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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, January/February 1974

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

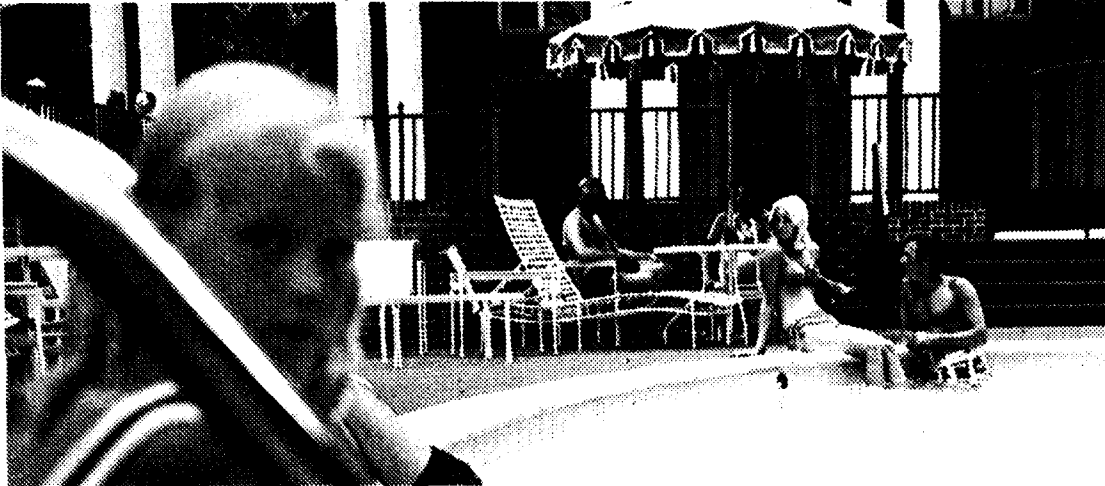
VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB 1974

PLENTY TO DO IN ATLANTA



Atlanta Stadium at the bottom of the picture with the City in the background. We were hoping that the New York Mets would be in town that weekend and the gang could get a chance to "say hello" to Lindsay Nelson the Mets sportscaster and an old wearer of the Octofoil. As we go to press we learned that he will be up in Montreal that weekend.



After a busy day of meetings, shopping or sightseeing, you'll welcome an invigorating dip in the sparkling Sheraton-Biltmore swimming pool, or just relaxing in the southern sunshine on the garden patio.

Taps Sounded



Tip Of The Hat

As time goes by we add more and more names to the "last roll call" and in this issue of the Octofoil we include many names of good friends and buddies:

Anthony Netta, A-T 60th Inf; Alfons Cuprys, 47th Inf and M.P.'s; Robert Costello, M.P.'s; James Roth, 47th Inf Med Det; Carmen Cannella, M Co 47th Inf; Alexander R. Sewall, 26th FA; John C. Strickler, 26th FA; Archer F. Freund, 34th FA; Arthur M. Harper, 60th FA; Francis C. Foster, 34th FA; F. Scoon Gardner, 60th FA; J.B. Rasbach, 84th FA; Alexander T. McCone, Div Arty; Brian J. Gallagher, M.D. 39th Inf.

May they rest in peace. To their loved ones we share your grief.

KEEP 'EM IN A SAFE PLACE! That's good advice for veterans and members of their families when it comes to military service records and important family records. At sometime during their lives veterans and their families will have to dig out these records to substantiate any claims they may make for veterans benefits. If they're safe and handy, chances are there will be no delay in getting a determination on their claim. But if they're lost or mislaid, then it'll take time to obtain certified statements from the military services, thus delaying action on a benefit claim. Keep your important papers where they'll be safe and ready when you need them.

The association is more than grateful to Howard J. Heilman and Danley Brown, son of George Brown, for their most generous donations. Danley was a recipient of the Scholarship a few years and wants to show his appreciation for the assistance he received with his college expenses.

It's nice to hear from some of these young people who received an award even if it's only a thank you note. We're more than proud of you Danley.

Howard for years has been making a contribution to the Memorial Fund and this year was more than generous.

