, the Plain of Reeds and the Canals of the Delta are fields which the reliable, versatile 9th Division has added new laurels.

"The soldier of today, as the veteran of the past conflicts, deserves his country's respect and admiration for the hardships he has endured without complaint and the valor he has shown on countless battlefields.

"We stand today in perpetual debt to those who have gone before. They have helped shape the events which made the United States a great nation. Their dedication has been a stirring example to all of us. Our fallen comrades will always have a place in our hearts.

"Please give my best regards to the "Gang" - warm personal regards." Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

★★★★

ROOM RESERVATIONS  
1969 REUNION, PITTSBURGH, PA.  
Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, at Chatham Center

Please reserve.....Room(s) of the type (x) below:  
Completely Air Conditioned - Color TV

Arrival Date.....A.M.....P.M. Departure Date.....

Name .....

Address .....

City.....State.....Zip Code.....

Singles	\$14.00
Twins	\$18.00
Suites, Parlor, Bedroom, 2 Baths	\$50.00
Rollaway Beds	\$4.00

FREE PARKING - FREE ICE - FAMILY PLAN

## REQUEST FOR SPACE IN SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Attached is copy for an ad in the color-printed 1969 Ninth Infantry Division Association Reunion Program.

Full page	\$25.00
half page	\$15.00
quarter page	\$10.00
one eighth page	\$ 5.00

Booster ads - \$1.00 name and unit.

Send all copy, checks and money orders to: Pittsburgh Reunion Committee, P. O. Box 483, Union City, N. J. 07087.

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

Mrs. Tippi 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. Inclosed 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 Tippi Plunkett, 286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206. A 1969 countersigned membership card will be sent immediately.

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

# MAIL CALL

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

As usual Dan Quinn's mailbox has been packed full of letters from members of the Association. The following are a few of the messages that Dan has received during the past month.

I am enclosing my annual dues for 1969. Sorry I would not have been with you in Detroit. I was down with a very severe attack of Diverticulites, they really almost blew "Taps" around July 31st. But I am well back on the road to recovery. God Bless you always. Father Kines, S.J., St. Joseph's College, Phila., Pa.

Enclosed is my dues for '69, '70 and '71. Keep those Ninth guns firing. I hope to see my way clear one of these days so that I can get into the swing of things with this fine organization.

Ted Wisniewski  
Yonkers, N. Y.  
K Co. 39th Inf.

Wilton Taylor an old "Raider" from M Co. has sent us several letters, he keeps us informed on events out California Way. Wilton informs us that Loyd C. Wofford has undergone eye surgery at the V.A. Hospital in Los Angeles. Loyd served with Co. B of the 15th Engineers. By this time Loyd has probably left the hospital so if you want to drop him a line his address is 517 Rose, Taft, California.

Frank and Florence Gunter from Tacoma, Wash. send their best regards to all the members of the Ninth. They have been doing some traveling and have just arrived back home.

Paul and Tippy Plunkett were always among the first to arrive in Worcester for the annual Memorial Services. They seldom missed one of these solemn occasions. Since Paul's death Tippy has continued this practice which she and Paul started so long ago.

This year due to other commitments Tippy was unable to travel to Worcester. However, she did not forget her friends from the Ninth Infantry Division. Tippy sent the following message to Father Connors.

"It is with deepest regret and sorrow that I will have to miss this 24th Memorial Mass and Service. My heart and prayers will be there with you all on Sunday morning while I will be attending Memorial services at Arlington Cemetery and placing a wreath in memory of our service men.

"I wish you the largest crowd ever at the services and banquet. Please convey my regards to all, I love them all. And if God's willing I will be with them at the reunion in Pittsburgh in 1969. I hope General Westmoreland will be with you, he is one great man and soldier."

We all missed Tippy and are looking forward to seeing her in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Burton L. Forbes an old cannoneer from the 26th Field recently received a copy of the Octofoil. He was so happy with his copy of the paper that he took time out from his busy practice to write us a letter. The Doc wrote as follows:

"I was very happy and enthusiastic when I received a copy of the Octofoil. It takes me back to some of the most interesting years of my life, with its African and European Campaigns and travels.

"I have been in Denver, Colorado ever since I seperated

from the Army Service in 1946. I have always kept up my interest in the activities of the Ninth when they were he at Camp Carson, and now that they are in Vietnam. Of course, I follow everything I can about General William Westmoreland and recall the days when I knew him so well as C.O. of the 34th Field Artillery and as Executive Officer of Division Artillery when I was with the 26th and our outfits were so close together in Tunisia, Sicily, England and Central Europe.

"Do you recall the hearty welcome he gave them when the Ninth Division troops joined the other forces over in Vietnam a few months ago. Everybody everywhere really felt at home then.

"Out here in Denver I seldom, if ever, see any of the old outfit except John Fisher, who now lives in Caspar, Wyoming. I am a member of the V.F.W. Sojourners 1001, and have been Department Surgeon, Department of Colorado, for the past fourteen years and I was even planning to run for the Surgeon General of the V.F.W. whenever I figure I can get away from my medical practice long enough to travel.

"I want to thank Joe McKenzie of the New England Chapter and compliment him for keeping us all so well informed about himself and the other men from the 26th Field. One of these days I am going to get to a reunion or to Father Connors Memorial Mass in Worcester."

The Doc's letterhead gives his address as 632 Empire Building, Denver 2, Colorado, if any of you old redlegs pass by that way drop in and say hello.

The reunion in Pittsburgh this summer is generating enthusiasm amongst the members living in that area and several members have written to the Chairman expressing their desire to participate with the chores and the many details that go with a reunion.

