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The Octofoil, January/February 1973

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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CLAMBAKE ADDED TO BOSTON REUNION

Every January our faithful reporter on the Field Artillery beat gives us a summary of what happened to the gunners during the past year. This time Joe McKenzie not only gave us a wrap-up on the news, he also got in a plug for the 1972 Reunion in Boston. Joe's report follows.

Happy New Year. May every member of our association and your family have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

RESOLUTION
At this time it is customary to make some kind of resolution. Why not make a resolution to be a better contributor to the pages of our paper. The Boston Convention Committee would like your promise to be in Boston, July 26-28, 1973. Last and most important is your promise to your wife that both of you will attend our 29th Annual Reunion, Veterans Day week end, October 1973.

1972 was not a happy year for the families of three Service Battery 26FA men. Larry Hard died while on a spring fishing trip. Lewis Oriotari died suddenly in the living room in his home. Clement "Frenchy" LeBlanc died after a long illness.

Over the years our mailman at this time of the year drives many holiday greetings to myself and family. This year was no exception. Some came from good friends whom my wife and I met through our attendance at national conventions. Others came from those good men of Service Battery who lived so closely for four and one half years. Mrs. Alice Wilkinson, Mrs. Lelia Huber and Mrs. Lillian LeBlanc carry on the tradition started by their husbands many years ago.

It seemed like only last fall that Harold Huber had his family to a Memorial Mass. But it was 1964. Today his oldest son, James Daniels (Service 26FA), is flying the big birds out of Thailand. His mother and father visited him at Grand Forks AFB before his departure.

Harold Wallace did some traveling during the past year. He visited his son in California. Then made a trip to L.A. to visit Jim Daniels (Service 26FA).

President of the Association Ron Murphy is shown, with Major General Ira Hunt former CG of the "new" Ninth Division, at the Worcester Memorial banquet. Ron Murphy in civilian clothes!

Rain Or Shine
In case of rain everything will be moved inside to the Plymouth House which has banquet areas, dance floors and a bar. The bar will be set up for those who wish to partake of liquid refreshments during the day.

Tip Of The Hat
Special thanks to Edward Lewis, Harold Black and Angelo Lewis for their donations to the Memorial Fund.

"SEE YOU IN BOSTON"
During these long winter nights when it is customary to stay close to the fireplace or the radiator relax away from the tube by writing a note "See You in Boston" to many of your friends. We plan a good reunion.

Paul Revere House
This is the oldest home in Boston, built around 1677. Paul Revere lived here from 1770 to 1800 and left from here on his historic ride to Lexington, in April, 1775. It is open to the public every day except Sunday.

Extra Added Attraction
At their last meeting the New England Chapter Reunion Committee decided to go all out in their efforts to make the 1973 Reunion one that will be long remembered. The finalized plans for the reunion now include an old fashioned clam-bake which will be held on Friday, July 27, 1973, at the beautiful White Cliffs picnic area, overlooking the ocean at Plymouth, Mass.

Fresh From The Sea
The committee has been fortunate enough to obtain the services of two of the best bake-masters on the south shore of Mass. They will prepare a dinner in the old New England tradition. Lobsters and clams will be brought direct from the ocean to the bake-area where they will be covered with fresh seaweed and baked right on the spot. Mixed in with the seafood will be a plentiful supply of chicken, franks and corn. The baked items will be served with fresh rolls and the meal will be topped off with a huge serving of ice cold watermelons. No one will go hungry while waiting for the bake-masters to complete their job, but chowder and cold drinks will be served two hours before dinner. The committee tells us that you haven't lived until you tried an old fashioned New England clam-bake dinner.

All Facilities
The site selected for the clam-bake is one that cannot be surpassed for beauty, all its facilities will be reserved for the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Stretching for miles along the area is a beautiful sandy beach, ideal for swimming, sunbathing, or just plain walking. For those who dislike salt water bathing, there is an Olympic size fresh water pool with an open terrace overlooking Cape Cod Bay.

Golfers
Golfers are advised to bring their clubs. The area has an excellent course, green fees are $4.00 but playing time is unlimited. Electric carts, clubs and caddies are available at the well stocked pro-shop. White cliffs also has facilities available for horse-shoe, shuffle-board and tennis players.
Harry O's Report

NEW YORK CHAPTER

The New York Chapter got off to a swinging start in 1973. At the January meeting, George Apel acted as all Instilling Officer and he did his usual wonderful job in discharging the outgoing officers and installing the new ones. If George gets any better at the job they will soon be wanting him to go to Washington every four years to install the President.

