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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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11-1-1969

## The Octofoil, November/December 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 6

Nov-Dec 1969

## NEW YORK NEXT STOP

We had intended to write our own article about the Twenty-Fifth Memorial Mass at Worcester; however, while going through our mail we came across two letters that we believe tell the story much better than we could. The first letter came from Joe McKenzie, a member of the New England Chapter, who has been intimately associated with the Memorial Service ever since its inception twenty-five years ago. The other comes from Trevor Jones, a member of the Association who attended this year's Memorial Mass and was so impressed by it that, upon his return home, he wrote to his local paper and told them of the message Father Connors had for his old comrades in arms.

### Ever Faithful

On and on they come! Yes, on and on they come to Worcester. The men of the Ninth, their wives, parents, sons, daughters and in-laws make a special pilgrimage to Worcester every November. This has been going on for twenty-five years. 1969 was an exception. A little something was added.

The Memorial Mass, the main reason for our being in Worcester, was the same as it was twenty-five years ago. The location, a new church and the presence on the altar of Fr. Rowan and Monsignor De Laura were the only difference. The beautiful flowers on the altar, the honor guard from the Worcester Police Department, and the wonderful choir blended very nicely with the simplicity of the Mass. It was a wonderful inspiration to all who attended, especially those who came for the first time.

Saturday, November 9th, was the only good day we had during the first half of the month. It started to rain early on Sunday, not too bad but enough to keep some men out of the parade. Yes, the parade was something new, the men marched behind the Holy Cross R.O.T.C. Band for about one mile and at the end of the march they filed into the Immaculate Conception Church.

### New Site for Banquet

Over the years, our Sunday dinner or banquet, whichever you want to call it, has been held in many places. First it was in the old Bancroft Hotel, then we moved to the church hall in Grafton. After that it was back to the hotel, then to Putman and Thurston Restaurant and the Waschusset Country Club. This year because of the tremendous number of people who were coming to Worcester, Father Connors had to hire the field house at Holy Cross. This building has the largest floor space of any building in Worcester. This year a delicious catered dinner was served to at least eight hundred people. Twenty-five years ago there were less than three hundred at the dinner in the hotel. If you attend one Memorial Mass you will understand why men of the Ninth return to Worcester year after year.

### Sermon In Print

Upon his return home, Trevor Jones sent the following letter to the Editor of "The Bridgeport Post." It appeared in the November 15th issue of that paper under the heading "Chaplain Views Peace and War."

At the 25th annual memorial service for members of the 9th Infantry Division, the Rev. Edward Connors, our chaplain for three years who is now pastor of Immaculate Conception church, Worcester, Mass., spoke words which are worthy of thoughtful reflection. Father Connors' statement "Peace and War" follows:

"At our Memorial Mass and Service, our prayerful intention is three-fold... to pray for the Men of the 9th, the living and the Deceased... and their families... to pray for our troops in Vietnam... and to pray for Peace.

"War is terrifying, and no one realizes this more than you Men of the 9th Division, through eight campaigns of fighting, struggling, worrying... you know what it is... and I know that each one of you is praying for Peace... a lasting and an honorable Peace.

"However, sometimes it so happens that an unjust aggressor is attacking, abusing, murdering innocent people... commitments are made to protect and aid the innocent and weak and war becomes a terrible necessity.

"Pray that God's grace may move the Communists back to God and to the ways of honesty and decency and peace... that the peace of God may reign among all nations and in the hearts of all men.

"Pray, too, that all Americans in seeking peace... may be patient with our leaders... may be grateful to the men of our Armed Forces... may honestly seek and pray for peace, without hatred or violent demonstrations.

"We are demonstrating today... Men of the 9th... our concern and love for our country... our prayerful hope for peace... and our gratitude for those men who are serving us in the Armed Forces and our beloved country."

Immediately after the dinner a two hour program which included short speeches and the presentation of gifts took place. This year something was added to the program, a special gift for Fr. Connors. I want to thank the men of Service Co. 26th F.A. for their generosity towards this gift.

### Open House

In his invitation to the men of the Ninth, Father Connors warned them not to eat before attending the buffet on Saturday night. How right he was. Food was plentiful - not the steak and chop kind, but good wholesome food. Even at the late hour of eleven o'clock there was still plenty of food available.

The main hall, lobby, and class rooms of his new ecumenical center were filled to capacity. Ninth men and their families were everywhere. Some groups even made use of the hall which runs the length of the building. Sometime after eleven o'clock chairs and tables were removed from the main hall so that those who were able could waltz or fox trot.

How do you say "Thank You" or show appreciation to the good people at Immaculate? Their organization, planning and carrying out of assignments with clock like precision made our stay in Worcester a memorable one. We hope that you will invite us back again.

Harold Wallace, Service Co. 26th F.A., made the trip to Worcester, from Houston, Texas. Another man, whose name I do not know, came from California. I believe that even though this trip cost these men a considerable amount of money, they thoroughly enjoyed every minute of their stay in Worcester. If you have never been to a Memorial Mass, why not plan to be there next year before you get too old to travel.

☆☆☆

NEW YORK  
REUNION  
1970

In 1946 "Old Reliables" from all parts of the nation converged on New York City and held their first Annual Reunion at the Hotel New Yorker. That first reunion was a memorable one for many reasons but it will probably be best remembered for the fact that at its business sessions the foundations were laid for the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Twenty-five years later the Association that came to life at that reunion is still vigorous and growing and thereby proving that the delegates to the first reunion did their work well. In July 1970 "Old Reliables" will once again travel to New York City, this time they will be on their way to the Silver Anniversary Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Reunion marks an important milestone in the Association's history, the Reunion Committee realizes that it is something special and they have been working overtime on the preparations for it. The beautiful Hotel Commodore, in the heart of New York City, has been selected as the site for the 1970 Reunion. The Commodore has always been one of New York's classic hotels, it is right in the middle of everything that means "New York" - Fifth Avenue's famous shops - the United Nations - fashionable restaurants - Madison and Park Avenues with headquarters of leading business firms are all within a few blocks of the Commodore.

### Room Rates

The committee has arranged for some very reasonable room rates for members attending the reunion.

Single rooms will be priced at \$12.95, double bedrooms will be \$18.95, and twin bedrooms will be \$19.95. If you intend to have a big party Parlors & Bedrooms can be had for \$32.00, \$35.00, \$45.00, and \$65.00. For these prices you get more than just a room, they also entitle you to a full breakfast at one of the hotel's dining rooms.

### Many Attractions

During the summer time New York is a wonderful place to visit; it has many places of interest that are attractive to visitors. The committee is making arrangements that will enable our members to visit these places while they are in New York. The children will find plenty to do in the big city, and the ladies will have plenty of opportunities to go shopping.

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ROOM RESERVATIONS  
25TH ANNUAL REUNION 9th Inf. Div. Assoc.  
Hotel Commodore, 42nd Street & Park Avenue  
New York City

July 23, 24, 25, 1970

Please make reservation for ..... person(s)

Date of ..... AM  
arrival ..... at ..... PM

Departing ....

Name(s).....  
Address.....  
City.....  
State..... Zip .....

Type of accommodations  
Single Bedroom \$12.95  
Double Bedroom \$18.95  
(two persons)  
Twin Bedrooms \$19.95  
(two persons)

The above rooms includes Breakfast & Taxes  
Parlor and Bedroom

\$32..... \$35..... \$45..... \$65.....

