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The Octofoil, March/April 1969

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 XXIV - Number 2

Mar - April 1969

Pittsburgh Set To Greet Ninth

Michigan Doings

Spurred on by the success of last year's Annual Reunion, the boys from the Motor City have been going all out in their efforts to make the Detroit Chapter one of the most active in the Association.

New Officers

Last February the Chapter elected new officers for the coming year. These new officers are President Elmer Wagner, Vice President Bob Rumenapp, Treasurer Joe Casey, Secretary John Bonkowski, Adjutant Bill Meadows, Chaplain Bill Phelps.

Active Secretary

It didn't take the new secretary long to get into the swing of things. As soon as he took office John began to bombard us with news items about the Detroit Chapter. He informed us that the Chapter will meet bi-monthly on a Saturday, the meetings will be held in various locations in the Detroit area.

Picnic Planned

John also clued us in on the Chapter's plans for a picnic. On Sunday, June 29th the Detroit gang will get together to enjoy a big picnic lunch at Stoney Creek Park. In conjunction with the picnic the Chapter will hold a raffle. If you haven't got your tickets, drop John a line and he will gladly send you an ample supply.

New Blood

The Detroit Chapter's efforts to bring more members into the fold are already bearing fruit. John has been in contact with Clyde W. Benton, "K" Co. 60th and hopes to sign him up. Maurice Mitchell, who first heard about the Association during last year's reunion, attended the April meeting with his wife. Unfortunately John didn't tell us what unit Maurice served with, we hope to have this information in time for the next issue of the Octofoil.

Detroit First

The Detroit Chapter has the honor of being the first Chapter to take a full page ad in the Reunion Journal. John's last letter contained a nice big fat check for \$25.00. These Detroit chaps are really on the ball, they are giving a good example to the rest of the Chapters.

Travel Talk

The proposed trip to the E.T.O. seems to have stirred up a lot of interest in the Motor City, and if that plane ever gets off the ground you can bet that a lot of seats will be occupied by boys and gals from Detroit.

"Objective 1969 - Pittsburgh"



View from the air of Pittsburgh's famous Golden Triangle. The open space in the foreground is Point State Park where the 1969 Memorial Service will be held.

Phila. Elects

The Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter recently held elections and Tony Soprano of the 15th Engineers was elected President. Also elected to serve for the next year were Victor DeCesare, 60th Inf., Vice-President, Richard Wilson, 26th F.A., Secretary, Victor Butzwinkas, 60th Inf., Treasurer.

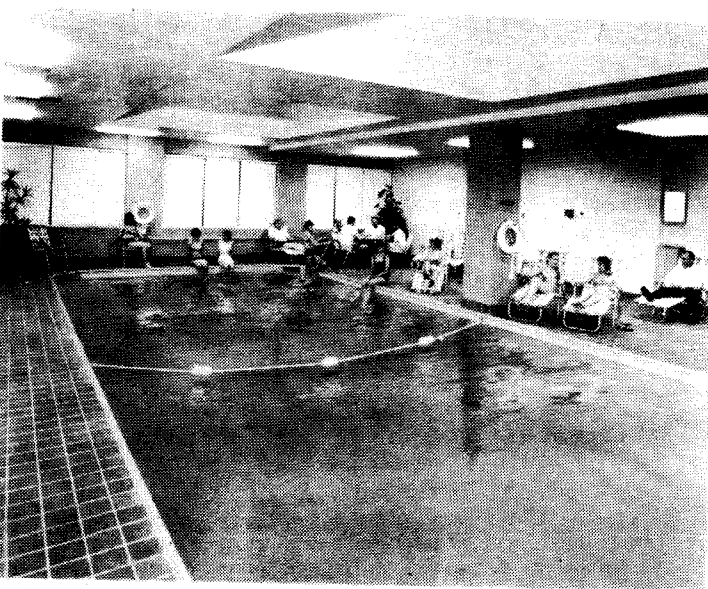
Not to be outdone by the men folks the Ladies Auxiliary held their election the same night and Anna DeCesare will head the gals as President for the coming year. Also elected with her were Fanny Sebastiano as Vice-President, Verne Soprano, Secretary, Edie Tomassone, Treasurer of the Ladies Artillery.

FORE!!!!

Hackers and duffers start packing your favorite woods and irons, the Ninth Infantry Division Golf Tournament will be held on July 24, 1969, at the Cherry Hill Country Club in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Paul Leschak has made all the arrangements and he promises that the course won't be too difficult. The golfers will meet in the Motel lobby and will tee off at 9:30 a.m.

Paul has secured some beautiful trophies for the winners. For an extra bonus he has promised to give free lessons to any Old Reliable who has trouble breaking 100.



Swimming Pool at the Chatham Center - Don't forget to bring your water wings.

General Westmoreland Will Be Guest Speaker

It's been a long time since the Ninth Infantry Division Association has visited Pittsburgh. As the old saying goes, absence makes the heart grow fonder. The Association is happy to be going to Pittsburgh, and the City Fathers are welcoming us with open arms. Everything about this reunion will be top shelf, the accommodations, the entertainment, the music, the banquet, and to top it all off we have the greatest speaker in the country, our own General William C. Westmoreland.

Headquarters

The Howard Johnson Motel at Chatham Center offers accommodations that are unequaled anywhere else in the city. The rooms are large and bright and each one offers an excellent view of Pittsburgh's skyline. Parking is no problem. The center's garage could accommodate the entire Ninth Division motor pool and still have room to spare. Parking is absolutely free, you can go in and out as often as you like, all you have to do is have your ticket checked at the hotel desk before you take your car out. The recreation facilities at the center are tops. Instead of keeping in shape by jogging around the gardens, the Old Reliabilities can get their exercise by swimming in the pool or by working out in the gym. For those who get their exercise by bending an elbow the sauna offers the perfect antidote for those morning after blues.

Dining will be easy, within the center are two fine restaurants. One a Howard Johnson offers fine meals at a modest price, the other a beautiful Red Coach Inn serves excellent fare at reasonable prices. Both restaurants have bars where you can slacken your thirst. If you want to give your feet a break by sitting down to a Hollywood thriller, all you have to do is take an elevator and ride down to the movie that is located within the center.

Reunion Program

The reunion committee has gone to great lengths to arrange a program that will be entertaining and enjoyable for all the members of the Association. The golfers will have their annual Tournament at the Cherry Hill Country Club, the women will have a tea, and the children will be able to dunk themselves in the swimming pool.

Our get together party on Thursday night will be held out-of-doors in the beautiful garden surrounding the motel. Refreshment will be served and music will be provided. Friday night we will have a dance in the beautiful ball room of the Motel. Baron Elliot will provide the music for this event.

On Saturday the Association will hold the most solemn part of the reunion, our Memorial Service. This year the service will be held at Point State Park. This park is situated at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. This picturesque location is the site of old Fort Pitt, a place that played an important part in the history of the United States.

After the Memorial Service the members will board a river boat that will be moored right at the park, and they will then enjoy a three hour sail down the Ohio River. During the sail the members will be able to rest up for the festivities that will take place on Saturday night.

Saturday evening the banquet will be held in the main ballroom of the Motel. Our guest speaker will be General William C. Westmoreland, a member of our Association. It has been a long time since we last saw the General. Shortly after our reunion at Fort Bragg he left for Vietnam.

