9-1-1973

The Octofoil, September/October 1973

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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President's Message

I would like to express my thanks to the Officers and Members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association for the honor that they have bestowed upon me in Boston, at the 1972 Reunion in electing me President of this Association for the ensuing year 1973-74. I will do all I can to uphold the great traditions of the Association and the great works of the Past Presidents of this fine organization.

I would like to see everyone at the 26th Memorial Mass at Worcester Mass on October 25, 1973 and it's suitably to the planning for the 1974 Reunion Atlanta Georgia.

Sincerely,
Fred M. Jasey

Harry O's Report On Worcester

You Got To Believe It

Saturday evening, October 30, 1973 was one of the finest social affairs Father Connors ever had. It was immensely enjoyed by approximately 600 9th Division men, women, children and friends who came from many sections of the United States. The joy of meeting your friends, the congenial atmosphere and the unlimited supply of food and drinks were some of the ingredients that made for this happy occasion. The entire program from luncheon to Sunday was well planned and organized.

It is a privilege and pleasure to attend Father Connors Annual Memorial Service. It is to continue to get better and better as the years go by. To add to our enjoyment we had loved fall weather.

When Father Connors introduced and thanked the parishioners for the delectable buffet dinner and gracious hospitality there was a thunderous round of applause from the audience.

The music played by the Band added to the enjoyment of the occasion. There was dancing, singing, entertainment, a wonderful spirit of warm friendship and an opportunity to reminisce.

It was a Bust - Sunday, Oct 31, 1973

The day began with a march from the Grove Street Fire Station. Leading the parade was the Worcester Police Honor Guard band and finally the marchers which included Father Connors. We paraded to the Immaculate Conception Church.

The ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

Father Connors delivered the 20th ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS before a capacity audience. He remarked that we should say prayers for the 320 men of the 9th Infantry who made the SUPREME SACRIFICE, as well as for those men of the 9th Division who have passed on since. He then recited the 9th Division Route from Africa to the Elbe River. He also said that we should continue to have faith in God, faith in our country and to pray for one another. The sounding of taps concluded the Services.

After the indoor services were over, the outside services at the MEMORIAL SHRINE were held. We heard many inspiring speeches from City officials, which included Mayor Joseph M. Tinsley, Congressman Harold D. Donohue, City Manager Francis McGrath, members of the Clergy and Parish and President Fred Jasey of the 9th Division Association. At the conclusion of the 9th Division Wreath was placed at the Shrine.

Following the MEMORIAL SERVICES we travelled to the Sharon Memorial Inn where a delicious dinner was served. Father Connors was Master of Ceremonies. Again we heard many good speakers from the Parish, the City Officials and the 9th Division Association members. They had the audience continually laughing with their facetious comments, sophisticated remarks and the "friendly rivalry" that perennially exists between the speakers vs. Father Connors.

A plaque was presented to the Parishioners of Father Connors' Church for the hospitality shown to members of the Ninth, and their families throughout the years.

Father Connors, in expressing his appreciation, stated that he looks forward to the 26th ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE to be held again in Worcester.

Rev Ralph Spears from Albany, New York gave the Closing Prayer and another wonderful 9th Division Memorial Mass came to a close.

Fred Jasey

Mrs. Biaggi introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

A BILL to designate the Veterans' Administration Hospital in the Bronx, New York as the "Henry A. Whalen Memorial Veterans' Hospital" and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Veterans Administration Hospital in the Bronx, New York be and is hereby designated as the "Henry A. Whalen Memorial Veterans' Hospital" and for other purposes.

By act of Congress and resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. The Veterans Administration Hospital in the Bronx, New York be and is hereby designated as the "Henry A. Whalen Memorial Veterans' Hospital".

Best regards to all.

Sincerely yours,
Harry Greenstein

 memorial Mass is authorized to provide such memorial at the

Dr. Radichio traveled from Santa Monica, Calif., to his lovely wife Sue could not make the trip because of ill health. Rev. Robert Curtis, a former Chaplain with the 986, made his first trip to the Memorial all the way from Monterey, Calif. (221 Laine - zip 93940). The padre recently retired from active duty with his church and is pitch hitting at a nearby Air Force base in California.

