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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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## The Octofoil, January/February 1971

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 XXVI NO. 1

Jan.-Feb. 1971

## Gold Star Parent's Dream Comes True For Old Reliable's Mom

### Springfield 1971 Reunion

Another communique has been received from the Reunion Committee. It contained plenty of good news for members who are making plans to visit Springfield this July. The committee has some novel entertainment scheduled for this reunion.

#### ABE LINCOLN NIGHT

On Thursday night the Holiday Inn will be the scene for a great welcome party. Paul Clark has arranged for plenty of refreshments and has hired some terrific musical talent to provide for your dancing pleasure. The highlight of the welcome party will be a contest to determine the man who has a beard that looks most like the one worn by Abe Lincoln. The reunion is five months away, so all potential contestants have plenty of time to grow a good crop of chin spinach. To give you a little more incentive to grow a good crop Paul has announced that the winner will receive some genuine frontier corn likket.

#### GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mike Belmonte will be the resident pro for this event. The Association's hackers and duffers will brave the hazards of the Lake Springfield Municipal Golf Course. Tee off time will be at 9:00 a.m. This contest always draws plenty of golfers so Mike has arranged for plenty of room for everyone. Trophies will be awarded to the two top players.

#### HAWAIIAN LUAU

The most unique event of the 1971 Reunion is scheduled for Friday night. A Hawaiian Luau will be held at the Holiday Inn's pool. The party will start off with a traditional Royal Hawaiian Feast. Your appetite will be tempted by the island fare set before you, tender Chicken Terryaki, delicious mixed seafood, succulent sliced island pork, fresh fruits, and various types of salads. To put you in the proper mood to enjoy this delicious food, musicians will play Hawaiian music all through the feast. If you can still move after packing away all this fabulous chow, you can spend the rest of the evening dancing to the music of a great band.

### PROGRAM 1971 REUNION JULY 29, 30, and 31, 1971

#### Thursday July 29 Registration All Day

9:00 A.M.	Golf Tournament
4:00 P.M.	Springfield Lake Municipal Course
8:00 to 12:00 P.M.	Board of Governors' Meeting
	Welcoming Party - Abe Lincoln Night

#### Friday July 30 Registration All Day

10:00 A.M.	General Session and Committee Meetings
10:15 A.M.	Auxiliary Business Meeting
1:00 P.M.	General Session
4:00 P.M.	Board of Governors' Meeting
6:30 P.M.	Hawaiian Luau - Swimming Pool

#### Saturday July 31 Registration All Day

10:30 A.M.	Memorial Service - Lincoln's Tomb
6:30 P.M.	Annual Banquet
9:30 P.M.	Dance

Bud Remer and Mike Belmonte, co-chairmen of the Luau, hope that everyone will enter into the spirit of the evening and don their wildest Hawaiian shirts or their most revealing Muu-Muu. A prize will be awarded to the man or woman who wears the most typical Hawaiian costume.

If you intend to attend the Reunion, you better start doing your daily dozens now so that you will be in shape to dance the Hula-Hula at the Luau. The committee has a great prize for the man or woman who has the smoothest motion.

Georgina Winkelman has been keeping us up to date on the activities of the Illinois Chapter. She tells us that the Illinois Chapter believes that it has a good thing going in Springfield this July and they want everyone to know about it. So they decided to send a notice to every member of the Association. Getting the notices into the mail required a lot of work and the Chapter found a novel way to make the job easier. The January meeting was devoted to stuffing envelopes. Twenty-two members met at John Clouser's home and worked on the reunion notices. They managed to complete the

job in three and a half hours. The team-work displayed in getting the notices out is a good omen for the success of the Reunion. With such a hard working committee the reunion has to be a great one.

On February 19th the Chapter met at the Forest Park Moose Lodge. After enjoying a fish-fry they held a short meeting and went over the reunion plans.

Last summer Bob and Georgina Winkelman celebrated their Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary in England. One evening while watching the T.V. News they saw pictures which showed the members of the Association at Southhampton preparing to leave for Normandy. Georgina said that she and Bob got quite a thrill out of seeing their friends on the British T.V.

For Mrs. John Finley of Decatur, Illinois, September 6th will always be a red letter day on her calendar. Last year on that date, Mrs. Finley, a Gold Star Parent, realized a dream that she had cherished for almost twenty-five years - she left the states to visit the grave of her son William who is buried in the American Military Cemetery at Margraten, Holland.

#### AN "OLD RELIABLE"

William Finley answered his country's call to duty in June 1942 leaving Decatur to join the Ninth Infantry Division at Ft. Bragg, N. C. As a member of the 39th Infantry he saw action in North Africa, Sicily and on the continent of Europe. On April 1, 1945, near Aachen, Germany, Sgt. William Finley gave his life for his country. He was laid to rest in the American Military Cemetery at Margraten, Holland.

