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The Octofoil, July/August 1969

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Volume XXIV Number 4

July - August 1969

REUNION A SUCCESS



Father Kines conducts Memorial Service at Point State Park.

Unsung Heroes

We all know of instances where men performed heroic actions during battle but afterwards when things returned to normal their fears were forgotten and they went unrewarded.

A similar situation occurred at the recent reunion. The 1969 Reunion was run by the National Association; however, members from almost every chapter assisted in making it a huge success.

Unfortunately during the hustle and bustle on Saturday night they were forgotten and did not receive the public recognition they so richly deserved. So we want to take this opportunity to thank them for the assistance they gave to the National Committee.

HARD WORKERS

Paul Leschak arranged the golf tournament, he selected the course, arranged the transportation, and picked out the beautiful trophies that were awarded to the winners. He also suggested that Baron Elliott's band be hired for the Thursday and Friday night dances. His selection of a band proved to be perfect. Baron Elliott's band kept everyone dancing all night long.

Steve "Sarge" Budrick was another tireless worker at the reunion. He put in three hard days work at the registration desk. Steve saw to it that the registration boards were kept up to date, and he made certain that everyone received and wore his registration badge. Without Steve's assistance the ladies at the registration desk would have had a much more difficult task in registering the reunion guests.

Elmer Wagner and Bob Mason did a great job on publicity for the reunion. Elmer sent out releases to papers in the Detroit and Midwest areas. The large attendance from these areas attest to the effectiveness of his campaign. Bob sent out literally hundreds of letters to members living in Pittsburgh and other parts of Pennsylvania. His efforts drew many members to the reunion.

Emil Langer and Betty Rizzo put in long hours at the registration desk. The friendly and efficient manner in which they handled the job put everyone in a happy mood and got them off to a good start on the reunion activities.

George Kopack was a real "Old Reliable" he arrived at Chatham Center three days ahead of time, and assisted the committee in making preparations for the reunion. George was always available and he provided invaluable assistance to the committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Buck, Frank Fazio, John Bonkowski, and Max Umansky are some of the other people who also gave the committee a hand in making this reunion the great success that it was.

In writing this article we have one fear - that we will omit someone and thus compound the error that was made at Pittsburgh. If we have overlooked someone, please forgive us, the oversight was strictly unintentional.

Worcester Date November 9th.

FATHER CONNORS announced that the 25th ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS would be held on SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1969 and the DINNER would be held at HOLY CROSS COLLEGE.

As he has in the past, Father Connors will again hold an open house in Connors' Coffee Shop on the Saturday evening preceding the Memorial Mass. The members of his parish are already making preparations for the enticing refreshments that they have traditionally set before the Good Fathers guests.

Anyone desiring further information on the Memorial Mass may obtain it by writing to Rev. Edward T. Connors, 353 Grove St., Worcester, Mass.

The Holiday Inn has rooms reserved for 9th Division people. These rooms can be reserved ONLY BY WRITING TO THE INN. Be sure to mention the 9th Division when making reservations.

NEW YORK
REUNION
1970

The 1969 Reunion is now a part of the Association's history. The Twenty-Fourth Annual Reunion will be remembered as one of the most enjoyable gatherings ever held by the Association. It seemed that everyone came to Pittsburgh with the intention of having a good time. A spirit of good fellowship prevailed at all the reunion functions and happy smiling faces were the order of the day. Even the weatherman co-operated, while the rest of the country experienced heavy rain-storms, Pittsburgh was blessed with sunny skies. The combination of good weather and fine accommodations put the "Old Reliables" in a relaxed mood and for three days they had a ball.

Old Timers Show Up

Thursday and Friday evenings the dancers got their opportunity to show off. Baron Elliott's band provided the music which enticed the "Old Reliables" onto the dance floor. With the band playing the old tunes, the beer flowing, and the gang swapping tall tales, it seemed like a Saturday night dance at Fort Bragg's Service Club.

Many faces that have been long missing from the reunion scene were observed at these gatherings. Col. Donald Roberts, Medical Officer 47th, showed up at the Thursday night get-together and he was quickly surrounded by the boys from the 47th. Red Smiles, Dan Quinn, and George Kopac got the "Doc" in a corner and they had a good time talking over the old days. The "Doc" looks wonderful and is still practicing medicine in West Virginia. Maj. Bert Murphy, 47th, was another long lost member who showed up at the Thursday night gathering. His old stand-bys Ralph Witzkin and Harry Whelan were on hand to make him feel at home.

Climax

Saturday was the day everyone awaited. It was the day on which we would once again see our old comrade-in-arms General William C. Westmoreland.

The day started off on a solemn note as the Association held its Memorial Service at Point State Park. The members of the Association made an impressive showing as they paraded through downtown Pittsburgh on their way to the Memorial Service. Led by the U. S. Army Field Band, 100 strong, the "Old Reliables" made quite an impression on the Pittsburghers lining the parade route.

Father Kines, Ralph Witzkin, and John Clouser conducted services at Point State Park. They offered prayers for the men who gave their lives while wearing the Octofoil both in World War II and the Viet-Nam conflict. The fact that men are still dying while wearing the Octofoil made the Memorial Service even more solemn and impressive.

After the Memorial Service the Members enjoyed a three hour boat ride down the Ohio River. During this relaxing trip they were able to rest up for the exciting events that would take place in the evening.

S.R.O.

At most reunion banquets the crowd is late in getting to their seats. This did not happen in Pittsburgh; they arrived long before the banquet was scheduled to start. The room was filled to overflowing and not another table could be put in place. People were still trying to purchase tickets while the dinner was in progress. This huge turnout indicated the esteem in which General Westmoreland is held by the members of the Association. This was our first opportunity to greet him since his return from Viet-Nam and we wanted to give him a rousing welcome home. We were greatly honored by the General's presence and this honor was increased two-fold when we found out that Mrs. Westmoreland had accompanied the General. This gracious lady has had many anxious moments during the last few years and has shared the heavy burdens that have rested upon the General's shoulders. She has never wavered and has earned the right to be called an "Old Reliable."

