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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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9-1-1972

## The Octofoil, September/October 1972

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# 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 5

Sept-Oct 1972

## BEAN TOWN SET FOR 73

### Board Meeting

The 106th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held at 5:25 p.m., October 22, 1972 at the Holiday Inn Motel, Worcester, Massachusetts attended by Messrs: Ronald Murphy, Walter O'Keeffe, William Klauz, Nicholas Palega, Ralph Carci, Edward McGrath, Nicholas Dogostine, Fred Josey, Robert DeSandy, and Charles Jones. Also in attendance were Thomas Boyle Treasurer, Francis Maher Vice President, Vincent Guglielmino 1st Vice President, Harrison Daysh Judge Advocate, Past Presidents Leonard Tomassone, John Bonkowski.

The secretary then read the minutes of the 105th meeting and upon a motion duly made by William Klauz and seconded by Robert DeSandy it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and to have the secretary place same on file.

Thomas Boyle was called upon for the Treasurers report and Tom gave a quarterly report of income and spending. Upon a motion made by Charles Jones and seconded by Ralph Carci it was voted to: Accept the Treasurers report.

#### REUNION REPORT

Leonard Tomassone reported for the Philly-Delaware Chapter that hosted the 1972 Atlantic City Reunion. Lenny expressed his thanks to all those who worked so hard to make the reunion a success and to the other Chapter members who aided at the reunion. He then turned over a check for \$529.00, the profit realized from the reunion, to President Ronald Murphy. President Murphy thanked Lenny Tomassone and all workers from the Chapter for their efforts on a wonderful reunion.

Upon a motion made by Robert DeSandy and seconded by William Klauz it was voted to: Accept the report of the Philly-Delaware Chapter for the 1972 Reunion and to congratulate the Chapter for a job well done.

Upon a motion duly made by Walter O'Keeffe and seconded by Charles Jones it was voted to: Give the Philly-Delaware Chapter a gratuity of \$100.00 for their work on the 1972 reunion.

Ronald Murphy reported for the Committee on the 1973 Boston Reunion. Plans are being worked upon and the Committee feels that all attending will be pleased with the three day events. Details will appear in the Octofoil such as room rates etc

### Command Post for the 1973-Boston Reunion



The Sheraton Hotel in Boston will be the C.P. for the 1973 reunion being held in Boston on July 26-28th.

The New England Chapter members are mighty busy these days setting up plans for the 1973 reunion in Boston. A group of committee members have been traveling around the South Shore of Massachusetts hoping to come up with a different day for Friday of the reunion. Plans are in the making for an excursion from the City that may be a bit new and develop into a pleasant day for the members who attend the reunion.

At the Board of Governors meeting held on October 21st the Reunion Committee announced that they are preparing for an old fashion New England Clambake for Friday July 27th. This type of Clambake dates back to early Pilgrim times. Plans are also being formed to hold this bake at a resort near Plymouth where the first Pilgrims arrived in this Country. This will bring us into the area at the entrance to Cape Cod. In case of bad weather the bake could be held indoors at this same place.

If you are a golfer there is an 18 hole course on the premises. The green fees for our group will be around \$4.00. For those who like to walk there are miles of sandy beaches below the dunes and these dunes are really something.

The rooms at the Sheraton are beautiful, as a matter of fact the Reunion Committee are becoming quite daring and they offered to pick up your tab if you are not completely satisfied with your room. Of course they feel confident that they will have "no takers" for their offer. (As Hardy would say to Laurel - "I certainly hope so!")

### Taps Sounded

William Klauz made a motion and it was seconded by Robert DeSandy to: Honor Richard Storey at the Boston Reunion and present him with a plaque for his service to the Association.

Upon a motion made by Walter O'Keeffe and seconded by Charles Jones it was voted to: Adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Daniel Quinn  
National Secretary

It is our sad duty to announce the passing of two "Old Reliables" Joseph Birchler 3Bn Hq's Co 47th Inf, Balsey Loucks, Hq Co 60th Inf. May they rest in peace.

\*\*\*\*\*

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An Open Letter appeared in the 1972 Reunion Program and for those who did not attend the reunion we would like to reprint and acknowledge the writer of this beautiful letter of expression. It was written by Lucille Mac Dougall the daughter of Art Mac Dougalla member of the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter.

An Open Letter To  
General William C. Westmoreland

We cannot let the occasion of your retirement pass without letting you know some of our feelings at this time.

Many of your memories are our memories, your anxieties, our anxieties, your successes, our successes. In a sense, your feelings upon retirement are shared by us. We have pointed with nostalgic pride to all your accomplishments and reminded our wives and children that we have been one in purpose with you in a past war that left the world shaking in horror at it, even to this day.

Thank you for your firm guidance, unequable leadership and unfailing dedication in the service of your country.

With greatest admiration and respect, we, your fellow countrymen and members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, offer you our sincere congratulations upon your retirement and future success in all you undertake.

### Tip Of The Hat

Many thanks to Harold Black for remembering the Memorial Fund and a special thanks to Alice Lynch widow of James Lynch of the 39th who contributed in the memory of Jim.

\*\*\*



Sue and Peter Radichio are shown on the boardwalk outside of the Shelborne Hotel. Sue is recovering from a recent operation but they make the trip every year from Santa Monica, California. We might add they were also at Father Connors memorial on October 23rd.

## ★ THE OCTOFOIL ★

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

Ronald V. Murphy, President,  
44 Strawberry Lane, Scituate, 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,  
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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'Keefe, Ridgewood, N. J.

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. Clair Shores, Mich.  
Nick Palega, Bellrose, N. Y.

Honorary Chaplain Emeritus  
Rev. Ed. Connors, Worcester, Mass.

Board Member Emeritus  
Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Retired)

The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are (\$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 their 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.

Volume XXVII Number 5

Sept-Oct. 1972

## 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.

## Message Center

Service Battery 26th  
field Artillery Bn.

This year another page was added to the history of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. For the twenty-eighth time (yes 28) Father Connors offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for our members both living and dead. In the short space of one hour we put aside our troubles and joys to follow him and the Mass to ask God's blessing on those who are gone.

