The Octofoil, November/December 1971

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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A Soldier's Assessment

By W. C. Westmoreland

WASHINGTON — A great deal has been written about the Army lately, good and bad. As its Chief of Staff, I welcome this opportunity to tell you where the Army is and where it is headed.

Your Army today is a dynamic organization, proud of its traditions and accomplishments, optimistic about the future, and confident of the direction in which it is moving.

For over six years, the Army has carried major burdens of the Vietnam war. Our mission was to provide military victory in a classic sense but to prevent a communist takeover in South Vietnam, expand areas under government control, and assist in training and enlarging the South Vietnamese armed forces so they could eventually assume the full burden of defending their country. The progressive withdrawal of American and Allied forces is a clear indication of the success that has been achieved.

Great stress has been placed upon the Army by a prolonged war — a war fought without a significant buildup of reserve forces. The need for the Active Army to serve on combat duty in South Vietnam, and, in the not too distant past, the need for the Reserve Army as well, proved that our military force was not prepared to fight a long war led to establishment of a military draft and to commitment of thousands of men, trained in the necessities of military duty, for a period of two years in the Army. This situation presented some severe problems to the nation, to the Army, and to the American people. We are glad to report that the situation has been stabilized.

The fundamental strength of the United States is the American people. The Army is, therefore, primarily a people's army. It is the American people who give the Army its resources and strength. They accept its leadership because they believe in the nation's basic principles. They believe in freedom of choice and in a government of the people, by the people and for the people of the United States. Even in the face of growing pressures, the American people have not faltered. Their support and confidence have been shown again and again by a determination to support the policies of the President and the Congress.

The Army has learned much from Vietnam and will take full advantage of that knowledge. But we are now looking to the future, to our role in a changing society and to the anticipated missions of the future. This is not true only of the Active Army, but of the Reserve Army as well. The Reserve Army is the very heart of the Army. It is the backbone of the Army. It is the Army.

The Army is, after all, a people's army. It reflects the great diversity of our people. The Army is an all-ethnic force today. This diversity is a great advantage for any military force. The diversity of the Army is reflected in the leadership and in the policies of the Army. The Army is a force of the American people. The Army is their Army.

In the past, the Army has often been accused of being too slow to adapt to change. This is no longer true. The Army is changing and is changing rapidly. The Army is experiencing a period of transition, but it is not a period of stagnation. The Army is adapting to the changing world in which it operates. The Army is adapting to the changing needs of the American people. The Army is adapting to the changing requirements of the nation.

The Army is an organization that is committed to the defense of the United States. It is an organization that is committed to the defense of freedom. It is an organization that is committed to the defense of democracy. It is an organization that is committed to the defense of the American people. The Army is a force for good. The Army is a force for peace. The Army is a force for justice. The Army is a force for freedom. The Army is a force for democracy. The Army is a force for the American people.
26th Field Message Center

Joe McKenzie our reporters in the various zones has now again come up with a fine story on the November trip to Worcester, Mass.

Five Hundred Attend
At one of the most popular and various means of transportation was the Annual Picnic of the 26th Field Message Center at the Worcester, Mass. Five hundred hungry men and women required much planning and facilities at the Wachusett Country Club where the trip to remember our associates will be held.

The gang from Michigan really got around. In November twenty-three members attended this Memorial Service at Worcester, Mass. The group included John and Audrey Briner, Bill and Barb DeMello, John and-and Joyce Dewey, Everett and Irene Tapp, John and Roye Bonkewite, given, Phyllis and Sonnie Reed. Pat and Louise Rushall, Bob and Betty Kernepp, John and Diana Wollermanr, Dr. and Mrs. John Glenn. This was the first trip to Worcester for the gang and the Saturday night they felt hot at home - as many of the folks around town were the same as our gang during the trip to Worcester during the Chinese Christmas.

One or two speakers were present. A story told by Dr. Bob Ransome and Bob Kernepp celebrated their 3rd Wedding Anniversary.

Out State Mailing
The Christmas party was a great success and the members are still talking about it. They all agree that Eileen Witzkin, the Hartford, the Oberliners and Fred Josey did a real bang up job on the plans for the first trip to Worcester.

The Christmas party held on December 11th at Fred and Jane Josey's house on Grand Blanc "was one of the best the chapter ever had," the weather was ideal and a fine crowd of 33 people attended.