Before leaving the states Bill Finley told his mother, "If I should be killed, bury me where I fall because I want to be with my buddies." When Mrs. Finley received word of her son's death she remembered his request and decided that the Military Cemetery at Margraten would be Sgt. Finley's final resting place. About Margraten she knew nothing - only its location on a map; however, she soon heard from a Dutch family who lived there.

#### DUTCH ADOPT G.I.'s

The people of Margraten consider the American soldiers buried there honored sons of the city, each soldier lying in the cemetery has been adopted by a Dutch Family. On holidays and on the soldier's birthday the Dutch families visit the cemetery to place flowers on the grave of their adopted son. Sgt. William Finley was adopted by the Pluemacker family and they began to correspond with Mrs. Finley. From their letters she was able to form a mental picture of the Military Cemetery at Margraten and began to nurture the hope that some day she would be able to visit Bill's grave.

#### AIDED SERVICEMEN

During World War II while her son was away in the Army, Mrs. Finley devoted much of her time to assisting other young men who were in the service. She was one of the volunteers who manned a canteen that served refreshments to servicemen passing through Decatur on troop trains. In her oven were baked many of the cookies that were served at the canteen and on some nights she and the

ladies of Decatur made as many as a thousand sandwiches for the hungry servicemen who visited the canteen. After learning of Bill's death she continued to work at the canteen because as she put it, "I couldn't help him anymore, so I decided to continue to help others."

When the war ended and the canteen closed down Mrs. Finley still wanted to help others, so she directed her efforts towards assisting the many ex-servicemen who were patients in V. A. Hospitals. While serving as State Commander of the Army Mothers and as President of the Gold Star Mothers she and the members of these Associations made many trips to the V. A. Hospital at Danville, Ill. During these visits they gave parties for the patients and provided them with gifts that made their stay at the hospital more pleasant.

#### IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

Many times during the passing years, Mrs. Finley thought about her dream of visiting Bill's grave, but it always seemed to be the impossible dream. An article appearing in the Gold Star Mothers' paper, also in the March-April 1970 issue of the Octofoil, made Mrs. Finley's dream more vivid. It mentioned the fact that the Netherlands War Graves Committee of Amsterdam would sponsor a third pilgrimage to the graves of American soldiers buried in Holland, the soldier's relatives would be the guests of the Dutch people; the only cost would be transportation to Holland.

At the time Mrs. Finley did not realize it, but the article together with her activities on behalf of hospitalized veterans were eventually to lead to the fulfillment of her impossible dream. During an Army Mothers' Tag Day, Mrs. Finley sold a tag to a man who said he had some clothing to donate to the Danville Veterans Hospital. When he brought the clothing to her home Mrs. Finley happened to show him the article that

(Continued on Next Page)

Remember  
The Dates  
Springfield  
July 29-31

## THE OCTOFOIL

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

FRANK OZART, President, 2241 Marshall Blvd, Chicago, Ill. 60623  
VINCENT GUGLIEMINO, 1st Vice President, Floral Park, N.Y. 11001  
RICHARD WILSON, 2nd Vice President, Woodbury, N. J. 08096  
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DANIEL QUINN, Secretary, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N. J. 07087  
THOMAS BOYLE, Treasurer, 39 Hall Avenue, Somerville, Mass. 02144

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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.  
1973  
Nick Dogostino, West Berlin, N. J.  
Charles Koskie, Schiller Park, Illinois  
Ronald Murphy, Scituate, Mass.  
Walter O'Keeffe, Ridgewood, N. Y.  
Honorary Chaplain Emeritus  
Rev. Edward Connors, Worcester, Mass.  
Board Member Emeritus  
Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Retired)

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.

Jan.-Feb. 1971

Volume XXVI

NO. 1

## GOLD STAR PARENT

(Continued)

appeared in the Gold Star Mothers' paper. This man, who Mrs. Finley had never met before, wrote to the Netherlands War Graves Committee and made arrangements for Mrs. Finley to be included in the third pilgrimage to Margraten. So after twenty-five years her impossible dream came to life.

## GRATEFUL

Upon her return from Holland, Mrs. Finley sent us a letter in which she expressed thanks to the many wonderful people both here in America and in Holland who had made her trip to Margraten possible. She had special praise for the Dutch people who took her into their homes and made her feel so at ease. Mrs. Finley requested that we remind Gold Star Parents that the War Graves Committee would be having other pilgrimages to the cemeteries at Margraten and at Liege, Belgium and that these parents should be on the look-out for notices pertaining to these trips.