The General's appearance at the reunion will give the Association its first opportunity to welcome the General home. We are all tremendously proud of the General and of the great job he has done. He is one of the Old Reliabilities and we are all anxiously awaiting his appearance at the reunion.

Toastmaster

The reunion committee reports just as we're going to press that Brig. General Edwin Randle, Ret., will be the Toastmaster at the Banquet on Saturday night, July 26, 1969. The General led the 47th from Fort Bragg to the end of the Tunisia Campaign, when he was promoted to Brig. General.

Make Reservations Now

The committee has done its work, the rest is up to you. Now is the time to make your reservations. Many members have told us that they will be in Pittsburgh for the reunion. Why don't you join them; make your reservations now.

THE OCTOFOIL

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

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THOMAS BOYLE, Treasurer, 39 Hull Avenue, Somerville, Mass. 02144

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1968—
John Boden, Chester, Pa.
Herbert Olsen, Randolph, Mass.
Ralph Witzken, Hillside, N.J.
Charles Tingley, Silver Spring, Md.
William Andrews, Comstock Park, Mich.

1970—
Peter Cusack, West Roxbury, Mass.
Richard Peral, 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.

Mar. -April 1969

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Board Of Governors Hold Meeting

The 91st meeting of the National Board of Governors was held at 3:25 P.M., on April 26, 1969, at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, Chatham Center, Pittsburgh, Pa., attended by Messrs.: Herbert Olsen, Ralph Witzken, Frank Ozart, Charles Jones, James Bruner, George Apar, Robert Winkleman, Richard Wilson and Past Presidents John Bonkowski, and Walter O'Keeffe, 3 Vice-President William Meadows, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, Scholarship Chairman John Clouser and Pittsburgh member Robert Buck.

The secretary then read the minutes of the 90th meeting and upon a motion duly made by Frank Ozart and seconded by George Apar it was voted to: Accept the minutes as read a place same on file.

President Olsen, in the absence of the treasurer Thomas Boyle, gave the report to the members as submitted by Boyle. Upon a motion duly made by Jim Bruner and seconded by Frank Ozart it was voted to: Accept the report as submitted.

Co-chairman Quinn, for the 1969 Reunion, gave the members a detailed report of events for the three day reunion. The details of which will be printed in the Octofoil. Upon a motion duly made by Jim Bruner and seconded by Dick Wilson it was voted to: Accept the reunion report.

Upon a motion duly made by Ralph Witzken and seconded by Richard Wilson it was voted to: Acting according to the By-laws of the association, recommend to the members at the General Meeting (reunion) that the membership dues be increased.

John Clouser Chairman of the Scholarship Committee was called upon for his report. Clouser briefed the Board members as to how the selections are made, according to the scholastic abilities and financial needs of the applicants. Twenty-one applications were received and the Committee recommends that thirteen awards be granted for a sum of \$1850.00. There are seven new names and six renewals in the list of awards. Upon a motion duly made by Jim Bruner and seconded by Robert Winkleman it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Scholarship Committee. Those selected will be notified by John Clouser and their names will be announced at the Reunion.

Ralph Witzken Chairman of the Membership Committee (Viet Nam) was called upon for his report. Upon a motion duly made by George Apar and seconded by Charles Jones it was voted: That the Board of Governors direct Ralph Witzken and his committee to take immediate action to arrange a meeting with the representatives of the New Ninth Division in this country for the purpose of exploring the possibilities of joining that Organization with our Association. Chairman Witzken requested the following members to serve with him on this committee-General Craig, John Clouser, Charles Jones, Walter O'Keeffe, President Herbert Olsen and Secretary Daniel Quinn.

President Olsen adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary



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

This Won't Happen To Us ?

H. E. Clark is the Editor-Publisher of "The Tipton Conservative" a newspaper which is published in Tipton, Iowa. He served with the 60th Infantry during World War II and is now a Colonel in the reserves. In June 1968, he took a trip to Europe and upon his return he wrote the following article for editorial page of his paper.

ON LOOKING BACK

There must be thousands of men who would like to take a couple of days and go back and look at places in Europe where they lived, trained, fought, drank and performed other soldierly functions during World War II.

Unless you have a lot of time, a remarkable memory and the ability to withstand the crumbling of illusions, don't go. It is better to remember things as you think they were.

If you insist on going - don't do it with your wife. There is nobody who cares less about where you were during 1942-45 and how you and the rest of the squad, platoon, company, battalion or regiment won the war.

But she may be more than slightly suspicious of what you did, no matter how many years it took place before you met. If you were married at the time, it is more than tempting fate to return. The discovery of a bar where you and Joe and a few others spent a night is not the sort of thing that she wants to go to Europe to see.

Nor is it likely that she has the slightest interest in comparing battle maps with the actual ground to find out how King company took Geich - even though King company did take Geich in what was considered to be a classic military maneuver. Her mind is back in the shopping district of Cologne where she saw a dress, silverware, glassware, perfume, fabrics or the cute something or other that would make a nice present.

In retrospect, the way to make the trip is to find an old buddy, drinking or otherwise, who was also there and is willing to trade lies. Then take a couple of weeks and wander through the country, finding the old C.P.'s, the objectives and the crossroads where somebody you both knew had it. Or just go by yourself and remember what it was. Because it isn't the way it was anymore.

If you insist on going back to one of the old battlefields - and the Hurtgen forest is one of the best - don't use Cologne as a base of operations. It will take about 10 per cent of your time getting from the hotel to the edge of the town and the autobahn and another 15 per cent getting from the autobahn back to the hotel. One afternoon we ended up a couple of miles short of Duesseldorf, which was just a shade shorter than her temper.

If you do stay in Cologne it is a mistake to go directly west to Dueren. It seemed like a small town in 1944 and most of it was obliterated by artillery fire and bombing.

Dueren is now a big town and only one building showed any signs of having been in a war. West of Dueren was a plain with a number of small villages. These were also obliterated. They too have been rebuilt and the entire area is in a period of rapid industrialization. A few places seem slightly familiar, but you remember them from winter and late spring makes the countryside look entirely different.

It is not the same riding down a road in winter under observed artillery fire during a war as it is 25 years later with the fields in full growth. It requires patience and time to get reoriented. It is not a part of any known marriage vow that a wife is required to drive a car

while her husband tries to remember where he was on the map that he saved from a quarter century before. Before the day is over she is certain to have serious doubts as to how the American army ever got across Europe at all if its members were so obviously incompetent at map reading.

But pieces of the Sigfried line are still intact. The names of towns are the same. The ridge lines that marked the American lines during the winter of 1944 are still there. It is obviously the same place, but it is a bit hard to prove.

The whole area is crawling with tourists. They come in cars, busses and on foot. Monchau, which is a remarkable mountain town, is the same as it was and it must have 5,000 visitors a day. Traffic on the mountain road is not easy. It might have been safer during the war.

One can return to Remagen and find the remains of the bridge. Nothing much else is the same and the street where a regimental command post had been was being rebuilt, but the great, fortresslike entrances to either end of the bridge are still there. It is not hard to remember those days after the bridge fell and a war was coming to an end.

It is not all a lost effort. When you get back home you can get out of the maps - after you have locked the door so she won't see what you are doing - and what took place more than 20 years ago becomes a bit clearer. You can think to yourself that, if there is another time, it might be interesting to go with somebody like Honest John Ryan, who was considered the most accomplished looter in the 60th Infantry and return or Slick Wilson, who led a battalion through the Hurtgen or any of a hundred others whose memories will be equally bad.