In the House of Representatives

August 3, 1973

Mr. Biaggi introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

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Henry A. Whalen was the type of fellow who enjoyed a swap of tall tales with his buddies recently retired from the 47th, so we were surprised to see him getting ready to leave as soon as the banquet was over. We said, "Harry, what's your hurry, the evening is still young". He replied, "I have to catch the night train to New York, you see every Sunday morning I bring the Sunday papers to the guys at the Bronx Veterans Hospital and if I'm not there tomorrow morning those poor fellows won't have anything to read. That brief exchange with Harry made me realize how dedicated he was to the cause of the veteran. So I was not surprised to learn that a Bill H.R. 2960 has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Biaggi, which recommended that the Veterans Administration Hospital in the Bronx, N.Y. be designated as the "Henry A. Whalen Memorial Veterans' Hospital".

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Harry was no stranger to the corridors of that hospital and it is only fitting that the building where he spent so many hours helping the disabled veterans bear his name.

Congressman Biaggi also entered into the Congressional Record of August 1, 1973 a stirring tribute to Henry A. Whalen, an American Patriot.
Taps Sounded

We had sad news from the Pennsylvania area. Two old timers have left us. On September 15, 1973, Metro Nichols was killed in a mine accident and on September 22, 1973, William Murphy. Postscript suffered a fatal heart attack. William was at the Boston reunion and appeared in good health.

metro Nichols 8th B. M.
William Murphy - Postscript B. C 45th Inf.
Thomas G. Strong - 29th Inf.
Richard Pestel - Co. K. 47th
To the loved ones of those we share your sorrow. May they rest in peace.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Dick Pestel. While we know he had a patient in the VA Hospital for some time, we understand he had been released only to return to another among which proved to be fatal. Dick served as a member of the Board of Governors and did more than his share for the Association. He made many Octofoil signs, all sizes, and gave them to members of the Association. He was very proud of the insignia of the Ninth and had a large Octofoil on display in his home. Dick met Winston Churchill while we were stationed in England. Churchill was making an inspection of the 30th Inf. and stopped to chat with Dick. So every year until the Prime Minister passed away they would exchange birthday cards and Christmas greetings. He was not a bitter man and never held a grudge. Dick was sent to the Company (K) 47th for a minor infraction and after being a cook for several years, he lasted about a week with the Company and was badly wounded, around St. Lo. May he rest in peace. To his Editor we deeply express our sympathy as we share your grief.

FLAG - VETERANS BURIAL
A flag of the United States will be furnished by the VA to cover the casket of a deceased veteran discharged under other than dishonorable conditions who: (a) Had wartime service, or; (b) Had Mexican Border Service, January 1, 1917 to April 5, 1917, or; (c) If peacetime service served at least one enlistment, or; (d) Was released from active service because of disability incurred in or aggravated in line of duty, or; (e) Had service terminated subsequent to January 1, 1917. IT'S A FACT - The purchase of a mobile home under the GI Home Loan Program does not prevent a veteran from obtaining a mortgage for a conventional home at a later date. The mobile home loan, however, must be paid in full before the new mortgage can be granted.

THE OCTOFIOL
Published 3 times a year, July, August, September, by members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. No person shall be excluded from membership of the Association solely because of race, creed, color, or national origin.

Frequency of issue:

Annual Income Questionnaires must be returned to the person of relationship to a former member of the division. The unit and date of service of the division of the former member must be included.

Three-Year Member
Life Membership
One-Year Membership

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OCTOFIOL

*三角*
Remagen Bridge

This is the conclusion and Part Two of the Remagen Bridge. The Division. General. We were very confident of the issue of the Ooctofoil but space would prevent us from doing so. Scroty Hirst for sending us the information.

I am enclosing a ten page typed report, which would not take long to highlight. It is the story of the Ooctofoil, of former General-

Ohlenburg! The division's accounts of the German actions until 21 March 1945, when the division began its withdrawal to the North. The paper was written by the Operations Officer of the N.A. as war in the Generals' camp in Allendorf is being described in this issue of the archives of the US Army Office of Military History, Washington D.C. Scroty Hirst.