New Ninth Upholds Gradiations

General Westmoreland spoke about the job that the new Ninth performed in Viet Nam. He told us how the Division was formed, trained, and shipped to the battle front in record time. He described the swampy and water logged area in which the Division carried out its mission and he related examples of how the men and officers devised new tactics to overcome the unique problems they met in the field. General Westmoreland assured us that the officers and men of the Ninth performed in a manner that was equal to the reputation the Division earned in World War II.

At the conclusion of his speech the General remained on the dais and shook hands with a countless number of members and their families. He made everyone feel at ease and for one evening he laid aside the cares of the Chief of Staff and was for a moment just another "Old Reliable" enjoying himself at the Association's reunion. We want to thank the General for taking time out from a busy schedule to attend our reunion and we hope that we will see him more often in the future.

THE OCTOFOIL

Form 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J. 07087
OCTOFOIL ASSOCIATED EDITORS Walter O'Keeffe and Daniel Quinn

JOHN RIZZO, President, Long Beach, N. Y. 11561
VINCENT GUGLIELMINO, 1st Vice President, Floral Park, N. Y. 11001
JOHN BONKOWSKI, 2nd Vice President, Detroit, Mich. 48205
JOHN SABATO, 3rd Vice President, Philadelphia, Pa., 19145
HARRISON DAYSH, Judge Advocate, Kensington, Md. 20795
DANIEL QUINN, Secretary, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N. J. 07087
THOMAS BOYLE, Treasurer, 39 Hall Avenue, Somerville, Mass. 02144

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1970—
Peter Cusack, West Roxbury, Mass.
John Rizzo, Long Beach, N. Y.
Richard Wilson, Woodbury, N. J.
Michael Mysyk, Garfield Heights, Ohio

1971—
George Apar, Franklin Square, N. Y.
Frank Ozart, Chicago, Illinois
Robert Winkelman, Paletine, Illinois
James Bruner, Flint, Michigan
Charles Jones, McLean, Va.

1972—
Leonard Tomassone, Pennsauken, N. J.
Francis Maher, Worcester, Mass.
Joseph Uschak, New York, N. Y.
Thomas Shine, Hyattsville, Md.
William Meadows, Detroit, Mich.

Board Member Emeritus
Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Retired)
Honorary Chaplain Emeritus
Rev. 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.

July - August 1969

Volume XXIV
Number 4

MINUTES OF THE 24th ANNUAL REUNION

The 24th Annual Reunion General Meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, Chatham Center, Pittsburgh, Pa., on July 25, 1969. There being a quorum 62 members present, President Herbert Olsen then called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. A moment of silence was observed for the departed men of the Ninth.

The President then called upon the secretary, Daniel Quinn to read the minutes of the 23rd annual reunion. Upon a motion duly made by Harry Whalen and seconded by Dom Miele it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes as read and place same on file for the record.

Thomas Boyle the Treasurer was called upon for his report. Boyle gave the membership a detailed report on the income and spendings for the past year. He stated "to the best of my knowledge, all bills and obligations incurred by this association for the year ended June 30, 1969 have been paid or settled". Upon a motion duly made by John Sabato and seconded by Al Cuprys it was voted to: Accept the Treasurers report. President Olsen thanked Boyle for his report.

John Clouser Chairman of the Scholarship Committee was called upon for his report. He named Frank Ozart and David Heller as members of this permanent committee and briefed the members how the selections are made according to the applicants academic ability and financial needs and that all are related to members of the Ninth Infantry Division.

A total of \$13,075.00 has been granted since 1961 to 1968 and this year a total of \$1,850.00 will be awarded to the following:

Applicants for the first time are:

Deborah B. Goldberg
Eric M. Kocay
Eugene M. Negrin
Patrick E. Reale
Edmund P. Sabato
Dennis E. Trainor
Margaret F. Swanson

Renewals

Phillip C. Huber
John Kocay
Neil L. McLaughlin
Guy A. Meadows
Ann Powers
Barbara A. Ridzi

The National Board of Governors at their meeting on April 26, 1969 voted to approve the report of the Scholarship Committee. President Olsen thanked John Clouser and his Committee for their efforts with the Scholarship Committee.

Jim Bruner was called upon for his report of the Newspaper Committee. Jim named the following members who served on this committee: Vic Butswinkus, Bud Remer, Art MacDougall, and Art Schmidt.

The Newspaper Committee submitted the following recommendations:

We wish to commend the Octofoil Associate Editors, Walter O'Keeffe and Daniel Quinn, for the excellent job they have done in editing and publishing of the Octofoil this past year with no more copy than they have had.

We wish to recommend that each Chapter assign or nominate one person to see that copy or a newsletter from that Chapter is sent for publication on or before the 10th of the month so that it can be properly edited and inserted in the coming issue. We call upon every member of the Association to preserve the "esprit de corps", and let's face it, we do like to read about ourselves and those we know in the association so "keep those cards, letters and pictures coming in."

We of the committee are in accord with the present six issues a year.

We also realize with higher costs today that the cost of publication may be increased. In the event this happens, we are in accord with meeting these costs subject, of course, to the action of the Board of Governors.

Upon a motion duly made by Richard Wilson and seconded by William Meadows it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Newspaper Committee. President Olsen thanked Bruner and his committee for their excellent report.

George Apar of the Financial Committee was called upon for his report and named the following members who served on his committee: Al Cuprys, Vic DeCesare, Vincent Guglielmino, Elmer Wagner and Charles Koskie. The secretary and treasurer were called by the Chairman to sit in on this meeting.

The budget for the year 1969-70.