Bill Bongiorno had a busy year. Florida in the winter, Atlantic City in the summer and Oregon in the fall to visit his son, Bill Jr. and Bill had a minor operation on his hand that required a few days hospitalization. -- Bill Sacco fractured his left heel in a fall. His leg was in a cast for six weeks. Bill has been out of work for over six months -- Saw Manny Efron and Joe McGuekin at Atlantic City this summer. Joe is still interested in the Medics as he works for a drug company. -- Louie England is now the grandfather of twin boys. If you have any furniture you want refinished just call Louie. -- Keith Griffin, son of our Paul, enlisted in the Air Force. -- Doctor Burton L. Forbes, Medic 26th F.A., has been appointed surgeon for the State of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars for the seventeenth time. -- Had a card last Christmas from Irving Cohen for the first time since we parted company many years ago. -- Both son and daughter of our Harold Wallace were married during the past year. -- Linda Roscoe, daughter of our Elmer, is an instructor in the physiotherapy department at the University of Connecticut. His son, Larry is flying the big birds for the Strategic Air Command -- Bill Andrews has not responded to medical treatment since his serious accident over three years ago -- Soto Lembesis died during the past year. He was one of the mainstays on the 26th F.A. baseball team at Ft. Bragg. -- If you want anything built, call Pergi, but it has to be big. He is Vice President of the American Construction Co., Hartford, Conn.

Change your records to read:  
Richard M. Hill - 5623 Belmont, Dallas, Texas, Apt. 511B

Keson Nosak - 2141 Coldstream N.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Paul Griffin - Raap Medical Apartments, Rd. 2, Ravenna, Ohio

Cris Pinkstaff - Moved, left no address

Truly Hammock - Moved, left no address

Joseph McGuckin - 338 Danforth Ave., Jersey City, N.Y.

1973 BOSTON is your convention city. When is the last time you attended a national reunion? You should try it. You will like it.

**Remember  
The Dates  
↓  
Reunion  
Boston  
In 73  
July 26 - 28  
\*\*\***

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT  
AND CIRCULATION

(Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

1. Date filed: 9-30-72. 2. Title of Publication: THE OCTOFOIL. 3. Frequency of issue: Bi-monthly. 4. Location of known office of publication: 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. - Hudson County. 5. Location of headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publisher: 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. - Hudson County. 6. Name and address of the Publisher and Editor: Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J.

7. Owner (if owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated form, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given.)

Name and address: None.

8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or other securities (if there are none, so state):

Name and address: None.

9. FOR OPTIONAL COMPLETION BY PUBLISHERS MAILING AT THE REGULAR RATES (Section 132.121, Postal Service Manual) 39 U.S.C. 3626 provides in pertinent part: "No person who would have been entitled to mail matter under former section 4359 of this title shall mail such matter at the rates provided under this subsection unless he files annually with the Postal Service a written request for permission to mail matter at such rates."

In accordance with the provisions of this statute, I hereby request permission to mail the publication named in Item 1 at the reduced postage rates presently authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3626.

10. FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (Section 132.122, Postal Manual)

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes

(Check one)

Have not changed during preceding 12 months

Have changed during preceding 12 months

(If changes, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. copies printed (net press run)	1,650	1,500
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street venders and counter sales . . . .	None	None
2. Mail subscriptions . . .	1,590	1,237
C. Total paid circulation . . .	1,440	1,237
D. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means . . .	110	100
E. Total distribution (sum of C and D) . . .	1,550	1,337
F. Office use, leftover, unaccounted, spoiled after printing . . .	100	163
G. Total (sum of E and F -- should equal net press run shown in A) . . .	1,650	1,500

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct.  
DANIEL QUINN, Editor and Publisher, The Octofoil.

## NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find 1972 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 .....\$5.00 ☐  
 Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund ..... ☐  
 THREE-YEAR MEMBER .....\$13.00 ☐  
 Life Membership .....\$50.00 ☐  
 Octofoil Automobile License Disc.....\$ .50 ☐  
 Decals, 25c; (5) five for .....\$ 1.00 ☐  
 Ladies' Auxiliary Member .....\$ 1.50 ☐  
 Combat Route Map.....\$ .50 ☐  
 60th Infantry History.....\$ .50 ☐

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Please credit the following chapter:

- Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐  
 Illinois ☐ Washington, D. C. ☐  
 New England ☐ Michigan ☐  
 Ohio ☐ Fayetteville - Fort Bragg, N. C. ☐

# L Co.'s Log 39 Inf. 1942-44

Dear Dan

I had L Co. 39th Inf. right up until it was deactivated I believe at Bad Tolz Germany. (During the occupying period from the end of the war until Jan 1947).

Before that I was with Hqs Co. 3d Bn. 39th. In my or "among my souvenirs" I found the enclosed brief history which is self explained. 1-sgt Matherly was the 1st Sgt. upon deactivation and was re-assigned then I believe to the Constabulary. Since I was not a member of L Co. in the "history" and I just couldn't throw it away, I thought I would send it to the Octoil for disposition.

Best Regards

WALTER PASTEL

Milton, Mass.

What follows is a brief but concise history of this command from the time of its departure overseas until the end of the war in Europe.

This history was written under the most adverse condition that could be described. Hardly was there ever time to write or elaborate upon any subject because it was always kept in the record of events daily.

History was written by the 1-Sgts. William C. Ogburn and Vertrice Matherly. Compiled by 1-Sgt Vertrice Matherly.

Only the most important events are listed and as to casualties only killed in action and wounded, missing are listed.

Company strength at the time of sailing for overseas action was two-hundred and ten men. War time strength is one-hundred and eighty-five. Diseases took a high toll of men such as Trench Foot and Malaria.

## COMPANY HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1942

- 1-10 Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Company engaged in amphibious training boat team tactics, harden of troops and preparation for A P permanent change of station. Weather, fair and cool.
- 11-16 Ft. Bragg, N.C. company engaged in amphibious training boat team tactics. Under going extensive physical training. Weather fair and cool.
- 17 Ft. Bragg N.C. company left area at 1100 hours, marched by foot to R.R. station about 1 mile. Entrained, enroute to Ft. Dix, N.J. weather fair and cool.
- 18 Ft. Dix, N.J. company arrived at R.R. at 1400 hours, distance traveled by rail 500 miles. Marched by foot about 2 and a half to cantonment area. Weather fair and cool.
- 19-23 Company made final preparations for movement overseas. Weather still fair and cool.
- 24 Ft. Dix, N.J. staging area. Company left area 1730 hours enroute to R.R. station, marched by foot two and a half miles, entrained at 2030 hours enroute to port of embarkation at Staten Island, New York. Arrived at Pier No. 16 at 2300 hours, went aboard USSAT Leedstown. Weather fair and cool.

25 Aboard USSAT Leedstown at Pier No. 16 Staten Island, New York.

26 Aboard USSAT Leedstown left Pier No. 16 at 0430 hours enroute to United Kingdom. 26 of September to 7 October sailed the Atlantic, alerted many times during as submarines were lurking about most of the time.

## COMPANY HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 7 TO 31

7 Landed at Belfast Ireland debarked at 1400 hours and entrained at 1500 hours enroute to Camp Loughermore, North Ireland. Arrived at Temple Patrick R.R. station at 1545 hours. Detained and marched by foot to Camp. Weather cloudy and very cool.

