

College of the Holy Cross

CrossWorks

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

7-1-1972

The Octofoil, July/August 1972

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil>



Part of the [Military and Veterans Studies Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, July/August 1972" (1972). *The Octofoil*. 188.
<https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/188>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the 9th Infantry Division Association at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Octofoil by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Association Dues: \$5.00 per year - \$1.50 will be earmarked to pay for the Octofoil

Volume XXVII Number 4

July-August 1972

WORCESTER MEMORIAL OCTOBER 22

Westmoreland Lauds Army's Viet Role

This year when General Westmoreland attended the reunion he wanted to be regarded as just another member of the Association. Therefore, there was very little advance publicity about his expected attendance at the reunion. His appearance in Atlantic City caught the local press off-guard. They became aware of his presence in the Jersey resort city just prior to the banquet. The following article appeared in the "Sunday Press".

Westmoreland said that not only veterans, but men who are serving in the armed forces today, are not receiving the public support that is their due.

"If we are to succeed in our goal of creating an all-volunteer army," Westmoreland noted, "a position in the armed services must be a position of respect."

Alluding to recent criticism of the Army's role in Vietnam, the general noted that the military does not make policy, but just carries it out.



President of the Association Leonard Tomassone thanking General Westmoreland when he finished his "talk to the troops".

ATLANTIC CITY - Gen. William C. Westmoreland said Saturday that America's Vietnam War veterans are not being given the support and recognition that they deserve.

Westmoreland spoke here at the 27th reunion of the 9th Infantry Division, of which he was a member.

Over 600 members of the division from all parts of the nation have gathered at the Shelburne Hotel for the reunion.

"Our Vietnam veterans need greater consideration than they have been receiving," Westmoreland said. "These men were given an extremely difficult task to perform and they performed well."

Westmoreland spoke in particular of the men of the present 9th division, whom he commanded in Vietnam. The recently retired Army chief of staff said he was proud of these men and their brilliant performance in the field.

"It is a basic constitutional precept," he said, "that the military is subordinate to civilian authority."

"We do what we are directed to do and we do it well," he asserted, "and the nation should be proud of us for it."

The former commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam did not choose to speak on current military issues, but for the most part reminisced about his days with the 9th infantry in World War II.

To his former war buddies, he said it was remarkable that almost 30 years after they had served together, their camaraderie and loyalty to the 9th division are still strong.

Westmoreland's arrival in Atlantic City was a well guarded secret. He arrived here at 5 p.m. and was greeted at the reunion banquet with a long and enthusiastic standing ovation.

★★★★

Murphy New C.O.



Retiring President Leonard Tomassone hands the gavel to newly elected President Ronald Murphy. This is the gavel that was used by the late General George Smythe when he was president of the Association. Mrs. Smythe donated it back to the Association.

Letter From Your President

To all the members of the 9th Division Association, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for the honor and privilege of being selected to serve as President for the coming year. I assure you that in matters concerning our association I shall always strive to do that which serves the best interest of all.

The troops really turned out at Atlantic City. The Philadelphia, Delaware Valley Chapter is to be congratulated, for it was a most enjoyable three days. To our past President, Lenny Tomassone, I send my congratulations for a job well done.

Our next meeting will take place in Worcester on October 21st and 22nd when Father Connors, for the twenty eighth consecutive year, celebrates a Memorial Mass for all the deceased men of the Ninth. This weekend at Worcester is a true picture of why our association was formed. Here men of all faiths gather in remembrance of the 4,581 who paid the supreme sacrifice.

So let's make this meeting at Worcester the biggest yet, as we renew old friendships and pray for our honored dead.

Sincerely,
Ronald Murphy

Memorial Service

We rely on Joe McKenzie to keep us posted on what's happening up New England way and he never lets us down. Joe sent us the following report on the 1972 Reunion and included some details about the Memorial Service at Worcester.

It was a perfect Reunion

Congratulations to Philadelphia - Delaware Valley Chapter for their superb efforts to make our recent convention a pleasant experience for our members. Many hours were spent at meetings with committee members and conferences with hotel management. The fruit of their efforts would not be known until the banquet chairman ordered over 400 dinners. That I would say is a sign of appreciation for a job well done.

There may be a doubt in the minds of the members of our association that they would not know anyone and would not have a good time. Forget about it. In less than two hours you would meet someone from your own unit, someone who lives near you or someone from some other unit who can tell you and your wife about the exploits of the Ninth. I met a man and his wife who made the first and last convention. They are sorry they missed the ones in between.

To prove that you can enjoy yourself why not make plans to attend our Memorial Mass on Sunday, October 22, 1972. Most people (except housewives) do not work on Saturday so you can travel that day. Monday is a federal holiday. You can take a leisurely ride home on Monday and be full of vim and vigor for work on Tuesday.

A special "Thank you" goes to General Westmoreland. He will always be referred to as General whenever Ninth men get together. His presence seemed to electrify the crowd. After dinner was over, speakers given a few minutes to speak their thoughts and the convention gavel dropped for adjournment the General graciously shook hands and posed for a snapshot with almost all of those in the big hall.

Joe McGuckin an ex 26er medic from Jersey City attended his first convention. Manny Effron and Dick Wilson are two more 26ers who worked many hours to make a pleasant week end for you.

REMEMBER

WORCESTER
OCTOBER 21, 22, 1972

THE OCTOFOIL

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

Ronald V. Murphy, President,
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituzte, Mass. 02066

Vincent Guglielmino, 1st Vice President,
Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

James Bruner, 2nd Vice-President,
Flint, Michigan 48081

Francis Maher, 3rd Vice-President,
Worcester, Mass. 01610

Harrison Daysh, Judge Advocate,
Kensington, Md. 20795

HARRISON DAYSH, Judge Advocate, Kensington, Md. 20795

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

THOMAS BOYLE, Treasurer, 39 Hall Ave., Somerville, Mass. 02144

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1973

Nick Dogostino, West Berlin, N.J.

Charles Koskie, Schiller Park, Ill.

Ronald Murphy, Scituate, Mass.

Walter O'Keeffe, Ridgewood, N.Y.

1974

Ralph Carci, Cheverly Manor, Md.

Paul Keller, Whitehall, Ohio

Michael Belmonte, Oak Park, Ill.

William Klauz, New York, N.Y.

Fred Josey, Grand Blanc, Mich.

1975

Richard Wilson, Woodbury, N.J.

Edward McGrath, Green Harbor, Mass.