For 1973 the following fellows will be running things in New York:

President George Baker, First V.P. Joe Kearns, Second V.P. John Schriffin, Secretary Don Micle, Treasurer Irwin Patrice, Judge Advocate Ed Egan, Chaplain Ralph Winklin, and Sergeant of Arms Al Orioli.

When the February meeting rolled around, George Bako lost no time in getting things under way. He appointed a Program Committee and kept them working until they came up with a program for 1973. The committee set up the following schedule for Chapter events during the coming year:

- May 4th Past Presidents Night
- May 19th Memorial Service at Franklin National Cemetery

Good and Welfare

The members of the New York Chapter were saddened to learn that the wife of Lindsey Nelson had passed away. Another "Old Reliable" has passed on to his eternal reward. George Ziegler Co. 47th died in January.

Several members of the chapter are in sick bay. Bill Klauz and 381 other people picked the correct score in the Super Bowl Game in a local newspaper pool. Bill didn't win any money but they did give him a nice certificate.

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 1973 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:

- company, regiment, battery, attached unit, etc.

Check makes or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail to:

Mrs. Mary J. Mullin, Secretary-Treasurer
Ninth Infantry Division Ladies Auxiliary
114 Charles Street, Floral Park, L.I., N.Y. 11004

The Scholastic Fund

The memorial fund of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was established by the members of the association in commemoration of 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 died with the Ninth Infantry Division. Children of former members of the division will be given first consideration, but children of men killed in combat will not be considered unless a 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, 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 and degree of relationship to a former member of the division.
   - membership cards of the division will not be considered unless a child of a former member qualifies.

New England Reports

The chapter had an excellent turnout at its last two meetings at the Sheraton-Boston. Attending were Tom Byoe, Bill Bongiorno, Fred O'Leary, John Edmunds, Frauncy Mahler, Connie Maltais, Edward McGrath, Joe McKenzie, Larry McLaughlin, Billy Mullis, Herb Olsen, Ralph Renna and Ron Murphy.

At the next meeting the Chapter will be joined by Col. Arthur P. Allen, who has retired, who has offered his services in helping plan for the 1973 Reunion.

The New England Chapter hopes that all members and chapters will take ads in the Souvenir Program. Fill out the blank that appears in the "Octofoil" and send it off to committee.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to sign up for the following:

Name: ____________________________
Address: ___________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ____________

I agree to the following:

- to attend at least one meeting of the chapter per year
- to pay dues of $1.50 per year
- to pay dues on time

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE LADIES' AUXILIARY OF THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Enclosed please find 1973 dues for:

Name: ____________________________
Address: ___________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ____________

I wish to apply for membership in the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Enclosed is check or money order for $1.50 for 1973 dues. Please mail my membership card to:

Name: ____________________________
Street: ____________________________
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With:

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COMPANY HISTORY
FOR THE MONTH OF
APRIL 1943

ENGLAND

Heavy training of all kinds including maneuvers with live ammunition for anything at all. Weather very wet.

COMPANY HISTORY
FOR THE MONTH OF
MAY 1944

ENGLAND

1-15 Company remained on a six hour alert and remained there until June 3.

COMPANY HISTORY
FOR THE MONTH OF
JUNE 1944

ENGLAND

16 Moved to manning area at Camp Bursley, England. Restricted to area and was without any facilities whatsoever. Everyone could tell that this was not another dry run and no one was allowed to enter the camp or leave it. On June 5 at night there was an SOI warning to fly the planes of all night. The morning of June 6 the announcement was made that Normandy had been invaded. Our English was exchanged for French and on June 8 we boarded trucks to South Hampton and boarded the USS Empire Lance.

10-15 June the 10 embarked from the Empire Lance to LCIB and moved as close as we could to Normandy Beach. We were not able to get closer than 200 yards to the beach as there was many sand bars and the water was being shelled by the enemy artillery. We landed on the beach and washed expanse for about 2 1/2 miles near St. Mary Eglise. France. Enemy planes were over all night and many bombs were dropped causing no damage or casualties. Many attacking planes were shot down. On June 12th, moved from area to 2 1/2 miles east of St. Mary Eglise. France. Enemy tanks were shelled by the enemy guns with our guns or not. Our first shots were at maximum range.

These landed in the water as we were attacking toward the beach, we reduced our range until we were moved on the enemy targets. We then fired volley after volley until the enemy guns were silenced. Company L took seventy prisoners at the cost of no casualties to them.

15-04 June the 15 moved by truck to the vicinity of St. Mary Eglise. June 14 the Battalion attacked the area to 2 1/2 miles east of St. Mary Eglise near Fonteay sur Me. June 16 the Battalion attacked with L Company left flank company and reached its objective which was Quimperle and four large coastal guns that were still shelling Utah Beach.