☆☆☆

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. ☐

B Co. 39th Blow-Out

For eighteen years the gang from "B" Co. 39th Inf. have been holding an informal reunion in different up-state New York communities. This year on June 13th and 14th the boys from Company "B" will gather in Elmire, N. Y. Their headquarters will be at the Tom Sawyer Motor Inn.

A few weeks ago Tom Orband attended a New York Chapter meeting and he gave us a copy of a flyer that Al Baccile sent out to all former members of "B" Co. It certainly is an attractive piece of advertising and should draw a large attendance to this annual affair.

A word of caution fellows, Elmire is the home of the New York State Reformatory. If your reunion gets out of hand the local residents might mistake it for an alumni meeting of that famous local institution. Have a good time.

PAY
1969
DUES
NOW

Tip of the Hat

Shortly after the demise of General Smythe we received a letter from Boardman Lockwood, containing a donation to the Memorial or Scholarship fund - "To the memory of a Major General George W. Smythe, USA Ret., from 1st Lt. Boardman F. Lockwood, USA R Aide-de-Camp - 1945. - There was no finer leader in the Army Roster."

Also donating to the Scholarship Fund were A. Kuczewski, James Moore, Richard Martin, John Bonkowski, Howard Heilman, Adolph Schmiesser, Robert Yoder, Stephen Urbani, and Ed Hopkins.

THE PAWNS OF WAR

by WILLIAM M. KREYE

We continued on our way and it was a short time later that we came upon the break in the wire. MATI asked me if I thought that the Germans had cut the wire but I was certain that they did not. They would have traced the wire to our outpost and we would have been wiped out. I figured that an Arab who sympathized with the Nazis had found the wire, cut it and then disappeared somewhere.

After we spliced the wire, there was no way that we could have tested it. MATI wanted to get dry clothes and I wanted to find out what happened to RAY and HARRY. Therefore, we continued on our way tracing the wire to the battalion command post. We had to pass through "B" Company positions which were protected with barbed wire. I knew where there was a passage through these defenses and when we approached, we were challenged by a guard. I gave the password but I didn't get the countersign from the guard. I inquired if we had to stand there all night or could we advance and pass through? The guard replied that he recognized my voice and he permitted us to go through. The guard had the password and countersign for the previous day and I suggested that he check and get the proper signs.

When we reached the command post, there seemed to be no one awake although there must have been guards somewhere. We couldn't find any dry clothes for MATI, however, we did locate the officer's mess. This was a room formed by a wooden frame and screened to keep the insects out. A table was prepared with what appeared to be a tablecloth with plates and utensils ready for the breakfast to come. Now comes a mystery which, no doubt, has plagued our mess sergeant DOMINGO all these years, the disappearance of a gallon can of jam and a loaf of white bread which was consumed by the Intelligence Section on that little hill in the Sedjanane Valley.

I found out that RAY and HARRY were assigned to another detail that evening and we weren't notified about it. Otherwise, the situation was very quiet except for a sneak attack on a twenty-two man outpost by the enemy which wiped it out in the mountains to our south and this was evidence that the enemy was here. The inactivity of artillery and bullets from both sides somehow made the Americans very relaxed. As we observed, to our rear, we could see many of the troops of the line companies wash themselves by pouring water into their steel helmets as they stood exposed in their white undershirts. Shortly later, there white undergarments were replaced with olive drab coloured undershirts and shorts. You surely couldn't tell if the underwear was dirty or clean. Other troops moved around too much and then it came.

I believe nothing like it ever happened before or will ever happen like it again. A German

88mm or 105mm gun began to shell all these positions which we had witnessed movement or activities by our troops. At the outpost we could not see any gun firing nor could we see any evidence of smoke that a gun was firing. We could, however, hear the projectiles sail over our heads.

Since my experiences in El Guetar and since I was the first to get the military maps to distribute to the officers in the 1st Battalion which usually consisted of sixteen issues, I always took the first one and folded it carefully and tucked it in my rear hip pocket. As I had a map and we had at least two compasses, I sent MATI to the northside of our hill in a hurry as I went to the southside. Both of us listened to the sounds of the projectiles and each of us took as an azimuth reading of where we thought the shells and sounds were coming from. Then we reassembled near the top of our hill where we inspected the map and we plotted these azimuth lines with pencil on the map with the aid of one of the compasses. Where the two lines crossed, that would be the approximate position of where the gun was firing those shells from. Then, it was a matter of studying the contour lines on the map for a good location for an enemy gun position.

While this was going on, our phone was buzzing. It was Major RATORIE calling with determination from the command post. "Where in the hell is that *&%%& gun?"

I answered the telephone and I gave him the coordinates of the crossed lines on the map adjusted to the contour location. A few minutes later, a battery of the 26th Field Artillery who were the attached supporting artillery for the 39th Infantry, fired four simultaneous rounds from four guns and they did this four times. Unfortunately, we never found out the results of this counter fire. It was hard to believe that this enemy gun was knocked out but it did stop firing even if it was only scared away. I always wondered what the enemy's reaction was to that kind of counter battery?

We were going to miss at least one man from the 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry who was killed by this enemy shelling and he was Corporal WARREN FROST. As the war communique would report, there was little or nothing of importance happening the first six days in the Sedjanane Valley. Then the word came that we would attack these mountains that laid to our immediate front.

Chapter 15 LITTLE ANTUNA & BIG

ANTUNA

Combat was very difficult upon the infantryman line soldier in all aspects. The life of this man was usually short in duration. He went into battle with the knowledge that he would be killed or wounded. If he wasn't, he had

to walk and walk or crawl through the filth. When he stopped he started to dig a foxhole and usually before he was finished, he got orders to move on because it was push, push and push on for the 9th Infantry Division, soldier. He was scared and he probably hit the ground every time a shell came his way. When he was pinned down by enemy small arms fire, he had two alternatives. To neutralize it or to slip away. He became so tired and exhausted that when his platoon moved in march formation at night, he walked along asleep on his feet. His hours of an duty were twenty-four each day and he existed upon the food and water he carried and the ammo he carried to protect himself.

There was a big difference being in the Intelligence Section as we moved and maneuvered on our own. There was usually no one on our backs to keep us moving but there was little rest if any for its personnel. It seemed that other officers despised the word "Intelligence" or was it some type of jealousy. These men in the battalion intelligence were there to help them as that was the main object of the unit to help others and to destroy the enemy.

It had been the plan for the 9th Infantry Division to attack forward and to attract as many of the enemy units to its front as possible to slow its advance. Also for the U. S. 34th Infantry to capture Hill 609 and the U. S. 1st Infantry to open a hole for the U. S. 1st Armoured Division to take Mateur while the British 1st eventually took Bizerte and MONTGOMERY's Eight Army captured Tunis. But what was to happen was a surprise. The 9th Infantry Division not only surprised the Krauts but it surprised General OMAR BRADLEY as well.