11 March. Arrangement of sectors and course of front. On that day the Volkspolizeikorps was moved to the Ooctofoil. The three main tasks to the South drove infiltration and the sectors of the engineers of the Rhine Front which they had to maintain. The paper was written by one of the unit officers of which had been committed there locally by the C.R. Artillery activity increased on both sides of the road. Bridgehead Front. The German artillery was to destroy the Remagen Bridge by tow-towing three 305 mm. The operations, observation posts in own hands and the completion of the bridge-site in spite of heavy artillery activity, enemy attacks, and the full weight of the Ooctofoil were already committed and were directed from the good observation post, the Siebengebirge mountain range. It is a question of the Siebengebirge threats brought minor gains of terrain. From Lint, the enemy made a surprise thrust toward the Haguenau. Peak. After heavy, alternating battles against the Division's engineers committed there, the Peak remained in own hands. Divisional command post, Allendorf, immediately went on to the Rhine. Peak.

12 March. Division front grew. 10th artillery and air-activity increased steadily. The Inhal Task Force is committed at the left wing of the division. It is to support advances of the Rhine Defense and to establish a bridgehead. As the Rhine Division. According to our left flank, is lost (height 292.2 km. nor by the Rhine Front it is one of the reconnaissance battalion of the 11 Division. Right flank at the right wing of the division the road leading from the East toward the West was being outflanked and also greatly assisted. The new line of resistance was fortified. It was a pure west-front, correspond- ing with the summit of the Schiechenbberg mountains, with the right wing near Arlenrod; and the left wing near Andernrod.

12 March. In the meantime the Division had received some single units from the 113th. Army and from tank units. This strength from groups to corps to Army made the Division capable of continuing the tasks with crews. All these units were formed into a panzergarde with an improvised staff under the command of Lt. Col. von Butler. This unit was then committed at the left wing of the Task Force of the Division. The Task Force of the Division was concentrated south behind the core of this unit. The enemy attack was the center of the divisional front at that day and it was not only attacked by local counter-attack. Example, changed hands several times. Only late in the evening was it secured back by the enemy, heavy, but successful. Now the Division had crossed the Nieder Rhine Valley. Main line of defense of the Autohahn, see sketch. In front of the left wing of the Division was the Butler Panzergarde. They successfully delayed the advancing action west of the Nieder Rhine.

20 March. On our own front, only local battles occur during these days. The line of resistance remains in own hands everywhere. On 20 March, the Division receives some more groups. According these groups were formed into the 389th. V.G. in order to be concentrated south behind the Autohahn. But still a few groups were left over, and these were concentrated to the reinforced 389th V.G. Division.

21 March. The enemy advance begins, beginning during the night of 20-21 March. The enemy attack in the morning of the following day. On the North, it is committed south of the Sieg River within the command of the XXXV. Corps. In accordance with the initial evaluation, the following conclusions are drawn:

The Division was committed near Remagen only after the American Bridgehead had already been established. Due to the delayed arrival of the bridge of the Division (3 days after construction of the Bridgehead) and the relative strength of the Rhine, an elimination of the Bridgehead was impossible.

By stubborn fighting, however, the Division in its sector prevented the destruction of the Bridgehead, or at least delayed it. Above all; it held the crucial observation point Arhenrod. For this reason the Siebengebirge mountain range, which dominated the Bridgehead, until 13 March. It had thus had to commit the prerequisites for a successful counterattack. The attack forces should only have been available which were too small to arrive, but which, as had so often been the case in the final phase of the War, did not arrive.

Dear Mr. Smith,

As the membership of the 9th chapter, I have reviewed the letter which I've received you in the Ooctofoil. I have received a copy of the division's WWII history. Eight stories to Victory! History before them; I hope you can appreciate the picture-words I tell you of.

RETURNS

As promised, I made the trip to the village of Schmidt, to recount the travels of the Division during the period September 1944 to February 1945 and to tell you duplicate tales taken them. I have some measure of success and I feel that I told you all about it.

COUNTY OF MÖNCHAU

Coming in the late evening from the southeast over the Rhine to Der Kemeter, I could view from the heights. SCHMIDT - I made the sketch which the German observer had made of so much as advance over that rise. In the foreground below the lines formed by the dam by Haselkond and below Rüberg. - Before one lies an expanse which is well remembered by all former NORMANDIES. But more so by men of the GOEDEL Engineers! Anyway! Dropping down into the valley I crossed the Schwammenauel hill. Haselkond is right nearby. I was infinitely happy as I made the sketch. I was, as I entered Schmidt, Schmidt. I am an infantryman and there I told you about the Division's engineers this is not the history book, which all members must pay for to the membership. As I stated before, the work was loaned to me for the translation of certain passages to the membership. As I stated before, the work was loaned to me for the translation of certain passages to the membership. As I stated before, the work was loaned to me for the translation of certain passages to the membership. As I stated before, the work was loaned to me for the translation of certain passages to the membership. As I stated before, the work was loaned to me for the...
DOINGS