## SAD TIDINGS

Unfortunately our mailman doesn't always deliver good news. Last month he brought us sad tidings about Mrs. Bullock, one of our Gold Star Parents. Mrs. Bullock's daughter informed us that her mother had suffered a heart attack and was confined to the hospital in critical condition. Her doctors say that she might be in the hospital for some time.

Mrs. Bullock is a patient at the Highsmith-Rainey Hospital at Fayetteville, N. C. Her home address is 911 Davis Ct., Fayetteville, N. C. 28255. We know that all our members join us in wishing Mrs. Bullock a speedy recovery.

## EXTRA JOURNALS

We still have a few copies of the Silver Anniversary Journal on hand. Any member wishing a copy can get it by writing to Walter J. O'Keeffe at 1858 Woodbine St., Ridgewood, N. Y. 11227.

## Harry O's Report

The New York Chapter wasted no time in getting started on their plans for 1971. At the February meeting they got together and selected the dates for the various activities planned for the coming year.

## IMPORTANT DATES

The Past Presidents of the New York Chapter will be honored on May 7, 1971. Past President Night is always a high-light on the Chapter's social calendar. This year it should be better than ever because President Harry Orenstein has promised a special program for this meeting.

Every year the Chapter holds a Memorial Service at Pinelawn National Cemetery. After the services the members of the Chapter decorate the graves of the Ninth Division men who are laid to rest in the cemetery. This year the Memorial Service will be held on May 22, 1971.

The Chapter always starts off the Fall season with a dinner and dance. October 16th has been selected as the date for this gala occasion. Everyone who attended last year's dinner and dance will agree that it was one of the best the Chapter ever held. Frank Fazio and Jack Scully were the fellows who made that affair such a success. They will handle the arrangements for the 1971 Dinner-Dance so you can be assured of another wonderful time. Reservations should be made early for this affair.

## GOOD NEWS

For a while quite a few members have been on the sick list but we are happy to report that most of them are getting back into shape. George Apar's spirited debate at the recent meetings gave notice that he has recovered from the effects of his recent coronary. Charlie Libretto also had a little trouble with his ticker but he now seems in fighting trim. At the last meeting he looked like he could go a fast ten rounds with any heavy-weight at the meeting. Mike Deresh must be hanging out with some professional football players because he developed a bad knee and had to have it operated on. Our last report on Mike indicates that he is making a fast recovery.

At the February meeting Frank Fazio announced that he and Vita were the proud grand-parents of a 7lb., 6 oz. bouncing baby boy. Jack Scully finds it hard to believe that the skinny kid he called "Broadway" is now a grand-pop.

## PAY YOUR

## DUES NOW!!!!

GOT A SUSPICION that ache or pain which keeps coming back and getting worse is the result of an old wartime injury or disease? If you've never had it checked out before, why not do it now. Your local State Veteran Counselor can help you file your claim. There's no time limit for filing a compensation claim with the VA.

Remember  
The Dates

1971 Reunion

Springfield

July 29-31

Taps  
Sounded

Once again it is our sad duty to announce the passing of these comrades and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Travis G. (Dick) Seymour of the 26th F.A.

George Ackerman, Co. A 15th Eng.

Joe B. Jones, 60th Inf.

William Patton, M.P.

Fay Umansky - Ladies Auxiliary member

Bill Patton passed away the Friday before the scheduled trip to Europe and Bill had booked passage and was anxiously awaiting the New York reunion and the trip to the E.T.O. It is with deep regret to his Mother and Dad that we missed informing the membership before this time.

Fay Umansky was with us on the trip to the E.T.O. and as sick as she was throughout the entire trip never did I hear her complain even when things went wrong, and believe me, many a time - things did go wrong. She made the trip because she knew Mike (as she called him) would not make the trip without her.

May we offer our condolences on behalf of the membership and may they rest in peace.

★ ★ ★

## SORRY ABOUT THAT

The last edition had a picture of the APO 9 Staff at Camp Elsenborn, Belgium and we failed to acknowledge that the photo was sent to the Octofoil by Hal Perry a member of the group. Hal wrote that he is trying to contact members who do not belong to the association and he requested extra copies be sent to these guys, which we complied with.

Thanks and keep up the good work.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.  
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

Enclosed please find 1971 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 ☐

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

THREE-YEAR MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ \$11.00 ☐

Life Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 ☐

Octofoil Automobile License Disc \_\_\_\_\_ \$ .50 ☐

Decals, 25c; (5) five for \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1.00 ☐

"Eight Stars to Victory" \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 2.00 ☐  
(Pictorial History of 9th Division in action.)