The courage or the valor of a soldier can be best measured in reference to a stretched rubber band. Some rubber bands almost last forever, some break instantly, others break after a time. The nerves, the tension, the durability and the strain on the soldier could be broken as he was not a machine but still a human being although he was trained into what commanders hoped to be a machine. A soldier could have been the roughest, toughest two-fisted character while he was in garrison but as soon as he was under fire, it seemed the rubber band snapped quickly. Likewise, the quiet, mild tempered, nontalkative individual seemed to go on forever. But this was not always the case and there were many variations. When the rubber band snapped, it was referred to as "battle fatigue."

The 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry went into attack and it fought fiercely as they advanced up Djebel Ainhouna (Little Antuna). MATI, STANLEY CABAN, BILL SOLLIDAY and Lt. STANTON were with the forward command post. We were using two command posts, one forward on the front

line advancing with the assault troops and the other one rear about five hundred yards. I happened to be at the rear command post when they needed a second British type number 46 radio up at the forward command post.

I volunteered to take it up forward and I figured I would drop it off up there and then return. I left most of my equipment behind as these radios weren't too light for carrying. I did take my rifle and ammo belt but I had no pack nor field jacket. When I reached the forward command post, it was located about a hundred yards from the top of the hill. It was getting dark as I handed over the radio to communications but Lt. STANTON insisted I stay forward with them.

Colonel CHETHAM asked Captain BELL, commander of "D" Company, "How many pounds of 81mm mortar ammo do you have?"

BELL replied, "44 rounds, Sir."

It appeared that the ammunition shortage was due to the fact that the personnel bringing up the supplies were those men over the forty-four year old group. These men were later discharged from infantry service if they were still alive. However, there were other opinions on this matter such as commanders using up ammunition carelessly and wastefully and the supplies diminished.

CHETHAM ordered BELL to fire these forty-four rounds of mortars on top of the hill over a fifteen minute interval. After this light barrage the assault companies would try to take the crest of the hill. After the forty-four rounds were fired to soften up the enemy, the Germans retaliated with mortar and artillery which delayed the attack. The enemy bombardment continued for almost twelve hours until the next morning. I ducked between two rocks and I could see the dull glow on the tips of the projectiles as they descended to earth as if some of them were going to land on my head. Some of the shells hit the side of the hill and they didn't explode. They slid through the grass making a whistling sound. This terrain was very different from El Guetar, it was very green like any state in the eastern part of the United States. It was a very, very cold night that I spent between those rocks even though the temperatures dropped about twenty to thirty degrees at night down to seventy or eighty degrees Fahrenheit.

At dawn, the 1st Battalion attacked and advanced forward to take the top of the hill and then proceed to advance along a plateau toward Big Antuna. Big Antuna probably known as Hill 432 naturally was taller than the hill just taken. All of us were advancing along this plateau as a very heavy mist presided. The mist began to lift and were suddenly pinned down by the cross-fire of two rapid firing weapons. BILL SOLLIDAY and I took cover in a slight draw on the southern slope of the ridge. CABAN and MATI were in a similar draw just a few yards in front of us. The rest of the personnel of the command post were up above us on the plateau.

To the south in the valley, a German 105mm self-propelled gun started to pump shells in at us. I heard the report of the gun and the bursts of the shells at precisely the same time. The shells were landing amongst the personnel on the plateau. The effect of this action caused casualties by the score. Major RATORIE, Captain BELL and Lt. STANTON were killed. Other casualties were Colonel CHETHAM, Captain TERRELL and many others.

Speaking for myself and I believe as well for MATI, CABAN and SOLLIDAY, I didn't worry too much about the small arms fire as we seemed to be momentarily safe from its fire but this gun action was hair-raising. Then after minutes which seemed like hours, the gun stopped firing. The Germans started to counter-attack along the plateau. MATI and CABAN had one of those British number 46 radios in their possession. They opened their radio and they contacted the 26th Field Artillery which was very fortunate. They gave the location of our own positions. The first volleys of the American shells were long as they descended over our heads but they landed into the on-rushing Germans. Quickly, a cease fire was asked as we would surely get the next bombardment or the one after. The Germans changed their minds about continuing or following up their counter-attack after that greeting.

Captain CONRAD ANDERSON, now the senior officer in the 1st Battalion, 39th, took over command. The 1st Battalion secured position and the 3rd Battalion by-passed the 1st to resume the attack. Our company rosters revealed about three hundred men available in the 1st Battalion. The approximate strength of a company was about two hundred, a battalion about fifteen hundred, a regiment about forty-five hundred and between nine thousand to fifteen thousand for an infantry division under normal circumstances.

Colonel RITTER had just taken over regimental command, relieving Colonel BROWN. He arrived with a sixteen man body guard to see ANDERSON. After a few exchanges of conversation, he wanted to get to our 2nd Battalion which was fighting to our south on another ridge of hills. CONRAD appointed me as RITTER's guide. When we arrived the 2nd had just finished an assault and they were digging in for the night. RITTER didn't like the idea that the enemy still occupied a certain hill in front of "E" Company. He ordered "E" Company to attack and take it over.

I witnessed the battle from a grandstand seat, from an outpost of the 157mm guns of the 34th Field Artillery Battalion. It seemed that the 34th didn't have any assigned targets to shoot at but they did fire one round. An enemy soldier stuck his head over the top of a forward adjacent hill. The artillery observer corporal directed this one shell at that Deutchman. The shell was too long as it sailed over that hill and it probably landed in a valley beyond. There was a big explosion and huge quantities of smoke. It seemed that the shell hit some kind of an ammunition dump behind that hill.

After "E" Company secured that objective, I returned RITTER and his group back to the 1st Battalion command post. They continued on their way to regiment. The days ahead would be patrol after patrol for the Intelligence Section while it was push, push and move forward for the entire 9th Infantry Division.

(continued next issue)

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

Editor's Note - During World War II General Barth served as C/S of the Ninth Infantry Division. His many months in combat taught him that it takes more than good equipment and plentiful supplies to make a great Division.

To become great a division must have within its ranks men who are dedicated. Both the men who give the orders and the men who follow those orders must be willing to put the Division's welfare above their own. General Barth believes that the Ninth Infantry Division has such men. He has written the following story about some of the men who made the Ninth Division great.

THE OCTOFOIL COMES OF AGE IN WORLD WAR II (By Maj. Gen. G. B. Barth (Ret) formerly C/S 9th Inf. Div.)

Recently, one of the finest leaders of the 9th Inf. Div. in W. W. II, Maj. Gen. George W. Smythe (Ret) died suddenly. I had served with him during the formative days of the 9th in North Africa, Sicily, England and in the early days of the fighting in Normandy where he commanded the 47th Inf. As I began to write the story of George Smythe, I remembered that there were a number of other strong commanders whose inspired leadership had helped make the 9th Division into one of the finest combat units of the American Army in W. W. II. Therefore, I decided to enlarge my article to show how the Division 'Came of age' in W. W. II. It didn't just happen overnight but took months of hard work, training, and above all, the efforts of strong leaders who earned the respect and admiration of their men.

Operation 'Torch' & Gen. Patton's Landing in North Africa.

The Western Task Force invaded French Morocco on Nov. 8, 1942. It consisted of the 3rd Inf. Div., the 2nd Armored Div., The 47th and 60 Regt. Combat Teams of the 9th Inf. Div., Headquarters & Supply units of the First Armored Corps and the Atlantic Base Section (SOS) Commanded by Brig. Gen. Arthur R. Wilson.