Charles Jones, McLean, Va.

Robert DeSandy, St. Clairshores, Mich.

Nick Palega, Bellrose, N.Y.

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 (\$5) per year with \$1.50 of the (\$5) 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 a year, July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

Copy must be received on or before the 10th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th. Photographs must be received on or before the 5th day of publication month.

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

*July-August 1972 Volume XXVII Number 4

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 1972 dues. Please mail my membership card to-

Name

Street

City

State

While attached to the 9th Infantry Division (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. Myrtle Guglielmino, Secretary-Treasurer
Ninth Infantry Division Association Ladies Auxiliary
114 Charles Street, Floral Park, L.I.N.Y. 11001

Michigan Doings

This summer has been an active and successful one for the Michigan Chapter. When it came time to shove off for the reunion the gang took Greyhound's advice and left the driving to them. A chartered bus carried the gang from Michigan to the Reunion. A "Reunion Special" left Fraser, Mich. on July 26th, stopped at Toledo to pick up more "Old Reliable" and then continued on non-stop to Atlantic City. Plenty of chow, liquid refreshments, and talent were aboard so time passed swiftly and the group arrived at the Jersey Shore in fine shape. Activities aboard the bus were well documented on tape and film. So the chapter will have a permanent record of this historic event. A preview of these interesting films will be given at the outstate meeting. They should make a good drawing card for this meeting.

Some members felt that if everyone left the driving to Greyhound Detroit would soon be experiencing a recession, so these loyal General Motor stock holders drove to the reunion. Altogether 51 members of the Michigan Chapter put in an appearance at the 1972 Reunion. The chapter's booster drive also went over the top with 52 members placing a booster in the Journal.

Members Elected

Members of the Michigan Chapter didn't go to the reunion solely to enjoy a good time, they also came to offer their services to the Association. Several members of the Chapter were elected to important National Offices.

Bob DeSandy was elected to the National Board of Governors. Bob has worked hard for his local chapter and has served previously on the Board of Governors. He will be a welcome addition to the Association's governing body.

The Second National Vice-President for 1973 will be Jim Bruner. Jim is another fellow who has helped to make the Michigan Chapter a going concern. He has served on the National Board of Governors and is ready, willing and able to serve the National in any way he can.

The fair sex also came in for their share of the honors. Betty Rumenapp was elected President of the Ladies Auxiliary. Betty is a long time member of the Michigan Chapter and for many years assisted the Chapter in all its undertakings. Betty has attended many reunions and has many friends among the members of our Association.

This year Bill Meadows completed his term of office on the board and he is to be congratulated for his faithful service during the past few years. Despite a recent serious accident Bill still continued to attend the meetings of the board.

Great Picnic

A fine turnout of 56 members attended the Chapter's annual picnic. Don Lewis, his Dad and brother-in-law Stan arrived very early to hold the fort for the troops and were soon joined by Maurice and Viola Mitchell. It didn't take them long to whip up a hearty breakfast and greet the gang as they made their appearance. The weather was on the cool side but the warm friendly spirit of the Association prevailed and everyone had a lot of fun.

Joseph Rappazini was the lucky fellow who walked away with the top prize of the day, another lucky fellow Don Lewis was awarded Seven Crowns. This part of the program was a huge success due to the efforts of all the members who contributed to it.

News-Notes

There is no home chapter in Missouri so Jackie and Valeria Grgurich requested permission to join the Michigan chapter. The chapter was delighted to have them and they are now on the chapter's mailing list.

Florence DeSandy was resting at home after her recent operation and couldn't attend the picnic but she expects to be up and around shortly and will be able to attend the chapter's coming events.

There was also some sad news received during the summer. John Obermiller's brother passed away and Vi Stockford lost her Dad.

The 1972 Reunion was the first one for John and Jane Young and also Elsie Young (no relation). They enjoyed every minute of their stay at Atlantic City.

The out-state meeting was held on August 19th and a report will be forthcoming on this event.

Tip Of The Hat

A special thanks to those attending the reunion who donated to the Memorial Fund the sum of \$600.25.

Taps
Sounded

Once again it is our sad duty to announce the demise of several "Old Reliabilities".

Leonard E. Radochia - B Co. 47th Infantry

Edward E. Crone - G Co. 60th Infantry

Henry A. Mahler - K Co. 47th Infantry

Earl S. Craig - Div Hqs
William Waikart - 709th Ord.

Our deepest sympathy to their loved ones. May they rest in peace.

Help Wanted

Ted Matusik of M Co. 47th Infantry has offered his copy of the 47th History for sale. Ted is a "little down and out" these days with mounting hospital bills for he and his wife and he remembers so many guys saying "why I'd give a hundred dollars for a copy of that book". There weren't too many members of the 47th that received this book so may be one of these men will be interested in buying Ted's book. Drop him a line at 3424 S. 57th Court, Cicero, Ill. 60650

73 Reunion At
Boston
July 26 - 28

A parking meter is a device that enables you to do two hours' shopping in one.

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 60016.

A Soldier Looks Back

By W.C. WESTMORELAND

WASHINGTON - I will put away my uniform on the first of July, 36 years after pinning on the bars of a second lieutenant. This leads me to reflect, not without some nostalgia, upon the Army I have known and served. In so doing, I find certain constants - truths and principles which have determined the character of the United States Army throughout its proud history. I also find marked evidence of change as the Army responded over the years to the changes in our society and the challenges to our national security. Both - the immutable character, and the change and growth - have opened the way to far greater opportunities for young men entering the Army today than were open to me long ago.

Must Have an Army

If there was ever doubt, one simple truth has been reaffirmed beyond question during the time I have been a soldier: the United States must have an Army if it is to remain free and great. A healthy skepticism of all things military has been woven into the fabric of our nation since its birth, but no reasoning person can proceed from this skepticism to a conclusion that we do not need armed forces. In a world peopled with imperfect human beings, a world forever in ferment and often threatening, our armed forces are indispensable to our freedom and, indeed, to human progress.

Duty Honor Country

There is another constant etched indelibly in the character of the Army, and that is the code of ethics by which the American soldier lives, works, and fights if need be. The code is best expressed in the credo of West Point: "Duty, Honor, Country." In reflecting on the long reach of American history, I am deeply impressed by the way the Army as a whole has lived up to this code - as an institution, and man by man.