The gang is looking ahead to some more national plans and is already soliciting nominations for the 1972 annual election which will be held at the February meeting. The Annual Picnic will be held in June as usual. The National Injunction will be held at the Out State Mailing which will be held at Bill and Barbara Meadows' cottage in August, in East Tawas, Michigan.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find 1972 dues for:

Name ___________________________ Serial No. ____________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________

City ____________________________ Zone ____________ State ____________________________

I was a member of:

Battery ____________________________ Company ____________ Regiment ____________

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year: $5.00

Donation Membership Scholarship Fund: $10.00

THREE-YEAR MEMBER: $15.00

Life Membership: $50.00

Octofill Automobile License Disc: $15.00

Decals, 25c (five for ____________)

Ladies' Auxiliary Member: $2.00

Combat Resume Book: $5.00

60th Infantry History: $10.00

60th Infantry, July 27-29

Philadelphia Valley ____________ Greater New York ____________

Illinois ____________ Washington, D. C. ____________

New England ____________ Michigan ____________

Ohio ____________ Fayette Bragg, N. C. ____________
The Association lost one of its outstanding members, Ralph Witzken, on December 6, 1971, while attending a convention in New York City. He was a volunteer member of the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, and was responsible for the New Yorkers' Memorial in Worcester. I visited with members of the Association. You could see him enjoying food or drink for the troops. It was Jackie who donned the anticipated crowd and Jack Egan and Walter Connors asked the members to remember Jack in their prayers. We made the trip to Europe for twenty-five years as a Carrier Division, and not a man was saddened to learn that he had died before the insured had lived the specified period, payment of the principal beneficiary had failed to survive the lapse between the death of the insured and the death of the beneficiary under the policy. Our deepest sympathy to their loved ones. They may rest in peace.

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CHAPTER 24

The Dauntless

This is the 18th installment of Bill Kreyes story of the 78th Infantry from France. The first part ends with the 19th Division in the year 1941 to 1945.

The Intelligence Section occupied the last house in the southeastern section of the town. We discovered that the cellar of the house was loaded with smoked meats which hung from hooks screwed into the ceiling. There were leaves of black bread piled high in a pantry with other preserved foods. As the days went by, we were accumulating all kinds of equipment and supplies which were gradually brought up. However, we didn't need any food supplies as there was enough in the house to last us for weeks.

One day was summonsed by Colonel Thompson who had consolidated his command from the surrounding areas. The town was far from quiet as it was constantly sprinkled with shells. One of our victims of this type of attack was Bolleau. Thompson wanted us to go forward.

A Company which was occupying a ridge about a quarter of a mile out of town to bring back German civilians. These civilians were in a small village in "A man's land" that ground which was unoccupied between the Germans and the Americans.

The entire section went forward to "A" Company's command post. As I stood before, I tried to do a little walking as possible and was now the leading journalists. I turned and stayed at "A" Company command post. I wonder if Jochmann and the others went on to bring back the people. While John and the others were telling, I heard a round of applause from the other artillerymen, and that day just beyond us. Then, John and the others started to jump from a jeep into an open cellar window only to find that the cellar contained at least a foot of water on its muddy floor. A few of us spent the rest of the night in a very wet, cold enclosure. In fact, you could call that with all the wind in the building, it had a certain effect on wet feet and damp house ties.

CHAPTER 25

Men of the 39th Infantry move up road which yesterday was a battlefield in the Wahlacherd Area of Germany. 2/10/45 U.S. Army Front.

We moved on to Herhahn, Germany where our advance up the valley was soon to be cut off by enemy tanks. The walls of the valley was soon to be covered by enemy tanks who had no idea of what was going on. The tank was advancing from the "A" Company's command post. They were hit by a second tank, and it had a certain effect on wet feet and damp house ties.

Too many for them unfortunately who had ninety days of training before combat, the stinums and the know how of the enlisted man were assuring these deficiencies. However, in the course, both sides lost some of their feet men who aren't replaceable with the semblance that is learned through combat and these replacements are failed with other green recruit who have to learn the lessons again the hard way. For the Germans there were no means of thosecrafty, sly troops from the Africa Korps, they were all probably dead or unfit for use by this time or they were captured. At Dornbirn, we were bombed by enemy planes at night as we moved through the town by convoy. One of the enemy snipers fired to our tank. He was the last of our men, and the tank was not there to protect his position. Kujawa, Tschupp and I patrolled and reached this house. We set up a phone in the attic and I left specific instructions with these two veterans as to what to do. The phone was connected directly with me at the 1st Battalion command post. In turn, I had a direct wire with "D" Company mortars. When the phone rang, "D" Company's men had been hit. We, the intelligence section, were going to land upon us. I figured the best thing to do was to sit tight and let them pass by without letting them know my position. I had been on an outpost position with another of these pitch black nights when a number of my assigned tasks were approaching my position. I figured the best thing to do was to sit tight and let them pass by without letting them know my position. Then I would try to get a general idea of what was being done as they passed by and to report them to my own position. When the tank was just about on top of my position, out of nowhere came a major flashing a flashlight at the tanks. Thank heaven, they were British light tanks.