The 9th Inf. Div. was first activated in 1940 and had received intensive training in the United States but, as a division, it was new and untried. All three regiments were taken from it and the headquarters and divisional units were left behind and were not to land at Casablanca until about D plus 60 days. This, of course, was a great blow to its commander, Maj. Gen. Manton Eddy, and delayed the entry of the full division into combat for several months.

The 39th Inf. Regimental Combat Team was shipped to England and finally landed near Algiers under British control. After a successful landing against light resistance, the 39th was broken up and scattered as line of communications troops during the Allied race for Tunis that failed in late December 1942. The 39th was not assembled as a regiment until March of 1943. Prior to this, it had been fed into combat piecemeal at the time of Rommel's attack at the Kasserine Pass and was severely crippled.

Task Force Goalpost The 60th Rct. lands at Port Lyautey

The 60th RCT (Col. Fred de Rowan) was the infantry element of Task Force Goalpost, commanded by Brig. Gen. Lucien K. Truscott. The objective was the speedy capture of Port Lyautey with its vital airport. About 50 P-40s had to be landed on the airport from the Carrier Chinango, a part of the Task Force, and more planes were scheduled to fly in on Nov. 11th from Gibraltar.

From the start things went wrong. The battalion with the mission of quick capture of the airport was landed about six miles north of its planned beach. Similarly, the battalion due to land at Blue and Yellow Beaches to the south, was landed at a single unmarked beach several thousand yards north of Blue Beach. All plans for movement on shore had to be changed and, in the dark and on strange terrain, much confusion resulted. Gen. Truscott came ashore early and his drive and leadership helped materially in getting hold of the confused troops. However, the final actions that resulted in the successful accomplishment of the task force mission by daylight Nov. 11th, were taken by young battalion commanders, junior officers, and often by non-commissioned officers. Col. de Rohan personally led the force that stormed the Kasbah. A tank and artillery pieces destroyed the

gates and a dive bomber attack by planes of the task force allowed the troops to assault and capture the fort. This broke the resistance of the defense and, in a few hours, the entire city was in our hands.

The Port Lyautey landing was touch and go from the very beginning. The troops were in their first combat operation and were very green. Time allowed for rehearsal and shake-down with the Navy was inadequate but the recovery of the 60th Regt. Combat Team, once ashore, the determination and initiative of its subordinate leaders of all ranks when faced by changed plans after the troops were ashore, showed a leadership potential within the Combat Team that boded well for its future development.

Task Force Blackstone- The 47th Regt. Combat Team lands at Safi

The landing at Safi by Task Force Blackstone, commanded by Maj. Gen. Ernest N. Harmon, consisting of the bulk of the 2nd Armored Division with the 47th Regt. Combat Team (Col. Edwin H. Randle) as its infantry element, was a near perfect performance! It was a daring venture, involving the landing of K and L companies of the 47th Infantry from the destroyers Cole and Barnidou at piers inside the harbor of Safi at H hour. Shortly after the infantry from the destroyers went ashore, two battalions of the 47th Infantry were landed over beaches nearby. Col. Randle, in a scout landing craft came in with a small staff, landed at the pier, where the destroyers were and set up his headquarters. When his battalions landed he was there and soon had them moving inland. One outfit 'froze' for a time when fired on but Randle got them started by using his voice. At daylight the big guns of the Battleship New York put out of action a battery of heavy guns inside the harbor. Several batteries of artillery or single guns were either knocked out by naval gunfire or captured by infantry assault. By 1400 he had the town. General Harmon had come ashore and decided to start unloading the tanks immediately. The destroyers were replaced by the sea Train Titania and later the Lakehurst. Tank unloading continued during the night of 8-9 Nov. The Titania, carrying the light tanks of Brig. Gen. Hugh Gaffey's sub-task force, unloaded first. The force took up a position at Bou Querda, a town about 15 miles east of Safi on the highway to Marrakech to protect the landing force from attack by the French division stationed at Marrakech. On Nov. 9th planes from the Carrier Santee strafed the head of a French column just east of Bou Querda. Later two more columns coming from Marrakech were strafed and planes from the Santee attacked the Marrakech airfield, destroying forty planes on the ground and setting one of the hangars afire. The next day air reconnaissance disclosed the



Colonel Edwin H. Randle, Commanding Officer 47th Infantry Regiment, is shown with Colonel George B. Barth (on the left) Chief of Staff for Division in North Africa.

Marrakech Division taking up a defensive position in the hills about forty miles east of Safi. Gen. Harmon's main mission was to get north to Casablanca to assist in a coordinated attack on that city, if necessary. Therefore, at 0900 on Nov. 10th, the 2nd Armored Division started moving north. The next day brought the French cease fire in Morocco with Harmon fifty miles south of Casablanca but in a position to take part in a coordinated attack later that day if the French had not given up. Gen. Harmon, knowing that the force at Marrakech had lost most of their planes and considerable motor transportation, assumed that it would go on the defense and wait for the expected cease fire and that Col. Randle's force no longer needed his tanks. Gen. Harmon was right. The mission was over and the 47th R.C.T. was on its own.

The Regiment had come through its first combat assignment with flying colors. WHY? I believe there were four reasons. FIRST - The training of the regiment long before it went into action. Col. Randle was determined to make his 47th the finest regiment in the Division. He was fiercely proud of the 47th Infantry. He was a hard task-master and a real disciplinarian, not the spit and polish kind, but rather the sort that demands soldierly-ness, cleanliness, exact obedience to orders and staying power when the going is rough. He was fortunate in having time to train his regiment and to absorb from a great soldier, Gen. 'Sandy' Patch who was his first colonel, many of the qualities and techniques of true leadership that can not be gleaned from books. Randle was rough but, I believe that he was fair in his dealings with those under him - They knew that he would go to bat for them higher-up if they showed intelligence and initiative. He taught his young officers to care for their men and to assume responsibility. He hated poor performance and his blistering comments made the recipient remember his mistake and try to do better. Somehow, he was able to transmit to this officers and men the same fierce pride in the 47th Inf. that he had - They were proud of themselves and of the regiment.

SECOND - Communications. This is always a vital factor in any attack, particularly the first. Col. Randle and his leaders on shore were 'on top of the situation' every minute. Either by voice, wire or radio they 'communicated.' The men knew that they had leaders and were not drifting into danger without help or guidance.

THIRD - The outstanding performance of the Navy. Every landing was made on the proper beach at the desired time. The mission of the Task Force was the early capture of Safi to prevent enemy destruction of the commercial docks and electric cranes, and the unloading of the tanks of the 2nd Armored Div. Gen. Patton had instructed Gen. Harmon to get ashore with his armor and move to Casablanca as soon as possible. Rear Admiral Davidson was in command of the Task Force until the landing had been made and the army commander on shore was ready to take over. The two staffs worked together on the planning and the execution while afloat. Admiral Davidson and his staff were most efficient and cooperative. The movement of the Destroyers Cole and Barnadou to land assault companies of the 47th Inf. on the docks inside the harbor must have either been suggested by the Navy planners or at least had their approval. It seemed to follow the Naval tradition of the days of Adm. Farragut in the Civil War - 'Full speed ahead and damn the torpedoes.' It really paid off. For a time the Cole and Barnadou drew small arms and artillery fire at close range but responded with telling effect with their own guns.