8-12 Camp Loughermore, North Ireland. Company participated in BN. marches and usual camp duties. Weather cloudy and very wet.

13 Camp Loughermore, North Ireland, doing toughing up exercises. Weather very wet.

14-20 Camp Loughermore, North Ireland, very hard drill. Still very wet.

21 Company moved by foot to railroad station a distance of about three miles. Entrained at 1400 hours at Temple Patrick and preceded to port of embarkation at Belfast, Ireland. Went aboard the Ferry Princess Maud. Weather still very wet.

22 Aboard the Ferry Princess Maud. Left harbor at Belfast at 0800 hours for Liverpool, England. Docked at Liverpool, England at 2300 hours. Weather wet.

23 Unloaded from the Princess Maud at 1000 hours and moved across the town to the opposite side of the harbor. There we loaded on the HMS The Dempo at 1300 hours. Just got aboard and moved from Liverpool.

24 Entered Scapa Flow Scotland. Our ship The Dempo joined a large convoy. Weather very wet and foggy.

25-27 Aboard the HMS Dempo at sea. The weather is nearly perfect, the men are taking advantage of it by sunning themselves on the deck. They are finding it hard to get use to the English food, eat and sleep in the same quarters. Oct. 28 one of the English soldiers was killed by an accidental gun shot by one of his buddies. True to the traditions he was given a formal burial at sea. On the 30 of Oct 1942 we were told that we were to be a part of an assault force known as the Far Eastern Assault Force and its objective was to make an assault landing just east of the city of Algiers, North Africa. The third BN was to be in reserve and ready to take over any part of the mission of the objective. On the 6 Nov. our convoy had sailed through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea. Here we received our first air raid by German torpedo planes. The ship that carried our 2nd BN was torpedoed and had to drop out of the convoy so the Third BN had to take over the mission of the 2nd. BN.

We were issued maps of the assault area and classes were held to familiarize each and everyone with the situation. Platoons were assigned their missions and at 2330 hours 7 Nov. the company went over the side of the ship into landing craft to proceed to the rendezvous.

## COMPANY HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

8-11 The forward elements of this company struck the beach just east of Cape Matifou, Algeria at 0330 hours. No opposition was encountered on the beach and the company proceeded toward Fort De Laue. Enroute we met the other portion of the BN. and continued the attack according to plan. When we entered the city of Fort De Leau there we encountered very stiff opposition from a mixed nationality of African troops. They fought very hard but were beaten because of inferior weapons. The town was taken about 1600 hours in the afternoon and the company proceeded to attack for Masion Blanche which was a large French air field used by the French, German and Italian air forces. Darkness and a defensive was inaugurated. Considerable trouble was had during the night with a French calvary that moved up from the South. The next day the company reached its final objective and all French forces surrendered. Weather cloudy and cool.

12-22 Remained in area near Maisone Blanche on the alert for enemy paratroopers. Many air raids occurred each night. 23-24 Company to and defensive position near Birmandres and remained there to 28 Nov.

28-15 Company moved from Baba Hassen at 0230 hours to the docks in the city of Algiers. Loaded on boat and sailed from the port as soon as darkness fell. There were two or three torpedo attacks that night but no damage was done to our ship. The following day we reached The Port of Bone, North Africa. It had just been taken by the British 1st. Army. As the company was unloading from the boat the German Air Force made a bombing attack on the harbor, luckily no one from the company was hurt and we preceeded to the railroad station and there we spent the night. The enemy air force was over all night and the railroad station was hit twice by bombs. Everyone in the company thought that they had had it but all survived. Anti-air craft fire was fierce but it could not possibly stop all of the bombers. The men that manned the anti-air craft guns were the British that had plenty of experience with German planes over London. On the following day the company entrained 30 Nov. and moved to Souk El Arba arriving there at 0300 hours in the morning, contacted elements of he

British army and received our orders. Loaded on trucks at 0500 hours and moved by truck for five hours and contacted elements of the British 77th Anti Tank Bn. They were holding a very thin line and we were to re-enforce them with infantry. The company was put in a series of outpost and covered about six miles. There was no way of getting supplies because the road was knee deep in mud and the German air force patrolled the road during the day. At this time we were some forty miles from Tunis the closest that we were able to get in many a month. We were on half rations and British at that. Numerous patrols were sent out and defenses were prepared. Enemy air craft were numerous. The mission was changing and on the 14 Dec. we received orders to move to Souk El Arba.

## COMPANY HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF DEC. CONTINUED

16-30 On the morning of the 15 Dec. we arrived at Souk El Arba and took positions along a river that ran east and west from the town. It rained all the time and everything was very disagreeable. The English had a small fighter plane base here and our mission was to protect it from enemy paratroops. The enemy air force made many raids both day and night. It was here that we saw our American fighter plane and much to our sorrow it was shot down by four German planes. We also spent Christmas here and it was hardly noticed. We received our first mail since we left the states. 1-31 The company moved from Souk El Arba on Jan 2 moved south through Tunisia to Briska in the edge of the Sahara Desert. Our mission here was much the same as in other places we sent patrols as far as 500 miles into the Great Sahara. It was a great experience to those that were able to make the trip.

## COMPANY HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1943

1-18 Stayed in the edge of the city of Biskra sending out patrols far into the desert both day and night. Some sharp encounters were had with German Glider Troops that landed out into the desert with the intention of capturing the Air Field that we were protecting. These were tried by military trial and shot as spies. 19-28 The company received orders to be ready to move at a moments notice. On the 18 Feb. nine English came with orders to move us into the town of Tebassa which was about eight hundred miles north and in Tunisia. At 1100 hours that day we loaded and rode the rest of the day and that night. While we were in transit we received orders to proceed to Thala, Tunisia and there we received further orders. We arrived at Thala at 1300 hours 19 Feb. and there we received orders to go until we made contact with our own Bn. or contact the 26 Inf. of the 1st Div. At 1600 hours the convoy came