Anticipated Income		
Misc.	\$	60.00
Dues		3400.00
Ladies Aux.		70.00
Investments		1263.00
Reunion		600.00
		\$5393.00
Anticipated Expenses		
The Octofoil	\$2000.00	
Editors expense	400.00	
		\$2400.00
Secretarys Salary		600.00
Clerical Expense		600.00
Postage		400.00
Utilities		400.00
Printing		100.00
Fidelity Bond		100.00
Social Security		25.00
Memorial Wreath		25.00
Dues Reminder Notice		100.00
Supplies		70.00
Treasurers Expenses		250.00
Secretarys Expenses		350.00
Board of Governors		250.00
Reunion Program		25.00
Accountant		100.00
Misc. or petty cash		170.00
Bank charges		100.00
	Total	\$6165.00

The Financial Committee recommends to the Board of Governors that if necessary, the income from the Capital Gains be used for expenses, but only if absolutely necessary.

Upon a motion duly made by Harry Whalen and seconded by Frank Ozart it was voted to: Accept the budget and recommendation of the Finance Committee. President Olsen thanked George Apar and his committee for their report.

Frank Ozart of the Miscellaneous Committee named the following members who served on this committee: Mike Belmonte, Louis Netta, George Bartley, Harry Orenstein, Leonard Tomassone, and Albert Hodge.

The committee recommends:

- That membership dues be increased as follows:
1 year from \$4.00 to \$5.00
3 years from \$11.00 to \$14.00
Life Membership continue at \$50.00.
- Reunion Committee to be commended on the wonderful job they have done with the 1969 reunion.
- That the association adopt a resolution recommending the Distinguished Service Medal be award posthumously to Sergeant Edward M. Withers of I Co., 60th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action against the enemy in the Normany Campaign.

Upon a motion duly made by Harry Whalen and seconded by George Apar it was voted to: Accept the report and adopt the resolution recommended by this committee. President Olsen thanked Frank Ozart and his committee for their report.

Charles Jones Chairman of the Nominating Committee then named the following members who served on this committee: John Sabato, Tom Boyle, John Bonkowski, Nick D'Agostino, Paul Keller, Bill Hennemuth, John Rizzo and Joe Pawelak.

This committee recommends that Michael Mysyk of the Ohio Chapter be nominated to fill out the unexpired term of 1 year caused by the resignation of Board Member Dick Pestel of Ohio. Five Board members are to be replaced at the end of their terms of office and this committee recommends the following members to succeed them for the next three years: Leonard Tomassone of the Philly-Delaware Chapter, Francis Maher of the New England Chapter, Joseph Uschak of the New York Chapter, Thomas Shine of the Washington D. C Chapter and William Meadows of the Michigan Chapter.

Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Jim Bruner it was voted to: Accept the report of this committee.

Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by John Sabato it was voted to close the nominations.

Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Al Geist it was voted to have the secretary cast a single vote for the entire slate as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Upon a motion duly made by John Sabato and seconded by Bill Meadows it was voted to: Have Mike Mysyk replace Dick Pestel on the Board of Governors for 1 year (unexpired term).

George Fraenkel briefed the members on the intended trip to Europe next summer immediately after the 1970 reunion in New York. The two week trip, the costs and itinerary were discussed by Fraenkel. Details will appear in the Octofoil - the July-August issue.

President Olsen thanked the members for attending the reunion and the Reunion Committee for their excellent job of arranging the three day activities.

Harry Whalen donated two pictures of the Astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins. These pictures will be displayed at the Banquet tonight at the head table.

Upon a motion duly made by Dom Miele and seconded by Harry Orenstein it was voted to: Adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

8 August 1969

Dear Dan:

Many thanks for a very pleasant visit to Pittsburgh. Mrs. Westmoreland and I will long remember the 24th Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association as one of the most enjoyable events we have attended.

With appreciation and best wishes,

Sincerely
W. C. WESTMORELAND
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Ladies Elect New Officers

Julia Netta of 1 Highland Ave., Stonehurst, Wilmington, Del. was elected President of the Ninth Infantry Division Association Ladies Auxiliary at the Pittsburgh Reunion. Julia is a member of the Philadelphia Chapter.

Pauline Olsen, Boston Chapter, was elected Vice-President. Mrs. Michael McInernay was re-elected to the post of Chaplain. Tippie Plunkett will continue to serve as Secretary and Treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Tippie has requested that we remind the ladies that they can send their 1969-1970 dues to her at 286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206. She will send out the membership cards by return mail. Be sure to include your ZIP Code in your address when writing to Tippi; she needs it for her mailing list.

The ladies enjoyed the Pittsburgh Reunion and are looking forward to 1970 in New York City.

Padre Retires

The following article appeared in almost every paper on Long Island, N. Y. Our old friend and fellow soldier Msgr. De Laura was a well known figure on Long Island and the article brought sadness to his many friends.

"The Right Rev. Msgr. Anthony F. DeLaura, pastor of St. Rocco's Catholic Church in Glen Cove, retired because of poor health. He has suffered several heart attacks recently.

"Ordained in 1933, the 62 year old clergyman served as assistant pastor at St. Lucy's, St. Rita's and St. Joseph's Patron parishes in Brooklyn before entering the Army as a chaplain in World War II.

"He served with the Ninth Infantry Division and was awarded the Silver Star for rescuing a soldier in France, he also holds the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, six battle stars, and two Presidential Unit Citations.

"Born in Manhattan, he studied at St. John's and St. Francis Colleges in Brooklyn and Our Lady of the Angels Seminary in up-state Niagara.

"He marked his 35th year in the priesthood on June 9th with a mass of thanksgiving and a reception prepared by his parishioners."

Helps Scholarship Fund

The Association's Scholarship Program has helped many young men and women on their way through college. These students have been very appreciative of the assistance they have received. Recently one of them expressed his thanks in a most tangible way.

Vincent A. Lepore Jr. sent the following letter to the Association. "Enclosed you will find a check for \$100.00, which I would like to donate to the Ninth Infantry Division Association Scholarship Fund in memory of my father, Vincent N. Lepore.

