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The Octofoil, March/April 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 Number 2

MARCH-APRIL 1971

1971 REUNION COUNTDOWN BEGINS

NETHERLANDS 1971 MEMORIAL PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE FOR AMERICAN SERVICEMEN NEXT-OF-KIN

In a recent issue of the "Octofoil" we told the story of a Gold Star Mother who made a trip to Holland to visit the grave of her son. Her trip was made possible by the efforts of the Netherlands War Grave Committee.

The Committee sent us a news release that provides information on the 1971 Pilgrimage to Europe. The U. S. Representative of the Committee is located at Suite 636, Public Ledger Building, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106 (Phone 215/925-2312.) The complete news release follows.

The Netherlands War Graves Committee, Amsterdam, has announced its fourth memorial pilgrimage to Europe for American Servicemen next-of-kin for the 29th of August, 1971.

Departing New York via KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, relatives of American Servicemen STILL buried in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg will be the guests of the Dutch people for nine days during which time visits to the graves of America's war dead will be arranged and a special memorial service conducted at Margraten. During their stay in Europe, lodal participants will be hosted by the Netherlands - all transportation in Europe, lodging and meals being provided WITHOUT COST. Lodging generally will be in Dutch homes. A complete program of activities will also be provided during their visit to further the "people to people" approach and to acquaint everyone with the highlights of these countries.

Any immediate member of the deceased veteran's family is eligible to participate. This includes father, mother, widow, children of the deceased, brother, sister and foster parents. The spouse of a relative is also eligible to accompany said relative. Teenagers and small children will not be accepted.

The entire program - all expense - including round-trip air transportation from New York to Amsterdam, lodging, transportation in Europe and all other incidentals except purely personal expenses is offered at a total cost of \$191.00 per person. For relatives who cannot afford to pay this amount, a limited number will be assisted financially by the Netherlands War Graves Committee, as it is the desire of the Dutch to make a trip to the veteran's burial site possible for everyone who wants to do so even if finances are of a great consequence to that relative.

DATE SET FOR WORCESTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

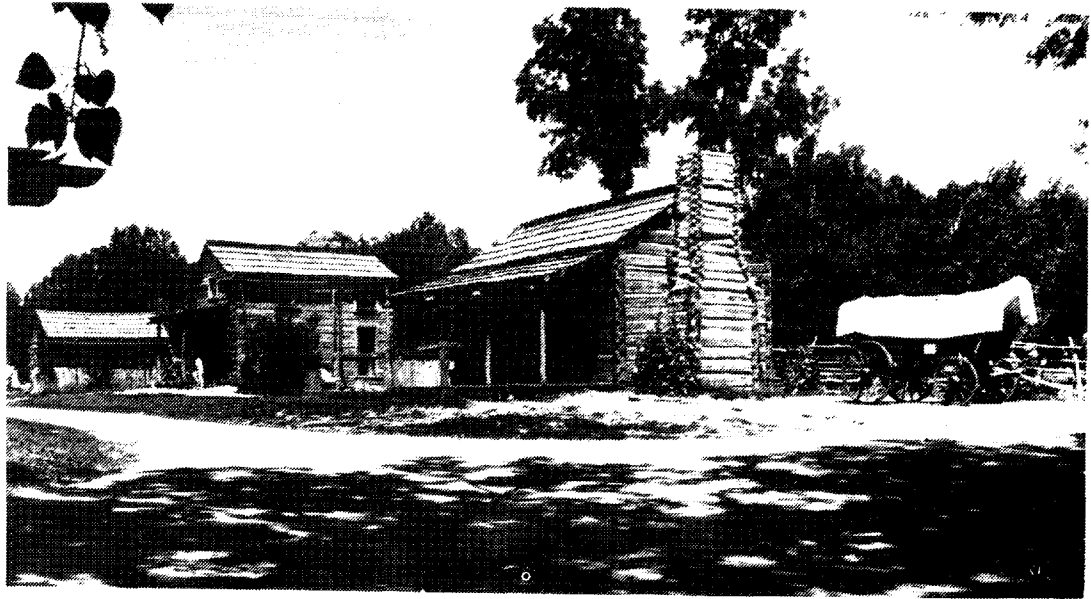
This year Father Connors has given the troops plenty of advance notice on the date for the Annual Memorial Service at Worcester. The Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, October 24th at 10:00 A.M.