under heavy shell fire. Here we detrucked and proceeded up into the mountains to fill a gap that existed between "A" and "B" Companies of the 26 Inf. 1st. Div. We marched into the mountains under heavy artillery and darkness came and due to the fact that we had not made contact we set up an all around defense for the night. We sent out several patrols during the night trying to make contact with friendly troops which we had not heard from in two days. Heavy fighting was going on to our extreme right. When morning came and we moved forward trying to reach a high hill to our immediate front we did and from this hill we could over look the town of Kasserine and the pass. We quickly organized a plan of defense and very shortly afterwards we were attacked by about two-hundred enemy infantry. The 1st. and 2nd. Platoons were already taking a beating but the machine gun section was in a fine position for the Germans and they saved the 1st and 2nd Platoons from being cut to pieces by pouring murderous machine gun fire direct into the Germans from their flanks, they drove the Germans back from the Hill inflicting about 75 Germans killed. This attack was repeated about three or four times during the day but they were unable to score any gains against us because of the location of the machine gun section that was well hidden up in rocks and could deliver withering fire on the enemy from any point. Later in the afternoon the Germans had located our positions and flanked us from both sides and some had already gone to our rear. Enemy armor had gone far to our rear through the valley to our right and we were surrounded and bypassed. The company commander instigated a plan that the company would fall back to a hill to the rear of us but we were unable to carry it out because we were cut off. We then split into small groups and worked our way out and in the meantime enemy armor was still advancing. After some over five days and nights we got out of enemy territory and sat up a defense with a small body of the company near Thala, Tunisia. During all this time American and British troops were moving to join the fight. We were outnumbered approximately 200 to one. The Ninth Division Field Artillery made a record run a distance of 1,400 miles to the battle area by truck towing guns and loaded with ammunition to join the battle in its worst stage going into position at point blank range. A show down battle progressed during the next two days with American, British and French joining the battle. A last ditch stand was made outside the town of Thala and it was a do or die affair. Heavy losses were inflicted upon the Germans and they not only gave up the attack but retreated as well. The company then had a chance to lick its wounds and reorganize. This was completed by the end of February.

(continued next issue)



# IT WAS GENERAL WESTMORELAND'S NIGHT.

From the moment GENERAL WESTMORELAND stepped into the spacious dining room at the SHELburne HOTEL on July 29, 1972 he received a long standing ovation that increased with each step until he reached his seat and then the ovation continued. He was facing an appreciative audience of former 9th DIVISION men, their wives, children and friends who were honoring him for his past achievements from WW II to VIETNAM. GENERAL WESTMORELAND was amazed at the enthusiasm displayed by the audience that was attending the 27th ANNUAL REUNION.

When FATHER CONNORS was introduced by the Master of ceremonies Dick Wilson he too received a long standing ovation. FATHER CONNORS was in his best humorous mood. He continued his "Friendly rivalry" with GENERAL WESTMORELAND and while the audience was still in a good mood he showed his versatility by speaking in a more serious vein. His speech was interrupted several times for his facetious comments. He announced that the 28th ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS would be held in WORCESTER, MASS. on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1972.

He read a speech for the award that he received for GENERAL WESTMORELAND in 1966 and then introduced him. FATHER CONNORS received a long standing ovation while GENERAL WESTMORELAND walked to the microphone and the ovation continued for about 10 minutes. That was the situation when GENERAL WESTMORELAND addressed the audience.

GENERAL WESTMORELAND did very well answering FATHER CONNORS "friendly rivalry" remarks. He had to reply in a sophisticated and humorous manner as it was the best way to answer him. The audience applauded many times during GENERAL WESTMORELAND'S speech.

GENERAL WESTMORELAND was in civilian clothes as he had retired earlier in the month as ARMY CHIEF of STAFF. He said he liked to be with the "gang" as FATHER CONNORS expressed it. He spoke with pride about the 9th INFANTRY DIVISION of WW II. He mentioned places of 9th DIVISION participation in AFRICA and other names, such as, the break-through at ST. LO and the REMAGEN bridgehead. He compared the 9th DIVISION activities of WW II with the 9th DIVISION in VIETNAM. He mentioned the great role of the 9th DIVISION in VIETNAM and it was the first division to be deployed to the U.S. He stated the 9th DIVISION VIETNAM awards that they received. GENERAL WESTMORELAND said the 9th DIVISION in VIETNAM lived up to the traditional role of WW II.

GENERAL WESTMORELAND stated that a new 9th DIVISION is being reactivated at FORT LEWIS. He mentioned that the new DIVISION will continue the traditions of the DIVISION of WW II and VIETNAM and that they will be prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. GENERAL WESTMORELAND said he had great pride for the 9th DIVISION for what they have done and this country is proud of you. At the conclusion of his speech GENERAL WEST-

MORELAND probably received the greatest ovation anyone received at a 9th DIVISION reunion and the applause lasted about 10 minutes.

## CONVENTION NOTES.

The master of ceremonies thanked all the people who attended the reunion. There were approximately 600 men, women, children and friends at the reunion. RONALD MURPHY is the new president of the 9th DIVISION ASSOCIATION. The 28th ANNUAL REUNION will be held in BOSTON in 1973. FATHER CONNORS held services in the morning, at the MEMORIAL SERVICES later in the morning and at 5 p.m. held services before a capacity audience all on SATURDAY. We had an excellent prime ribs of beef dinner.

There were dancing on THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY. You could see the happy expressions of the dancers, as for example, when they did the alley cat. It was that kind of mood that you also saw at the tables on those evenings.

JOHN CLOUSER announced the persons who were to receive 9th DIVISION scholarship awards.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES AND THE PARADE.

Did we have a large turnout? You bet we did. Leading the parade was the ARMY band that was followed by the marchers, men, boardwalk from the SHELburne HOTEL to KENNEDY PLAZA where FATHER CONNORS held MEMORIAL SERVICES. WALTER VICTOR, the official 9th DIVISION photographer took pictures of the marchers and FATHER CONNORS MEMORIAL SERVICES. VICTOR also took many, many pictures at the ATLANTIC CITY reunion. You're doing an excellent job, VICTOR. Keep up the good work.

## QM NOTES

ATLANTIC CITY is an ideal place for a reunion. You could step out of the SHELburne HOTEL, on to the boardwalk, on to the beach and go swimming in the ocean. We enjoyed the cool breezes from the ocean. The early birds could go bicycle riding. There were many amusements and you could go window shopping.

It was just one big happy family at the reunion. There were ROY DREIFUS and BILL PALADY reminiscing about the early arrivals from FORT BRAGG to EUROPE recalling names and incidents. JOE WILLIS joined them a little later.

At the tables JAKIE GRGURICH kept the men and women in a hilarious mood with his unlimited facetious stories. JAKIE had us in hysterics. ABRAMS, BERASI and JAGLING and all the rest of us joined in the reminiscing, the facetiousness, the sophisticated remarks and comments and the lively repartee that we all enjoyed.

But we didn't see the real JAKIE until we went to his room after the dancing and we all had a wonderful time. JAKIE is one of our best raconteurs. He told a story that was similar to WHO'S on FIRST. JAKIE confused the questioner and after some questions and answers the questioner didn't want to be unconfused. JAKIE entertained us for several hours with his stories. TREVOR JONES had pictures of FORT BRAGG, overseas and the 1970 EUROPEAN trip that brought back memories to JOHN SAYLER and CURTIS WITT who were listening.