Heavy enemy opposition was encountered and we had six wounded and captured 10 prisoners. June 14 the Battalion attacked for the town of Quimperlé and to close it of any enemy. We started at 1000 hours but were held up to allow a preparation for our medium bombers. We resumed the attack at 1300 hours with tanks in support. Very heavy enemy opposition was encountered and many enemy gun positions were knocked out. While attacking Company K was pinned down by enemy mortars and there position was in grave danger of getting wiped out. Our Artillery was unable to help them any. Here an entire group of men pulled a very heroic act. In order to get the enemy fire off of Company K the mortar section of Company L emplaced its guns with great fire in enemy territory and sent observers to an old house overlooking the enemy. Tremendous amounts of mortar ammunition was carried to the mortar positions by every available hand. There was some question as to whether we could reach the enemy positions with our guns or not. Our first shots were at maximum range.

The leading platoon advanced about one hundred and fifty yards and were pinned down by enemy small arms fire and mortars. Five enlisted men were killed and eleven wounded. A smoke screen had be put down so they could withdraw. June 23 the company withdrew from these positions which were located in Vastervell, France in preparation for a large scale assault by the entire division.

24-30 June 24, Battalion attacked enemy positions near Octiville and L Company went into action in the center of the Battalion sector. The company on the right was taking a beating from the intense enemy fire. It was sometime before the men could be out of the combat zone. The company was finally accomplishments and the objective taken which was Octiville. Thirty prisoners were taken. At

The company was heavily counterattacked by the enemy. The company put up a very hard fight and a tremendous fire power was laid down and the enemy was disorganized. The enemy was at all times trying to do everything that they could and they later indulged our lines as snipers causing heavy casualties. June 25 the company attacked and easily reached its objective and went into defensive position. At 0103 the battalion attacked with L Company. Company Assault Company, they advanced about two thousand yards and came under heavy fire from the anti-aircraft fire defense of Cherbourg. A heavy fire fight raged until the company reached the streets of Cherbourg. It was difficult to hold as almost as heavy as any operation that the company ever experienced. Every house had to be taken and there were many road blocks in the streets that tanks could not get over to support us.
MAIL CALL

Gregory Ave Weehawken, N.J.

From our readers and members of the Association. We wish that we could answer everyone personally but that for your kind messages and hope that you will continue to keep in touch. Here are a few of the letters that we received during the last few months.

Bordman Lockwood Hgs Hartford, Conn.

In November I had occasion to stop in Weehawken, Ill. to visit the memorial to the 6th Division which is located on the grounds of the home of the late Col. E.H. McCormack, Publisher of the Chicago Tribune. It is called "Can'ty" after the town of that name in France which was where their first actions in World War I took place. It was well worth the visit.

My visit was made doubly pleasant by the presence of Frank Bruce of D Co., 47th Inf who had been best man at the wedding of Sergeant-Major Dibel who is the Asst. Curator of the museum of our society as we were in stop at the corner and I was given a personal and warm tour (of the museum and its library.

Will you please send a copy of "Eight Stars to Victory" to Theodore L. Uhl, Jr. Asst. Curator, Can’ty Field Museum, Route 2, Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

Dick Pestel

412 Gregory Ave

Well I guess you can tell where I am at and want to say a good place to be if you have to.

I have been having a problem with sugar and after checking, with my doctor of course I decided to have a complete physical and x-rays. The Travys showed a spot on my good lung, the one that didn’t get shut up with shrinkage so I reported in to the V.A. Hospital. After five trips I finally got in and they found T.B. not serious but I am in isolation and thank the Lord I have someone to care for you. No one in my private room can go do it the hall, out of paper plates and everything I use is discarded.

Wrote to Dick Macmurray out in Phoenix, Arizona and got a Christmas card from him, he is ill.

Give my regards to all the gang.

Angelo A. Sinare

2119 Lawrence St.

Cleveland, Ohio

Sending along my dues for the next three years. Sorry to say that I couldn’t make the last two reunions but am looking forward to the Boston Reunion. Harry Divison is a real hard working member of the Association. He and I were together in the 9th Q.M. for a long time.

Give my regards to all the gang, hope to see you in Boston.

John P. Hynes

423 E. 148th St.

New York, N.Y.

Co 47th Inf

John sends in his memberships and letters - “I moved last year and when you are alone and work it rough is to keep busy. I have been working days a week and so I am kept busy. Now if all I hear is good news of the members of the 9th I will be happy. He adds that he belongs to the P.W.A. and being a POW - EIGuarter, Tunisia-Mar 29, 1943 to April 30, 1946.

Frank C. Proper

412 Gregory Ave

Chicago, Ill.