Ladies' Auxiliary Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1.50 ☐

Combat Route Map \_\_\_\_\_ \$ .50 ☐

60th Infantry History \_\_\_\_\_ \$ .50 ☐

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐

Illinois ☐

Washington, D. C. ☐

New England ☐

Michigan ☐

Ohio ☐

Fayetteville-Fort Bragg, N. C. ☐

## Michigan Doings

The Michigan Chapter's first meeting of 1971 was held on February 20th at Bob DeSandy's home. The most important item on the agenda for that meeting was the election of officers. There were plenty of candidates and the members of the Chapter had a tough time deciding who is to hold office during 1971. However, the candidates were all so well qualified that the Chapter won't go wrong no matter whom they elected. The men who are going out of office are to be commended on the good job they did during 1970. They gave the Chapter a shot in the arm and started it on the way to bigger and better things.

## OUT-OF-TOWN MEETING

The Chapter's decision to hold a yearly out-of-town dinner meeting has drawn favorable comments from the members. So far, October seems to be the month favored for the meeting. The prospective site of the meeting is still a toss-up. At the moment the following places are in contention: 1st-Barvarian Inn, Frankenmuth, 2nd- Michigan Hus, Bay City, 3rd- Ramada Inn, Saginaw, 4th-Furlow's Town House, Birch Run and 5th- Holiday Inn, Grand Rapids. If any members of the Michigan Chapter have suggestions for the out-of-town meeting John Bonkowski would like to hear from them.

## NEWS LETTERS

The following items appeared in the Chapter's most recent Newsletter. Ann Pehote, the widow of John Pehote, 60th Inf., underwent heart surgery in January. Jim Bruner's mother passed away in California. Lenny DeBell's father-in-law also passed away. Tippy Plunkett visited the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich. during the Christmas Holiday. Unfortunately the members of the Michigan Chapter had no advance notice of her visit so they were unable to see Tippy during her stay in Eaton Rapids.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
in the  
LADIES' AUXILIARY  
of the

## NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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 1971 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

Mrs. Amelia Langer, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ninth Infantry Division Association Ladies Auxiliary  
5 Brentwood Drive, Morris Plains, N. J. 07950

# THE PAWNS OF WAR

This is the 14th 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.

## NORMANDY

Now we really had a problem as we had no room in the jeep to ride six prisoners and we weren't going to walk. So, we made the prisoners walk in front of the jeep with their hands clasped on their heads. This pace was entirely too slow and monotonous also we were wasting precious gasoline. After about a mile of this a lieutenant appeared and he was figuring out where the battalions were going to rendezvous. After talking with him awhile, he mentioned that the 3rd Battalion would take over the ground to the left of the road and the 1st had the other side. I mentioned that we caught these prisoners on his side of the road and that they belonged to him. So, we left the prisoners in his care and we took off.

The Intelligence motor patrol after leaving the prisoners liberated a very small town. The attitude of the few French people was overwhelming and it was difficult to leave that town. However, every house was searched and one was used as an enemy headquarters of some kind but there were no German personnel to be found.

It was a short interval of time when all enemy resistance ended in the peninsula. The territory would be occupied by American troops of the 9th Infantry Division. The job of the peninsula campaign was finished and it was well done. When the troops of the outfit took over, we were sent around the territory to search all houses. This time SAMUEL DOUGLAS drove the jeep and it was the first time that an Intelligence man did. However, SAM was not always available for motor patrolling as they had him on messenger work and hauling chow.

Many prisoners were taken, in fact, too many. We deserved a rest and we were going to get one in a bivouac area near Les Pieux, France. German identified units in the Cherbourg area were remnants of the 77th German Division, the 243rd and 709th Divisions. The American 899th Tank Destroyers were attached to the 39th Infantry at Octeville. ARTHUR C. ROHMANN, wounded at Cherbourg, a Company "E," 39th Infantry machine gunner. JOHN E. BUTTS, 2nd Lieutenant, Company "E," 60th Infantry received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Colonel JOHNSTON, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry was wounded, just to mention a few of our gret men.

Since the invasion of France to the end of the Cap de la Hague campaign, the "Old Reliabilities," the 9th Infantry Division with its three regiments the 39th, 47th and the 60th, with attached units, had taken or captured the following list of towns.