As usual the "Old Reliables" will gather in Connors Coffee Shop on the Saturday evening preceeding the Memorial Service. They will renew old friendships and tell tall tales while partaking of the delicious refreshments that are provided by the good people of the Immaculate Conception parish. These fine people always take good care of Father Connors' old buddies.

Through the medium, the Dutch people by their hospitality hope to demonstrate in a positive way the great gratitude to those who, through the sacrifice of their lives, liberated the Netherlands from Occupation in 1945, so bringing back freedom to their country. By this means, the next-of-kin will have an opportunity to see that this sacrifice made by United States Servicemen has not been forgotten.

Inquiries should be addressed to Mr. H. F. Ryder, U. S. Representative, Netherlands War Graves Committee, 636 Public Ledger Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.

Landmark On Lincoln Heritage Trail



Main Street is the setting for one of the most impressive of all Lincoln Memorials. A short 20 mile drive northwest of Springfield, Illinois on the Lincoln Heritage Trail, through the picturesque countryside, New Salem stands as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. This historic village, reproduced in flawless authenticity, is the place where Abraham Lincoln spent six years of his life and first left his imprint upon the pages of history. From the gangling, raw-boned youngster, who in 1831 paddled his canoe from Decatur down the Sangamon River with no definite objectives in mind when he arrived at New Salem, he became a man of purpose as he embarked upon a career of law and statesmanship in 1837.

For the outdoor man, excellent camping with shower accommodations are available at the park. The modern New Salem Lodge and pool say "Welcome" to the traveler. Your whole family will find exciting vacation variety. A holiday here will pay big dividends in fun and happy memories in the historic, beautiful Lincolnland.

Springfield reports all systems go. The reunion rocket is on the pad and lift-off will take place when the first "Old Reliable" signs in at the Holiday Inn East. For three days Springfield will be in orbit. It will only come back to earth when the last member of the Association departs for home. A ticket for this thrilling ride is only \$20.00 per person, children's tickets will be priced at \$18.00.

TWO BIG MEALS

An innovation at this year's reunion will be the fact that the strip ticket covers the cost of two big meals instead of one. Your strip ticket will entitle you to partake of the banquet on Saturday evening and also to enjoy the wonderful repast that will be set out at the Luau on Friday night. The menu for the Luau covers almost an entire page, anyone who can eat his way through the entire list will earn the title of "Chow-Hound First Class."

It won't be difficult to work up an appetite in Springfield. A few laps around the Motel's two swimming pools will do wonders for the most jaded appetite. A walking tour of the many historic spots that abound in Springfield will whet the palate of the most finicky diner. Knowing that the stomach is the way to a man's heart, the reunion committee has set out to capture the heart of every member who attends the 1971 Reunion.

ACT NOW

During the summer Springfield is a great tourist attraction and many visitors stop at the Holiday Inn East. So, if you want to get a choice room for the reunion, now is the time to send in your reservation. Fill out the application blank that appears in another part of the paper and get it off to the motel - toot suite. This July all the gang will be in Springfield, so don't take a chance on missing any of the action - act now.

The deadline for the Reunion Journal is rapidly approaching. Your copy for ads in this important publication should be sent to the Journal Chairman as soon as possible. Since the last issue of the "Octofoil" was published, Frank Ozart, Journal Chairman, has changed his residence. His new address is U. S. Rt. 45 & Larraway Rd., Frankfort, Ill. 60423. The sooner Frank gets your copy the sooner he will be able to get the Journal to the printer.