Total Loyalty

Related to the foregoing, one other constant which I would emphasize is the total loyalty which the American Army has given to the nation and the society it serves. This willing and proper subordination of military force to the leaders, principles and purposes of our civilian society is in itself one of the greatest successes achieved by those who charted our original course nearly 200 years ago.

Dynamic Organization

On the other hand, the Army is a dynamic organization that has changed dramatically during my term of service. Its size has ranged from a Depression level of 165,000 men to a World War II peak of nearly six million. Even at this moment, we are contending once again with the turbulence and manifold difficulties of reducing the Army in size by nearly a half, all the while being required to remain vigilant and competent to carry out our missions.



General Westmoreland as Colonel back in 1945 at Division C.P. Butgenbach, Belgium. Westy is on extreme right with General Craig, at his right. The caps read- "U.S. Infantry Officers salute as General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, drives off after a short visit at their Headquarters somewhere in Belgium."

The Gear of the Soldier

The changes in Army equipment have been equally striking. The technological revolution has provided material far more effective than that with which the Army of the thirties was equipped. The horse and the mule have entered history's stables, to be supplanted by the jeep, the tank and the helicopter. Electronic miracles are commonplace. And of critical importance, the gear of the soldier himself has been markedly improved.

Some other changes come to mind. On a personal note, my monthly base pay as a second lieutenant was \$125, which itself was generous indeed compared to the \$21 a month paid to a new private. The Depression-era civilian populace, resentful of even the imprudently inadequate military budgets of those days, had little use for the man in uniform and virtually no use for spending money on him. In those days, the very word "soldiering" was a demeaning term implying that someone was slacking on his job. Along with this, troop units were so short of money and equipment that they often were able to do little more than go through the motions of drill without any sense of real purpose or achievement.

Sense of Mission

Fortunately for the Army and the nation, there were corps of officers and noncommissioned officers in that long-ago Army who understood why they existed, and who had such a sense of mission that they used the time available to prepare themselves professionally for the challenges which came. They understood - in peacetime - the need for an Army. Since their time, neither the nation nor its armed forces have been free to idle in the back waters again.

Preservation of Peace

The Army to which young men come in 1972 offers certain enduring opportunities: first of all, the opportunity to belong to an institution which remains essential to our survival and well-being and has as its first mission the preservation of peace through preparedness; and secondly, the opportunity to work at something which puts duty, honor and country above self - a chance to serve other men.

More Attractive

Along with these, there are other circumstances far more attractive than those I remember when I first took my oath. The base pay of a recruit has advanced more than fifteenfold since 1936, with N.C.O. and officer salaries now competitive in most cases with those found in industry. Given the time, the resources and public support, the Army will soon be able to offer young men adequate housing, exceptional training facilities, and almost unparalleled chances for men of all ranks to advance themselves vocationally and academically. Many strides have already been taken in these directions.

There is room within the Army of today for men of many backgrounds, talents, skills and interests. There is equal opportunity to advance on merit. There is interest and meaning in what they do. There are open doors through which they can communicate ideas aimed at improving the Army's effectiveness. And with all this, there remain the mental and physical challenges to the modern soldier.

Take the Same Oath

A look back, then, confirms for me the enduring truths and principles on which the United States Army is based. It reaffirms for me the great pride I have always taken in wearing the khaki and the Army green. It puts in astonishing perspective the strides which have been taken by the Army during my lifetime and the challenging opportunities - personal and professional - which lie before the soldiers of today and tomorrow. If I were able to stand on the Plain at West Point once again and take the same oath, I would do so with equal pride, and even more anticipation.

General W.C. Westmoreland, former commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, retired as Army Chief of Staff at the end of June.

★★★★

KEEP IT IN A SAFE PLACE is good advice to take when it comes to military records, and birth, marriage, divorce, and death certificates. You never know when you'll suddenly need one or more of these records to substantiate a claim for veterans benefits.

REUNION HI-LITES



Still young at heart the "gang" enjoying a dance we believe to be called "The Alley Cat".

Well Done

The Philly-Delaware Chapter made certain that there would be plenty to do in the evenings. The host chapter hired two wonderful bands to provide music for the banquet and the get-together dance. Atlantic City's invigorating ocean breezes put new life into the old soldiers from the 9th and they kicked up their heels on the dance floor. All the service club smoothies were out on the floor cutting a rug and telling about the great exhibitions they put on at the Company dances.

The appearance of General Westmoreland at the banquet was the highlite of the reunion. For the first time the General appeared before the Association in civilian dress and he looks just as handsome as he did when he wore the army blue. The General spoke of his days in the Army and of his service with the Ninth Infantry Division. At the conclusion of his address the General received a standing ovation from his Ninth Inf. Division comrades. When the banquet was over it seemed that everyone in the hall wanted to shake hands with the General, he stood at the dias and greeted every member that approached him.

The "Old Reliables" have added another successful beach-head landing to their record. In July they stormed Atlantic City and within a short time took over the town. The familiar red, white and blue of the Octofoil could be seen everywhere. It appeared on the beaches, along the boardwalk and in almost every tourist attraction in town. The old gang turned out in large numbers for the 1972 Reunion and during their three days in Atlantic City they really had a ball.

The weather was perfect, neither too hot, nor too cool. Just warm enough to enjoy a dip in the surf and cool enough to make walking the boardwalk a real pleasure. It was a great reunion for the young folks. They swam in the ocean, rode the roller-coasters, and stuffed themselves with pop-corn and cotton candy. When bedtime rolled around the youngsters didn't have to be coaxed into bed.



The Rankins and Hopkins family join the "younger set." We suppose that's how these two "old timers" stay so young.

Q. A friend of mine who was a principal beneficiary under a National Service Life Insurance policy elected to take the proceeds on a monthly installment plan, even though a lump sum settlement was available. But she died before receiving all of the installments. Does the contingent beneficiary receive the unpaid portion of the policy?

A. No, the remaining installments would not be paid to the contingent beneficiary. Where the principal beneficiary

has the option of a lump sum payment and survives the insured, the rights of the contingent beneficiary are wiped out. Any remaining installments due would be paid to the estate of the principal beneficiary.

**Reunion
Boston
In 73**

THE PAWNS OF WAR

This is the last chapter of The Pawns of War. We wish to thank Bill Kreye for allowing us to use this interesting story of the "Old 39th" in the Octofoil for the past several years.