Acqueville, Auderville, Barneville, Beaumont Hague, Bouguenville, Briquebec, Canville, Carteret, Caudet, Cherbourg (western), Crosville, Dielette, Equeurdreville, Erqueville, Flollemmanville

Hague, Fontenay-sur-Mer, Fort St. Marcouf, Gourbesville, Goury, Greville, Gruchy, Hardinvast, Hau di Tot, Hauteville Bogage, Jobourg, La Bonneville, Henneville, La Mare du Parc, Le Motel, Le Vretot, Les Pieux, Nehous, Neuville en Beaumont, Nicolle, Octeville, Orglandes, Port Bail, Querqueville, Quineville, Rauville la Bigot, Raveoville, Reignesville, Renoug, St. Christophe-du-Foc, St. Germain de Varreville, St. Germain des Vaux, St. Germain le Gaillard, St. Jacques de Nehou, St. Lo-D'ourville, St. Marcouf, St. Martin de Vreville, St. Sauveur, Ste. Colombe, Ste Croix Hague, Sideville, Trainsellerie, Vasteville, Vauville.

## Chapter 20 HEDGEROW FIGHTING

There were so many prisoners and there were not enough trucks to take them away. We loaded the trucks with about fifty prisoners. The driver started the truck quickly forward and then stopped it short as he stepped on the brakes heavily to stop the vehicle on a dime. This action made room for about forty more as the prisoners already aboard were jammed against the driver's cabin. Again this procedure was followed and ten more were loaded in before the truck took off for its destination.

After all prisoners were disposed of, the outfit headed south to its bivouac area. Here we put up pup tents with four tents together. GIEPARDA, KUJAWA, CROSCOPE and I were bed buddies. We ate like royalty compared to the field rations we were getting. We had captured stores of food stuff from the Germans at Octeville. Now, we had the stuff piled in our tents for disposal.

We were continually visited by French women and children for food. We traded them canned captured tuna and sardines for vegetables and goat's milk. It was just about here when BENSON joined the section. During these few days we played checkers and we received packages from home. However, these days were not restful at all as there were hikes, guard duty, the firing of weapons and other details which always annoy the soldier. I was excused from the hikes and my knee seemed to be getting stronger.

"Bed-check Charlie," a German bomber with a miss in the engine of his plane, flew around at night unmolested as he dropped a bomb here and there. One night every ack-ack gun opened fire upon "Charlie" but they failed to bring him down.

On July 9th, the 9th was back into action. The ring had expanded somewhat with the newly acquired land the 9th, 79th, 4th and 82nd Airborne had taken over. The British were still knocking on the doors of Caen and the beachhead in general had not widened hardly at all. What was going on? Were they waiting for us?

The hedgerow fighting was tough. The advance was two or three hedgerows a day or about a hundred yards. However, it was better than other outfits who did not gain at all. One night I dug a fox-hole behind a mound of hedgerow. When I was just about comfortable, that's a joke being comfortable in a fox-hole, I got another one of my intuitions. I back up one hedgerow and I dug another hole. The next morning the fox-hole I had abandoned didn't exist anymore. It was replaced by a large shell crater. Observations were limited to the length of a hedgerow. The hedgerows were heavily lined with brush, bushes and trees. Rain and the mud were other obstacles. A soldier sometimes existed in a fox-hole which was half filled with rain water. Refuge was buried in the foot end of the entrenchment.

The hedgerow fighting which was slow moving presented very stressing problems. Exploding shells not only killed soldiers who were taken care of almost immediately as Americans, such as the Intelligence Section, risked their lives to get the dead bodies out of the dangerous fields. The cows and horses which were abandoned by the farmers were killed as well. For days these dead animal's hides would decay in the muddy fields and the stench was far from pleasing. Enemy dead that couldn't be reached and buried smelt worse. I guess that was why they called this a stinking war. In fact, the German soldier who wore a grayish uniform in the field, had something in the goods which could be sensed many yards away. There was some truth in those sayings that the Allies could smell where the German psotions were.

## "PADDY" FLINT

Old "PADDY" FLINT who was like a father to his boys and who risked his life many times to get his boys such things as cigarettes under fire was coming to the end of his rubber band. There was a battalion of tanks attached to the 39th but the tank commander quivered in his boots from fear of old "PADDY." Or, was it the enemy, he feared? The tank commander replied to an order issued to him by "PADDY" that he didn't think it was such a good idea right now for a tank being worth so much money and the crews being so hard to train and all that rot to send them up to lead the way. But, Colonel FLINT did not have that in mind at all, so he took seven riflemen with him and led the tanks forward until the tanks could go no more. Then the saddest and severest blow the 39th Infantry Regiment suffered during the hedgerow campaign was the loss of Colonel "PADDY" FLINT, who was hit on July 23rd by a sniper's bullet and he died the next day, July 24th with a grin on the fighting Irishman. His memory and his motto "AAA-O" will never be forgotten especially not by those who proudly wore that AAA-O on their helmets.

Colonel VAN H. BOND succeeded "PADDY" as commander of the 39th Infantry Regiment.