Two other members who donate every year and this year again they remembered:

Bill Morrison
Harold Black

The more we hear about Atlanta the more anxious we are to be off for the 1974 reunion. Atlanta is a city on the go. At a time when most cities are shrinking, Atlanta is growing so rapidly that the metropolitan area, which had a population in 1960 of one million will number nearly two million by 1983. John Fortman, the city's internationally celebrated architect, has revitalized downtown Atlanta with the development of Peachtree Center, a futuristic cluster of office building, shops, restaurants and, nearby, New Atlanta's trademark, the Regency hotel.

PLENTY TO DO

"Old Reliabilities" will find plenty to do during their visit to the South's greatest city. During the daylight hours they can bone up on the Civil War. Burned to the ground by General Sherman, Atlanta has few antebellum monuments; but you can relive the 1864 Battle of Atlanta by visiting Grant Park's Cyclorama; an immense three-dimensional painting fitted out with lights and sound. Out of town, you'll find the Confederacy's Mount Rushmore, Stone Mountain. Carved into the side of the "world's largest granite mass," Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson ride like figures in the clouds, hats on hearts, cloaks flying on the wind. You can ascend the mountain in a cable car to admire the panorama of wood-fringed lakes rippled by a little paddle riverboat and rendered moody and unreal by the ghostly music of a distant carillon.

Another approach to the War between the States is a pilgrimage to the Gone With the Wind Country out around nearby Jonesboro in Clayton County. Scarlett O'Hara's hometown is a row of shotgun houses pinned to the tracks of the Southern Railroad by a granite depot and a cotton warehouse. There's plenty to see besides weather-worn Victorian houses. On the pine-scented shores of lovely Lake Spivey, you can spend a whole summer afternoon picnicking and swimming. If you have the children along, you should visit Lion Country Safari, with its prides of lions, cheetahs, flocks of ostriches and herds of rhinos, elephants, zebras, giraffes and antelopes-astonishing creatures in the calm Georgia countryside. Driving back to the city, you can stop off at the Farmer's Market on Interstate 75, one of the largest and cleanest in the world, to buy the best souvenirs that Atlanta affords; a well-cured Georgia ham, a sack of delicious pecans or some old-fashioned, home canned pickles, relishes and preserves that will never see an A&P.

Ten minutes from downtown Atlanta is one of the South's most popular family attractions, six Flags Over Georgia, a theme park rooted in regional history and folklore. The history lessons are easy to take as you learn about French explorer John Ribault by taking a version of his river trip, or ride the Dahlonega Mine Train and hark back to the gold rush days. The newest area, the Cotton States Exposition, offers a glance at the South when cotton was king.

Nothing about Atlanta is more fascinating than its future; so you must end your visit to the great city by going to the top of that portion of the future that has already materialized in the heart of the city. Go up to the top floor of Peachtree Center and walk out on the aerial bridge that links it to the observation roof of the Merchandise Mart. Here high above Atlanta's principal street, once a winding Indian Trail, you can see the powdery smoke from jackhammers, watch the great mechanical arms of derricks and spy in the distance the white shapes of other metropolitan centers also abuilding. Atlanta is a sidewalk superintendent's paradise. Where else can you see a gleaming new city rising out of the ground like Atlanta? The evening hours in Atlanta can be just as entertaining as the daytime hours. In our next issue we will give you a rundown on Atlanta's night life.

Getting Around Atlanta

Transportation is no problem in Atlanta. Taxis are moderate - 50 cents for the first 1-5 of a mile; 10 cents for every 1-5 thereafter. Extra passengers - 25 cents. The cheapest way to ride the length of Peachtree St. is on any MARTA bus; fares have been lowered to 15 cents, with free transfers. Its a 30 minute ride from the airport to downtown Atlanta, frequent buses shuttle between the Airport and downtown the fare is only \$2.50, if you feel prosperous you can take a taxi, the ride downtown costs about \$7.00.

The 1974 reunion promises to be a real popular one so we are urging the "Old Reliabilities" to make their reservations early.