Eventually, I was transferred to the hospital at Camp Upton, Long Island, New York. It had sure changed since I was inducted there five years ago. I would now live in barracks the same style as those we had in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Again, I was assigned a bed on the upper floor. We had a lieutenant and a first sergeant in charge of the barrack personnel. The first night my bed got soaked from rain water that seeped through the leaking roof. My activities were devoted to playing bridge at the Red Cross canteen. In the mornings we had to attend classes for a few hours which were like classes in high school. They had various classes such as math, history and typewriting also a few others. What classes the individual attended was to his own choosing. I attended the typewriting class which actually started me off typing notes about the war. In the afternoons, we could play some basketball indoors or exercise in the gym.

One morning we were getting a severe snow storm and they called off the activities at the school to allow us to stay indoors. I left the barrack to go to the Red Cross canteen to play bridge and the canteen was two blocks away. As I passed the officer's barrack, he came out and he inquired where I was going. I had to think of something fast so I replied that I was going to the canteen to get warm. When I returned to my barrack that evening, they had the windows wide open and it seemed unusually warm. A soldier who slept in a bed alongside of me told me that when I left in the morning, the lieutenant and the first sergeant came into the barrack. They had men get coal and shovels to boost up the heat and the heat all day had been terrific.

Another afternoon, when there was still snow on the sides of the walks and the street had icy sections from melted snow which had frozen again, we were formed in formation to go and see a basketball game. As the patients marched in column in the street with the officer leading them, I walked along the clear sidewalk. He immediately halted the column and he walked over to have a talk with me. I explained that I couldn't very well walk on that ice with the condition my legs were in. He agreed and I was allowed to continue walking on the sidewalk.

On this another occasion, the officer had the troops lined up in a column of twos. As they were marching down the street in cadence count, one of the soldiers had the wrong step. The officer upon noticing that there was something wrong, quickly changed the cadence to the wrong man's pace.

There was one other incident that is worth while mentioning. On Saturday morning, we had inspection but it was a mild form of formation. We had to have the beds neatly made and our uniforms on in a military manner as we stood at attention alongside of our beds. The lieutenant followed by the first sergeant walked around the barrack just looking at the men. The first sergeant was wearing the ribbon with the entire medal attached on the front of his blouse of the entire "good conduct" medal. Some of the boys couldn't keep from laughing. The next Saturday as they made the inspection everyone wore a good conduct medal complete. We had all applied for them during the week at personnel. Then the day came that I was moved to Fort Dix, New Jersey for separation from the armed forces. It was days of waiting and processing but the day finally arrived. It was March 23, 1946.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

The 9th Infantry Division was one of the best if not the best American division to engage the Axis in the World War II in Africa and Europe. The 39th Infantry Regiment first known by the motto "The Fighting Falcons" and near the end of the Sicilian campaign was given the new motto by their commanding officer, Colonel "PADDY" FLINT of AAA-O, fought the longest and probably in the toughest battles more than any other regiment. Later the Germans referred to the AAA-O as the American "SS" troopers.

The Ninth with its three regiments the 47th, 60th, 39th and attached units made the initial landings in North Africa at Port Lyautey, Casablanca and Algiers. Its artillery "Divarty" stopped Rommel's drive through the Kasserine Pass. It connected the Allied western drive with MONTGOMERY's 8th Army in the east in the vicinity of El Gueatir. It drove back the enemy repeatedly until the outfit took Bizerte.

In Sicily it overran most of the western sector with its 39th Infantry then engaged the enemy in the fiercest battles of Cerami, Troina and Randazzo. This action made the Axis withdraw to the Italian mainland. The 9th had many nicknames but the one best suited was "Hitler's Nemesis." The Germans regarded this outfit with respect for two reasons, they followed up quickly on the enemy's withdrawals and the 9th seldom fought the war according to the "book of rules."

The 9th was in reserve during the attack on the "Atlantic Wall" in Normandy, France. The 39th eliminated the last remaining bunkers and pill boxes on Utah Beach. The 9th broke out of the small



Near Dessau, Germany-May 1945 This could be "Reverse" lend lease- Two men of the 39th Infantry get a dinner from two Red Army Cooks.

beachhead to the northwest. Censorship was lifted as the men of the Ninth Infantry Division put back the "Octofoil" patches on their left arms. The 47th Infantry Regiment which became the second most decorated outfit in the United States ground forces and who were known as the "Raiders" and the 60th Infantry Regiment known as the "Go-Devils" made the cut off of the Cotentin peninsula and later the 9th captured the important city and seaport of Cherbourg with the 79th and 4th Infantry Divisions.

The 9th was one of the outfits that broke through the St. Lo - Perriers line where PATTON's 3rd Army tanks entered the plains. However, the Germans pulled a "Little Bulge" at Avranches to cut off PATTON. But by some faith unknown to all the German thrust ran into elements of the AAA-O who were moving to a different sector to join their co-partners of the 9th Infantry Division. These elements held up the enemy advance for two vital days. The 30th Infantry Division was also in on the kill and the determined resistance.

It was a pity that an outfit like the Ninth was in secrecy most of the time as far as recognition in victories were concerned. Its regimental combat teams were attached to other divisions when the Ninth went into reserve. This would reveal that many battalions in the 9th received little rest if any. Any victorious results by these attached units were credited to the division they were attached to.

The 47th Infantry was the first outfit into Belgium. The Ninth was the first to cross the Siegfried Line only to be withdrawn when the high command under-estimated the enemy's strength and position in the Huertgen Forest as a result of the supply and transportation difficulties. The 9th was in the sector prior to the battle of "The Bulge." It vacated this sector to lead an attack which captured

Duren when "The Bulge" materialized. It was quickly rushed to the northern hinge where it held against all resistance and it came under the territory of the U.S. 6th Corps. Near Eupen the 47th Infantry gathered American stragglers and became known as the "47th Infantry Division." It was this outfit which stopped the main German drive.

After the battle of "The Bulge" the 9th captured town after town until the 39th Infantry took Bad Godesburg on the west bank of the Rhine River. Hours later the 9th

together to see one another. The battles are refought and they are won much easier than they were in the early 40's. A very good time is usually had by all but the time seems so short.

Chapters were formed in large cities such as Boston, Washington, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York, Detroit, Buffalo, Columbus and Chicago because the membership there would be the largest. These groups get together about once a month to transact and to carry out the functions of the association. However, only those members who contribute dues, honorary guests and gold star parents belong. Others who are not members are those individuals who do not know of the existing association because there has been no way to contact them as their addresses and whereabouts are unknown. Gee, I always kept in contact with most of the boys from combat but I wonder sometimes what ever happened to CONRAD ANDERSON, NURSE BAXTER, BILL DIRCKS, MATI, FRANKLIN CURTIS, BALDWIN, LT. BENNETT and JOHN FISHER? Others that do know of the organization and who have kept away may have some bitterness against the old outfit because of treatment received unjustly during the great conflict. Others may have a fear of other's rank and there are no doubt other problems such as wives, businesses and so forth. I can only say to these unfortunates, you don't know what you are missing.