There had been many famous expressions and sayings such as "blow it out your stack and swivel," "Kilroy was here," "praise the lord and spare the ammunition," "You ain't a boid toiden," "shore nouff" but the most famous one for our outfit the 39th, was "HIT DON'T MAKE NO DIFFERENCE."

As the war progressed and the stories of it get distorted, I have to point out that the 9th Infantry Division only got about five or six days rest at that Les Pieux bivouac area when they were ordered back to the front. However, although the 9th was officially under the command of General "Lightning" JOE COLLIN's 7th Corps, the 9th helped outfits in the 8th and 19th Corps as well. As part of the 7th Corps, the 30th Infantry Division who had struggled for the town of St. Jean de Day, moved over to let us occupy that section of the front and now they would try to push forward. In the 9th Infantry Division area, the 39th Infantry was on the left facing the enemy with the 47th and 60th on our right. Prior to this there was little room to maneuver and a frontal assault in heavy hedgerow country is for the birds. There still wasn't any room to maneuver but the hedgerow boundaries were spreading out. Very quickly the 1st Battalion, 39th captured the town of El Dessert.

What we didn't know was that General BRADLEY had devised a plan called "COBRA" which was to saturate the enemy front lines with thousands of tons of bombs. Then the Americans could walk through and open a huge hole for General PATTON's 3rd Army to breakout. However, EISENHOWER seemed to be bothered with the fact that the British still didn't take Caen and beyond that city was the plains for our tanks to roam. The British claimed that they were opposing the bulk of the German forces but IKE thought

they were sitting tight according to their relatively light casualty reports. The outcome was the British would try the bombing plan. They did and it failed. But BRADLEY was determined to try it in the American sector when the troops reached the St. Lo-Pierier's Road.

The German Panzer Lehr Division, one of the crack enemy tank outfits which Hitler was holding to push the Allies out into the sea, struck the 39th Infantry and the 30th Infantry Division in a three prong drive. Quickly our 2nd Battalion was surrounded and cut off from the rest of the regiment. The 1st Battalion, 39th was on the left flank of the 2nd and it had enemy tanks on two sides of it and all the communication wires were disrupted. The 39th, 47th and 60th Regiments were in full attack with now the enemy in an attack of their own.

Our Anti-tank Section had their three guns knocked out and fourteen of their personnel killed which included Sergeants CURT C. HUFF and WILLIAM N. WOLFERT also the former Intelligence man, ROY WILLIAMS. I overheard the following conversation on the command post radio which was between Major GUNN, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry commander and Colonel VAN BOND, our newly appointed regimental commander. GUNN who was very excited asked "What should we do? We are completely surrounded by enemy tanks. Should we stop the attack and concentrate on the tanks?"

Colonel BOND replied, "Keep pushing forward. Don't bother with the tanks, avoid them. I'll take care of them."

(continued next issue)



## 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. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.
5. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.
7. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee after the applications have been considered.
8. Recipients of the scholarships may apply for renewal of the scholarship each year. A copy of the student's college grades, a financial statement, and a letter requesting renewal of the scholarship should be sent to the chairman by March 15.
9. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, 901 Graceland St., Des Plaines, Illinois 60016.



# MAIL CALL

One of the benefits that accrue to an Editor of the "Octofoil" is having the opportunity to read the many letters that are received by the Secretary from members of the Association. These letters are constant reminders that the "Old Reliables" have not forgotten their old outfit and that they still cherish fond memories of the days they spent with the famous Ninth Infantry Division. We are always happy to receive these letters and we hope that more and more members will take the time to drop us a line. Here are some samples from this month's mailbag.

Casimir Mrzybylski  
1042 Dewey Ave.  
Evanston, Ill. 60202

3rd Bn. 39th Inf.  
Bernice, Cas' wife, informed us that he had suffered a stroke last November. After five weeks in the hospital, Cas is now at home recuperating. He would like to hear from his old buddies who served with him in the 39th.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Fred M. Josey  
443 Auburn Ave.  
Pontiac, Mich.

Co. G. 60th Inf.  
Fred sent in his dues and included the following note. Jane and I had a wonderful time at the 26th Memorial Service in Worcester. It was the first one that we attended and we are looking forward to attending many more.

Right now we are sending in our reservations to the Holiday Inn for the 1971 Reunion in July. We attended the 1963 Reunion in Springfield and had a great time. If this Reunion is anywhere as enjoyable as that one it should be a must on every member's agenda for this July.