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

Thursday July 29 Registration All Day

9:00 A.M. Golf Tournament
Springfield Lake Municipal Course
4:00 P.M. Board of Governors' Meeting
8:00 to 12:00 P.M. 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

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
ROBERT DESANDY, 3rd Vice President, St. Clair Shores, Mich. 48080
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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

<p>1971 George Apar, Franklin Square, N. Y. Frank Ozart, Chicago, Illinois Robert Winkelman, Palatine, Illinois James Bruner, Flint, Michigan Charles Jones, McLean, Va.</p>	<p>1973 Nick Dogostino, West Berlin, N. J. Charles Koskie, Schiller Park, Illinois Ronald Murphy, Scituate, Mass. Walter O'Keeffe, Ridgewood, N. Y.</p>
<p>1972 Leonard Tomassone, Pennsauken, N. J. Francis Maher, Worcester, Mass. Joseph Uschak, New York, N. Y. Thomas Shins, Hyattsville, Md. William Meadows, Detroit, Mich.</p>	<p>Honorary Chaplain Emeritus Rev. Edward Connors, Worcester, Mass.</p> <p>Board Member Emeritus Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Retired)</p>

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.

MARCH-APRIL 1971

Volume XXVI Number 2

HARRY O'S REPORT

At the April meeting the members of the Chapter went over the final plans for two important events that will take place in May. The first of these is the Past Presidents Night which will be held on May 7th at the 69th Regiment Armory, 26th St. and Lexington Ave. This event will be a top shelf attraction featuring a catered buffet and plenty of beverages to wash down the tasty chow. Every Past President has been invited and most of them are expected to put in an appearance.

DECORATING GRAVES

On May 22nd the Chapter will hold its annual Memorial Service at the U. S. National Cemetery in Pinelawn, (Farmingdale) Long Island. The chapter's members will assemble in front of the Administration Building at 11:30 A.M. and will march to the cemetery flagpole where services will be held. The chapter President will place a wreath at the flagpole and then will lead the members in decorating the graves of "Old Reliables" who are buried at Pinelawn.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

A sure indication of the passage of time is the number of Silver Wedding Anniversaries that are being celebrated. In March the Al Orletties' celebrated twenty-five years of wedded bliss and in May, Frank and Vita Fazio will be married twenty-five years. Both Al and Frank say that it seems like only yesterday that they slipped the ring on the finger of their blushing bride.

SICK CALL

The Good and Welfare Committee reported only one member on the sick list, Adolph Wadalavage entered the hospital on April 5th. As we go to press we don't have a report on Adolph's condition but we hope that he is doing well and send him every ones best regards.

TRAVELERS

Ralph Witzkin left the April meeting and went to Kennedy Airport to board a flight for Israel. Ralph and Goldie spent the Holy Days in the Holy Land and for several weeks toured that interesting part of the world.

POPULAR G. I.

That popular G. I. from the 47th Infantry and honored member of the New York Chapter, Msgr. DeLaura is still going strong. Bill Muldoon advised us that the good Msgr. will be the speaker at the 40th Annual Communion Breakfast of the Holy Name Society of the New York Department of Sanitation. The Communion Mass will be said at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 59th St. and 5th Ave., Brooklyn. The breakfast will be served at Notre Dame Hall around the corner from the Basilica.



ARE YOU RATED A HIGH RISK by a commercial insurance company because of your service-incurred disability? If so, you might consider the "RH" insurance issued by the V.A. Except for your service-incurred disability, you must otherwise be in good health. Application should be made within one year of the disability rating and, as in most veterans benefits, discharge from service must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

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.



Remember Springfield
 The Dates July 29-31
 1971 Reunion

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 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| THREE-YEAR MEMBER _____ | \$11.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Life Membership _____ | \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Octofoil Automobile License Disc _____ | \$.50 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Decals, 25c; (5) five for _____ | \$ 1.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| "Eight Stars to Victory" _____ | \$ 2.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <small>(Pictorial History of 9th Division in action.)</small> | |
| Ladies' Auxiliary Member _____ | \$ 1.50 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Combat Route Map _____ | \$.50 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 60th Infantry History _____ | \$.50 <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please credit the following chapter:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Philly-Delaware Valley <input type="checkbox"/> | Greater New York <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois <input type="checkbox"/> | Washington, D. C. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New England <input type="checkbox"/> | Michigan <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio <input type="checkbox"/> | Fayetteville-Fort Bragg, N. C. <input type="checkbox"/> |

Taps Sounded

It is with regrets that we announce the passing of several "Old Reliables".

Arthur R. Lauer of the 39th Infantry.

Clement H. Abbot, B Company 15th Engineers.