There was considerable trouble loading and forming the landing waves, due to the green army troops, but the Navy got the job done on time. They also put out a fire on the Transport Dix caused by exploding ammunition in a landing craft. The troops on the Dix were landed at the desired beach only two hours behind schedule.

Much credit is due the Navy for its highly effective support by naval gun fire on hostile artillery. A sea coast battery of 130 mm. guns located at Point de La Tour was silenced by the guns of the Battleship New York early in the action. The

planes from the Carrier Santee not only destroyed 40 aircraft on the Marrakech airport but also strafed several motorized columns of troops headed for Safi. FOURTH - The actions of the commander of the assault force. This, I consider, the most important factor of all. Col. Randle landed from a scout landing craft at the Municipal pier of Safi just after the Cole and Barnadou had landed K & L Cos. He could have waited for several hours on the command ship and trusted to his battalion commanders to meet the problems that were bound to come up in the first few minutes after getting ashore but, instead, he came in early and set up his command post under fire on the dock at Safi. He was the leader of a force with a desperate mission; the quick capture of Safi with its docks and electric cranes before the French had time to counterattack. Those docks were the only place in Morocco where medium tanks could be unloaded except in the port of Casablanca itself and that had been ruled out as not practical. If the attack on Safi failed, or was unduly prolonged, General Patton would be deprived of the use of his 2nd Armored Division and its tanks in the final attack at Casablanca and at that time it looked as though the French might elect to fight rather than give up as they did. The vital early action was in Safi; that's where his leadership and drive were needed early in the action and that's where he went! Many small things went wrong but his presence probably steadied his whole force. A leader doesn't command the loyalty of his men - he EARNs it. I think that Col. Randle did just that on Nov. 8th, 1942 and that, from that time on, the 47th Infantry became the first regiment of the 9th Inf. Div. that could be classed as "steady" in combat.

The 9th Infantry Division Concentrates in Algeria and Moves to Tunisia

By the time that General Eddy landed in Casablanca with his headquarters and service troops that had been left in the U. S. during Gen. Patton's part of Operation Torch much had happened in North Africa. In late October, General Bernard Montgomery's Eighth British Army attacked Rommel's Africa Corps and an Italian Army at El Alamein. After a ten days slugging match, the British finally broke out and achieved a complete victory. The German and Italian forces were streaming west pursued by the British. The retreat covered over fifteen hundred miles and Gen. Montgomery's forces were closing in on the strongly fortified positions of the Mareth Line on the eastern border of Tunisia.

From Algiers and Bone the Allied First Army had lost the race for Tunis being stopped just twelve miles west of that city.

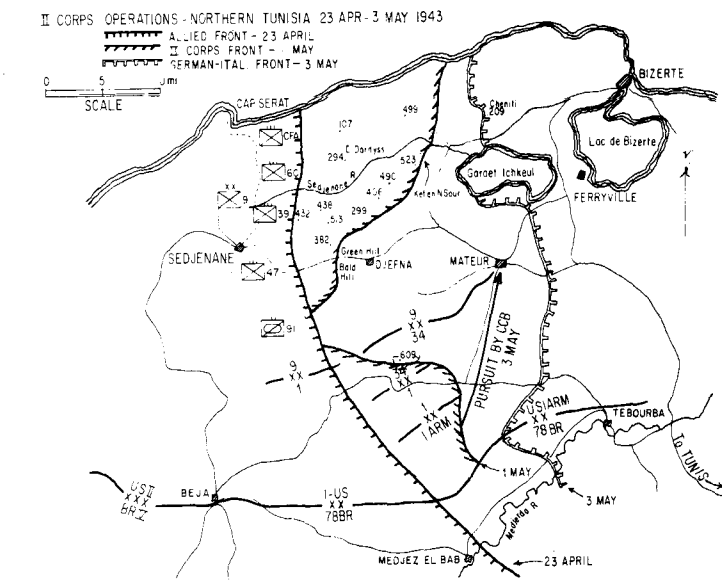
On Christmas Day of 1942, General Eisenhower made the decision to go on the defensive until spring. Much fighting took place while forces were sorted out; British troops being concentrated on the northern part of the front as the First British Army, commanded by Lt. Gen. Anderson while American forces concentrated in the south under II Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Lloyd R. Fredendall. The French forces, still fighting with World War I obsolete equipment, were formed into the French XIX Corps and attached to the American II Corps. The remainder of the French Army was slowly being modernized and trained in Algeria.

The Casablanca Conference, attended by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill and their staffs, took place from Jan. 20-24. Here the two leaders covered broad strategic policies concerning the prosecution of the war in the Mediterranean and elsewhere. The invasion of Sicily was

planned and the date for the assault and the forces and commanders involved were firmed up. One of the most far-reaching misconceptions of the war was made at the final press conference when the President and the Prime Minister announced to the world that peace terms for any nation at war with the Allies would be 'unconditional surrender.' This term meant different things to different nations. To the Allies it meant that flexibility of exact terms of surrender was maintained - The Allies would dictate the terms without allowing the defeated enemy any chance for argument or bargaining. It did NOT mean that our terms would visit more suffering on the populations of conquered nations than was absolutely necessary. We expected to assist nations in eventual post war recovery. To the German's and particularly to Hitler, the term indicated a harsh peace with revenge as its prime motivation. By Sept. 15th, 1944, the Russians were at the gates of Germany in the east; the Western Allies had broken out of Normandy and were at the borders of the Reich; Italy had surrendered; Rome had been captured and the Germans driven far to the north almost to the Po River. The Nazis had suffered over two million military casualties. Germany was being bombed; Gen. Montgomery's Eighth British Army and its Desert Air Force was to become a part of Gen. Alexander's 18th Army Group upon crossing the southern border of Tunisia.

The 9th Gets a New Chief of Staff

When Gen. Eddy came through Casablanca he told me that Col. Sam Gibson was being transferred to Allied Force Headquarters in Algiers and asked me to be his chief of staff. Of course, I accepted and when the 9th began concentrating in Algeria I waited impatiently for my orders. They came on March 24th. My commander, Brig. Gen. A. R. Wilson of Atlantic Base Section had a policy of not standing in the way of any officer who was called for by a combat division so he released



me at once. I was commanding the 2nd Replacement Depot and turned over command that day. Early the next day I got a place on a plane bound for Oran. Luck with plans arrangements got me two more plane rides at Oran and Algiers going east and I was in Constantine by evening. There an old friend, Col. Arthur Pence, Commander of the Eastern Base Section, agreed to send me forward to II Corps Headquarters at Fariana in the morning. I told him I was in a hurry and he finally agreed to send me forward in a command car at once. We traveled in blackout, arriving at II Corps command post about two in the morning. Everyone was asleep but an M.P. on duty showed me where Gen. Patton's mess was. Breakfast was at 0630 he said. There were no beds so I unrolled by bedding roll and went to sleep on Gen. Patton's mess table. Before six in the morning I was waked up and thrown off my table by the irate sergeant who ran the General's mess. The General and his staff were there at 0630 sharp. After breakfast I asked for a jeep to take me to the 9th Div. C.P. which was in the oasis east of El Guettar. I finished my trip at about ten a.m., having come a distance of about 1500 miles in 26 hours! I think Gen. Eddy was glad to see

me. Col. Gibson had already left for Algiers and General Stroh was away somewhere so he was alone. He had been in a traffic accident, was limping and using a cane. He handed me a map with some notes written along one margin; gave me the II Corps Field order and overlay and said, 'Here, get out the division attack order. I'm going to turn in to the field hospital at Gafsa and get this leg worked on today - see you at supper at our c.p.'