Plus 5% rooms tax

Portable Bed available for additional person at \$4.00 per day.

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THE OCTOFOIL

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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

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JOHN SABATO, 3rd Vice President, Philadelphia, Pa., 19145

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DANIEL QUINN, Secretary, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N. J. 07087

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

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1970-

1972-

Peter Cusack, West Roxbury, Mass.

John Rizzo, Long Beach, N. Y.

Richard Wilson, Woodbury, N. J.

Michael Mysyk, Garfield Heights, Ohio

Leonard Tomassone, Pennsauken, N. J.

Francis Maher, Worcester, Mass.

Joseph Uschak, New York, N. Y.

Thomas Shine, Hyattsville, Md.

William Meadows, Detroit, Mich.

1971-

Board Member Emeritus

George Apar, Franklin Square, N. Y.

Frank Ozart, Chicago, Illinois

Robert Winkelman, Paletine, Illinois

James Bruner, Flint, Michigan

Charles Jones, McLean, Va.

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.

Nov-Dec 1969

Volume XXIV

Number 6

## Harry O's Report

New York City has given birth to many famous columnists and it now seems that Gotham has produced another. Harry Orenstein has been covering the activities of the New York Chapter for several years. His reports have been so interesting and comprehensive that they have earned him his own by-line "Harry O's Report." Harry's report on the recent activities of the New York Chapter is as follows:

### Dinner-Dance

One of the New York Chapter's most enjoyable social events this year was a Dinner-Dance held on November 1st at the Casa De Rosa Restaurant in the Bronx. Many members and their friends were present at the Casa De Rosa. A cocktail hour from 8 to 9 got everyone in a swinging mood and helped to whet their appetites for the Italian Smorgasbord that was to follow. Liquid refreshments were in good supply and nobody went dry.

During the evening the members were entertained by a dance band whose leader knew how to keep everyone happy. He persuaded several members to shed their inhibitions and to give a dance exhibition. These amateur Arthur Murrays and Irene Castles showed off by giving their versions of the Monkey and the Can-Can. Although their efforts may have been lacking in professional polish, they were not lacking in enthusiasm and they drew loud applause from the audience.

At the end of the evening the members congratulated Chairman Frank Fazio for a job well done.

### Christmas Party

About 175 members, their children, and grandchildren attended the Christmas party at the Elk's Club in Union City, N. J. It was a great day for the children young and old. The youngsters saw an amusing movie and stuffed themselves with candy, ice cream, and soda, the adults enjoyed beer and sandwiches. The bowling alleys were available to the Chapter and the fathers had a great time showing junior how to bowl - in some instances the youngsters showed Pop how the game should really be played.

The highlight of the afternoon was the appearance of Santa Claus, alias George Fraenkel. Santa carried a bulging sack of presents and he gave one to each child present. By six o'clock everyone was pooped and the party slowly broke up.

Chairman Ralph Witzken did a wonderful job in arranging the party. He was ably assisted by National President John Rizzo, Jack Scully, Dom Miele, Frank Fazio, Emil Langer, and Dan Quinn.

☆☆☆

Remember  
The Dates  
July 23rd - 25th

NEW YORK  
REUNION  
1970

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PAY YOUR

DUES NOW!!!!

## NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASS'N. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find 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. ☐

## Board Of Governors Hold Meeting

The 94th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held at 5:05 P.M. November 8, 1969 at the Holiday Inn Motel, Worcester, Mass., attended by Messrs: John Rizzo, William Meadows, Len Tomassone, Richard Wilson, Frank Ozart, Thomas Shine, Joseph Uschack, Michael Mysek, Francis Maher and Peter Cusack. Also attending were Treasurer Thomas Boyle, Past Presidents John Sabato, Herbert Olsen, Walter O'Keeffe, Emil Langer, John Bonkowski, Pittsburgh member George Kopac and Ron Murphy.

Upon a motion duly made by Bill Meadows and seconded by Len Tomassone, it was voted to: Dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 93rd Board meeting held in Pittsburgh.

Thomas Boyle was called upon for his treasurer's report. Upon a motion duly made by Michael Mysek and seconded by Joseph Uschack it was voted to: Accept the report as submitted.

Walter O'Keeffe gave a final report on the Pittsburgh reunion. A net profit of \$288.04 (plus \$25.00 that was received after the report) was realized from the reunion. The Memorial Fund received \$502.02 from donations made at the reunion. President John Rizzo thanked Walter for his report and the reunion committee for a job well done. Upon a motion duly made by Joseph Uschack and seconded by Lenny Tomassone it was to: accept the report of the reunion committee.

Emil Langer, Chairman, and Co-chairman Frank Fazio of the New York 1970 reunion gave the members a briefing on events that will take place at this reunion. Details will appear in the Octofoil.

George Fraenkel, a member and travel agent for the trip to the E.T.O., talked of the plans for the trip this summer. Upon a motion duly made by Joseph Uschack and seconded by

Michael Mysek it was voted to: Have the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the association be empowered to open a separate bank account to handle monies in connection with this trip, provided that any two (2) of the above designated shall have the power to co-sign for withdrawals from this account, and that they be co-signers of all checks & drafts drawn from such account to defray necessary expenses for said tour - further the Secretary will check with the Bonding Company if coverage is adequate for this money. Francis Maher voted against the motion.

President John Rizzo then called upon the Board members who represent the different chapters for a report of the activity of their chapters.

Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh spoke of a meeting in the D. C. area between representatives of the Ninth Division from Viet Nam and members of our association - to take place before the next Board meeting to be held in the Spring.

Upon a motion duly made by Richard Wilson and seconded by Frank Ozart it was voted to: Borrow \$1000.00 from the Capital Fund to be used in the General Fund until the Capital Gains from the Mutual Investments are received and then return this money to the Capital Fund.

A discussion was held on the subject of increasing the cost of membership but upon a motion duly made by Francis Maher and seconded by Leonard Tomassone it was voted to: Table the discussion till the next Board meeting.

There being no other business to come before the members, President John Rizzo closed the meeting at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Quinn  
National Secretary

## Condolences

### NEW YORK

#### Elections

At its December meeting the New York Chapter held elections for officers for 1970. The following men were elected to office for the coming year. President Emil Langer, 1st Vice-President Sal Longo, 2nd Vice-President Dr. H. Seslowe, Secretary Dom Miele, Treasurer Irving Feinberg, Judge Advocate Edward Egan, Sgt. Of Arms Al Orletti, Chaplin Ralph Witzkin. The following were added to the Board of Governors: Frank Russo, Val De Maria, George Fraenkel, Harry Orenstein, and Art Friedlmeier.



Two goldfish in heated discussion: "OK, Wise guy. If there is no God, who changes the water every day?"

Tom Orband of the 39th Infantry missed the Memorial Services in Worcester this year for at the time his Mother was very ill. A week after the Memorial his Mother passed away and, as Tom writes, "She had a full life - raised 10 children and returned for several visits to her native home in Italy." From all of us, Tom, please may we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

With the sad news sometimes goes a little news on the brighter side and we learned that Tom was named second deputy commissioner of Public Works in the city of Binghamton, N. Y. Tom lives at 30 Delmar Street. Congratulations, Tom.

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The man who gets pleasure out of his chosen work has a vacation every day of his life.

## 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 1970 dues. Please mail my membership card to—

Name .....

Street .....