Harry O's CORNER

★ **THE OCTOFOIL** ★
 Form 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J. 07087
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 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 spirit of the 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.
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JAN-FEB 1974 VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 1

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 1974 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

When the reunion ends this summer it is always a great feeling of having attended the affair but some of us just can't make it to Atlanta. A great way to be remembered to your "old buddies" is to make sure your name appears in the Reuninn Journal. Rates start at \$1.00 for a booster (includes your name and unit) up to a full page for \$35.00. Try to be in the Journal.

REQUEST FOR SPACE IN SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Full Page \$35.00 Quarter Page \$10.00
 Half Page \$20.00 Eighth Page \$5.00

Boosters Ads. \$1.00 includes name and unit. Make checks payable to the 9th Inf. Div. Assn. Reunion and send all checks, money orders and copy to:

Daniel Quinn
 412 Gregory Avenue
 Weehawken, N.J.
 07087

NEW YORK CHAPTER

On December 11th George Bako presided over his last meeting as President of the New York Chapter. George's term in office has been a busy one and has been marked by many successful Chapter undertakings. George is an innovator who likes to shake things up. One of his ideas was a change in the format for the installation of Chapter officers. Normally the officers were installed at the regular January meeting. The installation was just another piece of business that was conducted at the meeting. George felt that the installation of officers was something special and that it should be made the occasion for a special event. So he proposed that the Officers for 1974 be installed at a special meeting which would be open to the members and all their friends and families. The members liked George's idea and they decided to hold the installation on a Sunday afternoon at the 69th Armory. The installation to be followed by a buffet dinner and dance.

Installation
 On January 6th the Armory was crowded with members and their friends, it was one of the largest groups that was ever present at an installation of the New York Chapter. Emil Langer took over the duties as Master-Of-Ceremonies and he swore the following men into office; President Joseph Kearns, 1st Vice President Mike Derish, 2nd Vice President Harry Meltzer, Secretary Arthur Schmidt, Treasurer Irving Feinberg, Judge Advocate Edward Egan, Chaplain Ralph Witzkin and Sgt. of Arms Al Orletti. After the ceremonies were over the gang tore into the refreshments that were provided by Chairman Frank Fazio and for the rest of the afternoon they had themselves a ball.

19 Years Service
 The January meeting was notable for another event besides the installation of officers. It also marked the end of 19 years continuous service by Dom Niele as Secretary for the New York Chapter. During his long years in office Dom has served the Chapter well. He rarely missed a meeting and he was an avid collector of dues. He never forgot a member who was ill or in the hospital, Dom always got off a note or a card to the fellow who was laid up and often made a personal visit to cheer up members who were on sick call.

There is probably no one who has a more intimate knowledge of the affairs and history of the New York Chapter than does Dom Miele. If it were possible to total up the number of meetings held by the Chapter and the number of meetings attended by each member its almost a sure bet that Dom has the highest percentage of attendance. If he should ever decide to write a book about the New York Chapter it would certainly make for interesting and informative reading.

He could tell of meetings that were held uptown, downtown, in the "Village", on the west side, on the east side, Dom took meeting minutes in just about every part of New York where the Chapter could get a meeting place. He could tell about the time the Chapter decided to purchase a huge commercial movie projector and camera complete with sound system.

After making the purchase the members didn't know what to do with the equipment, they finally decided that it should be placed in the custody of the Secretary, and that he should bring it to every meeting. For years Dom had to lug the equipment to every meeting, he unloaded it, set it up and after the meeting was over, repacked it in the back of his car. Many times the debate at the meeting was so heated and prolonged that there was no time for showing the film and all Dom's hard work was for naught. To add insult to injury, when the equipment broke down the members blamed the Secretary for the equipment's short comings. Dom suffered in silence, he was willing to make any sacrifice for the good of the chapter.

After all these years the members of the New York CHAPTER FINALLY REALIZED HOW IMPORTANT Dom was to the Chapter. They hated to see him leave office and at the installation they showed their

appreciation by presenting Dom with a 9th Division Plaque that commemorated his many years of service.