Ural Manning of the 47th Infantry.

Frank Ozart sent us the sad news that Michael Ros passed away. Mike served with M Co. 60th Inf. and was a long time member of the Illinois Chapter. He is survived by his widow Angeline Ros who resides at 3425 S. Harvey, Berwin, Ill.

Lt. Gen. George G. O'Connor, Commander of the 4th U. S. Army, passed away on March 25, 1971. In June 1966, General O'Connor went to Vietnam and in May 1967, he took over command of the Ninth Infantry Division. He commanded the Division until February 1968.

He is survived by his widow, Hope Brown O'Connor, and two sons Robert O'Connor and William O'Connor.

May they rest in peace. I know their next of kin would like to hear from our members who knew their loved ones.



Tip Of The Hat

Many thanks to the following members who donated to the Memorial Fund: Aaron L. Alpert, Waldon K. Lewis, William Morrison, John Thornton, George F. Long, and Edward J. Lewis.

★ ★

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 15th 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

Chapter 21

THE BREAKTHROUGH

The 29th Infantry Division had a very difficult time clearing the town of St. Lo. Eventually that was accomplished and General PATTON's 3rd Army appeared on the scene. On July 25th, 1944, "D-DAY" came, better known in Army circles as "COBRA". Thousands of Allied bombers of all types filled the sky. The leading planes dropped smoke bombs about a thousand yards on the other side of the St. Lo-Pierrier's Road. This was the marking for the follow up planes to drop their bombs. Formation after formation of planes dropped their bombs and the ground and the sky were covered with dust caused by the exploding bombs. German ack-ack fired at the planes and some were hit and they fell like paper toys. The ground began to tremble and the air sounded with a rumble and a deafening roar.

Unfortunately, the wind blew from the enemy lines toward ours. The smoke and dust crept slowly toward our lines as the bombers kept flying over and dropping their loads of bombs. It came closer and closer as the bombs exploded closer to our troops. At the tail end of the bombing, the bombs did fall on our troops. To make matters worse while this situation was developing, a flying fortress had a mechanical difficulty and it started to drop its load of bombs some four miles behind our lines. The string of bombs came down in a line covering a strip of ground about a hundred yards in width. General McNAIR as well as many others were killed. One of our companies had about thirty-four men left who were dazed and shocked by the concussion of the bombs. When orders came to move forward, these men took up their arms and they charged forward with and abreast other fighting units.

We had STANLEY CABAN over towards those falling bombs as some kind of a guide but he rejoined us okay. Yet, as in every battle after the bombing, the artillery and mortar concentrations, the infantry still had to fight to take over the high ground. Here the resistance was very stiff. The 9th Infantry Division was one of the divisions just west of St. Lo to breakthrough this sector along with the 1st and 30th Infantry Divisions. By the end of this day, the 9th was credited with the furthest advance of any division in the push.

On July 26th, the 9th still advanced swiftly. I was put in charge of all walking troops in 1st Battalion Headquarters' Company by Major TUCKER. We had to move forward to where another command post would be established while we were enroute. The Germans were up to their old tricks as they shelled a crossroad with unobserved intermittent fire. When we reached that point, I had three men at a time run between shellings and we all passed through it safely. When we reached our destination, a newly assigned lieutenant was to direct us to our new location.

This rendezvous point was near a house. We had to wait as there was no one there to direct us. I had the men spread about five yards apart in prone positions on the ground.

About five minutes elapsed when I heard the lieutenant call. I raised myself to my two feet when an enemy shell burst atop of a nearby tree. WILDER who was still in a prone position like the rest just behind me, received a piece of shrapnel in the lower part of his stomach. I got a piece of shrapnel through my good right leg. Although WILDER was attended to immediately and he was questioned to how he felt, he didn't seem to be in too much pain. My injury didn't seem too bad at first, but I bled like a pig. The sight of my blood aided to the density of the shock. The boys took care of WILDER and me by getting us under cover of the building. They treated our wounds as CABAN applied first aid to my wounded leg and before long I was on my way to a field hospital.