City ..... State .....

While attached to the 9th Infantry Division my.....  
(state relationship, whether the Ninth Division man was a husband, father, brother, son, etc.)

was with .....  
give company, regiment, battery, attached unit, etc.)

Make checks or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail to Secretary-Treasurer Tippie Plunkett, 286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206. A 1970 countersigned membership card will be sent immediately.

# The Octofoil Comes Of Age In World War II

The article that appears on this page was one of the last endeavors undertaken by General Barth before his death. The General's story of some of the Great Leaders of the Division is continued from the last issue of the Octofoil.

That probably accounts for the very minor mission assigned the II Corps by Gen. Alexander for the final Allied campaign. I'm sure Gen. Eddy was not happy with this mission and neither was Gen. Bradley. It was apparent from 23rd April on, that Gen. Bradley had far more ambitious plans for use of the II Corps in the final phase than that assigned in the Field Order of the 18th Army Group. Gen. Bradley put strong pressure on Gen. Eddy to complete the capture of Ainchouna and the hills to the east and by April 27th increased this pressure to include the clearing of the Sedjanene Valley by the 60th Infantry by the end of April. Conway's response was magnificent!! By the evening of 30 April, the 60th, assisted by the Corps Franc d'Afrique, captured Hill 499 and the rest of the 60th Inf. took Hill 490 and Kef N'Sour (Hill 523). It was now apparent that the Germans were retreating to the strong position anchored on Djebel Chinitit and extending north to the coast. Gen. Eddy ordered the assault on Djebel Chinitit (Hill 209) on May 5th. By the evening of 30 April the capture of Hills 406 and 299 by the 39th Inf. made the Green Hill-Bald Hill position untenable and the enemy began withdrawing that night towards Mateur. By noon of 1 May the position was empty.

## Preparations For the Attack on Djebel Chinitit (Hill 209)

I remember so well the strong pressure of General Bradley on the 9th Inf. Div. about May the first. He called our command post at Sedjanene but Gen. Eddy was up with Conway on the 60th Inf. front so he talked to me personally. He made it crystal clear that we must capture the Djebel Chinitit position as soon as possible and not later than 5 May, using the entire division and all the artillery on our front, if necessary. He said that as soon as Chinitit was taken, he wanted a rapid advance made to put American troops into Bizerte. While he didn't say so in those words, he strongly implied that he wanted American troops to enter Bizerte ahead of the British who were driving for Tunis. He indicated that, while the formal entry into Bizerte was to be made by the Corps Franc d'Afrique and the town turned over to the French as soon as they could get there, American troops were not to wait for the French but were to drive for Bizerte with all speed. I went immediately, found Gen. Eddy and gave him Gen. Bradley's message. The 9th Div. Artillery was already displacing forward to support the attack on Djebel Chinitit, the last organized defensive position of the Germans in front of Bizerte. Gen. Irwin promised that over 100 guns would be concentrated for the assault, not including tanks and tank destroyers.

On 2 May, patrols of the 47th Inf. found only weak delaying forces on the Green Hill-Bald Hill position. By evening, the 47th had advanced and reported the whole position in our hands. Gen. Eddy ordered the regiment to concentrate and move to the north flank, relieving the Corps Franc d'Afrique and elements of the 60th Inf. on Hill 499 and

prepared to drive east to re-establish contact with the enemy who had retreated to the position north of Chinitit. On 3rd & 4th of May all plans were made for the Chinitit attack. Gen. Eddy set the early morning of 5th May for the time of attack. The 47th Infantry attacked at 5:30 hoping to envelop the enemy's north flank but this attack failed. The defense was very strong and, even with powerful artillery support, by dark the 47th had not gained its objectives. It dug in, prepared to continue the attack on 6 May. One battalion of French Infantry assaulted Djebel Chinitit but was thrown back. During the night of the 1st Battalion 60th Infantry relieved the French in front of Chinitit. The Corps Franc d'Afrique was ordered to concentrate along the main road west of the fighting line, prepared to move by marching, following behind the motorized column of motorized engineers, Tank Destroyers etc., who would start for Bizerte as soon as Chinitit was in our hands. During the night our Engineers got ready to replace the blown bridge over the Douimis River but did not complete the job until direct fire on the bridge was taken off the next day by our artillery fire on Chinitit. Early on 6th May, the 47th continued their attack on the north portion of the main enemy position. Almost all our artillery concentrated on this front. By 1100 it was decided that north of Chinitit the defense had been softened up enough to warrant an all out assault on Djebel Chinitit itself. The attack was ordered for 12 noon.

## The Attack On Djebel Chinitit (Hill 209) and Pursuit to Bizerte

Gen. Eddy and I witnessed the attack on Chinitit from an observation post on the front of the 60th Infantry. We had taken two days to perfect all plans and coordinate the efforts of the entire force. It was an awful but thrilling sight. First the artillery opened with a roar, pounding the entire position from Hill 209 north to the sea. The bulk of the fire was falling on the forward slopes of the fortified hills. The concentration in front of Chinitit was very heavy. We could now make out through the smoke the assault battalion the 1st Bn. 60th Inf. (Lt. Col. McCarley). Bayonets were fixed but the men were moving quietly. The enemy had 'gone to ground' when our artillery opened up and there was not a shot from the enemy position. Just as the advancing infantry, moving in deployed formation, came to a fordable stream at the base of Chinitit our rolling barrage came in over their heads about 200 yards in front of the assault infantry. They forded the stream and closed in to a hundred yards of the barrage. The barrage, increased in range by 100 yards every four minutes, moved up to the crest of Chinitit. The infantry, moving at the high port and not firing a shot, kept their distance, close to the bursting shells, until close to the enemy trenches. Then the artillery barrage lifted to the reverse slopes of the hill and the soldiers of the 60th rushed in, capturing or killing the enemy before they could fire or set up their machine guns. Our casualties amounted, I believe, to four men wounded by artillery fragments while

following the barrage up the hill. The 60th took a big bag of prisoners on the position. Only a few escaped towards Bizerte. When the enemy at Chinitit were overrun, the whole position north of Chinitit disintegrated into a rout to the east. It was a beautifully planned and executed attack. The 47th Inf. was able to move forward straight for Bizerte, while the motored force of Engineers tank destroyers and recon. vehicles headed for Bizerte on the macadam road. By 3 p.m. of 6 May, Gen. Eddy was able to report to Headquarters II Corps that Djebel Chinitit and the defensive position to the north was in our hands and that the motorized Engineer force and the entire 47th Infantry were on their way to Bizerte. It was over fifteen miles to Bizerte and he estimated that American troops in force would be in the city on 7th May. The time of entry would be determined by the speed with which the Engineers could remove the mines and booby-traps. On the afternoon of 6 May, the assembled Corps Franc d'Afrique started its

march for Bizerte on the main paved highway. It was estimated that they would take over Bizerte on 8 May and that any American troops still in the city at that time would be removed from the city and concentrated to the west of the town. After taking Chinitit, the 60th Infantry reorganized and followed the French force towards Bizerte using the main highway. All during 6 May our forces closed on Bizerte. The 47th Inf. bivouaced on the hills west of the city on the evening of 6 May. Early the next morning one of its battalions went to the assistance of the 894th T.D. force held up by enemy forces along the ship canal of Lake Bizerte. The 47th called in artillery fires and dominated the situation, allowing the tank destroyer and engineer people to get on with their work of lifting mines on the outskirts of Bizerte. At 1615 the 7th of May, report reached II Corps that American forces were in Bizerte and that the town was empty of the enemy but heavily mined. The British entered Tunis on 7 May at almost the same time as we entered Bizerte. Early on 8th May the remainder of the 47th Inf. moved into the city and worked on rubble and mine clearance. Later in the day French troops arrived and started taking over the city. American troops pulled out of Bizerte and bivouaced to the west of the city preparing for the long truck ride back to Algiers. By 11 May, the French were in possession with their own flag floating over the city. The campaign was over at last!