At the 1963 Reunion, I remember meeting "Old Reliables" like John Carrier, Col. John Dille, Col. Harold Smith, Major Dalton, and Chick Hennen. Let's hope that they all will show up again this year. I also hope that I see some of the fellows that I haven't seen for years, especially John Brooks whom I haven't seen since the 1962 Reunion at Bragg. Best wishes for another good Reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Nick V. Gorno  
2110 Grant Ct.  
Trenton, Mich. 48183

Co. C 47th Inf.  
Nick has been a member of the Association since 1945 and he wants to be sure that he remains a member in good standing, so he took out a life membership in the Association. Nick tells us that he is sorry that he missed the trip to the E.T.O. but is taking no chance on missing the 1971 Reunion. He is making his plans early for the trip to Springfield. His wife doesn't like it when he misses too many reunions.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Ed Machowski  
5931 N. W. Circle Ave.  
Chicago, Ill. 60631

47th & 9th Medics  
Ed sent in his dues and had a few kind words to say about the members of the Association. He was very pleased to hear that Frank Ozart is our new President. Ed says that Frank is the kind of a fellow who won't stop working until a job is perfectly completed. Ed hopes that he will be able to assist the Reunion Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Clyde Gavigan  
P.O. Box 483  
Carlisle, Pa. 17013

9th Signal Co.  
Clyde is anxious to hear from some of the original complement of the 9th Signal Co. He and a Lt. Heron formed the Signal Co. at Fort Bragg in 1940. Clyde tells us that one of the men from the company who went to Hdq's Message Center was the fellow who designed the shoulder patch that the Ninth Infantry Division still wears today.

Clyde retired with the rank of 1st Sgt. and now makes his home in the Keystone State.

\*\*\*\*\*

Wilton Taylor  
Stop A Star Route  
Lost Hills, Calif. 93249

Co M 47th Inf.  
Wilton has been on K.P. for the last three months. His wife broke her wrist and he has been doing all the cooking. The nearest doctor to Wilt's home is thirty miles away, so Wilton has been kept busy driving his wife to the Doctor's for treatments. However, he still has time to keep track of his old buddies. He tells us that Floyd Wofford, of Co B 15th Engineers, is now home from the hospital and is once again in good shape. (Ed's Note: We hope that the recent earthquake didn't shake Wilton's place in the California hills.)

\*\*\*\*\*  
Floyd Bell  
1620 Gypsy Rd.  
Niles, Ohio 44446

Co D 60th Inf.  
Floyd is looking for former members of Co D 60th Inf. He would like to hear from some of them.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Scotty Hirst  
Wiesbaden, Germany

60th Inf.  
Scotty is really living it up. He spent the Christmas Holidays in the Canary Islands then flew back to Germany to celebrate New Years' Eve in Wiesbaden. Scotty tells us that Lt. General Paul Berben has written a book about the bridge at Remagen. It is entitled "Remagen, Le Pont De La Chance" and has been published by the Robert Laffon Press of Paris. Although it is printed in French there are probably a few linguists among our membership who would wish to obtain a copy. Unfortunately your Editors will have to wait for the English Edition.

\*\*\*\*\*  
John A. Arugala  
Box 11  
Barnesboro, Pa. 15714

K Co 47th Inf.  
The picture of Schevehutte which appeared in the September-October issue of the "Octofoil" brought back memories to John. His unit, the 1st Motor Squad of K Co, stayed in Schevehutte from September until November 2, 1944. They were set up in a field near a house on the edge of town. The rifle platoons were in the woods near the grave-yard. John reminded us of the hot time they all had when the Germans launched their attack on Schevehutte.

John tells us that his whole family goes to school each morning. His son is in the seventh grade, his daughter is in the third year high, and his wife teaches fourth grade at the Northern Camberia Public School. In closing John sent his regards to all his friends from the Ninth.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Edward Rickert  
4121 Blanchan Ave.  
Brookfield, Ill. 60513

15th Engineers  
During the Christmas holidays Ed received word that George Arkermann had passed away. George was Company Clerk for Co. A, Hdq's Platoon, 15th Engineers. Most of the company knew him as "Arkie." He served with the Ninth from Bragg until the end of the European Campaign. George died on September 26, 1970. Ed recalled that it was on September 26, 1942 that the 15th Engineers boarded the U.S.S. Leedstown.

Ed feels certain that his old buddy "Arkie" will always be remembered by all the Engineers.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pete Cromal  
Union, N. J.

G Co. 47th  
Along with his dues Pete sent us the news that Jimmy Lynch retired after working 35 years for the Ballantine Brewery. Jimmy is an old 39th man.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Joe McKenzie  
95 Washington Ave.  
Waltham, Mass. 02154

26th F.A.  
As usual Joe received beaucoup Christmas cards from his many friends in the Association but he says things are rather quiet on the news front. However, he did have these tidbits for us. John Murray spent the holidays in the Winchester Hospital, he had an operation on his back. Bill Bongiorno has decided against retiring from the cleaning business. Paul Griffin has two boys going to Kent State, Trumbul Branch. Philip Huber, son of our Harold, will graduate from Baldwin-Wallace this spring. Ross Kepple is enjoying retirement.