It was so cold at times in this country of Germany that the contents of the "C" rations as well as the water in our canteens were frozen solid. KUJAWA and Tschupp made a short sled with a summer shirt in one of his packages from the states and he received a ribbon which we got a laugh out of time to time to break the monotony and to all was as important. The dark night plus the eyesight especially when you were trying to locate your branch were mistaken for seeing sterns which were known as 'night blindness.' This was my own open eyes, you couldn't see a thing. It was due to my eyesight, I guess. Although the 7th was an excellent air defense division, not always were the platoon leaders out for these unfortunate who had ninety days of training before combat, the stinums and the know how of the enlisted man were assuring these deficiencies. However, in the course, both sides lost some of their feet men who aren't replaceable with the semblance that is learned through combat and these replacements are failed with other green recruit who have to learn the lessons again the hard way. For the Germans there were no means of thosecrafty, sly troops from the Africa Korps, they were all probably dead or unfit for use by this time or they were captured. At Dornbirn, we were bombed by enemy planes at night as we moved through the town by convoy. One of the enemy snipers fired to our tank. He was the last of our men, and the tank was not there to protect his position. Kujawa, Tschupp and I patrolled and reached this house. We set up a phone in the attic and I left specific instructions with these two veterans as to what to do. The phone was connected directly with me at the 1st Battalion command post. In turn, I had a direct wire with "D" Company mortars. When the phone rang, "D" Company's men had been hit. We, the intelligence section, were going to land upon us. I figured the best thing to do was to sit tight and let them pass by without letting them know my position. I had been on an outpost position with another of these pitch black nights when a number of my assigned tasks were approaching my position. I figured the best thing to do was to sit tight and let them pass by without letting them know my position. Then I would try to get a general idea of what was being done as they passed by and to report them to my own position. When the tank was just about on top of my position, out of nowhere came a major flashing a flashlight at the tanks. Thank heaven, they were British light tanks.

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As and did that please vocational wish E'S letter request lng renewal The are included. member take the a counselor or principal of the high or division will A chairman and sex of the General, no! of the College J. Clower, is attended and graduated; the name and CEEB SAT of the financial the chairman have been con­ the person a part of this Scholarship given in the first seven 15. the scholarship the operations of the Benson antitank guns. His attack was hard and had given as good as he received. The energy, it decided, would have to be dialogue before armed action at El Guettar. It was my operation, and the General did not watch the movie, but at the time I thought we had captured El Hamra Ridge exactly as we wanted it, on the Gabes road. One day, I could not find my radio operator, Sgt. Leno, Roberts. But I went into this building and saw Leno sitting in the ground quietly, throwing dirt on my two companions dropped, trying faithfully to dig up their fingers, in a situation like that you either get killed or you have to have faith. My luck was broken, and very. I was sitting there, not very far from Leno, so far in this one. But it could give me out, I gave it no thought. Some time later, I discovered - but I had a strong feeling my anchor interest for a long time. Yet Shells were flying into the ground all around us. They were armor-piercing, but I did not know anything about it.

"Get Gen. Eddy, quick," I said to Hans Feil, who was our division commander. I was driving a radio fast. I told him where I was and what was happening. "Hold our artillery from shooting or shooting, I am going to look for him." There was no other place to go. I was there and saw him for the first time. He said "They are shooting at me in the valley. It was sheer bravery and I knew it, but I got a kick out of it.

"Just a second," Gen. Eddy said, as if to say, "I have been the wrong place at the wrong time.

At that instant the firing stopped and I realized I was a tank, far back in the valley, that had been firing at us. Some trigger-happy tank gouger I did not understand. But I did not think I understood anything. General Patton has been described as a "glory hound" and heरe with him the change was made. He was returned to the hospital in time by Lillias Farago, in his own car with a machine gun. I did not order immediate General Order 300, which you have just seen. It was cancelled at just as promptly as I got there. But I was at the Infantry, which would have to do, because the tank has, already lost 23 percent of its enlisted men, and 26 percent of its officers in eleven days of battle. In situations like this, under the critical phrase "staged leaves" did not carry any weight with him.