During the fight for Chinitit and the advance on Bizerte much was happening in the other divisions of the II Corps. In late April, the 34th and 1st Armored Divisions entered the line to the right of the 9th Div., thus narrowing the front held by the 1st Inf. Div. The 34th Div. captured and held Hill 609 thus taking German observation off our troops in the very rugged terrain. Strong and costly attacks by the 34th and 1st Inf. Divisions finally gained the crests of hills that, heretofore, had held up our armor. On 3 May Gen. Bradley loosed the 1st Armored Div. for a lightning thrust on Mateur. Combat Command B quickly captured the town but the Division took two days to replace destroyed bridges and concentrate its armored strength. Then, on 6 May Harmon's tanks crossed the river and raced to the east and north, fanning out across the northern part of the plain of Tunis. They moved on Ferryville and cut the Tunis-Bizerte Highway. The 1st Armored had a hard fight against high velocity 75's and 88's from hill positions, particularly in the strong hill mass on the south shore of Lake Ichkeul. By 11 May it was all over and the enemy started

surrendering in the thousands. One hundred and twenty eight thousand prisoners passed into the improvised prisoner of war inclosure of the 1st Armored Division north east of Mateur. Slightly more than that number surrendered to British troops, making the total bag of prisoners 275,000 for the Allies.

## In Retrospect

The morale of the whole 9th Division was high as we entered Bizerte. Gone were the days of the frustrations of El Guettar. We had learned from our mistakes there! We had suffered heavy casualties in the hill mass from Djebel Ainchouna to the north west and in the Sedjanene Valley but, again, the brunt of the battle had been borne by the thousands of enlisted men whose hardships had made victory possible. However, the leadership of the non-commissioned officers and officers of all grades had produced the end result. All three regiments had performed like veterans! The 47th Infantry had drawn the unglamorous holding mission but had done it well and it was to this regiment that Gen. Eddy turned to make the final dash for Bizerte that clinched the victory on the northern flank of the II Corps.

In the first day's fight the 39th Infantry was badly defeated and became disorganized. The regimental commander and his staff were captured and, while the colonel and part of the staff were recovered by a local counterattack, the regiment had lost its confidence and cohesion. A strong hand was needed at once. Col. Bill Ritter had been asked for to take command but it would be several days before he could arrive. Gen. Eddy sent Brig. Gen. Donald Stroh to take command of the 39th that afternoon. For three crucial days Gen. Stroh was in command of the 39th. Instead of marking time until the new regimental commander arrived, Gen. Stroh quickly reorganized his regiment and had his troops continuing the attack the next day. He drove unmercifully and, within three days, the 39th had captured both Big and Little Ainchouna (Hills 432 & 438) and also Hill 382. These gains outflanked the Green Hill-Bald Hill positions of the enemy but, above all, it restored the offensive spirit of the 39th Infantry. Much severe fighting still lay ahead but the men responded well and continued attacking vigorously until their mission, the capture of Hill 406 and Hill 299 was completed on 30 April.

The 60th Infantry had the main effort of the Division on our north flank. It not only carried out its difficult mission but also carried the Corps Franc d'Afrique forward with it, although the French force was acting under Division control. After capturing Djebel Dardys (Hill 294) on 24 April, the 60th turned north and assisted the French in capturing Hill 107. It struggled forward in abominable, briar covered thickets. When the 39th Inf. was in trouble around the Ainchouna position the 60th assumed its mission of taking Kef N'Sour (Hill 523) and Hill 490. When Col. De Rowan was evacuated through medical channels, Col. Theodore Conway had just reported to the 9th Div. from Headquarters 18th Army Group where he had been Aide to Gen. Alexander. He was designated Executive Officer of the 60th Inf. by Gen. Eddy even though he was not the senior lieutenant colonel of the regiment. He assumed command at once. Conway had made the landing at Port Lyautey on the staff of Gen. Truscott and knew the 60th and its problems. We needed a young, vigorous, leader who could galvanize the 60th in its final mission. Conway was just the man for the job and he accomplished wonders! I've told how he moved the

command post forward at once, upon taking command. His driving force was at once apparent and, under him, the 60th accomplished every mission given it. The assistance given the Corps Franc d'Afrique by the 60th allowed the French to capture their final objective, Hill 499, on 30th April. Conway's final achievement was the planning and attack on Djebel Chinitit (Hill 209). It had to succeed but, we at Division, never doubted his ability to do the job. Conway was the bright star of the 9th Division in the final campaign. Under his inspired leadership, the 60th Inf. 'came of age,' and joined the 47th Inf. as our two completely battle-trying regiments and he joined Col. Randle as a '9th Inf. Div. Great.' Several other leaders were to earn this distinction in Sicily and in Europe but they came later.

The power of the 9th Division Artillery was vital to our success. When it was finally concentrated against the Chinitit position it broke the back of the defense and made the dash for Bizerte possible. Many attached units contributed greatly to our success but, not being a part of the 9th Division, their operations are not taken up in detail here.

## Credit to

### Maj. Gen. Omar Bradley

Without the dogged persistence of Gen. Bradley in insisting that the whole American corps of four divisions be given its own sector in the final battle, under American command, the final battle of the North African Campaign would have been almost entirely British while our Divisions underwent re-training behind the battle front. After being turned down at 18th Army Group headquarters on the ground that four divisions could not be logistically supported in the northern flank, Gen. Bradley flew to Algiers and 'sold' Gen. Eisenhower on the feasibility of his plan. As a result, Gen. Eisenhower called Gen. Alexander and ordered him to accept Gen. Bradley's plan and give the American II Corps a sector under American command in the final battle of the North African campaign. At the end, the Americans had proved the battle worthiness of four divisions. In addition, the presence of our flag in an important operation under American command, raised the morale of II Corps and of the people back in the United States. Much experience was gained in high staff and troop operations. This formed the basis for training many new divisions training in the United States. These divisions later fought in the European and Mediterranean Theater of Operations.

END OF PART I



Remember  
The Dates  
July 23rd - 25th

NEW YORK  
REUNION  
1970



# THE PAWNS OF WAR

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

## Sicily - 1943

The 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry combat team as well as the entire 39th Infantry combat team was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division for the assault on the island of Sicily. We landed near Gela-Licata on the southern coast in reserve of the American 7th Army after a very stormy convoy crossing from North Africa. The 82nd lost no time in deploying the 39th into action.

It seemed that the stiff resistance which the 39th had pierced through the Green Bald Mountains had given the outfit the experience and the know-how of how to gain ground on the enemy. As the resistance was much lighter in the south and western sections of the island, the 39th made incredible gains. It was incredible because the terrain the 39th covered was on foot.

The Italians who fought so bitterly in Africa at El Guetar and Sedjenane would not capitulate by the thousands. Only those who had German officers and non-coms at their backs would resist bitterly. There was an occasional skirmish and shelling but nothing could hold up the lightning advance up the west coast.