\*\*\*\*\*  
John Thornton  
1320 N. Bearborn  
Chicago, Ill. 60610

P 60th Inf.  
Along with his holiday greetings John included a plug for Frank Ozart. Frank's hard work on behalf of the Association has always impressed John and he was delighted to learn that Frank had been elected President of the Association.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Reuben Hunt  
Cleveland, Ohio

47th Inf.  
Reuben wants to make sure that the younger generation has the opportunity to read about the exploits of the famous Ninth Infantry Division. He paid for a copy of "Eight Stars To Victory" and requested that it be sent to the library of the Linesville-Conneaut-Summit High School in Linesville, Penna. Reuben's generous gesture makes us proud that he is a member of our Association.

☆☆☆

A \$2,800 AUTO GRANT is available for seriously disabled World War II, Korean Conflict, and Vietnam Era veterans who suffered the loss or loss of use of one or both hands or feet, or permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a prescribed degree while in service. Additional amounts are payable for the special equipment required to assist the disabled veteran in operating the vehicle. The new law authorizing the increase in the grant from \$1,200 to \$2,800 is not retroactive - in other words, a veteran who received his \$1,600 grant to purchase a car in December cannot apply for the additional \$1,200 now provided to qualifying veterans.

Q. I am married to a World War I veteran who receives 100% service-connected compensation. Would I be entitled to benefits as the widow of a disabled veteran?  
A. Possibly. You would qualify for a higher rate with no income limitations if the veteran died of a service-connected condition. However, if the condition which caused his death was not service-connected, you might qualify for a widow's pension, provided you are within the income and estate limitations.

☆☆☆

Wanted: A writer with a sense of humor who will not be funny around the office.

## IS YOUR OCTOFOIL

## ADDRESSED WITH

## TELL-TALE RED INK?

It is that time of year when we remind you to check your membership card for "it is now dues time." A limited budget keeps us from mailing the Octofoil to those who fall in the delinquent class. Get on the band wagon and send in dues to the secretary's office, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J. 07087.

☆☆☆

### Tip Of The Hat

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following members who remembered the Memorial Fund (Scholarship) by donating to this most worthwhile Fund. John Holick, George Grieve, Kendal W. Guilford, Charles Kocher and John Montegna.

### Perfect Souvenir

Next year when you return from Springfield your luggage will probably contain many mementos of your visit to "The Land of Lincoln." Most of them will be items that were selected while browsing through Springfield's many gift shops. The most precious of all your souvenirs will be one that couldn't be purchased in any gift shop. It will be the Reunion Journal. Only members of the Association will possess this unique reminder of a visit to Lincoln's home town. It will be an even more personal souvenir if your name appears on its pages. Now is the time to make certain that your name appears in the 1971 Reunion Journal. Send your ad to the committee. Perhaps some of our members won't be able to join their buddies at the Reunion, for them an ad in the Journal is the perfect way to let their old friends know that they are there in spirit. Rates for the Reunion Journal are listed in the application blank appearing in another part of the paper.

### ATTAINS RANK OF GENERAL

Some day when time permits we are going to undertake a research project that should prove very interesting. How many former members of the Ninth Infantry Division have attained the rank of General. Our list of "Old Reliables" who wore stars is already quite long. Recently another name was added to the list, that of Brig. General William T. Archibald. He served with Co. E, 60th Inf. during 1941 and 1942. At the present time he resides in Middlebush, N. J.

### REQUEST FOR SPACE IN REUNION JOURNAL

Attached is copy for an ad in 1971 Reunion Journal of the Ninth Infantry Division Association

Full Page	\$30.00
Half Page	\$15.00
Quarter Page	\$ 7.50
Eigth Page	\$ 5.00
Booster	\$ 1.00 per Person
Booster	\$ 2.00 per Couple

From: Name

Street

City

Send copy and payment to:  
Frank Ozart, Reunion Program Chairman  
2241 S. Marshal Blvd.  
Chicago, Ill. 60623

HOLIDAY INN EAST  
3100 S. 31st Street, Springfield, Ill. 62703

9th INFANTRY DIVISION 1971 Reunion  
July 29-31, 1971

PLEASE RESERVE  
1 Kingsize Bed 1 person 11.75  
1 Kingsize Bed 2 persons 12.75  
2 Kingsize Beds 2 persons 17.75  
\$3.00 each additional person

Name Number in party

Address

Date of arrival Date of departure