Although there was plenty of class distinction in the active Ninth Infantry Division, there is no such animal in the association today. No one is going to put members on guard duty or kitchen police. It is one "big happy family" and it is sponsored and endorsed by the wives of those members now attending.

The chapters of the association run all kinds of entertainment such as picnics, dances, parties and other friendly get-togethers. They need your help if you were associated with the outfit during World War II to survive and to carry on in the same traditions of the past. Perhaps someday you may need their help. The price of the dues alone is more than recovered by just getting and to read six issues during the year of the association newspaper, "The OCTOFOIL" which is strictly for the members of the association. It is truly a great paper which is edited by PAUL S. PLUNKETT of Columbus, Ohio. PAUL was a member of the 60th Infantry Regiment and he was a good friend of the late GLENN O. MOORE who attributed invaluable service for the association. PAUL was instrumentally responsible for getting me started with this project. FRANK FIDLER of Miami, Florida, JOHN KUJAWA of South Bend, Indiana and BILL SOLLIDAY of Norristown, Pa. contributed many short stories. Without reference to our 9th Infantry Division history, "EIGHT STARS TO VICTORY," this story would be impossible to put together.

For the great work that has been accomplished by the Ninth Infantry Division Association we should extend a big salute to each and every man who has contributed from his energies to the highest esteem, admiration and future welfare to the association.

☆☆☆

The association has run reunions every year usually on the last Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the month of July. Why these days? These days are the closest in the week end to August 1st, the day the division was reactivated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 1940. These annual reunions have been a huge success as it has been one time during the year when old battle buddies can get

Business Transacted At Reunion

MINUTES OF THE 27th ANNUAL REUNION

The 27th Annual Reunion General Meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held on July 28, 1972 at 1:20 p.m., at the Hotel Shelburne, Atlantic City, New Jersey. There being a quorum of 65 members present, President Leonard Tomassone then called the meeting to order. The President asked the members to stand and observe a moment of silent prayer for the departed men of the Ninth.

President Tomassone then called upon the National Secretary Daniel Quinn, to read the minutes of the 26th Annual Reunion. Upon a motion duly made by Al Grist and seconded by Robert DeSandy it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes as read and instruct the secretary to place same on file for the records.

Thomas Boyle, the Treasurer, was called upon for his report. Boyle gave a detailed report on the spending and income for the previous year. He concluded by remarking "It is my opinion that all financial obligations of this association for the year ended June 30, 1972 have been paid or settled and that the association is in good financial condition. The Officers and Board of Governors of the association are to be thanked and complimented for their devotion to the good operation of our fine association". Upon a motion made by Oscar Richards and seconded by Dom Miele it was voted to: Accept the treasurer's report as submitted. President Tomassone thanked Boyle for the report.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

President Tomassone then called upon the Scholarship Committee Chairman John Clouser for his report. Clouser is permanent chairman and he named as his committee - Doctor David Heller and Frank Ozart also permanent members of the committee. Clouser briefed the members and told them, that originally five awards were to be given but one recipient had withdrawn from school after the Board of Governors had acted upon the Scholarship Committee report at their meeting held in Pittsburgh on May 6, 1972. A total of \$900.00 was awarded for the year of 1972-73. Clouser named the recipients as Ann Louise Alessi, Denise J. Feinberg, Richard McDermott, and Michael Kortas.

Upon a motion duly made by Harry Whalen and seconded by Bill O'Shea it was voted to: Accept the Scholarship Committee report. President Tomassone thanked John Clouser and the members of his committee for their efforts on this committee.

BUDGET

Walter O'Keeffe, Chairman of the Financial Committee, named the following members who served on this committee: Emil Langer, Art MacDougal, Morris Mitchell, Bill Henemuth and Tom Boyle, the Treasurer.

Upon a motion duly made by Vincent Guglielmino and seconded by Michael Deresh it was voted: To accept the report of the Finance Committee. President Tomassone thanked Walter O'Keeffe and his committee for their report.

The Budget for the year 1972-73.

Anticipated Income

Dues	\$4670.00
Investments	1925.64
Reunion	500.00
Miscellaneous	40.00
	\$7135.64

Anticipated Expenses

The Octofoil	\$2254.00
Editors Expense	400.00
Secretary Salary	600.00
Clerical Expense	600.00
Utilities	420.00
Postage	555.00
Supplies	190.00
Miscellaneous Expense	170.00
Secretary Expense	350.00
Treasurer Expense	250.00
Printing	136.50
Scholarship Expense	78.00
Board of Governors Expense	246.00
Dues reminder	100.00
Accountant	150.00
Reunion Journal	30.00
F.I.C.A. (Sec)	31.00
Memorial Wreath	25.00
Reunion Gratuity	100.00
Chapter Commissions	332.00
	\$7017.50

NEWSPAPER

Thomas Shine of the Newspaper Committee then named the following members who served with him on this committee: Emil Radic, Victor Butswinkus, Elmer Wagner, and John Bonkowski. Thomas Shine stated that "this committee wishes to thank and congratulate Dan Quinn and Walter O'Keeffe for their work publishing the Octofoil".

The newspaper committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Publish information on the New Octofoil association (members of Viet Nam) so that our members can help these Viet Nam Veterans to join their association, for example - supply information on who to contact for membership information.
2. Continue the publishing of "Pawns of War" and any other Diaries or books of this nature.
3. The members and chapters are requested to send in more news, letters and pictures that may be of interest.
4. Chapters to arrange a yearly schedule of activities and have the full schedule published in the Octofoil.
5. Publish any history or personal stories of the Divisions activities in Viet Nam.

Upon a motion duly made by James Bruner and seconded by Robert DeSandy it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Newspaper Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

Michael Belmonte, Chairman of the Miscellaneous committee, was called upon for his report and named the following members who served with him on this committee: Al Cuprys, John Young, Harry Veeneman, Herb Olsen, Harry Orenstein and Oscar Richards. The committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That the Ladies Auxiliary of this association have their own by-laws, issue and keep their own membership cards and collect their own dues.
2. That in future reunions the National President of the Octofoil Association be invited to attend our reunion as a guest.
3. That in all future reunions a committee be appointed as a special committee just to handle room accommodations and complaints regarding same.
4. The committee wishes to thank the decal committee for job well done.