Here and there a pill-box would offer resistance. Our men would close in and a white flag would appear indicating a surrender by the enemy. When our troops approached to take the prisoners, the enemy opened fire. We had experienced this situation before during the African campaign and we were ready to combat it. Our remedy was to have our 57mm anti-tank guns which had replaced the 37mm ones used in the initial North African landings close by our assault troops. These 57mm guns were manhandled by their crews up to close range of the resisting pill-boxes. As soon as the enemy opened fire, a well-aimed 57mm shell knocked out the resistance. It proved to be very successful.

Four of us in a jeep, Lt. PRATT, his jeep driver, FERINA, BILL SOLLIDAY and myself went on a motor patrol which extended many miles in front of the assaulting troops. We drove into a coastal battery position and we picked up about two hundred Italian prisoners. The next day we got two hundred more Italian infantrymen. We had almost four hundred prisoners to dispose of and Lt. PRATT with the jeep and the driver left BILL and me to walk back the prisoners to our lines. I led the parade as BILL took up the rear as the prisoners were in column of twos. We had been marching some time which extended into the darkness of the night. Then the difficulty commenced as we came upon the advanced guard of the 3rd Infantry Division. Not knowing that there was our patrol out in front of them, they thought they had run into a

counter-attack by the enemy as four hundred marching feet on the road pavement would signify. When one of the Americans challenged us, he was surprised to get the proper and right countersign. Then perhaps he thought it was a trick as much time elapsed before we were permitted to continue on our way.

We were in one of the towns enroute and had gathered more prisoners, when TOMMY DONZA of our 1st Battalion Headquarters Company ran into a ticklish situation (TS). TOMMY who was an Italian-American boy and who spoke the language fluently ran into a street only to come face to face with an Italian soldier pointing a revolver at him. TOMMY, quick thinking, said in Italian, "Hurry up, you dope, catch up with the rest of the prisoners or you'll be left behind." The Italian soldier dropped his revolver and raced down the street toward the other prisoners.

We captured many towns enroute up the west coast until we finally captured Marsala. Finally, the armored broke out to the north and we were left to bivouac at Marsala. The Intelligence Section had continually walked prisoners back for interrogation. Lt. PRATT was lost to the battalion as his nerves snapped trying to keep in line over fifteen thousand Italian prisoners most of whom were inflected with malaria.

The second battle for Marsala started as my company bivouaced between "B" and "D" Companies. I happened to be in an orchard just about to dig a slit-trench when some of "B" Company's men who had been drinking vino, no doubt, tossed Italian concussion grenades just for the kicks. They were having their own little celebration. The machine gunners from "D" Company thought, perhaps, it was an enemy counter-attack and they opened fire. I happened to be in the middle of it as the machine gun bullets made me hug the ground as the second battle of Marsala ended in a draw. It didn't last very long but Major TUCKER who was commanding the 1st Battalion was very angry and upset. He ordered the battalion for a fifteen mile hike with full field packs. We had just finished walking almost the entire length of Sicily. However, we stood at attention in ranks for over an hour but there was no hike.

As the rest of the 9th Infantry Division landed at Palermo, the 39th Infantry moved towards Nicosia. Lt. BAILEY took Lt. PRATT's place as S-2 officer. As the 9th assembled in the vicinity of Nicosia, Lt. BAILEY and I went on an advance reconnoitering patrol up to a river before Cerami to see if the bridge across that river was still intact. WILBUR HOVEY drove us in his jeep as the "fighting" 1st Infantry Division who by now had a reputation for drawing the best German units to engaged it held this sector before Cerami.

When we got up near enough, we left HOVEY and his jeep and we walked forward through the woods which extended around to the front side of a hill facing the river before Cerami. The woods ended abruptly and BAILEY continued on walking into the open terrain. A mortar shell landed close by and he ran back into the woods. I ran out into the open as if I took the lieutenant's place to divert the aim of that mortar section. I ran up the hill away from the enemy as I counted to six. I made a sharp left turn then two mortar shells landed just where I would have been if I continued to run straight up the hill. Through the woods I came to a conduit, a three foot wide and high rain drainage tunnel under the road. The enemy saturated almost everything with mortars and artillery. I couldn't get into the tunnel as it was filled with personnel of the 1st Infantry Division. So, I did the next best thing which was to flatten myself in a prone position on the exposed ground outside of the conduit as the shells and the shrapnel landed all around me.

When hostilities ceased, I contacted BAILEY and we made our way to the rear of the hill where we had left HOVEY. WILBUR was not there but his jeep had three flat tires, the water leaking out of the radiator, and the gasoline was dripping from the bottom of the gas tank. HOVEY had at the start of the shelling looked for protection and he found a similar conduit just like the one I tried to get into but could not. We returned to battalion and neither of us had a scratch but it was a great start for us whose outfit had not been committed as yet.

The 1st Battalion, 39th, as well as the entire 39th Infantry combat team was attached to the 1st Infantry Division and the 1st Battalion took over the sector where BAILEY and I had been. The Germans were no dummies, they withdrew from Cerami knowing that an attack was evident. We always saturated our objectives with artillery fire, the enemy would withdraw to save their personnel from being knocked out by this barrage. Then, if there was time, they would reoccupy those positions again to resist the infantry charge.

The first night the American Artillery saturated the town of Cerami which stood on top of the mountain like many towns throughout Sicily. The next morning at dawn the 1st Battalion attacked up the mountain towards Cerami. These dawn attacks were also a tip off to the enemy as all attacks seemed to start at dawn. To everyone's surprise there was no opposition and the 1st Battalion took Cerami very easy. I guess the top command thought that we could take the next town, Troina, quickly also. However, it is said that we advanced too fast because a few hundred yards beyond Cerami the enemy launched a fierce counter-attack. The attack was a complete surprise which resulted in many casualties and

because of the determination of the foot soldier, the 1st Battalion held that ridge. However, the attack was stalled momentarily and STANLEY CABAN was missing in action. He was found to have a leg injury and he would be lost for the rest of the campaign. Lt. BELL replaced Lt. BAILEY as the S-2 officer for the 1st Battalion.

Major HENRY P. TUCKER, who commanded the 1st Battalion, wanted to get a front line view of the situation. KOHN KUJAWA, ROY WILLIAMS, the jeep driver, SKEETER WEBB and I accompanied TUCKER to one of the assault companies. When we reached the ridge, the enemy was pounding it with mortars and light artillery fire. TUCKER left us behind the ridge as he went to the company command post. When things quieted down after WEBB parked his vehicle in three different positions, two of the previous positions hit with shells, a runner beckoned KUJAWA, WILLIAMS and I to the command post. One of the officers turned down TUCKER's suggestion to patrol the next ridge. The battalion commander ordered us to patrol that next ridge to see if the enemy was still on it.

It was broad daylight and there was no cover nor concealment that we could have taken advantage of as we had to go down the slope of the ridge

We established our outpost with telephone line to the command post which was at the base of the hill to our right rear. A few minutes later they gave us a direct line with the 26th Field Artillery. Immediately, we spotted an enemy tank before Troina and we directed artillery fire upon it. We didn't have time to dig any fox-holes for ourselves which was usually the case when we were in the heat of battle. However, there had been someone up there ahead of us who had started a fox-hole and only got it about half dug and he was lying dead a few yards from it.