After I was operated on, about midnight that same evening, and after I spent a few days at that tent hospital, I was sent to a hospital in France. When they heard through an interview that I had other troubles, they flew me to England. I was finally stationed at the 55th General Hospital near Great Malvern.

By August 1st, the 7th Corp which the 9th Infantry Division was a part of, opened a hole for the 3rd U. S. Army to move through. The 3rd Army moved in a southerly direction as the 9th tried to head north and east. The 39th Infantry Regiment who was once again attached to another unit, the 1st Infantry Division, was finally allowed to return to their partners, the 47th and 60th Regiments, to the north. The fall of events that took place as the 39th moved in front of the 7th Corp was a miracle move.

It was the plan of the Nazis to strike a counter offensive from the vicinity of Mortain eastward and cut off the rear of the U. S. 3rd Army from the United States 1st Army. This spearhead occurred just as the 39th Infantry was making its move to rejoin the 9th Infantry Division. The following is only a part of the account of some of the happenings during those days between August 4th to August 10th, 1944 and you'll have to remember that this is not the whole story.

The Germans planned the greatest counter-attack since the Allied forces landed in Normandy. With the intent to capture Avaranches from an attack in the area St. Michel de Montjois-Sourcleva-Barenton-Domfront to cut off the American 3rd Army from BRADLEY's 1st Army and eventually cut up the 3rd and to destroy same.

Just about this time the 60th (Go-Devs) and the 47th (Raiders) Infantry Regiments went into an attack in a southeasterly direction toward Mortain. Enemy artillery increased and forced a slow-down in this advance with an eventual halt. To get the attack started again, the 39th Infantry Regiment (AAA-O) who were in 9th Infantry Division reserve, were to flank

the enemy by moving around to the south. In order to accomplish this maneuver, the regiment had to be attached to the 1st Infantry Division control. After a few days the regiment had to change its direction to the north through Cherence Le Roussel to come in contact with the 47th and 60th.

On August 7th, the bulk of the German armoured and infantry attacked along a fourteen mile front occupied by the 30th and 9th Infantry Divisions. The center of this attack came through Cherence Le Roussel. The 30th attached to COLLIN's 7th Corps had taken Mortain while the 35th and 4th Infantry Divisions continued to attack to the south when the German offensive began.

The following is a report on some of the activity encountered by the 1st Battalion AAA-O commanded by Major HENRY P. TUCKER for the next few days. "A" Company 39th attacked on the left with Lt. RALPH G. EDGAR in command as subordinate Lt. BILL ADDIS while Lt. CHARLES SCHEFFEL's "C" Company set off on the right containing such officers as Lieutenants MULVIHILL, MAROTTI, DOWNS and FRANCIS H. NOLAN with 1st Sergeant SHAPIRO taking the morning reports. Lt. JACK L. DUNLAP commanding "B" Company with Lieutenants PRATT, BENNETT and McLOUGHLIN were in immediate reserve supported by Capt. WILLIAM M. THOMAS' "D" Company with Lt. LOUIS ALMASSY of the 81mm mortars and lieutenants DOUGLAS and DONNELLY. Lt. PAUL D. KELLER was Regimental Maintenance Officer. Also supporting the 1st Battalion was the 1st Platoon, Company "A" of the 899 Tank Destroyer Battalion.

The 1st Battalion was the lead battalion of the AAA-O as the assault companies reached beyond the town of Le Mesnil-Tove with the impending objective of Cherence le Roussel in sight. One of the tank destroyers advanced in front of "C" Company for a short time until it bogged down in the mud but the company continued on without any. The "C" Company ran into some of the forward elements of German infantry but eliminated them. Enemy shelling increased cutting "C's" lines of communication with battalion but "C" Company made contact with "A" Company after both units passed the objective. The assault companies dug in for the night expecting to take up the advance the next morning. However, enemy tanks attacked "C" Company. German infantry attacked "A" Company in large numbers. Supporting 81mm mortars went into action also the heavy machine guns and artillery, the result being the enemy had run into a murderous assault and few of the enemy lived to tell about it.

However, "C" Company was not as fortunate as they were overwhelmed with tanks which passed through although the enemy footsluggers were stopped. Enemy artillery became intense and "C" Company's situation became



Les Plueux, France, July 4, 1944. Gen. Eddy presenting awards to men of the 39th Infantry, for Gallantry in Action in the Cherbourg Campaign.