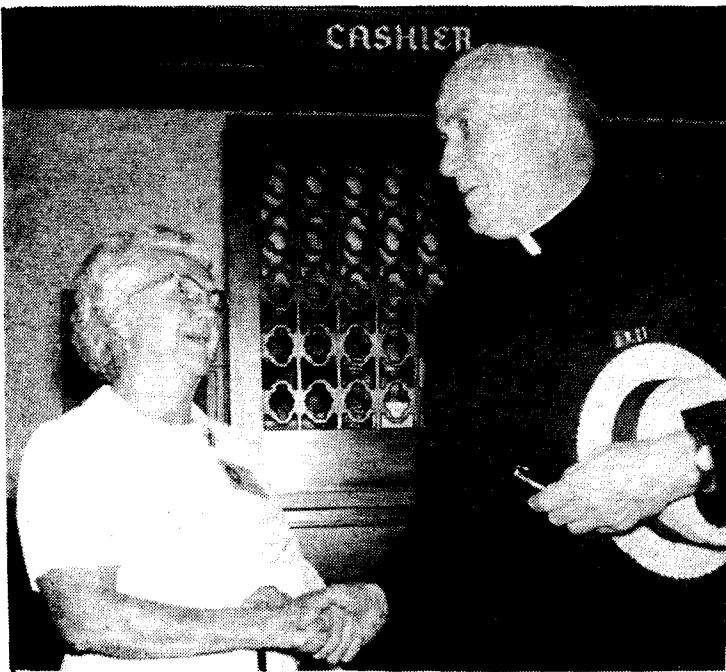
"For the past four years I have been a recipient of one of the Ninth Division Scholarships and the financial assistance proved most helpful in allowing me to complete my education. On June 1, 1969 I graduated from Manhattan College with a Bachelor of Engineering Degree. I am presently employed by the American Electric Power Co. in New York.

"My father cherished his association with the men of the Ninth Division. I can't think of a better way to express my appreciation for what the Ninth Division meant to my father and what it did for me than by helping someone related to a Ninth man. Once again thank you."

1969



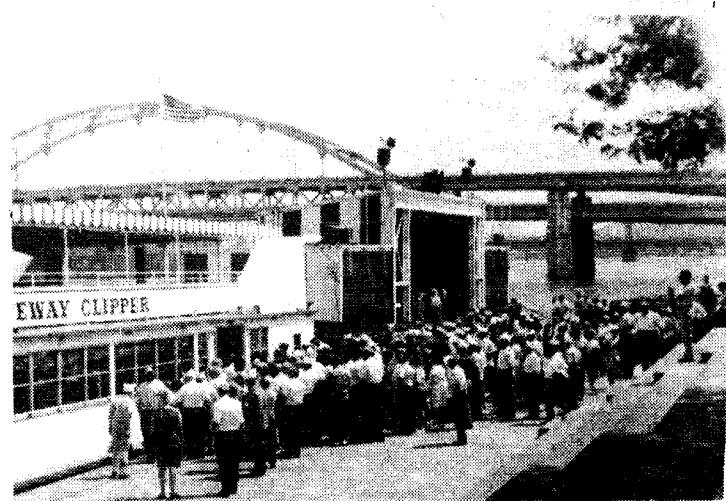
Reunion



Father Connors and Tippie Plunkett meet in lobby of Chatham Center.



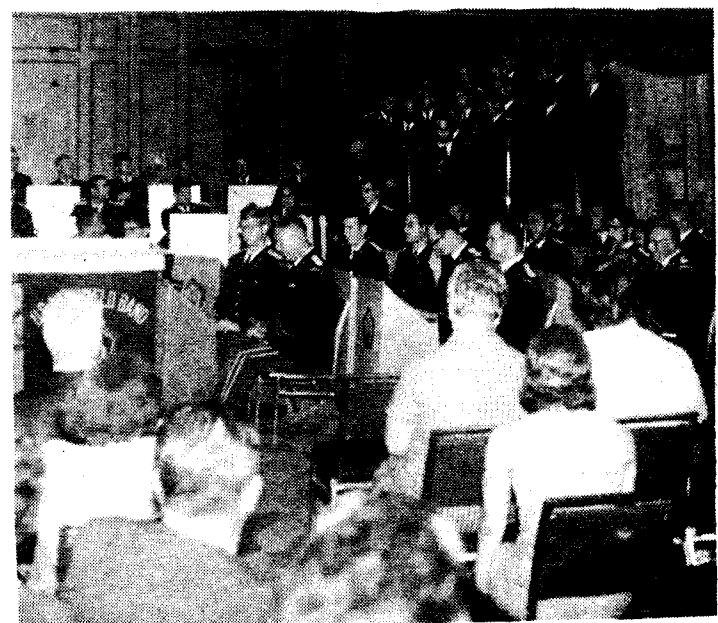
Raiders get together. Col. Roberts, Maj. Murphy, Vinnie Guglielmino, Dom Miele, Max Umansky, Ralph Witzken, and Bill Stoken.



All Aboard - Gateway Clipper shoves off for trip down the mighty Ohio.



The Ladies step off for the march to the Memorial Service.



The Soldier's Chorus entertains at the Reunion Banquet.



Memorial Services at Point State Park. Prayers said for departed comrades.



"Old Reliables".



Ladies conduct their business meeting.



Ralph Witzkin conducts Jewish Prayers at Memorial Service.