During the night of 6-7 April 1943 the tankman was there, covering with his black, smudged, tenant-ginger beard and nerves, all night, which, so far as I could learn, he did not sleep. He was there. and ordered the General Order 300, which you have just seen. It was cancelled just as promptly as I got there. But I was at the Infantry, which would have to do, because the tank has, already lost 23 percent of its enlisted men, and 26 percent of its officers in eleven days of battle. In situations like this, under the critical phrase "staged leaves" did not carry any weight with him.

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WEHAWKEN'S MAIN STREET
Four doors from the old 34th F.A.
Navy and Army Veterans of NJ
have been the subject of a
renovation effort. The
renovation is expected to be
completed by the end of May.

The 7th NJAVV is participating in
the renovation efforts.

GREETINGS FROM NORTHERN
NEW JERSEY
Mr. Clouser's letter is as follows:

* * * * *

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

The OCTOFOIL

A Sign of the Times

Father Kline has a little more
time on his hands these days as
he retired from teaching at St.
Joseph's College, Philadelphia.
He is now living with his sister
in a Rolls Royce. Recently he
forwarded three scrap books that
were the property of Mrs.
John Beall of Washington, D.C.,
mother of Captain John C.
Beall Jr., who was killed in
Good Friday of April 1943 near
El Guettar.
The books contain a load of material pertaining to
the African Campaign and
the good Chaplain feels that they
should be kept with the records
and history of the 9th. After
reading through the books we
agree with Father Kline and will
place them with the records
we have of the Division.

Chaplain Kines writes that
is in good health but misses
the Octofoil and wondered if he
had any solicitudes regarding
dues. A check of our files shows
him to be in good standing but
as so many other members he
changed his address without
notifying the secretaries office.
We have been sending his copy
of the Octofoil to St. Joseph's
College and evidently it hasn't
been forwarded to his new
address. While on the subject we
would like to remind our
members to let us know of
change of addresses for it seems
we are going through this
process again where our members are
"on the run" through retirements or
the families have grown and
the children or grandchildren are
moving to smaller quarters or to
warmer climates.

We hope to hear again shortly
from Rev. Kline as he sends
plans to write about his "39th"
in the near future.

UP TO $1250 can be claimed
toward the burial of eligible
war-time and certain peace-time
veterans. Claimants must be
filed within two years of the burial or
certain service or A & D.
All military payments may be made
when the veteran died in a VA facility
or was traveling to or from a hospital
or domiciliary at VA expense.

P L I N T H INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.
PHILADELPHIA-DELWARE VALLEY CHAPTER
27th ANNUAL NATIONAL REUNION
July 27, 28, 29, 1972

Hotel - Motel Sheburne
Michigan Avenue & Broadway
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08404

Please insert our greeting or "ad" in the Souvenir Journal to be
issued at the 27th ANNUAL NATIONAL REUNION at the
Hotel - Motel Sheburne on July 27, 28, 29.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Motel Sheburne
Michigan Avenue & Broadway
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08404

PLEASE PRINT

KENT KALIN, (L), greeting Emil DeDonato at the Thunderbird,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Emil DeDonato and Ken Kalin entered the Army in January
1941, and were assigned to HQ's 47th Infantry. For the next four
and a half years they were the fellows who were responsible
for keeping the lines of communications open during the
whole of the campaigns from North Africa through Germany. Ken
served as1st. Lieutenant, HQ's 47th and Emil was his Assistant
Chief. When "V-E" Day arrived this efficient team broke up
and it was a long time before they got together again.

In 1970 Emil, who is Advertising Manager for Agfa,
supervised a Medical Convention for his company at Miami Beach.
During the convention he met Ken Kalin. It was a great
reunion. Emil and his wife spent several weeks with Ken and they
had a wonderful time talking about their adventures with the Ninth. Ken
told Emil that he would be glad to hear from any former "Raiders" who
are in the Miami Beach
area. He would also welcome
letters from any of his old
buddies from the 47th.

A politician who had changed his views rather radically was congratulated
by a colleague. "I didn't vote the way that light," he was told.
"I didn't vote the way that light," came
the terse reply. "I felt the heat.

REQUEST FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS
FOR 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION ANN. REUNION
July 27 - 29, 1972

Hotel - Motel Sheburne
Michigan Avenue & Broadway
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08404

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY & STATE:

ZIP NO.

REQUEST FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS
FOR 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION ANN. REUNION
July 27 - 29, 1972

Hotel - Motel Sheburne
Michigan Avenue & Broadway
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08404

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY & STATE:

ZIP NO.

Eighth Page - $30.00
Half Page - $20.00
Quarter Page - $10.00
Booster - $3.00

Make checks or money orders payable to 9th Infantry Division
Association, Inc. c/o Arthur MacDougall, 5051 Hemsted St.,