Chapter 22 HOSPITALIZATION

desperate as there was no one to their south. "F" Company, 39th came to their aid. The rest of the AAA-O moved up on the left flank while elements of the 4th Infantry Division occupied positions at El Mesnil-Tove. The enemy tanks that got by were stopped by the 899 Tank Destroyers.

During combat of this particular confused sort, some units get their orientation of forward outfits distorted. "B" Company of the 39th was shelled by friendly 155mm artillery. American C-47's, low flying aircraft, dropped ammunition and supplies on "C" Company which was later discovered to be destined for an isolated battalion of the 30th Infantry Division who were cut off by the enemy counter-attack. On August 10th, the 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry gave up the defensive and resumed the offensive once again.

CITATION

From the results of this battle, the 1st Battalion, 39th (AA-O) received a cluster to its presidential citation. The battalion held up the spearhead a few days as elements of the 9th and 30th Infantry Division secured the positions. Some of the German's best SS divisions had been delayed if not stopped. After that it was the U. S. 3rd Army's rout across France and the 1st U. S. Army's encirclement of the Falaise Gap. It was about this time that the Germans in the north opposing the British realized that their entire 7th and 5th Panzer Armies were about to be cut off and they headed toward the Fatherland. The British captured Caen. MONTGOMERY's forces failed to close the gap in time as the 9th and other Americans made a half circle around the southern part of the supposed trapped Germans. The Americans would not penetrate beyond their final objectives to run in and possibly fight British forces to capture Germans. Thereby, most of the enemy's troops escaped to probably fight another battle like "The Bulge."

The "Hitler's Nemesis" the 9th Infantry Division teamed up with the 1st Infantry Division, the 3rd Armoured Division commanded by General MAURICE ROSE and the 4th Cavalry for the rat race across France.

When I reached the American hospital in England, I was questioned about how I received my wound and about my left knee. To complicate matters very much more than they were, none of my stories agreed to the medical facts presented. I remembered that I was facing the bursting shell and I figured that the shrapnel entered the front of my leg and exited through the rear. However, the shrapnel must have ricocheted off of the stone foundation of the building where I was standing close to before it entered the rear of my leg and exited via the front which was the opposite to my story. So, you see, my story did not jibe.

I had been laying in bed for about two months before they examined my knee. By this time the swelling had completely disappeared and it seemed to be normal to the naked eye. Many orthopedic specialists examined it and there was no evidence that there was anything wrong with it from their point of view. They gave me whirlpool and electric treatments but they probably thought that I was a real story teller or a "gold-brick." However, to me the knee wasn't alright. When I put my weight on it and I would walk, the knee would catch in the joints, say maybe every third or fourth step. Since its occurrence about four months ago, it never felt better.

My moral was at its lowest when I became acquainted with another patient who was from the 29th Infantry Division and whose name was T/Sgt. BILL DIRCKS. He was well built, about six feet tall and he reminded me a lot of Clark Gable but not quite that handsome. He had received two flesh wounds. He had about a five inch gash in his back and the other about the same length in his left thigh. He was confined to his bed when I first saw him. The hospital personnel had a dance scheduled for that evening, so BILL took a wheel chair and he visited the dance hall. He didn't return from it until seven the next morning and the dance had been long over.

(continued next issue)

MAIL CALL

Your Editors are always most happy fellows when we see the mailman at the mailbox. We know that he is delivering more letters from members of the Association and we are always anxious to read them. Keep the letters coming, we would like to hear from every member of the Association. Here are some samples from our latest delivery.

Sam Robinson 84th F.A.
18 Longview Dr.
Marblehead, Mass.

Sam requested some decals for his car. He said that he is always proud to display the Octofoil. During March, Sam and his wife toured Europe. They visited Paris, Brussels, Antwerp, Amsterdam and London. Their time was limited so they couldn't get to the Remagan Bridge or to Liege. There was so much to see that their 12 days in Europe just seemed to fly by. Mrs. Robinson liked the country so much that she wants to visit it again. Sam hopes to see the gang at Springfield.