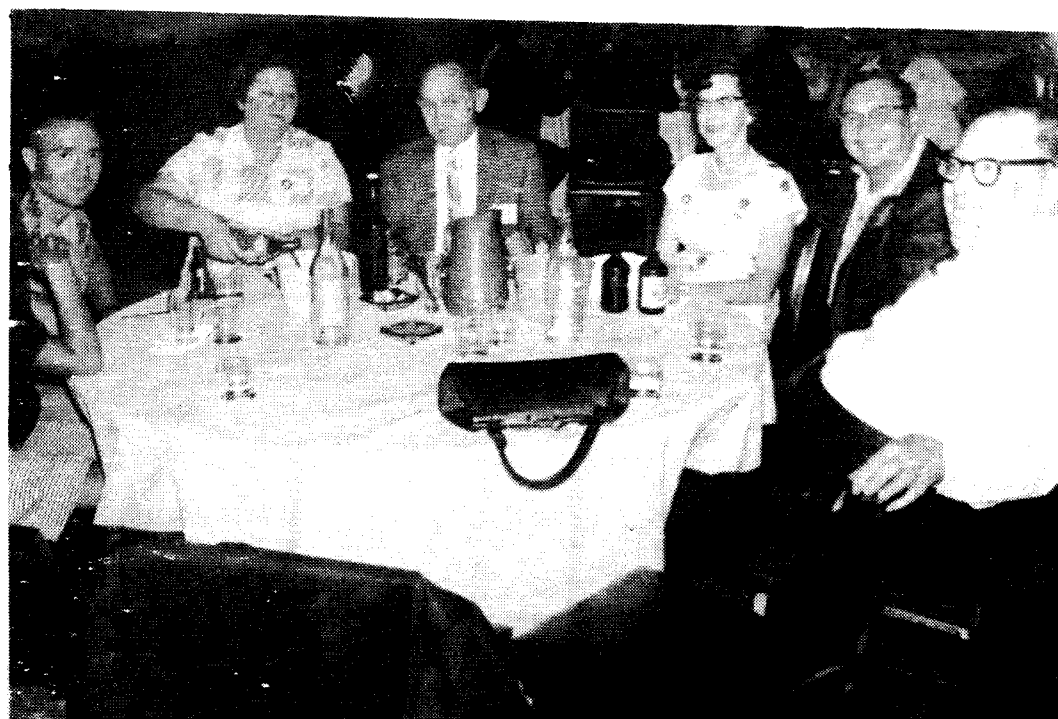


2nd Bn. "Old Reliables."



Teen-agers hit chow line.

All the pictures in this issue were taken by Walter J. Victor. Anyone interested in obtaining copies can get in touch with Walter by writing to him at 2745 Dodson Lee Dr., East Point Ga. 30344. Walter has many other Reunion pictures which we were unable to print because of lack of space.



Vietnam Veteran attends reunion.



3rd Bn. "Old Reliables".

Taps Sounded

Once again it is our sad duty to report the names of members who have passed on.

In the last issue of the "Octofoil" we published the first installment of General Barth's article entitled "The Octofoil Comes Of Age In World War II". For the past several months we have been corresponding with the General and were eagerly awaiting further installments of his article.

From his letters we knew that the General had been ill and had to take it easy. Never-the-less, we were deeply shocked to read the General's obituary in the "New York Times". The General passed away on August 16th, at Ticonderoga, N. Y.

On behalf of the Association and ourselves we express our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Barth and to the other members of the General's family on their great loss.

Richard W. Sims, Co. "K," 60th Inf. During the war Dick lost a leg as the result of enemy action near the town of Dreiborn in Germany.

The friendships formed by soldiers during war times are strong and enduring. To the men who formed them, they take precedence over everything else. Col. Henry E. Royall proved this recently when he passed up the annual reunion so that he could attend the funeral of an old comrade-in-arms.

Col. Royall wrote, "Buck Jacobs, my jeep driver while I was Regimental Executive in the 47th Inf., died on July 23, 1969 of a heart attack. His funeral will be held on July 25th at the Garner Funeral Home in Kingston, N. C. I plan to attend it. Buck will be buried with military honors rendered by an honor detail from Fort Bragg. His many friends in D Co. 47th will remember him when he served in that Company under Captain Jesse Nevins. When I was transferred to the 60th Inf. Buck became Col. Smythe's driver.

"As well deserved honors are being heaped upon those who went to the moon and back let us not forget that this Nation was preserved for such a feat by the citizen-soldiers like Buck Jacobs who laid their lives on the line for these United States of America. In a more personal sense I shall remember Buck as a loyal and devoted friend."

We missed Colonel Royall at the reunion but we understand his reasons for not being there. We only hope that he can make it to New York next year.

ANOTHER AUTHOR

George Dohmann joined the 47th in Normandy as a replacement Medic. The June 1969 issue of "American History Illustrated" contains an article written by George.

It is a good eye-witness account of the difficulties that face a replacement when he joins his outfit on the front lines. It makes interesting reading for all of us who served with the 47th and brings back memories of those days in the hedge-row country.

"American History Illustrated" is published by Historical Times, Inc. their address is 302 York St., Gettysburg, Pa.

Harry O's Q.M. Report

GENERAL WESTMORELAND delivered an enlightening speech about the new 9th DIVISION in VIET NAM before a capacity audience of 9th DIVISION men, women, children and friends at the banquet of the 24th ANNUAL REUNION in PITTSBURGH on SATURDAY evening, JULY 26, 1969.

GENERAL WESTMORELAND praised the 9th DIVISION in VIET NAM and said the new 9th DIVISION was continuing in the same traditions as the old 9th DIVISION in WW II. He mentioned the components of the new 9th DIVISION from their activation at FORT RILEY to their arrival in VIET NAM. The new 9th DIVISION soon began to gain a reputation like we did in WW II. He described the agricultural land and the assistance the 9th DIVISION GAVE IN BUILDING UP THE COMMUNITY. He stated the support that the 9th DIVISION received from the other branches of the service. He compared the terrain in VIET NAM with the hedgerows in NORMANDY. He mentioned the honors won by the 9th DIVISION in VIET NAM. He remarked the 9th DIVISION was withdrawing from VIET NAM because of the greater participation by the SOUTH VIET NAM GOVERNMENT. And he welcomed home the first 9th DIVISION men when they arrived in CALIFORNIA this month.