Then we spotted a German personnel carrier which was filled with enemy troops and it was pulling a large cannon behind it. But, when I reported it, it was too far out of range for our artillery fire. It was miles beyond Troina and it was approaching this well-camouflaged and fortified town. Immediately, the 26th Field Artillery officer and I prearranged signals that when the enemy vehicle reached a certain grid coordinate, I would give him the word. In the time waiting, I saw to our right front those two daring wire section men, Sergeants MIKE DUDA and ARTHUR SCHNEIDER, dodging enemy shells as they were bringing in a wire from one of the assault companies.

It was not long waiting when



CEFALU, SICILY, September, 1943. Softball game in rest area.

we occupied, across a narrow valley, then up the enemy's slope to the ridge top. Knowing how accurate these German mortar men were, I warned my two comrades to spread out and not to follow me too closely. I told them if I did get a mortar shell in my hip-pocket that the enemy was not going to get all three of us with one shot. After a hot sweaty walk in the sun, we found the next ridge unoccupied after a careful search. We returned to TUCKER after this uneventful patrol.

Sometime that same evening, the 16th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division took up the advance in our sector and they tried to occupy that same ridge and they ran into all kinds of opposition. I came to the conclusion that the enemy was just a little faster and he reoccupied the ridge before the 16th tried to move in.

The fighting between Cerami and Troina was the fiercest since the Green Bald Mountains campaign. The 39th and the 1st Infantry Division alternated attacked against the enemy with little progress. We got about half way between Cerami and Troina with Troina as the objective in mind. The tallest hill in that locality was pounded by the American artillery for at least three days before we came abreast of it. Lt. BELL ordered BILL SOLLIDAY and me to establish an outpost on top of this hill. I knew that it was suicide but the order prevailed.

the enemy vehicle reached the range for our artillery and they sure blasted them. We saw the shells hitting right in there with a few of the Germans jumping off the sides of the truck. Then we could see nothing as the bursting shells and the dust covered everything. Then, we got it as all "hell" broke loose. The Germans pounded our position with a battery of 170mm artillery guns. We had word of this battery before but now it was evident.

The concussion and the ground tremble was so tremendous that it was like an earthquake. I was hugging the ground in a prone position with my face buried in the dirt. SOLLIDAY was in a likewise position using that half of a fox-hole. The blast from one of those shells raised my body from head to toes one foot off the ground all in one motion. With luck or "God's will", we got off that hill without a visible scratch. Later we found that five knocked out tanks stood where we had directed fire on one.

We maneuvered through wadis at night and barrages of mortar and howitzers during the days. The Allied airforce dropped bombs on our forward positions. Then they returned again to bomb us with "K" rations as a token of apology for their mistake.

(Continued next issue)

## TWO OF THE BEST



Father Connors is amused as Monsignor DeLaura tells a story at the Saturday night reception in Worcester.

This is a letter received by the secretary, who feels this letter is addressed to all our members.

Dear Dan,  
I am sure that you were as deeply impressed at our 25th Annual Memorial Mass as I was. This was by far our largest crowd. At the dinner at Holy Cross College there were 738 people and 705 of these were 9th Division people. It was certainly a great demonstration of patriotism, love of our deceased and of true ecumenism. Men of all faiths coming together from many parts of the country to pray for our beloved dead and to pray for peace.

#### City Thrilled

My parishioners are always honored to be hosts to my 9th Division men and their families. It is a red-letter day in the life of our parish. In fact the whole city of Worcester is thrilled with this demonstration of loyalty and fidelity. One of the wives of the 9th Division men told me that she thought it was a miracle that the men come to this Mass in such great numbers, but she asked me if next year I could perform a miracle and arrange for decent weather. It was quite a sight to see the men marching up Gold Star Boulevard with American flag in hand, soaking wet and led by the Holy Cross ROTC Band. It proved to me that God lets it rain on the just as well as the unjust.

#### Honored Guest

We had a good group of Gold Star people and, as you know, these are the important guests. As usual we had our City Manager with us, Francis J. McGrath, who is also a parishioner and a fine gentleman, the mayor of the city, John Shea, who attended Holy Cross with me and Congressman Donahue, another of my very good parishioners. I was also happy to have with us at the dinner Father Swords, the president of Holy Cross College, a dedicated priest and a good friend. But I think my greatest thrill was to have Msgr. DeLaura with us — a great little "pison".

#### Accepts Graciously

However, I was indeed embarrassed at what happened to me during our get-together at Holy Cross College — the plaque, the gifts and the trip to Europe. All this overwhelmed me and I hope that the gang is not trying to pay me back for the few things I may have done. For whatever I have done has been a great joy to me and doing it has been reward enough. As you all well know, that weekend is my best weekend of the year and most consoling. However, a lady that I knew very well, Mary Connors, my mother, often said to me in her Irish brogue, "Edward, you should learn to accept things graciously" — so although embarrassed and overwhelmed, I will accept this graciously.

Every blessing to you, Dan, and I wish to thank you for your great dedication to the 9th Infantry Division Association. You are the life of this organization much more than I and God knows that's the truth. Every blessing to your beloved spouse, who in spite of your abuse gets more attractive each year. All the blessings and graces of this holy Christmas season.

Sincerely yours,  
Rev. Edward T. Connors

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## Taps Sounded

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

We were saddened to learn of the death of an old comrade of ours from the 47th - former 1st Sgt. Joseph Von Achen of E Company. Joe had lived in Connecticut after moving from the Bronx. Also passing on for their last "roll call" were two former 60th Infantry men - Nickolas O'Neill Co. M, Verona, N. J. and George Pastewait Co. E, Newark, N. J. and Carl F. Lucas of the 26th F.A. of Somerville, Mass. May they rest in peace and to their families our deepest sympathy.

#### 9th QM's Notes

##### Memorial Services

A capacity audience of 9th Division men, women, children and friends heard Father Connors deliver the 25th Annual Memorial Services for the deceased men of the 9th Infantry Division on Sunday, November 9, 1969. He said we are here today to remember and honor our beloved dead. It was 27 years ago that we landed in Africa. He recalled the 9th Division's route from Africa to the Elbe River. It was about three years of combat. We left 4581 men of all faiths over there. No one wants peace more than we men here. No more than the demonstrators who run up and down the streets. He asked that we have faith in our leaders who are seeking peace. He mentioned that we displayed our loyalty at the 1967 Boston Reunion when we followed the flag for about 1/2 hour. It was a memorable scene. Father Connors thanked the parishioners for the food for yesterday's buffet dinner. He thanked the men, women, children and friends for sharing the weekend with him.

After the memorial services, the outdoor services at the 9th Division shrine began. Ralph Witzkin said prayers for the deceased men of the 9th Infantry Division. Mayor John M. Shea expressed thanks for the work the 9th Division did. City Manager Francis J. McGrath mentioned the 9th Division Association's loyalty through the years. John Rizzo, president of the 9th Division Association, said we are paying our respects to the 4581 men who gave their lives for our country. Father Rowan concluded the outdoor memorial services.