George Berday
5120 4th St. N.E.
Washington, DC 20011

George and his wife Ruth spent part of the winter in Florida. Now they can't wait for the next ten months to pass by so George can retire and become a permanent resident of the Sunshine State.

Kendall W. Guilford
P. O. Box J.F.K. Sta.
Boston, Mass. 02114

Ken is doing his part to bring more Signal Company men into the fold. When he finished reading his copy of the "Octofoil" he sent it to R. Stockwell. As a result Stockwell became a member and he in turn passed the paper on to another member of the Signal Company. If this keeps up maybe the entire Signal Company will become members of the Association.

Richard C. McGrath
2856 W. 85th St.
Chicago, Ill. 60652

Dick is another fellow who discovered the Association through the "Octofoil." He writes, "Recently I came across a copy of the "Octofoil" newspaper. I did not realize that the 9th Division Association was still in existence. Glad that I heard of the Association and want to join up."

Dick served with the Ninth at Bragg and went all the way with the Division during its campaigns in Africa, Sicily and Europe.

Pete Radichio
1427 15th St.
Santa Monica, Calif.

Pete writes that he was impressed by the Memorial Service at Worcester. Next year he intends to get to Worcester the easy way, by taking Mohawk Airlines right into the Worcester Airport.

He recently saw Les Ronay and passes on his best wishes to all the gang. Pete expects to be in Springfield for the reunion.

**Remember The
Reunion Dates
July 29-31**

Fred Nichols
208 Wilkes Rd.
Fayetteville, N. C.

Fred gave us the sad news about the death of Odie Jones. He recalled that Odie joined the Division just before it left Bragg. He was one of the fellows who received eight weeks training at Camp Wheeler and was then shipped to the Ninth.

Fred was born near Springfield and still has relatives out that way so he expects to visit Springfield during the summer.

John Holick 39th Inf.
John apparently is a railroad buff. He has been down in Hagerstown, Md. and Roanoke, Va., looking over some of the old steamers that used to test records on the railroads.

Ed Note: The following letter was a most welcome one. It came from my old Plat. Sgt. and First Sgt. (W. O'Keeffe) Joe Williams
1900 Holly Oaks Lake Rd. E.
Jacksonville, Fla. 32211

I thought you and all former members of the 47th Inf. "Raiders" would like to know that I have, on two occasions, recently visited our great commander, General Edwin H. Randle. General and Mrs. Randle are enjoying the best of health and happiness and both look twenty years younger than their actual ages.

It was a pleasure to sit and reminisce about those days at Bragg, the battles of North Africa and the regiment he trained, loved and so brilliantly led. Dan, I first joined the Army thirty-five years ago and retired in 1958 and I can say in all sincerity he was the finest, most capable Battalion and Regimental Commander I have ever known. My wife and I were so grateful to have had the opportunity to visit with these two genuine people.

Sorry I can't make the reunion this year. Wish you would come to Florida with it some time. How about it?

HELP WANTED

Many former members of the Ninth are trying to locate friends who served with them during World War II. From time to time they ask our assistance in locating their old buddies. Perhaps some of our readers have the information that these fellows are seeking.

Ernest Kovack is trying to locate Amos T. Smith. Amos served with Co. D 60th Infantry and came from Philadelphia. Ernie's address is 380 Lortz Ave., Chambersburgh, Pa. 17201.

Tom "Brooklyn" Lorello wants to hear from two former members of Co B 60th Infantry - Vito Tosto from Chicago and Capt. Grady Holman, Jr., from Blakely, Ga. Tom's address is 3891 Darby Lane, Seaford, N. Y. 11783.

Walter Tondettar is seeing "Blackie Meyer" who served with the Division and married an English girl from Bournemouth. Walt lives at 144-42 Village Rd., Parkway Village, Jamaica, N. Y. 11435.

Michigan Doings

OUT STATE MEETING

Elmer Wagner has volunteered to handle arrangements for the Chapter's out state meeting. He has completed all the important details and is now engaged in an extensive publicity campaign that he hopes will bring many members to this important meeting.