GENERAL WESTMORELAND said the 9th DIVISION responded when called, did what they had to do, when called upon to do so, and AMERICA can be proud of the new 9th DIVISION. The men of the new 9th DIVISION can be proud of the heritage we started for them.

At the conclusion of GENERAL WESTMORELAND's speech he was cheered and applauded and received a long standing ovation.

FATHER CONNORS preceded GENERAL WESTMORELAND as the speaker and he recalled the 9th DIVISION's route from FORT BRAGG to INGOLSTADT that included many historical names. FATHER CONNORS said they were three glorious years in his life and sad because we left many of our men overseas. He outlined GENERAL WESTMORELAND's career from FORT BRAGG to ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. Again, there was a great deal of applause and cheering and a standing ovation when he concluded his speech.

In addition, FATHER CONNORS and GENERAL WESTMORELAND were also in a humorous mood in their speeches. They have been "friendly rivals" for many years. FATHER CONNORS mentioned in his speech that he was still looking for a promotion from MAJOR and why GENERAL WESTMORELAND called him the green MAJOR. GENERAL WESTMORELAND replied and he gave his reasons why he called him the green MAJOR. During their facetious moods, both FATHER CONNORS and GENERAL WESTMORELAND were interrupted time and again at their remarks with loud laughter, cheers and applause.

THE REUNION PROGRAM

THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 24th was the beer party.

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 25th the 100 piece band that included an army chorus played modern, martial and south of the border music. A soloist sang "OLD MAN RIVER" accompanied by the ARMY chorus and band. The final number was JOHN PHILIP SOUSA's number "STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER."

Later in the evening the regular dance band played for the audience. It was a lively evening.

Adding to the enjoyment of the evening were the trio of FATHER CONNORS, FATHER ROWAN and DANNY QUINN singing in harmony "WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING."

SATURDAY, JULY 26th was the big day at the Reunion. FATHER CONNORS held MEMORIAL MASS at 8 A.M. Later in the morning was the parade. Leading the parade was the U. S. ARMY BAND followed by the men, women and children marching four abreast that was approximately four blocks long. We marched to the FORT PITT area where memorial services were held.

DANNY QUINN introduced FATHER KINES who gave the invocation. RALPH WITZKIN, JOHN CLOUSER and HERB OLSON also spoke at the MEMORIAL SERVICES. Their theme was to remember our departed comrades who died in defense of their country and those who passed on since.

After the MEMORIAL SERVICES we took a delightful three hour cruise on the ALLEGHENY, MONONGAHELA and OHIO rivers.

SATURDAY evening a delicious roast beef dinner was served. We were again entertained by the U. S. ARMY BAND and we deeply appreciated their efforts. JOHN CLOUSER reported that the 9th DIVISION ASSOCIATION awarded 12 scholarships. DANNY QUINN mentioned that the reunion committee did a good job. HERB OLSON remarked "It was one of our finest reunions." The 1970 Reunion will be held in NEW YORK and the 1971 Reunion will be held in ILLINOIS.

When the last two speakers, FATHER CONNORS and GENERAL WESTMORELAND delivered their speeches, another memorable reunion passed into history.

EVERETT TAPP showed movies of the 1967 and 1968 reunions. There is a great deal of interest in the QM's about the 1970 trip to EUROPE after our 25th Reunion in New York.

The following QM's were present at the Reunion:

Horace Abrams
Gene Berasi
Harry Orenstein
Everett Tapp
Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Jones
Mr. & Mrs. George Kovalak
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Palady
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Pitzer
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Sinare

The QM's had a very nice time at the Reunion. The joy of seeing your friends at the Reunion and the enthusiasm that pervades the Reunion cannot be adequately expressed in words. Our sincere thanks to the Reunion Committee who made the PITTSBURGH REUNION the most perfect reunion.

Best regards to all. Hope you are all well at home.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY ORENSTEIN
The QM COMMITTEE'S ADDRESSES are:
Bill Palady
403-29th Street
McKeesport, Pa.

Harry Orenstein
901 Walton Avenue
Bronx, N. Y. 10452

Golfers Tee Off

The reunion got off to a good start when Paul Leschak led a sizable contingent of golfers out to the Cherry Hill Country Club. The golfers are always among the first arrivals at every reunion, so when they turned out in large numbers we knew we had a good reunion going.

The hackers and duffers put on a fine show and turned in some excellent scores. Paul really showed them how the game should be played; he carded a 73. Since he was serving as the host and had played the course before, Paul eliminated himself from the competition and first prize went to Cecil Overton, 47th Inf. Cecil shot a 77 and was followed by Mike Belmonte, 60th F.A. Mike captured second prize with an 85. Verne "Budd" Hunter had one of those days that plague all golfers. His drives were short and his putts were long. As a result he came in with a 113 and garnered the prize for high game.

L to R, General Kinard, Father Connors, General Westmoreland, and Francis Maher enter Worcester War Memorial Auditorium on their way to the Dedication Dinner for Worcester County's Living Memorial.



Overtwo hundred men from Worcester County, Mass. have died in the Viet Nam War. Their friends and neighbors in Massachusetts thought it fitting that their sacrifices be remembered with a Memorial. Instead of selecting a cold thing like a bronze plaque with the names engraved in a piece of granite, the natives of Worcester County choose to remember their brave sons with a living memorial.

Working with "Project Concern" they set out to secure the funds required to furnish and erect a sixty-bed hospital and refugee center in De Lat, Viet Nam. For almost two years they labored to collect the funds required to complete their living Memorial and at last they succeeded.

On April 13, 1969 a Dedication Dinner for Worcester's Living Memorial was held at Worcester, Mass. General Westmoreland was the guest speaker and he praised the project saying "Project Concern is nation-building in its finest form."

We are proud to note that one of our Past National Presidents played a large part in the success of the project. Francis Maher headed the Veterans Committee. He co-ordinated the fund raising activities of the various Veteran's groups in Worcester County. He and Father Connors met General Westmoreland and escorted him to the dinner.