# REUNION HI-LITES Atlantic City

JAKIE came all the way from MISSOURI to meet HENNESSEY so that they could be on the DETROIT'S chartered bus that was going to the ATLANTIC CITY reunion. JAKIE IS ON HIS 30th year with the National Guard. And that's not all. JAKIE has two sons in his platoon.

## CONGRATULATIONS.

MR. and MRS. EVERETT TAPP'S youngest daughter, SUSAN was married to JACK MILKHO on JUNE 17, 1972 and went to EUROPE on their honeymoon. Hope you will have a pleasant EUROPEAN trip and a safe return to the U.S. There's talent in the TAPP family. Their son, DAVID, made the junior OLYMPIC TEAM of MICHIGAN.

ROY DREIFUS and his wife GRACE stopped at CHARLES TINGLEY'S house before coming to the reunion. After the reunion they are going to continue their vacation trip to BRITISH COLUMBIA. Hope you will have an enjoyable trip and a safe return to FLORIDA.

We all missed ANDY SINARE at the reunion. ANDY couldn't make the reunion.

Some of the men and women were making their first trip to the reunion, or had missed some reunions, and there were, of course, the "regulars" who attend the reunions regularly. We all had a very good time at the reunion. Those present were Horace Abrams, Gene Berasi, Harry Orenstein, Roy Dreifus and his wife Jackie Grgurich and his wife

Floyd Hennessey and his wife John H. Jagling and his wife Trevor Jones, his wife and his two friends, Ted McLean and his wife.

Bill Palady and his wife John Saylor and his wife Everett Tapp, his wife and son David Joe Willis and his wife Curtis Witt and his wife Thanks for coming. See you in Boston 1973.

## GET WELL WISHES.

JAKIE visited TOM PITZER in the hospital before coming to the reunion. TOM had planned to make the reunion but couldn't make it. TOM is home now. Hope you will have a speedy recovery. TOM PITZER'S address is:

Box 3056  
Lake 4 Season  
Crown Point, Ind. 46307

## A SAD REPORT

It is my unpleasant duty to inform you that LT. COL. W.H. WAIKART passed away several months ago. Our sincerest condolences to his wife and family. Here is his wife's address:

Mrs. W.H. Waikart  
4722-16th Road  
North Arlington, Va.  
Best regards to all.

Sincerely yours,  
Harry Orenstein

## THE QM COMMITTEE'S ADDRESSES ARE:

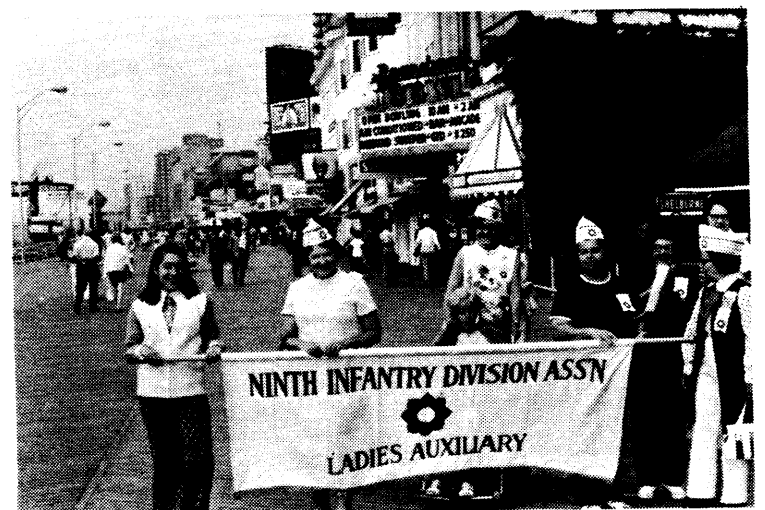
Bill Palady  
403-29th Street  
McKeesport, Pa. 15132

Harry Orenstein  
901 Walton Avenue  
Bronx, N.Y. 10452

Reunion  
Boston  
In 73



The troops gather for the memorial service, conducted by Rev. Edward Connors, Rev. Ralton Speers and Ralph Witzken, in the ecumenical spirit of the "Old Ninth", they represented Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths.



The Ladies Auxiliary prepare to join the men for the march to the memorial services.

## 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

## CHAPTER NEWS

## MICHIGAN DOINGS

The Michigan Chapter concluded its summer activities with a very successful outstate meeting held at Bill Meadow's cottage on the lake. Bill and Barbara acted as host for almost sixty people. Bill's neighbors joined in the festivities and made everyone feel at home. They erected a large "Welcome" sign over the road and turned their backyards into parking lots for the "Old Reliabilities". Some of the members were having such a good time they decided to stay for the weekend.

The members didn't devote all their time to business matters at the outstate meeting. They managed to put away plenty of the good chow that was available, especially the baked beans and sweet corn that was provided by Don Lewis' Mom and Dad. Steve and Mary Gasparovich provided enough fresh pop corn to last the entire weekend. The weatherman provided perfect weather for bathing so many of the gang donned their trunks and took a dip in the lake. The non-swimmers enjoyed themselves by taking a boat ride up and down the lake. Jim Brunner skippered the boat and handled the controls like an old Navy Bosn.

## News Notes

The Michigan Chapter expect to have a large turnout at the Memorial Service at Worcester. Bob and Florence DeSandy, Don and Helen Lewis, Floyd and Leora Hennessey are making their first trip to the service and they are looking forward to participating in this moving tribute to our departed comrades.

**Good News.** Bill Meadows is back to work and almost recovered from the serious accident he had last December. Now he is at a desk job, off his feet and away from the dangers of "field" duty.

Detroit put the nation on wheels, so it's only natural that residents of the "Motor City" are among the foremost long distance travelers in the country. Bob and Florence DeSandy recently returned from a motor tour of the West and Yellowstone National Park.

Congratulations to Floyd and Leora Hennessey on the arrival of their second grandson, "Li'l John".

## Thanks

To Don Lewis' co-worker who presented the Chapter with two 36" x 36" Octofoil signs.

To John and Jane Young for their wonderful hospitality during our visit to the V.F.W. Outdoor Barbeque.

To Ernie Young for entertaining the members with play-backs of the tapes he made during the Chapter's bus trip to the Atlantic City Reunion. To Don and Helen Lewis for the ride to the Outstate meeting.

## Reunion 1973

Some members of the Chapter are already thinking of next Summer's reunion at Boston. They enjoyed the bus trip to the 1972 reunion and are thinking of doing it again. If they can get together at least 35 fellows and gals who are interested in making the trip, they will proceed with plans for hiring a bus for the trip to Boston. If you are interested contact John Bonkowski.

## Sick Call

A long time friend of the Michigan Chapter is on the sick list and would appreciate hearing from her many friends in the Chapter. Tippie Plunkett, widow of Paul Plunkett for many years Editor of the "Octofoil", entered the hospital on October 12th for eye surgery and will be laid up for some time. You can help to cheer up Tippie by sending a card or letter to 286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206.