General Situation Just Before the Start of the Battle of El Guettar

To understand what happened at El Guettar it is necessary to consider events both before and during the battle that were happening on other fronts.

The official history (Northwest Africa-Mediterranean Theater of Operations) indicates that the mission of the II American Corps for the campaign was defensive, requiring the capture of Hill mass 369 extending on both sides of the Gafsa-Gabes Road but not allowing the Americans to move east of that line. The plan for the exploitation by the Eighth British Army after winning the Battle of the Mareth Line, envisaged the pursuit of the defeated Germans by three British army corps moving north up the coast and capturing Gabes, Sfax and finally Enfidaville. This defensive mission was probably unpalatable to the aggressive spirit of Gen. Patton who hoped that an armored breakthrough might be accomplished either at Macknassy or El Guettar early enough to cripple the German rear before the decisive stage of the Mareth Line battle took place. Such an armored breakthrough by the Americans was never intended or desired by Gen. Alexander, C. G. of the 18th Army Group. On 17 March, the American 1st Infantry Div. re-occupied Gafsa and pushed on to engage the Italian defensive position east of El Guettar. Torrential rains stopped all operations until 20-21 March when the 1st Div. attacked and drove the enemy back to Hill mass 369 where strong defensive prepared positions were occupied. Darby's Rangers occupied Hill 772. (This hill became a vital objective later in the attack of the 9th Division.) Realizing that the 1st Division, alone, could not cover the wide valley east of El Guettar and also fearing an armored counter attack down the valley towards Gafsa, the II Corps released the 9th Inf. Div. from corps reserve on 24 March and ordered it to move at once to El Guettar to relieve troops of the 1st Div. south of the Gafsa-Gabes road. The combined attack of the 1st and 9th Divs. was initially set for 27th March but was set back one day to allow the 9th Div. to get into position.

(continued next issue)

Harry O's Report

Harry Orenstein, the New York Chapter's Boswell, wears two hats. He not only keeps us informed on the activities of the New York Chapter but he also acts as corresponding secretary for the Ninth Q.M. Harry always makes sure that the editors of the Octofoil are kept posted on the doings of the New Yorkers and the Quartermasters.

New York Doings
Covering the New York Scene Harry reports that the Chapter had a very successful April meeting. It was held in a suite at the Commodore Hotel and was dedicated to the Past Presidents of the Chapter. The members honored their past Presidents by turning out in large numbers. In fact the gathering was so large and amiable President Joe Uschak decided to make the business portion of the meeting very brief. This permitted the members to give their undivided attention to the food and drink that was prepared by Jack Scully and Ralph Witzkin. Harry was so impressed by the job they had done that he bestowed upon them the title "Connoisseurs of Edibles". No two men are more deserving of this honor. Jack's waistline proves the validity of Harry's statement, and Dan Quinn will attest to the fact that when it comes to dining Ralph has a most discriminating palate.

Happy Birthday
Although the party was intended originally as a tribute to the Chapter's Past Presidents, it turned into a birthday party when the members found out that Mr. Michael McInerney was celebrating his birthday. Mr. McInerney, a Gold Star Parent, has been a loyal member of the New York Chapter for many, many years. His presence at our meeting has always been an inspiration to all of us. We hope that he will be able to attend our meetings for many, many more years to come.

Past Presidents
The following Past Presidents showed up to receive the accolades of their comrades, Frank Faxio, Irving Feinberg, Mike Gatto, Vincent Guglielmino, Emil Langer, Dan Quinn, Walter O'Keeffe, Harry Orenstein, Art Schmidt, Max Urmansky, and Ralph Witzkin.

Coming Events
On May 24th, 1969, the Chapter will attend a Memorial Mass at Father DeLaura's Church. After Mass the members will visit Pinelawn National to decorate the graves of Ninth Division men who are interred there.

On June 8th the Chapter will hold its Annual Picnic. Details for this affair are being handled by Frank Faxio and our two "Connoisseurs of Edibles". These gentlemen have promised to make this picnic a memorable one.

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



Louis Difolco looks just as good in blue as he did in ODS, while with the 1st Bn. 47th Inf.

Q. M. Notes

Several offspring of Q.M. men have received Ninth Division Scholarships. Harry had the pleasure of reporting that these young people are doing very well in their chosen fields. Pam Webster, daughter of Allen Webster has graduated from Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing and is now working as a Graduate Nurse.

Sue Swanson, daughter of the late George Swanson, is now doing graduate work at the University of Wyoming. She has received an Assistantship and intends to go into teaching when she leaves the University. It is gratifying to know that the Association was able to play a small part in helping them achieve their goals.

Don Webster writes that he and Ray Dreifus are hoping that they can attend the Reunion in Pittsburgh. Harry is looking forward to seeing them.

CORRECTION

Last issue we printed a letter that we received from Miss Doris Tepper, and we gave her new address. Some how or other we managed to misspell the street name and also gave an incorrect ZIP Code. So here is Miss Tepper's correct address, 1626 Poinsettia Pl., Los Angeles, Calif. 90046.

TRIP TO THE E.T.O.

Looks Good

According to the mail your secretary received regarding the trip to the E.T.O. by our members, it looks as though we will be chartering our own Aeroplane for the trip. Letters keep arriving every day asking for rates, etc. The Itinerary we promise to publish in the next issue of the Octofoil, with the rates. Right now we are banging heads whether to have a two or three week tour.

The plans should be finalized before the reunion and presented to the membership at the Pittsburgh reunion.

We don't believe the story by H. E. Clark in another section of this issue will affect the old timers of the Ninth for we should have enough company on this trip that will look up some "old C.P." just in case the gals don't want to come along and would rather go shopping in Paris or Berlin.

Drop A Line

Former Chaplain Kines of the 39th Infantry is resting up in Lake Orion, Michigan and writes he hopes to be able to attend the reunion for he really wants to see and talk with Westy (General Westmoreland). The good Chaplain has asked for all information on the reunion. Meanwhile how's about dropping him a line at the Guest House Sanatorium, Lake Orion, Michigan 48058.

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 60018.

MAIL CALL

A few years ago Perry Como had a TV show on which he sang songs requested by his listeners. The opening line of his theme song went, "We get letters, we get beaucoup letters." The editors of the Octofoil are thinking of adopting Perry's theme as our own. We get plenty of letters and they are all appreciated. Here are a few samples from this month's batch.

John Moore
1st Bn. 60th Inf.
Bradenton, Fla.

The Octofoil keeps coming through in good fashion, and serves always to remind me of the good old days with the Ninth, and occasionally has in it the name of someone I soldiered with in those long gone days.

Heard from Travis Muirhead, my old First Sergeant of "A" 60th Inf. just a short time back. He has progressed very nicely in the F.B.I. since leaving the service, and is now one of their supervisors, and is living in Oklahoma City. He has a nice growing family, but unfortunately lost his fine wife last year.

Myself, I am doing fine. Thought I might be able to look up some of my old buddies on my trip north last summer, but was taken ill upon my arrival in Syracuse, N.Y., and was hospitalized for over eight weeks. A couple of operations took care of matters, but did sort of spoil the vacation. Incidentally, I have nothing but praise for the care I received in the V.A. Hospital there; the doctors, nurses, and all personnel were just wonderful. Kindest regards to everyone, and the very best wishes for a grand year in 1969.