Not having attended any of the reunions except those held in Chicago, I am a bit stumped as to the goings on of the “Octofoil”, so, to keep with the Association news I thought it best to send in my dues, at least with the paper coming my way I can keep up with a bit of the goings on of some of our old buddies.

The trouble is they seem to be as lax as I am, its very little I read of them, my friends from G Co., 47th or Hqps 2nd Bn, 47th. Who knows perhaps they may wake up, as I have, to write just a little something to let their friends know that they are still around.

Well now in closing may I extend to you and all members of the 9th Infantry Division Association a very Merry Christmas and may the New Year be all the things that are good, health, prosperity and the friendship that is the 9th Infantry Division Association.

Charles Titus

6048 Hqps, 47th Inf.

1812 S. Morgan St.

Chicago, Ill.

Enclosed dues for 73, a little late due to a bit with the flu. I wish you and every member of the Association a good Christmas in 1973, especially good health as this is so important as we all get a little bit older. With faith in the Lord I hope that we will be answering roll calls for many years to come.

Credit the Philly Chapter with many friends. We have had many letters and have taken me out riding and I have enjoyed it very much. A couple of weeks ago I spent a very enjoyable evening with ‘Welden’ Bud Plants. He joined “C” Co., 47th in England and was captured at the Mouse River crossing. Was a POW for the balance of the War. He stayed in the army until 1945. He lost track of the Association during that time and would like to renew the association. Would you send him an application?

B. D. Blanding

412 Blanding Rd.

Worthington, Ohio 43085

I think you Dick Pestel is in the VA Hospital in Dayton, Ohio.

I am running for Commandant here, can’t seem to keep out of politics.

Kind regards to all.

Mrs. Paul (Tippy) Plunket

286 Simpier St.

Columbus, Ohio 43206

Very happy to hear from so many friends. We have had quite a bit of rain, the ladies and the children have taken me out riding and I enjoyed it very much. I do not go out without someone with me. Dick Pestel has been transferred to Dayton VA Hospital. They have found out that he has T.B. so they had to send him as Dayton where he can be treated. I want to thank you for mentioning my name in the column, I received so many beautiful cards. Say hello to all the gang for me.

73 Reunion At Boston

July 26 - 28 ...

The prettiest girl in town was on her front porch, knitting Little Things. Her mother remarked to a neighbor-“Well, I’m certainly glad that last, least, daughter has taken an interest in something other than running around with boys!”

E.B. Thompson (Red)

Niles, Mich. 44458

Co K 47th Inf.

Just a word to thank you for sending me The Octofoil. Included you will find check for membership for 1973 dues and fifty cents for Combat Route Map. I received a letter from George Bastardo, which I was glad and thanks to you. I wrote a letter back the same day. I am sure he will come up with some interesting information and some interesting letters from the old buddies.

I sure would like to come to Boston in 1973 and see you and maybe run into someone I was with on the line. Thanks again and have a Happy New Year. Will be looking forward to receiving your paper with news. Best of luck.

Paul D. Keller

139 Pinewood Drive

Whitehall, Ohio 45341

73 Inf & 39th Inf

Clam Bake

Friday July 27, 1973

I WILL ATTEND THE CLAM BAKE

Address

Make checks payable to:

9th Infantry Division Assn. Reunion and send to:

Reunion Treasurer Thomas Boyle

39 Hall Avenue

Somerville, Mass. 02144

REQUEST FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS

FOR 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. REUNION

July 26-28

SHERATON-BOSTON HOTEL

PRUDENTIAL CENTER

BOSTON, MASS. 02119

Arrival Date

Make checks payable to:

9th Inf. Div Assn Reunion and send all Checks,

money orders and Ad copy to:

Reunion Treasurer Thomas Boyle

20 State Street

Somerville, Mass. 02144

CHAPTERS - PLEASE FORM A COMMITTEE TO

SOLICIT ADDS AND BOOSTERS.

CLAM BAKE

July 27, 1973

I WILL ATTEND THE CLAM BAKE

Name

Address

Amount $10.00 per person

Make checks payable to:

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REQUEST FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS

FOR 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. REUNION

July 26-28

SHERATON-BOSTON HOTEL

PRUDENTIAL CENTER

BOSTON, MASS. 02119

Home phone

Names

(please print)

City and State

Zip No.

Single Occupancy $28.00

Free parking

Twin or Double $32.50

Please reserve—

Single Rooms

Double Rooms

Arrival Date

Depature Date

P.M.

REQUEST FOR SPACE IN SOUVENIR PROGRAM

FULL PAGE—$30.00

Half Page—$20.00

Quarter Page—$10.00

Eighth Page—$5.00

Boosters Ads. $1.00

name and unit

Make checks payable to:

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Somerville, Mass. 02144