Michael Belmonte then called upon Harry Veeneman who told the members of a proposed New National Infantry Museum to be located at Fort Benning, Georgia. This Museum will be a living tribute to the achievements and dignity of the American Infantryman.

GIFTS BY PLEDGE

Participation in Museum Development Program may be by outright or by pledges payable over a three-to-five year period. All gifts to the Museum are deductible for income tax purposes within the limits prescribed by law. A complete list of commemorative gift opportunities is available through the Infantry Museum Development Program Office, Post Office Box 2506, Columbus, Georgia 31902.

Upon a motion duly made by Harry Whalen and seconded by Dom Miele it was voted to: Accept the report of the Miscellaneous committee. President Tomassone thanked the committee for their report.

BY-LAWS

Harrison Daysh, Chairman of the By-laws committee, named these men who served with him on this committee: John Clouser, Charles Koskie, Edward McGrath, Harry Whalen, and Robert DeSandy. "After due deliberation and a complete canvassing of the Committee members, the group unanimously agreed that currently there is no necessity to propose any alteration in the Association By-Laws".

Upon a motion duly made by Al Geist and seconded by Fred Josey it was voted to: Accept the By-laws committee report.

NOMINATING

Francis Maher, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, named the following members who served with him on this committee: Nick Dogostine, Paul Keller, Ron Murphy, Frank Ozart, Fred Josey and John Rizzo.

The committee recommends the five out-going Board members be replaced by: Richard Wilson of the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter, Edward McGrath of the New England Chapter, Charles Jones of the D.C. Chapter, Robert DeSandy of the Michigan Chapter, and Nick Palega of the New York Chapter.

Upon a motion duly made by Harrison Daysh and seconded by Emil Langer it was voted to: Accept the report of the Nominating Committee.

Upon a motion duly made by Joseph Uschak and seconded by Michael Deresh it was voted to: Close the nominations.

John Clouser made the motion, and it was seconded by Harrison Daysh, to: Instruct the secretary to cast one ballot for a unanimous vote.

PRISONERS OF WAR

Upon a motion duly made by Harry Whalen and seconded by Vincent Guglielmino it was voted to: Send a telegram to the President of the United States, stating that we support his decision to maintain troops in South East Asia until all our Prisoners of War are released and we receive a listing of all Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

Upon a motion duly made by Ronald Murphy and seconded by Frank Russo it was voted to: Adjourn at 2:40 p.m.

Minutes of the 104th

Meeting-Board of Governors

The meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held on July 27, 1972 at 4:15 p.m., at the Shelburne Hotel, Atlantic City, N.J., attended by Messrs: Leonard Tomassone, William Meadows, Thomas Shine, Nick Dogostine, Fred Josey, Charles Koskie, Michael Belmonte, Joseph Uschak, William Klauz, Ronald Murphy, Francis Maher, Paul Keller and Walter O'Keeffe. Also attending were Treasurer Thomas Boyle, Past Presidents Emil Langer, John Bonkowski, Frank Ozart and Herbert Olsen-member Edward McGrath.

The President asked the members to stand for a moment of silent prayer for our departed members.

The Secretary read the minutes of the 103rd meeting and upon a motion duly made by Bill Meadows and seconded by Fred Josey it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and read and instruct the secretary to place same on file for the records.

The Treasurer Thomas Boyle was called upon for his quarterly report. Tom gave the members copies of his report and then explained each income and expense item. Upon a motion duly made by Joseph Uschak and seconded by Francis Maher it was voted to: Accept the treasurer report.

President Leonard Tomassone briefed the members on the 1972 Atlantic City Reunion. Registrations are good and "it looks like a real good reunion".

Ronald Murphy reported on the 1973 Reunion that will be held in Boston. Details will be published in the Octofoil.

Committee Chairmen

President Tomassone then appointed the following members as Chairmen of Committees: Walter O'Keeffe Finance Committee, Thomas Shine Newspaper Committee, Charles Koskie By-laws Committee, Francis Maher Nominating Committee, Michael Belmonte Miscellaneous Committee.

President Tomassone reported on his visit to the Octofoil Reunion (Viet Nam members of the Ninth Infantry) held in May.

Upon a motion duly made by Thomas Shine and seconded by Walter O'Keeffe it was voted to: Investigate the possibility of greater returns from the funds of the association. President Tomassone appointed Francis Maher, Thomas Boyle, Ronald Murphy and Herb Olsen to meet with financial counsel.

Upon a motion duly made by Michael Belmonte and seconded by Ron Murphy it was voted to: Adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

The 105th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held at 4:10 p.m. July 28, 1972 at the Hotel Shelburne, Atlantic City, New Jersey attended by Messrs: Leonard Tomassone, William Klauz, Walter O'Keeffe, Paul Keller, Edward McGrath, Ronald Murphy, Fred Josey, Robert DeSandy, Charles Koskie, Michael Belmonte, Nick Palega, Richard Wilson, and Nick Dogostine. Also in attendance were Francis Maher, Victor Butswinkus, Bill Meadows, Herb Olsen, James Bruner, Thomas Shine, John Bonkowski, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh and Treasurer Thomas Boyle.

Upon a motion duly made by Ronald Murphy and seconded by Walter O'Keeffe it was voted to: Omit the reading of the minutes of the 104th meeting of the Board of Governors.

Upon a motion duly made by Paul Keller and seconded by Fred Josey it was voted to: Omit the financial report.

Elections of Officers for the coming year was held by the Board Members and the following members elected to serve for next year.

Officers

President - Ronald Murphy
1st Vice President - Vincent Guglielmino
2nd Vice President - James Bruner
3rd Vice President - Francis Maher
Judge Advocate - Harrison Daysh

Secretary - Daniel Quinn
Treasurer - Thomas Boyle
Ronald Murphy reported on the progress of the 1973 Reunion that will be held in Boston.

President Tomassone then asked for bids on sites for the 1974 reunion. Fred Josey of the Michigan Chapter made a bid for Michigan and Walter Victor made a bid for the city of Atlanta, Georgia.

Upon a motion duly made by Michael Belmonte and seconded by William Klauz it was voted to: Close the bids for 1974.