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 1970 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" \$ 2.00 ☐

(Pictorial History of 9th Division in action.)

Ladies' Auxiliary Member \$ 1.50 ☐

Combat Route Map \$.50 ☐

60th Infantry History \$.50 ☐

Please give credit to the following Chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐

Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐

New England ☐ Michigan ☐

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

MAIL CALL

During June and July the secretary was kept busy on the Reunion preparations and the mail sure piled up. It seems as if we will never get to the bottom of the mail bags. Here are a few samples from a stack that is on Dan's desk:

Floyd W. Hennessey
Lambertville, Md.
Egads! I don't want to forget my dues. The Ninth Division is the No. 1 item in our house and I almost let it slip by.
Our son Paul David is back in Viet Nam again for his second tour of duty. He is serving with "B" Btry. 6th Bn., 56th Arty., this unit is part of the Americal Division and is stationed at Chu-Lai. Our other son, Thomas, is serving with the Air Force at Truax Field, Wisc.

Roy D. Code Hassi Messaoud
Algeria.
Roy is still in North Africa but he keeps up with the news.
He writes, "I just received the March-April issue of the 'Octofoil' and except for the news about some of the men that have passed on, enjoyed it very much.
"Of special interest was the news that Chip Maness is now a General. Is it possible for you to send me his address? (Editor's Note - We don't have his address. Perhaps some member does. We would appreciate receiving it.)
"Your proposed trip to the ETO next year sounds like a fine idea, you can count me in. I am looking forward to the details in the next issue and hope it will be possible for me to join the trip in Europe.
"Have a good time in Pittsburgh, I am sorry I can't be on hand."

Neil H. Ashley
Northbrook, Ill.
Neil is another fellow who recently heard about the Association. He served with the 746th Tank Bn. when it was attached to the Ninth Division. He requested a copy of "Eight Stars To Victory" and is also interested in getting a copy of 746th's history if one has been published. To our knowledge a book was never published.

Chester Mietkowski, 60th Inf.
Cheektowaga, N. Y.
Chester sent in his dues and also asked us to send his best regards to Paul Clark, John Morris, and the rest of the boys from Hq. Co., 1st Bn. 60th.

Robert J. Yoder, Co. "G" 39th Inf.
South Bend, Ind.
The Association for this year's reunion received a lot of publicity and more and more old timers are returning to the fold. Robert Yoder is another former member of the Division who recently became a member of the Association. Bob served as a Medic with G Co. 39th Inf. He not only took out a three year membership but he also sent in a hefty contribution for the Scholarship Fund. We hope to be hearing more from Bob.

Pete Cromal, G Co.
Union, N. J.
Recently Pete found out that this is really a small world after all. He and some co-workers were taking a beer break at one of Newark's breweries and were shooting the breeze about their Army days. One of the men in the group mentioned the fact that he had served in the 39th Inf. His name was James Lynch, it urned out that he and Pete had worked together for twenty-three years and had never known that they both had served in the Ninth Division. We hope that Pete continues to take those beer breaks; he might come up with some more long lost members.

R. M. Hirst
Wiesbaden, Germany
Scoty regrets that at this time he can't give us a run-down on the events that took place at the D-Day Anniversary reunion held in Normandy. However, he will do so at a later date.
He has accepted a position with the U. S. Air Force and will be stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany for the next five years. During that time he expects to be able to get home for at least three or four weeks during each year.

Bob Griffith
Des Plaines, Ill.
Bob signed up for another three years with the Association. He sends his best regards to all the old gang.

Ted Matusik
This year Ted got a bad break. On July 21st, he went into the hospital for surgery on his foot, and as a result he was unable to attend the reunion.
This was a tough blow for Ted because he was looking forward to seeing General Westmoreland. He and the General were both elected to the Board of Governors in 1955 and for the next three years they sat together at many of the Board meetings.

Scuccimarri
We have received many letters from our old friend Scuccimarri; he is still a patient at the V. A. Hospital in Montrose, N. Y. He would like to hear from some of the "Old Reliable," so if you want to drop him a card or a line his address is G. V. Scuccimarri, c/o F. D. R. V. A. Hospital, Montrose, New York.

Bill Buem, Co. "F" 47th Inf.
Lyndhurst, Ohio
Bill sent along his dues and informed us that his oldest boy Billy has graduated from college and is now teaching school in Ravenna, Ohio and intends to go to law school next year. Bill and his child bride were at the reunion.
After reading the May-June issue of the paper, James S. Moore sat down at his typewriter and wrote us the following letter.
"This last issue of the "Octofoil" finally got a rise out of me. I noticed two contrasting pieces of news that concerned me personally - The death of General Smythe, Commander of my old Regiment, and the great news that my old Battalion Commander, "Chippy" Maness, is not only still alive and healthy, but has been promoted to Brigadier General. I am not a great one for writing letters, but this news really loosened me up.
Served With 47th Inf.
"I was a member of the Negro Volunteer Contingents that were scattered throughout the First Army. My particular platoon was with "The Raiders" Second Battalion - Fox Company and it was there that we were greeted, welcomed, and advised by "Chippy" Maness himself upon our arrival. We always took great pride in the distinction of being in the 9th Division because we wanted to be there and not because we had to be there. The Government was trying an experiment and thank God it worked out. The Division had a splendid record when we arrived and (as all men of The Ninth know) our contribution did nothing to harm that record.
"As I look back, I can't ever recall wishing that I was some place else, regardless of how hot the action was at the time, I merely wished that things

would cool off. Our Platoon Leader, Lt. Jennings had a lot of confidence in us, because I do not recall seeing the man ever armed with anything but that map he always carried. He came back to Noyon, France, trained us, carried us up front, and led us through to the very end. It would be an honor to meet him again. We Negro volunteers are still around and still proud to have been part of the "Damned Best Outfit That Ever Marched."
"I have lost track of my Squad Leader Richard Hall of Baltimore, Md. and also the Squad Leader of the third squad, Milton Clipper of Washington, D. C. Dave Talbot was the Squad Leader of the first squad and he was an energetic young man if there ever was one.
"I could sound off about the guys for the next thirty days, but all things must come to an end. Thanks for the opportunity to jaw bone about the old gang."