has now sworn off ruffled

Have AAA or ALA plan

sure knows how to

pt

years

before they

Ott~

National Reunion

music

Frank Matheny

Bill Meadows' cottage on Little

picnic were Bill and Barb

seeing to it that the glasses were

Meadows and Don and Helen

line. As he has done so often in

success of the picnic, Steve and

delivered the "red-pop" that

Mary Gasparovich provided the

pop-corn that whetted the

and bus trips, many members

he made at previous reunions

beautiful day.

The picnic attracted some

cards, Florence DeSandy

was the since his operation but he

Jim Bruner has been taking it

Wisniewski from Richmond.

recovery because he was seen

concluded with a very moving

the 4581 men of the 9th Infantry

Division who gave their lives for

Outstate Meeting. They found

among them were the Earl

and Bill Andrews. They all

Un August 25th the Michigan

Maurice have come up with a

cocktail hour from 7 till 8 after

Salads Silver Trays With

Fruit Mold, Wide Selection of

Assortment of Cheeses. Iced

and Beverages. The gang from

Assorted Pastries and Cakes

Helish Trays. Roast Tenderloin

THREE OCTOFOIL

CHURCH NEWS

The Roger Elmers hosted the

October meeting at their home in

Chicago. After several years of

illness, Doris Elmer is feeling well,

making it a double pleasure to

be entertained at her home. All

the goodies had provided testified to

her return to good health. Plans

were instituted by Bill Hemmert

for our annual Christmas party in

Dec. 3. Bud Redower was delegated

the task of selecting and serving

the hotel for this security affair.

Final details for this party will be

completed at the November meeting

which will be held at Tadman's

Restaurant.

Reunion Report

At the Fall meeting Paul

Clark and Frank Orant reported

on the National Reunion. They

reported that it had been a good

time at the reunion. The members

welcomed the news that

Chapter President Bill

Hemmert had been elected to

the National Board of

Governors. Dr. David Butler and John

Cluener, Board of

the Scholarship Committee

man Frank Orant when he

reported on the selection taken up

for the Community Service Fund at

the reunion.

MRS. KERNER COLLAPSES,

DIES AT HOME COUNTRY

Mrs. Ferna Kerner, 57-year-old

wife of U.S. Appeals Judge Otto

Kerner, collapsed and died in their

Lake Geneva, Wis. home.

Kerner was born in 1894,

and in more than a year. Judge

Kerner, former Governor of

Illinois, was the Executive

Officer of the 14th Field

Artillery Battalion. Those who

attended the services at Spring\n
field will remember well the

Kerner's. The Ladies of the

9th were especially delighted

with the lovely tea bought by the

First Lady in the Governor's

Mansion. Our sympathy and kind

thoughts are extended to Judge

Kerner.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

At usual the NEW YORK

Chapter was represented at

Washington. The Executive

Committee chartered a bus and

many other members from the

N.Y. Chapter came by other

means of transportation. The

trip to Washington and return to

N.Y. seemed shorter because ever\n
one was having a good time.

Our special thanks to Walter

O'Keefe who did an out\n
standing job in making

arrangements for chartering the

bus and reservations at the

lovely Sheraton Lincoln Inn.

Pat Morano won a raffle

price.

QM NOTES:

The following QM's were present

at WOOSTERTON: Mr. Charles

Cheever Mr. & Mrs. John H. Jlagling

Mr. & Mrs. John Moran

Mr. & Mrs. John C. C.

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Russo

Mr. & Mrs. John Franks

Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Jones

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bruno

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Mele

Mr. & Mrs. Geraldine Curato1a,

Mr. & Mrs. Francischi

Mr. & Mrs. Lucchese

Charles Cheever won a prize.

Many of the QM's are plan

Service Bathroll

ARTILLERY BATTALION

TWENTY NINTH ANNUAL

REMEMBER TO PRAY

when you go to church and

pledge to give a dollar to the

MOSK on Sept. 29. This

was a successful evening.

What happened during the

past year?

John Cassidy, a friend and

neighbor of Everett Gregg

was in Washington last year.