John Brandi
Tiltnsville, Ohio

John sent along his 1969 dues and said that he intends to be in Pittsburgh for the Reunion. If any of John's buddies are looking for him you will know where to find him come July.

The late General Smythe was always a faithful contributor to the Octofoil, whenever he had some news about a Ninth Division man he always sent it along to us. The following notes were taken from one of his last letters that he sent to the Octofoil.

Chippy Maness who commanded the 2nd Bn. 47th for a long time has been promoted to Brigadier General in the Army. "I attended his promotion party and both he and his wife were most charming hosts.

"Randy Bryant, who was the S-2 of the 47th for most of the war is now attached to the U.S. Embassy in Saigon on a special assignment.

"Justin W. Stoll, Brig. General USA Ret., is living in the Washington area. He commanded the 84th F.A. Bn. the unit which supported the 47th Inf. He is associated with the Research Analysis Corp. in Virginia.

"John G. Schermerhorn, Brig. General USA, Ret., who was Division Engineer for a long time is also located in the Washington area.

"James D. Brammer, who served in the 47th for practically the whole war is located in Silver Springs, Md."

John T. Weber
Quincy, Mass

John sent in his dues and at the same time told us that he is interested in making the trip to Europe. The travel bug must really have got to John, he also wants to make a trip to North Africa.

Ernie "Pop" Long
Medics - 3rd Bn 47th
Cleveland, Ohio

"Pop" seems to be in tip-top shape and he had this to say.

We haven't been able to make the reunion, for the last few years. It seems that the dates always conflicted with some other plans.

Have made four trips to Vegas. I always go loaded and come home broke, one of these days I am going to hit it big. Maybe I don't win any money but we have a heck of a good time.

We will surely try to make Pittsburgh this year, it is only a two and a half hour drive from Cleveland.

George Berday
47th Inf.

Everything is going fine with Ruth and I. It was sure a great shock the day I picked up the paper and saw the news about General Smythe. I guess it hit everyone hard. I couldn't get to the funeral as I had to be at Walter Reed that day.

Best regards to all, hope to see you in Pittsburgh.

Sheldon B. Stoddard
Hq. 34th F.A.
Fayetteville, N.C.

I am back at Fort Bragg after a 13 month tour in Korea with the 2nd Inf. Division. At present I am with the A G Section of the 82nd Airborne Division.

It feels great to be back in the States and especially being assigned at Bragg again. This is

my fifth tour of duty here at Bragg.

Very best wishes to all the Old Reliables.

Henry R. Santos
"A" Co. 15th Engineers
Lincoln, R.I.

Henry brought us up to date on his new address. His old address was on a main road with a bad curve. This road seemed to have an attraction for drag racers and the many resultant accidents in his front yard forced Henry to seek peace and quiet in a new location.

Henry hopes to be at the Pittsburgh Reunion and he also likes the idea of the trip to Europe.

Louis C. DiFolco
"A" Co. 47th Inf.
Chappaqua, N. Y.

Lou informs us that he is still in the service but not in the Army. He has been a Policeman for nineteen years in the Town of New Castle, Chappaqua, N. Y. Lou proudly informs us that Chappaqua, and not Pleasantville, is the home of the Reader's Digest. Lou sent us a picture which we will try to print in another part of the paper. After looking at the picture we are convinced that the Old Reliable always look good in uniform.

Joe Rappazini
"K" Co. 60th Inf
Oak Park, Mich.

Joe sends his best regards to all his old buddies and he writes that with each passing year he cherishes more and more the fond memories associated with the Ninth, its personnel, its record, and its contribution to security and peace in the world.

Brigadier General Frank
L. Gunn

Enclosed is a money order for my membership in the 9th Infantry Division Association for 1969. It is indeed an honor to belong to such a fine association.

Furthermore, I want to thank you for the kind words written about me in the Nov-Dec edition of The Octofoil. I was proud to serve with the 9th Division in World War II and I am equally proud now.

Best wishes to you and the Association in 1969.

Richard Schafer
Martinsburgh, W. Virginia

Dick is in the V.A. Center at Martinsburg, W. Va. He has just received his copy of "Eight Stars To Victory" and he believes that he has gotten a real bargain. Two other Ninth men are in the center and Dick intends to let them read the history when he finishes it. Apparently the people at the V.A. center have heard of the Ninth because Dick writes that several people have told him that the Ninth was the best Division in the E.T.O.

I am extremely sorry that I am late in paying my dues. From March 1968 through February 1969 has been a very trying period for us; however, we are hoping for better days ahead. My brother Glen, passed away last March 3rd and then on December 3, 1968 my mother-in-law became critically ill and was hospitalized. From then on it was a round the clock vigil until she too passed away on January 31, 1969.

Mr. Quinn, please print our apologies to our many Association friends for our lack of Christmas correspondence this year. It was an impossibility to get our Greeting Cards in the mail and we were most grateful for the many beautiful greetings received. We still love each and everyone of them and hope to be at the Reunion this year. We are especially interested in the overseas trip in the making

Joe & Dorothy Mowery
9th M.P.

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

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

Taps Sounded

Once again we have received the sad news that two other members have passed away. John Korobko, 2nd Bn. 47th Inf., died in Tucson, Ariz. For many years John had been an active member of the Detroit Chapter. A few years ago he moved to Tucson for health reasons but he always kept in touch with the boys in Detroit. It was a sad farewell when we said goodbye to John at the Detroit reunion for he had told us of his condition and that his time was running out.

To his wife, Marie, we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

While reading our local paper we learned of the demise of Howard Wise, G Co. 60th Inf., but it was too late for us to make plans to attend his funeral. Howard lived a few miles from the Quinn dwelling. To his family may we offer our deepest regrets.

On January 21, 1969, funeral services, with full military honors, were held for General Smythe. Religious Services were held in the Ft. Myer Chapel which is adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery where General Smythe was interred.

As is well known, General Smythe was the beloved Commander of the 47th Infantry Regiment during the Ninth Division's campaigns in Europe during World War II.

General Smythe's last rites were attended by a large number of mourners led by his wife and son. Among the mourners were Charles Tingley, Salvatore Trapani, Anthony Chaconas, and Harrison Daysh, members of the Washington Chapter who were representing the National Association at the funeral. A suitable floral tribute in the form of a Octofoil was provided by the Washington Chapter.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

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Singles	\$14.00
Twins	\$18.00
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FREE PARKING - FREE ICE - FAMILY PLAN

LAST CALL

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.

This year's reunion promises to be an A-1 affair and it should have an A-1 Journal. Let's all get together and make the Journal a huge success.

The pages of the Journal are the perfect place for that message you want to send to your old buddies. Having your name listed among the Boosters is one way of letting your friends know that you are still around and kicking.

So, why not fill out the application for a Journal ad or Booster and send it to the Committee. By doing so you will be letting the world know that you are proud to be numbered among the "Old Reliables."

The deadline for these ads will be around June 20th but please don't wait till the last minute if you intend to be part of the "team" and take an "ad" or booster.

1969 Reunion
July 24-25-26
Pittsburgh

PAY
1969
DUES
NOW

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

CityState

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.