EUROPE RE-VISITED
25th ANNIVERSARY
TOUR
1970
"We Are Going!!"
That is what was heard at our last reunion, and many members and their families of the 9th. Inf. Association signed up. The brochures are at the printer, and will go out to the people who put their names down in the very near future. We are also printing an application blank. If you are interested in going with us, clip it out, fill it in, and mail it together with your check for \$100.00 per person, payable to the 9th. Inf. Association, 25th Anniversary Tour, to Mr. Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, New Jersey, 07087.
DATES
July 26 - August 9
Individual cost is \$597.40, based on two in a room, with private bath, breakfast, and Table D'Hote dinner, air conditioned motorcoach, transfers, channel ferry, sightseeing, admissions, tips, and taxes, baggage handling. Entertainment as per itinerary and Jet Air transportation New York-London and Munich-New York. If you want a single room, it will cost you \$70.00 more.
The first 150 people who send in their deposit will be holding confirmed reservations. The balance will be "wait listed" depending on cancellations and availability of space. So don't delay! Make your reservations!
Cancellations for unforseen and valid reasons in advance of departure - full refund less actual expenses incurred, will be returned to members. However, if cancellation occurs less than 30 days of departure the right is reserved to assess cancellation fee not to exceed \$25.00 per person plus actual expenses incurred. If chartered flight is utilized airfare refund will be contingent upon a replacement being obtained for each seat vacated by cancellation.

Well Done
Your editors of the Octofoil may be prejudiced about this 1969 Reunion but we feel that it was a great success. Many new faces were seen at the various functions and what is even more important many members brought their families and they all had a good time also. To all those who attended we want to say thanks and to those who could not make it this year we hope to see you in New York in 1970.

John J. Clouser
901 GRACELAND STREET
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS
60016
OCTOFOIL
412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

Board Of Governors Meet
The 92nd meeting of the National Board of Governors was held at 5:15 p.m., July 24, 1969 at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, Chatham Center, Pittsburgh, Pa., attended by Messrs: Herbert Olsen, Richard Wilson, James Bruner, Ralph Witzken, George Apar, John Rizzo, Frank Ozart, Robert Winkleman and Charles Jones. Also present were Treasurer Thomas Boyle, 3rd Vice President William Meadows, 1st Vice President Vincent Guglielmino and Past Presidents Paul Keller, Emil Langer, and John Bonkowski.
The secretary then read the minutes of the 91st meeting and upon a motion duly made by James Bruner and seconded by Frank Ozart it was voted to: Accept the minutes as read and place same on file.
President Olsen then called upon the Treasurer for his quarterly report. Upon a motion duly made by John Rizzo and seconded by Richard Wilson it was voted to: Accept the report as submitted.
Co-chairman Dan Quinn gave a brief report of the 1969 reunion. Attendance was good and the reunion had all marks of being a successful one - both socially and financially.
President Herb Olsen then appointed Chairmen for the various committees for the general meeting:
Financial Committee George Apar
Nomination Committee Charles Jones
Newspaper Committee James Bruner
Miscellaneous Committee Frank Ozart
By-laws Committee Robert Winkleman
President Olsen then adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The 93rd meeting of the National Board of Governors was held at 4:05 p.m., July 26, 1969 at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, Chatham Center, Pittsburgh, Pa., attended by Messrs: Herb Olsen, John Rizzo, Frank Ozart, Charles Jones, James Bruner, Robert Winkleman, Michael Mysyk, Leonard Tommassone, William Meadows, Thomas Shine, Richard Wilson and George Apar. Also present were Past Presidents John Bonkowski and Paul Keller, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee John Clouser and Treasurer Thomas Boyle.
President Olsen called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand and observe a moment of silence in memory of those who wore the Octofoil.
Upon a motion duly made by James Bruner and seconded by John Rizzo it was voted: Omit the reading of the minutes of the 92nd Board Meeting.
The President then asked for bids for the 1971 Reunion Site. John Clouser submitted a bid for the Illinois Chapter to hold the reunion in Illinois in 1971. (The 1970 reunion bid was accepted last year and will be held in New York. This in keeping with the new policy of selecting reunion sites two years in advance in order to give committees enough time to select hotels etc.) Upon a motion duly made by Charles Jones and seconded by William Meadows it was voted to: Award the 1971 Reunion bid to the Illinois Chapter.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS was held by the Board members and the following members elected:
President John Rizzo
1st Vice President Vincent Guglielmino
2nd Vice President John Bonkowski
3rd Vice President John Sabato
Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh
Secretary Daniel Quinn
Treasurer Thomas Boyle
Herb Olsen the out-going president thanked the members for their cooperation during the past year and turned the meeting over to the newly elected President John Rizzo. John thanked the members for electing him to office of President and asked the members for their continued support for the coming year.
Scholarship Committee Chairman John Clouser asked the members to consider one more applicant for this years award - the sum of monies not to exceed \$400.00. Upon a motion duly made by James Bruner and seconded by Bill Meadows it was voted to: Approve the action of the Scholarship Committee in granting this additional award.
There being no other business to come before the members, President John Rizzo closed the meeting at 5:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
RESERVATION APPLICATION
TRIP TO EUROPE
Mr. Daniel Quinn
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, N. J. 07087
Please make reservation for our trip to Europe.
Enclosed is \$..... representing \$100.00 per person deposit for me and the following persons who will travel with me:
NAME RELATIONSHIP IF ANY AGE
.....
.....
.....
Please check one:
I desire: Single room (\$70.00 additional)
Twin-bedded room
NAME (Please Print):
ADDRESS:
DATE:

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