Everett is doing very well ac\n
American, and Perig and

with his daughter in a profitable

business. Joe Frisk in civic and

fraternal work when you go to

church on this

Walter Swenson, John Murray, Red

Connors and myself visited the

lovely Sheraton Lincoln Inn.

The Griffin family reports all is

well. Bill Sacco was on crutches

for two months. A fractured

foot was the result of a fall.

Mr. & Mrs. John Francis.

affairs when he has free time

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Mr. & Mrs. John Francis.
The Engineers were well represented at the Boston Reunion. Here's a happy group shown with their wives.

The Boston Reunion Committee members and "their better halves" enjoying a moment of relaxation at the Friday night dance.

The gang from the Q.M. are telling the ladies how they took care of "little watermelons" like the one shown on their table.

The old 2nd Bn 47th was never like this - Doc Rischel, Chuck Jones, Bob DeSany and their wives are "chowing it up" at a real New England Clam bake.

Ron Murphy wore many hats this past year - he was President of the Association and Chairman of the Reunion and here he is shown helping on the Chow line at the Clam bake.

The young at heart are still in there pitching. The Hockettes have nothing on this group doing the "Alley Cat".
The Editors of the “Octofoil” the most rewarding part of our job each month is the letters received from members of the Association. Many of our members have never been able to attend reunions and most of them do not have a local chapter in their area. The only contact these fellows have with the Association and their old buddies is through the “Octofoil” that they take to their fellow veterans as an active part in the affairs of the Association these men are numbered among the highly loyal and devoted members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. In their letters invariably mention the “old Reliable” pride in being an “old Reliable”. They faithfully pay their dues and many are regular contribu­ tors to the Scholarship Fund. We are very happy to receive letters that may be of interest to the Association they immediately alert us and often send in clippings that subsequently appear in the “Octofoil”. These men eagerly await each new issue of the paper to see what “Old Reliable” has to say about them.

Wallace B. Hawkins
Med. Detachment
3rd Inf. Div.

1st Battalion, 3rd Inf. Bn.
October 20th, 1967

Our furniture arrived. We have never seen so many decorations in one house before. Kiekhaefer Aeromarine I. Flynn was probably the most famous airplane of the war. It was seeing the over-all view of this plane that undoubtedly will be the favorite plane for 1974. The story for Sunny Kay and his newly acquired Ber. Mencey “Dundee” powered by a pair of 600 H.P. Kiekhaefer Ardamite engines. They won the race by the razor thin margin of 2 minutes and 16 seconds. Are Bell Topo’s Name tags and distinctive unit insignias have long been used in the military to identify the individual soldier and his unit, more importantly, to instill pride in the men and women who carry them. In our的文字, Washington, the wearing of the unit insignia with the unit insignia upon them has become a common occurrence among civilians employees, and is part of a program to create greater civilian identification with the professionals in the Army of today. This program was initiated by MG William B. Fulton, commander of the “Old Reliable” Ninth Infantry Division which was recently reactivated in Fort Lewis. The Ninth Division in the National Reserve and the Division is composed of eight major units all under the Army’s “Unit of the Month” umbrella. MG Fulton embarked on a program to introduce his civilian workforce to the new Division and emphasize the important support role of civilians through a series of all­hands meetings with the customer relations training. As a unique feature, MG Fulton authorized the production and distribution of a name plate specially designed by Civilian personnel officials which could be worn by civilian employees. The name plates, bearing the crest of the Ninth U.S. Army and the Ninth Infantry Division, contain a civilianized version of the Division’s “Old Reliable” motto which reads, “We’re right to the bitter end.”

Civilian employees at Fort Lewis have reacted favorably to this new name plate, and many employees either wear them or have attached them to their desks or equipment. Officers at Fort Lewis view the over-all program to emphasize the civilian support role as an important step toward insuring the success of the mission of the Army installation.

The city of Weehawken, N. J. is a Winner Ave. Weehawken, N. J.

Sweepstakes Offshore Marathon Cleveland, Ohio Kay and co­driver Tom Kipp piloted the 16 foot Aeromarine I. Flynn across Lake Erie’s choppy waters to sweep the Monie Offshore Marathon at a record speed of 60.29 MPH, a speed nearly 15 MPH faster than last year’s record. It was the first outing for Kay and his newly acquired Ber. Mencey “Dundee” powered by a pair of 600 H.P. Kiekhaefer Ardamite engines. They won the race by the razor thin margin of 2 minutes and 16 seconds.

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