#### It Was Father Connors Day

After the memorial services we traveled to Holy Cross College for the dinner. There were more than 700 persons attending the dinner, the largest attendance yet for a dinner. Speaker after speaker had praise for Father Connors. Men from far away California, Texas and Florida showed their loyalty to Father Connors by their presence at the Silver Anniversary. The Very Rev. Raymond J. Swords said Father Connors was a graduate of Holy Cross. He has given all of himself to help others. Mayor John Shea said we are very proud to welcome you, again and again. City Manager Francis McGrath remarked that you show great respect and honor for coming here year after year. For 25 years you have shown your loyalty to Father Connors and what he has done for you. Your presence here is your faith in democracy and God. Come back next year. Monsignor DeLaura stated he was going to Florida. He spoke about how he joined the 9th Division. His humorous stories had the audience laughing. Father Connors was surprised to receive a \$600 gift from his friends for two weeks for a European trip from July 26, to August 9, 1970 which follows the 1970 New York Reunion. Ed McGrath presented Father Connors with an additional check.

The Silver Anniversary began Saturday evening, November 8, 1969 in Father Connors' Coffee Shop. It was the best affair yet. There was an unlimited amount of food and drinks for everyone. Father Connors was in excellent voice as he sang "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "My Wild Irish Rose" and "The Holy Cross Song" accompanied by the band and the audience. The audience applauded Father Connors for his rendition of the songs. Monsignor De Laura received a standing ovation for entertaining the audience with his interesting stories.

#### Worcester Notes

Monsignor De Laura and Father Rowan assisted Father Connors at the memorial services. A Holy Cross ROTC Band led the marchers from Worcester's Fire Department Headquarters at Grove and Lancaster Streets to the church. As usual, there was coffee and cake before and after the memorial services.

The QM's had a record turnout for the Silver Anniversary. The QM's who were present were:

Joe D'Antuono  
Tom Gray  
Harry Orenstein  
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Amore  
Mr. & Mrs. Perin Diana  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hokanson  
Mr. & Mrs. John Jagling  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Ledwak  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Miele  
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Ponzio  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Russo  
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cheevers and his son, Charles  
Mr. & Mrs. John Moran and his daughter, Kathy  
Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Jones and his guests, Mr. & Mrs. Ted McLean  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Robbins and his guests, Mr. & Mrs. Dan O'Leary and Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sanford

After leaving the 9th QM, John Moran was with the 709 Ordnance.

Here are two new addresses:  
Perin Diana, 393 Broadway, Hamden, Conn.

John Moran, 339 Grove St., West Roxbury, Mass.

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 Ave.  
Bronx, N. Y. 10452

NEW YORK  
REUNION  
1970

## Show Your Appreciation

One of the high-lights of the 1969 Reunion was the performance of The U. S. Army Field Band and The Soldier's Chorus. These soldier-musicians captured the hearts of the "Old Reliabilities", when they finished their performance the audience was reluctant to let them leave the stage. They wanted to hear more and more of the stirring music that is the trademark of the Field Band. Major Gibson and Sgt. Major Coughlin are to be commended on the excellence of their units.

Besides being great musicians the officers and men of the Field Band and Chorus are also wonderful people. They co-operated with the reunion committee in every way possible. They rearranged their programs and schedules to meet our convenience, and were always willing to do anything that would make the reunion more enjoyable.

At the reunion you showed your appreciation for their efforts by your applause. Now you can show your appreciation in another way. Why not write their boss and tell him how good they are. He is Major General Wendall J. Coats, Chief of Information, Department of The Army, Washington, D. C.

#### Help

Henry M. Crane of P. O. Box 167, Mill Street, Port Republic, N. J. is trying to locate a Paul Tysatt, who served in the 15th Engineers. Henry wrote and we were able to assist him with the other name - Camille Pelland whom we have on our files but we have no records on Paul Tysatt. If one of our members has such an address please drop a line to Henry.

Ed Wierzbowski of 1833 W. 35th Street, Chicago, Illinois asked for the whereabouts of James C. Hamilton whose home town was Enid, Oklahoma. (Jim was discharged as a 1st Lt. back in 1947.)

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### 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

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregorv Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

December was a tough month for our mailman. He had to deliver not only our normal heavy load of mail but he also had to deliver a heavy load of Christmas cards. To all the members who sent us seasons greetings we want to say thanks and we hope that the New Year will bring you and your loved ones good health and good luck.

The following letters are only a few of the many that we have received during the past few months.

Jesse R. Davis  
Helron, Ohio

Jesse tells us that he has visited Dick Pestel. He reports that Dick's chores around his property have kept him away from the reunion and Memorial Service at Worcester.

Jesse also called our attention to the fact that the new Commander of the American Legion is a former Ninth Division man.

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The various Division Associations exchange publications so we often hear from men in other outfits. The following letter was received from Walter L. Miller, Jr., Sec-Treasurer of the 101st Airborne Division Association:

We are investigating the possibility of a Scholarship Fund. From reading the "Octofoil" and I really do, I think you have a good set-up for this.

If possible would you send me a copy of your plan for our review and possible adoption of a similar one.

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Dear Dan,

I was sorry that I was unable to attend the '69 Reunion in Pittsburgh. My wife, Virginia, was very sick and passed away September 1.

I am enclosing one check for my dues and another in the amount of \$300.00 for advance reservations for the trip to Europe. I would like to take my daughter and son-in-law along.

Please keep me informed.

Yours truly,  
James E. Driskell  
1011 N. Montgomery  
Litchfield, Ill.

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Hugh Lee 39th Inf.  
Summit, N. J.

Mrs. Ronnie Lee writes "Thought you might be interested to know that our son's wife presented her husband with their first child. This is our first grandchild; he was born on Thanksgiving morning."

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Dear Dan:

Enclosed is a check for 1970 dues - this year I promised I wouldn't be late in sending a check to you.

Things are great out here in Kansas and one of these years (when my boss will let me) I'm going to bring my wife to another reunion.

Hoping this finds you and yours in good health, and best wishes for the coming holidays and next year.

Edwin E. Brewer  
Co. L. 60th Inf.

Louis J. Netta  
Wilmington, Del.

Lou and Julia are proud to announce that on November 28th they became the grandparents of a baby boy. Julia's father was ill around the holiday season and she was kept busy taking care of him and couldn't get around to sending out Christmas cards so she wants us to tell all the members of the Ladies Auxiliary that she sends her best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Dear Mr. Quinn,

Hugh is still in the hospital I guess a little better, but not too much. It's almost a year now. Will be on the 20th December. He is able to get around in a wheel chair but he doesn't talk only a few words.

We have beautiful weather out here in California. It's between 75 & 80 every day. If anyone wants to send Hugh a card the address is:

Hugh Hanson  
Sepulveda V. A. Hospital  
16111 Plummer St.  
Sepulveda, Calif.  
or here at home.  
321 W. Arden Ave.  
Glendale, California  
Best wishes always.

Mrs. Esther Hanson

Dear Dan,

What a happy delight to receive the Division newspaper, The Octofoil, today! But, Dan, I shall happily reimburse you (or the editor) if my future editions can be sent to, printed matter air mail please, to:

R. M. A. Hirst  
62 Wiesbaden-Sonnenberg  
Danzigerstrasse 56  
Federal Republic of Germany

A two months delay in receipt is just too much - and I can afford the luxury of its receipt, six times per year, air mail as printed matter. Thank you.

I have many items to recount, Dan, but I believe the immediate and most compelling one is the coming Association's visit to Europe from 26 July to 9 August 1970! Especially the Association's visits at Carantan, Saint Lo, Omaha Beach - Area on 31 July; the Liege visit on 3/4 August and the Remagen visit on 5 August!