Bob Mason is anxious to have these men contact him and they may do so at Bob's new address 2818 Garbett Ave., McKeesport, Pa. 15132. Bob is handling the public relation chores and could use some help.

## TWENTY SIX FIELD

### ARTILLERY BATTALION

#### SERVICE BATTERY

Well, it had to happen sometime. During the past twenty three years we have been favored with some wonderful weather on the occasion of our Memorial Mass. More than once the weather man was wrong with his predictions. A few times it rained hard enough to keep the battle-scarred veterans away from Worcester. But, most of all the majority of the week ends were beautiful days. This year it was different. Winds of gale force, cold driving rains plus four inches of wet snow proved to be a good sample of our unpredictable New England weather. Those who were not at Worcester missed the greatest week end of all. Try to make it in 1969 on November 9th.

The Mass as always was a beautiful ceremony. Fr. Connors and Fr. Rowan of 9th MP were the celebrants. The Mass is the same as the one Fr. Connors celebrated many times from the hood of his jeep but, in a new church such as Immaculate, plus beautiful flowers decorating the altar, and an attentive congregation, all add up to a beautiful solemn ceremony. The color guard of the Worcester Police Department added a little

military touch to the ceremony. As usual it was a standing room congregation.

The memorial service at our monument was hampered by some of the worst weather imaginable. Fr. Connors opened this short ceremony followed by Ralph Witzkin, Herb Olsen, General Clark, Congressman Donohue, the mayor of Worcester, and final prayer by Fr. Rowan. Then to the Connors Coffee Shop for coffee and doughnuts.

This shop is another one of those rooms made to accomodate 200 people but 300 squeeze in somehow. Such inconvenience does not bother the ex GI when he knows his favorite is within reach.

The Saturday night hospitality demonstrated by the men and women of Immaculate is tremendous. It is hard to describe the enthusiasm of those who are at the coffee shop to serve us and of those who stayed at home to prepare the delicious food for our enjoyment. A sincere THANK YOU to the people at Immaculate.

Those attending for the first time (26 FA had two men) are at a loss for words to express their thoughts about Saturday night. Unbelievable they say. Haven't seen anything like it in all my life! You are invited to come again in 1969.

If you think that you live too far away from Worcester to attend a Memorial Mass then change your mind. Men from Columbus, Ohio, Bay City, Michigan, Chicago, Illinois and Washington, D. C. made the trip and enjoyed every minute of it.

Many other units were well represented. I hope to read some comments by other men of other units who attend this wonderful event. As Fr. Connors has set a date for 1969, why not start saving now to make 1969 the most memorable event.

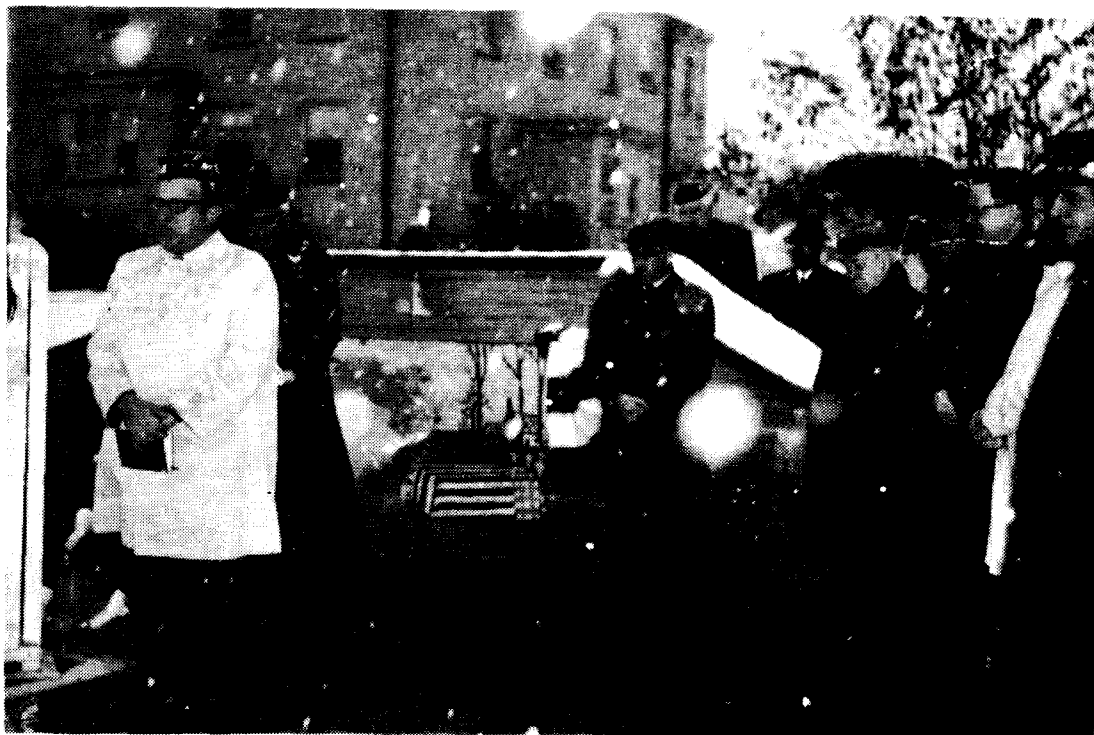
Sincerely,  
Joe McKenzie  
95 Washington Avenue  
Waltham, Mass. 02154



☆☆☆

1969 Reunion  
July 24-25-26

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



Ralph Witzken formerly with the 47th Infantry is shown offering a Jewish prayer at the Memorial Services. Although it was one of the worst days as far as the weather was concerned it did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance.

## 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.