Elmer Wagner's father is still very seriously ill.

## Harry O's Report

## NEW YORK CHAPTER

The New York Chapter kicked off its fall season with a meeting at the 69th Regiment Armory on September 8th. Everyone showed up for the meeting full of pep and well rested from their summer vacations. Everyone, that is except the Chapter officers. For some reason or other they all had decided to miss the same meeting. Later on we learned that Art Schmidt was off on another one of his ambling tours through the "Southland", the other officers were celebrating a religious holiday. In the absence of the officers Walt O'Keeffe took over the gavel and conducted the meeting.

Frank Fazio gave a report on the progress of the plans for the Fall Dance. As usual he promised to provide plenty of food and drink for the guests. Frank always keeps his promises so the members are looking forward to a great time.

Scholarship Chairman Emil Langer read to the members the letters of thanks received from recipients of the Jack Scully Scholarship award. He also advised the members that Pat Marano and Harry Haroutanian had made generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund. Since most of the chairmen for the standing committees were absent the business meeting was of short duration and the members adjourned to the bar.

## October Meeting

Despite a heavy rainfall 48 members showed up at the Armory for the meeting. Even the officers showed up so all business was conducted in the proper parliamentary manner. Art Schmidt gave an account of his trip through the south and apologized for missing the prior meeting.

Plans were finalized for the Chapter's bus trip to the Memorial Service at Worcester, Mass. The many requests for seats on the bus are an indication that once again the chapter will be well represented at the Memorial Service.

We were happy to see some new faces at the October meeting. Two fellows whom we haven't seen for some time, Harry Kaplan Company M, 47th Inf. and Bill Canales Company K, 47th Inf., showed up at the armory and had a good time shooting the breeze with their old buddies from the "Raiders".

## Dance Big Success

Twenty-five years ago the New York Chapter received its charter and the gang celebrated the Silver Anniversary with a real blow-out. Frank Fazio and Bill Klaus did a real bang-up job on the plans for the dance. They made sure that there was plenty of firewater and chow on hand. The evening started off with a Cocktail Hour that lasted about 180 minutes. After that the guys and gals helped themselves at the buffet table. The bar remained open all evening.

Andy Marco's Trio provided music for dancing and these three fellows could really carry a tune. They had the gang jumping all night. Midway through the evening Andy realized that he was appearing in the home of the "Fighting 69th" and he had his boys play some Irish tunes. These old familiar airs stirred the Irish blood of Joe Kearns and he stepped to the mike to sing My Wild Irish Rose and When Irish Eyes Are Smiling. Joe can sing just as well now as he could when he was appearing in the Rockaways.

Some members were celebrating more than the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chapter. The George Apar's were celebrating their 12th Wedding Anniversary and the Vincent D'Addonas were also celebrating a Wedding Anniversary, their 30th.

Two familiar faces were missing at the Fall Dance. Betty and John Rizzo are both out of action due to sickness. John was in an auto accident and suffered a whiplash injury and Betty recently underwent surgery on her knee. These two long time members of the Chapter were missed by their many friends and we all hope that they both will soon be up and around.

## Blood Needed

Your help is desperately needed by Bobby Barbagallo, a member of the New York Chapter, not for himself but for his nephew who is seriously ill. If you feel you can spare a pint of blood please go to your nearest blood bank and donate it in the name of Arthur Smith, patient, New York Hospital, 68th St. and York Ave., New York, N.Y.

Judy and Bobby will be forever grateful for your help. If you donate a pint of blood please mail your donors certificate to Bobby Barbagallo, 516 Anderson St., Baldwin, N.Y. 11510.

## Philly-Dela.

On October 13th the Chapter met to nominate Officers for 1973. As we go to press we haven't received the results of the nominations but we know that the Philly-Delaware Chapter has many members who are capable of doing a fine job for the chapter and feel certain the Chapter will select the best men for the job.

In November the Chapter plans to combine the election of officers with a dinner for Past Presidents. This event will be held on November 18th at the Sea Food Inn located at 54th St. below the City Line. As usual the men will pay for their dinner

and the ladies will be the guests of the Chapter. Anyone desiring tickets for the dinner should contact Dick Wilson at 530 E. Elm St., Woodbury, N.J.

The Chapters annual Christmas party will be held at the Wilson's on December 15th. Dick promises to have plenty of Christmas cheer and chow on hand for the members who show up. All in all the Chapter has a busy winter ahead, and Dick Wilson is resting up for it by taking a trip to Bermuda.

## NEW ENGLAND

Howard Johnson owner of the Red Coach Grills has started to renovate many of its grills. Next on the drawing board for renovations is the Red Coach Grill in Wayland, Mass. It was the first Red Coach Grill dating back to 1934. A past president of the Association, Herb Olsen, architect for the Red Coach Grills is in charge of the project.

Ed McGrath's back-yard is the Atlantic Ocean and Ed spends plenty of time in his back-yard. He is an avid fisherman and an accomplished skipper. Ed sails the briny deep in a 30 foot Revel-Craft Cabin Cruiser. He has proudly named this craft the "Octofoil II". Ed wants everyone to know that the craft is owned and operated by an "Old Reliable" so he has the name emblazoned across the transom of the cruiser in bright bold letters.



## Illinois

The daughters of Chuck and Irma Koskie know how much their father cares for his friends from the Ninth Infantry Division. So, when the ggirls planned a party to honor Mom and Dad on their Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary they didn't forget to invite the "Old Reliabilities". The party was held on September 23rd at the Fireman's Hall in Schiller Park, Illinois. If a member of the Association had wandered into the party by accident, he would have thought that he was at a meeting of the Illinois Chapter.

Among the happy guests were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hennemuth, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Winkleman, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Heller, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lacic, Mr. and Mrs. Casimir Pavlik, Mr. and Mrs. John Clouser, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Belmonte, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Clark, Frank Ozart and Bud Remer. Frank Ozart tells us that a good time was had by all since there was plenty of good old fashion Polish cooking and beaucoup "Polish Pop".

Chuck served with F Company of the 47th Infantry. He is a very active member of the Association, a Past President of the Illinois Chapter, a member of the National Board of Governors, and is presently Treasurer of the Illinois Chapter. For many years Chuck was Fire Chief of the Volunteer Department at Schiller Park.

The Illinois Chapter wish Chuck and Irma many, many more years of wedded bliss. The editors of the "Octofoil" also want to congratulate Chuck and Irma on the celebration of their Silver Wedding Anniversary and hope that their Golden Wedding Anniversary party will be as wonderful as their Silver Anniversary.

73 Reunion At Boston  
July 26 - 28

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Then there's the high-salaried Hollywood director who in spite of his princely income was always trying to make a little extra.