Let it be known that I have very dear friends who live along this route and I say for them, they would be delighted to assist our visit in any way possibly in reach of human endeavor. The Mayors of Isigny and Vierville in Normandy - the Police Inspector of Liege - Esso's Chief Auditor in Europe - along with the former Commanding General of the Belgian NATO Forces. They too will receive a copy of this letter.

I realize that this is not too explanatory for them but they will understand - they will help. You have but to include them in your planning, to include them in what inquiry you or the Association or a member might have. All of them were most instrumental in making my June sojourn on the continent for the 25th anniversary ceremonies of D Day a total, historical, unforgettable success. Just consider us a small group of one who would wish to assist a most unforgettable visit by the Division Association membership to the Continent in 1970. Time does not permit a lengthy dissertation, Dan, you will understand. Let me hear from you or the 'Tour Leadership' at your earliest - Merriest of Christmases and an unforgettable 1970 wish we 'you all'!

Sincerely,  
Scotty

Dear Dan:

Here is my 69-70 dues. I have been meaning to send them on a long time before now but a heavy schedule has delayed me in doing so. Kindly bring me up to date on the latest issues of the Octofoil. OK?

Dan, last month my wife met a fine "Old Reliable" here in Front Royal, Va, and she had quite an enjoyable talk with him - Walter Tondetta from Jamaica, N. Y. They discussed much of the past history of the 9th Div.

My wife said she didn't feel as though she was talking to a stranger at all, and sends best wishes to Walter Tondetta and his lovely wife who was so patient while the conversation was going on.

Dan, any "Old Reliable" that ever passes by Front Royal has a large welcome mat set out for him and his family - to spend some time with us.

I could not make the last reunion but surely intend to make the next one.

Sincerely,  
"Old Reliable"

Kirby D. Henry  
744 Stoyman St.  
Front Royal, Va. 22630  
Bty. B.

Joseph Harnila, Cardale, Pa.

Pittsburgh being our first time at one of the reunions after 24 years seeing my old buddies was really a great thrill and pleasure.

If possible remind S. Lelak and Pat Maranno of the 47th that we are still waiting for copies of the pictures they took at the Chatham Center and tell them that we are looking forward to meeting them again at the next reunion.

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## A PHILLY CHRISTMAS

On December 13th the Philadelphia Delaware Valley Chapter held a "chip-in" Christmas party at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Dick Wilson of 530 E. Elm Avenue, Woodbury, N. J.

The Wilson's paneled basement complete with bar was beautifully decorated by Anne and Dick with twinkle lights, garlands, mistletoe and a Christmas tree.

Those who attended were: Mr. & Mrs. Frank Alice, Mr. & Mrs. Vic Butswinkus, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Cordivari, Mr. & Mrs. Al Cuprys, Mr. & Mrs. Vic DeCesare, Mr. & Mrs. Nick Dogostino, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Freund, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Lisa, Mr. & Mrs. Reds MacDougall, Mr. & Mrs. John Sabato, Mr. & Mrs. John Sebastiano, Mr. & Mrs. Tony Soprano, Mr. & Mrs. Len Tomassone and Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Tricoli.

Everyone enjoyed a variety of delicious food along with the bottled CHEER. There was dancing, games and exchanging of Pollyanna gifts. The evening was high-lighted by Anna DeCesare doing her famous South Philly Strut and by Anne Wilson and Tony Soprano helplessly intertwined while playing the Twister game.

At about 2:00 a.m. the next morning the party, which was enjoyed immensely by all, came to an end with the unanimous feeling that the Wilsons were the perfect hosts.

## GOAL FOR THE E.T.O.

## TRIP IS REACHED

The quota of 150 people has been reached for the trip to the E.T.O. next summer. Others sending for reservations will now be placed on a standby or wait list, depending upon cancellations.

Our travel agent (and member) George Fraenkel has promised to mail a list, to those whose reservations have been accepted, of those members who will be making the journey. He also promised to send a list of things that will be required of the members, such as passports, inoculations, luggage etc., etc. So comes next July 26, 1970 the gang will be taking off from John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

## PLANK HOLDER

In the Navy anyone who serves aboard a ship when it is put into commission is called a "Plank Holder."

If Dave Silberberg were an old salt he could claim to be a "Plank Holder" in the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Dave was one of the first men to join the Association.

Recently while going through some World War II mementos he came across his original membership in the Association. He made a Xerox copy of it and sent it along to the Octofoil.

The membership is dated 2 June 1945 and is signed by Leonard E. Reynolds, 1st Lt. Inf., Hqs Co. 47th Inf. Dave wonders if any other members have their original membership. He also wonders if any of them were issued at an earlier date than his. If there are any other "Plank Holders" around let's hear from them.

## CONGRATULATIONS

## COMMANDER

It seems as if Ninth Division men are destined to go to the top in any outfit they belong to. So we were not too surprised to learn that J. Milton Patrick, the new Commander of the American Legion, is an "Old Reliable."

On behalf of our Association John Rizzo, our National President, sent congratulations to Commander Patrick. In his reply Commander Patrick expressed interest in the Association and requested a membership application. Dan Quinn has mailed the application and hopes that in the next issue of the "Octofoil" we can announce that we have a new member.

25th ANNUAL REUNION  
REQUEST FOR SPACE IN SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Attached is copy for an ad in the color-printed 1970 New York Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association Program.

Full page	\$35.00
half page	\$20.00
quarter page	\$10.00
one eighth page	\$ 5.00

Booster ads - \$1.00 - name and unit.

Send all copy, checks and money orders to New York Reunion Committee of the Greater New York Chapter, 9th Infantry Division Association, P. O. Box 1108, G.P.O. N. Y., N. Y. 10001.

## MICHIGAN REPORTS

Ever since the 1969 Reunion The Detroit Chapter has been a real active outfit. John Bonkowski our reporter in the Motor City keeps us informed on the Chapter's activities and his recent reports have been very encouraging.

The Chapter meets at Walker's, 20317 Mound Rd., Detroit, and the meetings have been very successful. These get-togethers attract not only the old timers but also many new faces. In October John Obermiller attended his first meeting and he pitched right in and got busy selling raffles for the Christmas party.

## Sick Call

Along with the good news John also had some bad news. Florence Phelps had a set back in her recovery from a recent illness and will have to take it easy for a little while longer. Elmer Wagner was hospitalized for a time and his stay in the hospital kept him away from the Memorial Service at Worcester.

## Long Drive

Several Detroiters made the long haul to Worcester, Mass. to attend the Memorial Services in that city. They included Mr. and Mrs. Bartley, Mr. and Mrs. Overmiller and Mr. and Mrs. John Bonkowski. These hardy souls made the long drive in very bad weather and are to be congratulated on their devotion to the memory of our honored dead.

## December Meeting

The Detroit Chapter held its Christmas party on December 15th; so far we haven't received a report on this event, however, if it lived up to the advance publicity it must have been a great affair. Any of our members living in the Detroit area who desire more information about their local chapter can get it by contacting John Bonkowski at 19941 Hickory St., Detroit, Mich.

SEASONS GREETINGS  
FROM THE EDITORS

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

Hors d'oeuvres: A ham sandwich cut into 40 pieces.

Ole Slush sez: "If you raise your hand to a fellow man, make sure it's got a drink in it!"

NEW YORK  
REUNION  
1970

July 23rd - 25th