Upon a motion duly made by Robert DeSandy and seconded by Michael Belmonte it was voted to: Vote on the selection of the 1974 site.

Atlanta, Georgia was selected for 1974.

Paul Keller asked the Board Members to consider a reunion at Fort Bragg in the near future such as the 35th Anniversary of the Ninth leaving Fort Bragg.

Upon a motion duly made by Walter O'Keeffe and seconded by Michael Belmonte it was voted to: Name the National Secretary as Co-Chairman of the 1974 Reunion and that he participate in all plans and commitments. That the secretary be authorized expenses that occur for trips to Atlanta regarding the reunion.

Out going President Tomassone then turned the meeting over to the newly elected President Ronald Murphy. Lenny thanked the members for their support and cooperation during the past year. Ron Murphy thanked the members for electing him President and asked their support for the coming year.

There being no other business to come before the members it was motioned by Paul Keller and seconded by Michael Belmonte to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

MAIL CALL

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

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967

The Postal Service never seems to take a vacation. Rain or shine, summer or winter they continue to deliver the mail. Although we took some time off during the summer, the mailman didn't so our desk is piled high with mail from our members. Here are some samples from the top of the pile.

Mike DeSanti Co. B - 47th Inf.
Burlington, Vt.

Enclosed is my check for payment of my 1972 dues, sorry I'm late and so glad you sent the reminder. The good old Ninth is always first in my mind and I have never forgotten the experiences and friendships I enjoyed during my time with the Division.

If any of my old Co. B, 47th Buddies are ever in Burlington, Vermont I hope that they will stop in for a visit. They will always be welcome, especially Art "Tank" Stenzel, Nick "Big Stoop" Palaga, Steve "Leaky" Lelak, Joe Metz, Al "Limey" Favlcambidge, Larry Krobin and all the others.

Joe Mowery 9th M.P. Co.
Forest City, N.C.

Joe sent in his dues and said that although he hasn't been able to make the last few reunions he has hopes for getting to the next one.

Irving Blabon Co. C - 39th Inf.
San Rafael, Calif.

I've finally retired from Civil Service on June 30, 1972 with 29 years service. My wife and I are making plans for the future - right now there are many things around the house and yard that need fixing so for about the first three months of retirement I will be taking care of them. I never fail to think of my service with the 9th and I have some wonderful memories of the places we saw, the events we participated in, and the buddies I made.

Now that I'm retired maybe I will be able to make it to one of the reunions or at least drop by the area afterwards. I am still very active with the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Have been Adj. of the V.F.W. for 22 years and Adj. Treasurer of the D.A.V. for 23 years, so you see it keeps me very busy. I am a life member of both organizations and maybe when I get a little extra cash together I'll take out a Life Membership in the 9th.

Hope you have a good reunion and enjoy good health and happiness.

Ed 9th Signal Co.
Lockport, N.Y.

Pure oversight on my part caused me to miss paying my dues but after missing the "Octofoil" for awhile I began to realize something was wrong so I am glad you reminded me.

Last fall I visited Sid an ex 9th Signal Co. message center man who lives in Greensboro, N.C. and we had quite a time. He travels and has seen others of the company also.

I can't make the reunion this year but have enjoyed many other reunions.

Robert "Doc" Yoder Co. G - 39th Inf.
South Bend, Ind.

Will try to make the reunion at Atlantic City if possible. Sure had a good time at Pittsburgh and Springfield; expect that this one at A.C. will be a great one too.

Have heard from Bob Smith and Tom Shine, they are planning to make the reunion.

Arnold Williams Hdqs. Co. - 15th E n g . B n .
Denver, Colorado

I had the most wonderful surprise a few weeks ago. An old buddy of mine, Henry Hill of Wellesley Hills, Mass. visited me here in Denver, Colo. Henry looks great, and still the same great guy he always was. We served together in Hdqts. Co. of the 15th Engineers. Sorry I can't make the reunion, it's a bad time of the year for me.

Vern Dean Co. A 9th Medics
Hueytown, Ala.

Let's hear from some 9th Medics. Have heard from Bailey, Demupicis, Ala. - Wonder what happened to Orrvillo Cagle, Childeanburgh, Ala.? I will try to find out. I'll lay out the welcome mat for any of my old "Brooklyn" buddies Hungen, Kennedy, Harvey and Co. All the best.

Mrs. Robert H. Stumpf
Alexandria, Va.

It is with a sad heart that I must write that Bob died November 23, 1971 in his sleep. He is buried at West Point, N.Y.

Our oldest son, Harry, graduated from West Point this month (June 1972) and it was a thrill to have General Westmoreland as the speaker for the ceremony. It is strange how history keeps repeating itself and we keep crossing each other's paths.

Our middle son, Bob E., is in his third year at the Naval Academy, and our youngest son, Donald, is entering Marietta College, Ohio, this fall.

Bob was always most proud of the 9th Division. We are all grateful for your faithful work to keep the Division together.

Lt. Col. Harry V. Ellis
Franklin, Va.

Sorry I can't make the reunion. After retiring from active duty with 30 years' service and a 40 per cent physical disability I decided not to quit being active. Last year I went back to school and got my Master's Degree from North Carolina State University which is close to the old home of the 9th, Fort Bragg. I am now teaching math at Paul De Camp Community College in Franklin, Va. Summer school is keeping me away from the reunion.

In 1941 my first active duty post as a Regular Army Officer was at Fort Bragg. In 1969 I retired from Fort Bragg with 30 years' service, two years' service as an enlisted man and twenty-eight years as a Commissioned Officer.

I served five tours of duty at Bragg, in 1941 with the 9th, in 1946 with First Army Hdqs, in 1951 with Hdqs V Corps in 1959-1962 with the 82nd Airborne Div, and in 1968-1969 with the 12th Support Brigade.

Incidentally, the 82nd Airborne was one of the 9th offsprings as we cadred it in 1942, the cadre was split up to form the first two airborne divisions, the 82nd and the 101st.

I retired as Executive Officer of the 12th Support Brigade.

Tom Siler Co. A - 15th Engineers
Ashville, N.C.

Tom is another one of those fellows who has a wonderful wife who looks after his affairs. We received the following letter from his better-half Margaret.

Enclosed is a check for 3 years' dues for Tom. We are coming to N.J. in July to see my mother and hope to stop by Atlantic City and see the "Old Gang", especially those from Co. A, 15th Engineers. Each Christmas we exchange cards with about a dozen of the fellows from the 9th.