Veterans considering cashing in their GI insurance for ready cash to meet emergency expenses were advised today to consider borrowing on its cash value as an alternative.

By doing this, the policy will remain in force and provide at least a minimum of insurance coverage. Policy loans on GI insurance carry only five percent interest compounded annually on the unpaid balance. Repayment may be made in installments to fit the borrower's financial situation. Payments, however, must be in multiples of five dollars.



## MAIL CALL

Once again we are printing a batch of letters that were received by the Editors of the "Octofoil". As you read them we want you to remember that they were written by members and not by your editors. We try to print letters just as we received them, we don't believe that we have the right to tamper with another fellow's message. Of course, if something is confidential or seems to be in bad taste we omit it from the column, but for the most part we print letters just as we receive them. So if something appearing in this column hurts your feeling please don't take it out on the editors, laugh it off and remember that it was written by a fellow who stood shoulder to shoulder with you on the firing line.

Floyd Hennessey 9th QM

We are proud to announce a new arrival in the Hennessey family. A new grandson, John Aaron Hennessey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hennessey, born August 23, 1972 at Toldedo Hospital, Toledo, Ohio. It is our second, but we are ever so proud.

Victor Elia 60th Inf.

The reunion at Atlantic City was a real reunion at Table No. 10. It brought together buddies from the 60th Inf. AT Co for the first time in many years. Thanks again for making the reunion our reunion. See you in Boston along with my buddies Emil Arendt, John Pulli, Lou Netta, Tom Van Bomel, Steve Meszaros, and yours truly in 1973.

Ray Brugger 39th Inf.

2009 W. 104th St.  
Leawood, Kansas 66206

Mrs. Brugger and I took a three week trip to France where we toured south and east of Paris, and spent a few days in Normandy. In addition to visiting the invasion beaches and monuments we traveled along the area Utah Beach-Quineville where the 39th Inf. lost quite a few fine men. In addition we turned off the national highway from St. Lo into the Le Desert-St. Jean de Daye countryside. Rebuilding and farm modernization has altered the land so that it was no longer familiar.

We were treated quite well by the French people, and it was gratifying to see the number of persons of all ages that visit American monuments on French national holidays.

Joe Mrugala Co. K 47th Inf.

Box 11  
Barnesboro, Pa.

Had two graduations in my family this year. My son Fred graduated from the eighth grade of the Northern Cambria Catholic school and will go to Bishop Carrol High School in Elensburg, Pa.

My daughter Mary Frances graduated from Bishop Carrol High and is now attending the University of Pennsylvania. She is going into elementary education and has completed a course in Math for Elementary Teacher I and has received a "A". My wife and I are fine and in good health but we are growing old, I am fifty now.

I enjoy reading the "Octofoil" very much and look forward to its arrival. I purchased the book entitled "Safi Adventure" it's autographed by General Randle. I enjoyed reading it very much. It was so interesting that I finished it in one evening, I couldn't put it down.

Franklin W. Gunter

60th Inf.  
423 So. 34th St.  
Tacoma, Wash. 98408

Florence Gunter writes, for my busy husband I'm writing to say all is well. Frank is doing fine. We seem to keep busy and plugging along. Hope this finds all, well and happy.

Oliver H. Carter AT Co. 47th Inf.  
310 Walters Lane  
Forestville, Maryland 20028

Victoria Carter certainly knows how to keep her husband happy. Recently she wrote us as follows.

My husband's birthday is on August 31, and I thought the nicest kind of gift I could give him would be a paid-up dues card for 1973-1974. With that in mind I am enclosing a check for \$10.00.

Oliver and I enjoyed the reunion at Atlantic City so much—reminiscing with old friends and meeting new ones. Would you send an extra copy of the "Octofoil" covering the reunion? I would appreciate it very much, as I would like to give a copy to a fan of General Westmoreland.

Vern Dean 9th MED. Bn.  
1860 Edgehill Hueytown, Ala.

Glad to still be a member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Sorry I couldn't attend the reunion. I hope some members of Co. A 9th Medics were there. Have been in Alabama since 1952 although I am a native Ohioan. I still advertise the Ninth. I fouled up the decal you mailed me, could you mail me one or two more. Maybe I'll make the reunion next year. All the best to you and my old buddies Clarence Hundgen, John Kennedy, Bill Kennedy, Andriola and all the others.

HAROLD BLACK

CO. E 60th Inf.

1624-Rear S Madison  
Tulsa, Okla 74120  
July 6, 1972

I was one of the first draftees to join the 9th Division at Fort Bragg, being drafted January 7, 1941, spending 4 or 5 days at Fort Dix, walking around in civvies before getting my uniform, then down to Fort Bragg. I went on the Cadre from the 9th Division to the 88th Division at Camp Gruber, Okla.

I just spent about 30 minutes looking at the Historical and Pictorial Review published by the 9th Division and looked at the pictures of the boys of Co E and it brought back memories. I flew home from Italy and during the layover in North Africa bumped in Jo Rivera, who gave me some news of some of the boys, a lot of it I have forgotten.

I will give what information I have of the boys from Co E, 60th infantry that came to the 88th Division. Herb Bahr, was 1st Sgt and Wayne E. Hegg wrote me that Bahr had a mortar land right in his lap, lost one eye and three fingers in his right hand and full of scars all over his legs and stomach. Bahr lives in Eau Claire, Wis. Wayne Hegg ended up in Co F, and lives in Eau Claire Wis and they get together every once in a while. Ralph Homesley, made Captain, was captured by the Germans, and now lives in Muskogee. He was discharged from the Army in 1945 or thereabouts, then went back in again about 1950 as a Warrant

Officer and served his 20 years or more and I haven't seen him for several years, although I call him on the phone once or twice a year.

Sidney Clay Hunt transferred to Service Co., served as Warrant Officer and stayed in the Army and was killed in a jeep accident in Japan, the day before he was to come home. I visited his folks and his grave in McLean, Texas about 10 or 12 years ago. Tom Marelli, transferred to the air force and is now a coppersmith or gold smith, or some such and works for Tiffany in their factory in Elizabeth or rather, Newark, I guess it is. I saw George J. Budrock several times after the war, but his head wound finished him off some 10 or 12 years ago.

Hegg wrote me that Warren J. Metcalf, Mess Sgt., retired from the Army some years ago and now lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I was in an Army Postal Reserve Unit after the war, and met Jack Clark, I forget whether it was at Fort Sill or down at Texas and I also met Tom Collier, cook or mess sgt, but I lost track of them after that. I drove up to Pompton Lakes, N.J. 10 or 12 years ago to look up Harry Klump, but I couldn't get in touch with him.