The out state meeting will be held on October 2, 1971 at the Michigan Haus Restaurant in Bay City, Michigan. The restaurant is about a half mile south-west of the M-84 exit on Interstate 75. Activities will commence at 7 p.m., the first item on the agenda is a buffet dinner of chicken, meat balls, roast beef, sausage and plenty of beverages. Elmer has a real treat lined up for the Michigan gang and he hopes that they will all turn out. Some of the boys might knock themselves out at this great affair and want to rest up before they drive home. Elmer recommends the following places for R & R before the long drive: Howard Johnson Motor Lodge at M-84 and I-75 or the Holiday Inns at 501 Saginaw St., Bay City, and 3325 Davenport St., Saginaw.

ELECTIONS

The election results from Michigan are now in and we can report that the Chapter's officers for 1971 are Jim Bruner President, Bill Meadows Vice President, Bob DeSandy Treasurer, Fred Josey Adjutant, Everett Tapp Chaplain and John Bonkowski Secretary. This team is a powerhouse that will generate plenty of activity in the Michigan area. The chapter can look forward to a busy and fruitful year. The outgoing officers don't intend to retire to the sidelines, they have offered to assist their new leaders in every way possible.

NEWS-NOTES

The Michigan Chapter believes in keeping everyone well informed. They get out a two page letter that contains all the latest news about the chapter and its members. We are fortunate to be on their mailing list and always look forward to receiving our copy of the news-letter. The latest issue contained these interesting items.

The Chapter's last meeting was held on April 17th at the home of the new President, Jim Bruner. Just to make sure that no one got lost on the way to the meeting, the Secretary enclosed a map showing the route to Jim's house. Those members who paid attention during the map reading classes at Ft. Bragg should have had no trouble in finding the meeting place, those who goofed off during the classes probably arrived late for the April meeting.

PLAYED CUPID

Last summer the Association played Cupid for two wonderful people. During the 1970 E.T.O. Tour, Irene Primmer was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Keller, members of the Ohio Chapter. While touring the places where the Ninth Infantry Division earned fame, she met Everett Tap an "Old Reliable" who was also on the tour. The friendship formed during the E.T.O. trip grew into a more meaningful relationship and the happy couple were recently married. They will reside in Michigan and the members of the chapter are happy to welcome Irene into the Association.

4 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

899th T.D.

Bill Savage of the 899th T.D. appreciates the publicity that the chapter gave to the T.D. reunion. If anyone wants more information about this event they can contact Bill at Fontaine Gardens, Apt. 5, 4923 Fontaine Blvd., Saginaw, Mich. 48603.

The Michigan gang really believes in seeing new places. Bill Phelps is visiting Florida and might take a trip to one of the islands. Elmer Wagner is off for a trip to Spain and will probably bring back some more wonderful pictures like the ones he took during the E.T.O. trip.

One sad note appeared in the news-letter. Bob DeSandy's uncle passed away in February.

LAST CHANCE!

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.

Philly-Dela. Hi-Lites

In January a new slate of officers took over the reins of the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter. Art MacDougal now wields the gavel as President ably assisted by Vice President, Paul Lisa, Secretary, Dick Wilson, Treasurer, Vic Butswinkus and Members At Large, Len Tomassone, Elias Hopkins, and Charles Troccoli.

The ladies also made some changes. The Auxiliary meetings are now presided over by President Theresa Cupreys and her staff which includes Vice President Nancy Dogostino, Secretary Vernal Soprano, and Treasurer Edie Tomassone.

SPRING DANCE

The Chapter has big plans for 1971. On May 1, 1971 it will hold its Annual Spring Dance at the West Collingswood Heights Fire Hall in New Jersey. This event will attract a large turnout because it is a well known fact that the Ladies Auxiliary always provides tasty refreshments for the Spring Dance.

During June the chapter will honor its Past Presidents with a Testimonial Dinner. Plans for the dinner are being finalized and more information about this affair will appear later.

The Chapter expects to have a large group at the Springfield Reunion.

Reservations should be made as early as possible because the Holiday Inn cannot set aside rooms the way a hotel does. All reservations must be made at least two weeks before the reunion.

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
Eighth 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
U. S. Rt. 45 & Larraway Road,
Frankfort, Illinois 60423

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