Tom is still working for the Southern Railway. Our children are both married, Chuck will be discharged from the Marine Corps next month. Our daughter is attending the University of North Carolina.

This will be our first 9th Inf. Div. Reunion and we are looking forward to it.

Ralph Alessi 47th Inf.
Valley Stream, N.Y.

Ralph was pulling our leg a bit when he wrote, "This week I was at the Recruiting Station and picked up some booklets. I thought you might be interested in having them, maybe some of the boys might want to sign up again."

But then he got serious and told us what was really on his mind. He wrote "My wife and I want to thank everyone in the Association from the bottom of our hearts for the Scholarships awarded to our daughter Ann Louise by the National Association and the New York Chapter. Thanks for the good work you have been doing all these years."

Felton Jones Co. F - 47th Inf.
Alapha, Ga.

First Sergeants have always been a pampered lot. They would handle only the important items like making arrangements for card games or beer busts while they delegated the minor items like duty rosters, sick call and company record keeping to the Company Clerk. It seems that old First Sergeants never change, and we have a letter from Wilma Jones that proves our point. She says,

Enclosed is a check for \$5.00, the ex-First Sergeant's membership dues for one year.

As much as he enjoys the "Octofoil", I am surprised at him ignoring your reminders about renewing his subscription. Oh, I guess he considers himself too busy selling Chevrolets to take time to make out a check, but I am inclined to think that he still doesn't see the point in doing something he can get others to do.

It will be impossible for us to make Atlantic City, but we extend to each of you our best regards and best wishes for a great reunion.

Richard Schafer Co. G - 39th Inf
Sec 1 Dom, VA Center
Martinsburgh, W.Va.

Dick tells us that he wrote to William Cavanaugh, the young man from England who was interested in the history of the Battle of the Bulge. He was delighted to receive a letter in return from England. Dick is hoping to hear from some of the old gang from G Co, or any of the men who served with the Ninth.

Jack Scully Scholarship

The New York Chapter membership approved two scholarships and 25 students applied. The committee recommended that the drawings take place at the reunion in Atlantic City. This was done following the general meeting held on Friday afternoon, July 28, 1972. Some 25 New York Chapter members assembled at the New York Chapter C.P., Room 518. Our Secretary, Dom Miele, brought with him in a sealed envelope the names of the 25 students. Joe Uschak had the pleasure of drawing the first winner which was Ann Alessi of Lynnbrook, Long Island and Max Umansky had the pleasure of drawing the second winner, Laurence Langer of Morris Plains, New Jersey.

The Committee hopes that this can become a tradition of the New York Chapter, not only as an incentive for our young people, but a lasting memory of our beloved friend and devoted member, Jack Scully.

Emil P. Langer
Chairman
"Doc" Seslowe - Assistant
Edward Tobin - Assistant

WORCESTER MEMORIAL

RESERVE A ROOM NOW

WORCESTER

Holiday Inn, 70 Southbridge St.
(617-791-2291)

AUBURN - 4 miles from Worcester
Yankee Drummer Inn, 621 Southbridge St.
(617-332-3221)

SHREWSBURY - 9 miles from Worcester
Driftwood Motel, Boston Turnpike (617-842-8911)
Worcester City Motel, 235 Boston Turnpike (617-791-0976)
Shrewsbury Motor Inn, Boston Turnpike (617-798-3711)

WEST BOYLSTON - 10 miles from Worcester
Wachusett Motor Lodge Route 12 (617-835-4416)
Howard Johnson
Esquire Motel

SUTTON - 11 miles from Worcester
Pleasant Valley Motor Lodge Rt. 146 (617-865-5222)

FRAMINGHAM - 15 miles from Worcester
Hunter's Motor Inn 1186 Worcester Rd. (617-879-1510)

A veteran, member of his family, and dependents can have their VA pension, compensation, or other veterans benefit check mailed directly to a bank for deposit in their personal account.

This procedure, is especially convenient for persons who may be away from home a great deal, or hospitalized for a long period of time to take care of their financial affairs. For others, it eliminates having to travel to and from a bank, a tiresome trip for elderly or disabled persons in some areas, or having to find someone to make the trip for them.

It was pointed out that in addition to being convenient it is an excellent way of safeguarding incoming checks against possible theft from the mailbox.

Active Retirement

General Randle, the man who moulded the fledgling 47th Inf. into a real fighting outfit, may be retired from active duty but he certainly hasn't retired from an active life. He runs his own press, writes books and articles for various publication and also maintains an active interest in the affairs of our Association. He is not reticent when it comes to expressing his feelings and his letters always make for interesting reading. The following are some quotes from his most recent letter.

"Had a letter this past week from General William B. Fulton who is commanding the 9th Division at Ft. Lewis, Wash. He sent me a couple of issues of "Old Reliabilities" a paper they get out at Ft. Lewis.

In his letter he says, "We are planning to hold the 1973 Octofoil Association meeting near Ft. Lewis, so you and Agnes can plan on being at Ft. Lewis next summer. This is the new division Association. You older World War II types don't seem inclined to want us so we had to form another association. I hope the two will ultimately be joined together."

I hope so too. I think our association made a grave mistake in not taking them in after the 1st combat men returned from Vietnam. The Association would be much stronger. After all we all fought under the same banner and wearing the same insignia. General Fulton is an outstanding officer. It was he who as a Colonel took the 3rd Brigade (47th) to Vietnam.

Collectors Item

Had an unusual letter about a month ago from a man in North Las Vegas. He had no connection with the 9th or the Association, he is a book collector. He said he bought a copy of "Safi Adventure" from a Salvation Army store for 10 cents. The book was autographed to a reserve Marine Captain, he said he took the book to a rare book dealer who offered him \$10.00 for it. My correspondent did not sell, but wrote that a dealer who would pay \$10.00 for a book would expect to sell it for twenty-five dollars.

It reminds me of Mark Hellinger. In Hollywood, where he was writing for the movies nobody would believe he had written a book. He canvassed all the 2nd hand bookshops and finally found a copy of his book. The man wanted \$25.00 for it. Mark said, "It only cost \$2.75 when new." The dealer opened it up and showed him his own signature. He said, "Yes, but this is an autographed copy." So, Mark had to pay \$25.00 for his own book with his own signature.

I have about 140 copies of "Safi Adventure" left, so if anybody wants a copy of this \$30.00 autographed book for \$5.75 postpaid, he can get it, while they last, by writing to me.

I doubt if I can make the convention this year, but am almost sure I shall be there next year.