If I remember correctly, Capt Hennen ended up in Italy about the time the war ended, and so did Vance I. Redman, I hope that I am right. Before I forget it, Wayne Hegg flew over to Italy last summer with the plane load of 88th Blue Devils, I called him up after the trip, and he said he enjoyed every minute of it.

Would it be too much to ask you to post this letter at the reunion in Atlantic City in the hope that some of the original Co E Boys of the Fort Bragg days may see it. I would like to have one of them write me. There are so many boys I would like to have news of. Charles Myers, Chuck Landfair Jack Clark, John Connelly, and James Graham, both from National Park, N.J. Harry Klomp James H. McGourty, Vincent J. Stearns and too many others to be listed and I know that some of them didn't get back to the States.

Tell any of the boys from Co E. 60th infantry, I would be only to glad to hear from them.

I hope that you have a very successful reunion at Atlantic City. I know you will. I have attended several reunions of the 88th Division as I usually go back East every two years. I retired from the postoffice a year ago.

## THE 28th ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

FATHER CONNORS held the 28th annual MEMORIAL SERVICE before a capacity audience of 9th DIVISION men, women, friends and children on SUNDAY OCTOBER 22, 1972 at the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH IN WORCESTER, MASS. A former commander of the 9th INFANTRY DIVISION, GENERAL IRA A. HUNT was present. FATHER CONNORS mentioned the names of those who had passed away recently. He was happy to see so many yesterday at the social event that brought back to him great joy, friendship and pleasant memories. In his MEMORIAL SERVICE he said prayers for the men who made THE

SUPREME SACRIFICE in WW II, those who have passed on since, prayers for the living and for the men of the new 9th DIVISION. He recalled in the invasion of AFRICA 30 years ago when he landed with the 9th DIVISION and held his first MASS overseas. He stated the 9th DIVISION route that included KASSERINE PASS, EL GUETTAR, SICILY, ENGLAND, the landings in FRANCE, CHERBOURG, the HURTGEN FOREST and the ELBE RIVER. He told the audience that no one wants peace more than we do. He mentioned stories of GENERAL WESTMORELAND, GENERAL CRAIG and incidents with men of the 9th DIVISION. He thanked the band for their assistance in the march before coming to the memorial service, he mentioned that we should have reverence for GOD, reverence for country, reverence for family and to remember in our prayers the deceased and living veterans.

Actually FATHER CONNORS' affair began on SATURDAY EVENING OCTOBER 21, 1972 with a social event. The parishioners did a great job baking and cooking for the large turnout who were present. The refreshments included a hot and cold buffet, salads, cakes, pies, soda, beer and coffee. There was a band and dancing. It was a most enjoyable evening.

## SUNDAY WAS the DAY OF ACTIVITY

Early in the morning with the band leading the way, followed by the WORCESTER POLICE COLORGUARD, AL ORLETTI carrying the 9th DIVISION COLORS, and the marchers over one block long that included FATHER CONNORS and GENERAL IRA A. HUNT, we marched from GOLD STAR BOULEVARD to the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH.

Following the MEMORIAL SERVICE indoors, the outdoor MEMORIAL SERVICES were held at the 9th DIVISION MONUMENT. FATHER CONNORS was the master of ceremonies and introduced the speakers, REVEREND SPEERS, RONNIE MURPHY, CONGRESSMAN HAROLD D. DONOHUE, CITY MANAGER FRANCIS McGRATH, GENERAL HUNT, FATHER ROWAN, and RALPH WITZKIN. CITY MANAGER FRANCIS McGRATH thanked the 9th DIVISION ASSOCIATION for honoring their community year after year. His theme was that the 9th DIVISION set an example for the youth of today and that they should follow it. 4581 MEN of the 9th DIVISION gave their lives for the principles they believed in. "Your presence here today is an indication that you haven't forgotten them." He said our country has a great future.

GENERAL HUNT mentioned the great SACRIFICES the men of the 9th DIVISION made in EUROPE and VIETNAM.

FATHER CONNORS then told the audience that GENERAL HUNT was good enough to be with the old 9th DIVISION.

FATHER ROWAN closed the MEMORIAL SERVICE with a prayer.

A 9th DIVISION wreath was placed at the 9th DIVISION SHRINE.

## TALENTED

After the MEMORIAL SERVICE we travelled to the Wachusett country club for dinner. Versatile FATHER CONNORS was at his best. He was in a good singing mood as he led the audience in a sing-along with "When Irish Eyes are Smiling", "Sidewalks of NEW YORK" and other songs. An excellent dinner was served.

Many times the audience applauded FATHER CONNORS humorous remarks. He made many announcements. He said there were persons present from CALIFORNIA, MICHIGAN and other sections of the country. Mrs. FLOYD HENNESSEY of the DETROIT chapter was celebrating her birthday here. He read a letter from FATHER De LAURA and a letter from GENERAL WESTMORELAND from SOUTH CAROLINA. He read a telegram from BETTY and JOHN RIZZO of the NEW YORK chapter that said BETTY couldn't attend the MEMORIAL SERVICE because she was sick. He introduced the kitchen staff and the hostesses and they received a standing ovation. He introduced GOLD STAR PARENT JOHN LYNCH and he said he was glad to be here.

FATHER SCANLON and FATHER CONNORS have been having a "friendly rivalry" for years at these MEMORIAL dinners. Their facetious stories about each other drew rounds of applause from the audience.

CITY MANAGER FRANCIS McGRATH welcomed the 9th DIVISION men, women, friends and children to the 28th MEMORIAL SERVICE in WORCESTER. He said it was a pleasure to be here today with MAYOR THOMAS J. EARLY, CONGRESSMAN HAROLD D. DONOHUE and members of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH.

He mentioned the SUPREME SACRIFICES the 9th DIVISION made. He told the audience to keep democracy alive. The persons who march tomorrow on VETERANS DAY are demonstrating for peace.

When FATHER CONNORS introduced GENERAL HUNT, the new COMMANDER of the 9th DIVISION he received a standing ovation. He liked the enthusiasm that was displayed at the dinner. He was proud of the 9th DIVISION for what they had done in VIETNAM. He told the audience the NEW 9th DIVISION has done good work. At the conclusion of his speech GENERAL HUNT received another long standing ovation.

TOM BOYLE said the 1967 BOSTON reunion was one of the best the 9th DIVISION ASSOCIATION ever had. In 1973, the reunion will be in BOSTON and we have the finest hotel. The committee is planning another good reunion in 1973.

REVEREND SPEER said a closing prayer and wished the audience a safe trip home.

FATHER CONNORS closed the 28th MEMORIAL SERVICES.

Best regards to all.

Sincerely yours,  
Harry Orenstein  
901 Walton Avenue  
Bronx, N.Y. 10452

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

## THE OCTOFOIL

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