News-Notes
 The members of the New York Chapter were saddened to learn that George Apar's eldest son was killed in an automobile accident.
 During one of New York's worse sleet storms Vinny Guglielmino slipped and fell breaking his leg.

1974 DIVIDENDS - GI INSURANCE. The 1974 regular dividend on GI insurance will set a record high and the dividends will be paid on the anniversary dates in 1974 and not on an accelerated basis as has been done in several instances in recent years. The 1974 dividend on National Service Life Insurance policies will average about \$75 per policy which is about \$3 higher than the average per policy in 1973. For some 138,000 holders of World War I USGLI policies, their 1974 dividends will average \$156 per policy compared to only \$143 per policy last year.

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

Enclosed please find 1974 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

Please credit the following chapter:

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

We Don't Need Two Veterans Days

Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Randle, USA., Ret.*

When General Randle "zeros in" on a target it doesn't take him long to register and effectively cover the target. Recently the Editors of the "Clearwater Sun" sought his opinion on proposed legislation which would restore November 11th as the date for the celebration of Veterans Day. The General responded with an article that was published in the November 11, 1973 issue of the Clearwater Sun. We are reprinting the article which we feel presents a valid argument for the restoration of November 11th as the official date for the celebration of Veterans Day.

We Don't Need

Two Veterans Days

Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Randle,
USA, Ret. +

IT WAS A SMALL WARD just large enough for nine beds, all occupied by captains and lieutenants. The hospital, Base 28, was in Limoges, France, famous for fine china.

Miss Smith, our nurse, was young, slim and lovely, with lots of natural blonde hair piled under her tiny cap. But she rarely smiled and never responded to our attempts at humor. Each morning she and the surgeon marched in to dress our wounds. The rest of the day she looked in from time to time. I never understood her. Of course I was pretty young to understand women, but except for nurses on the hospital train she was the only girl we had seen for a long time.

Lieut. Stevens, an artillery officer in the next bed was from New Caanan, Conn. He had a long deep gash in his right buttock caused by a German shell. We told him he must have been running, but he laughed. He knew we were kidding. He wasn't the kind to run.

One day he asked Miss Smith if she could get us a piano. Later three orderlies came pushing a small upright through the door. There was just room for it by my bed. Stevens carefully raised himself, got his left foot on the floor and with five or six hops reached the stool. Gingerly he eased the left side of his behind down, and keeping his right leg straight he played a few chords. You could tell from just that much, from the authority of his touch, that he could really play that old box. From the chords he went into Tipperary, then on to You Are My Sunshine, Rose of Washington Square, Katy, Back Home in Indiana and other songs everyone knew. And did we sing! Even those who were badly shot up. A crowd gathered in the doorway, and in the hall outside to watch, listen and sing. Stevens made that old beat-up French piano talk. After half an hour Miss Smith pushed through the crowd and broke it up. She said, "That's enough," and helped Stevens back to bed. But we kept the piano and every day he hopped over and played until Miss Smith made him stop. It didn't hurt his wound. Every morning I watched the surgeon dress it. Little by little it was growing together.

One day, it was the 11th of November, Miss Smith told us an armistice had been signed. The war that had lasted so many bloody years was over. She said crowds downtown were dancing in the streets, whooping it up. We were six blocks out and heard nothing. But we knew it was coming. I was wounded the 4th of November. I commanded Company D, 6th Infantry, 5th Division. We had

crossed the Meuse River the night before. The Germans had been withdrawing fast leaving scattered machine-guns to slow us down. It was one of those that winged me. One of my men from down in the mountains of Tennessee crawled forward like he was stalking deer back home. He kept crawling until he was behind the two guns. Then, working his bolt fast, he killed the four German gunners before they knew he was there. When I returned to the company from the hospital he was wearing the Distinguished Service Cross.

The next year, 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11th Armistice Day. That day meant a great deal to all of us who had been in combat. Like Memorial Day it was a day of remembering, remembering those who never came back. Men we had left in crude graves all along the rugged way. People who were never in combat do not understand how we feel about Armistice Day. They do not understand that though it has been a long time—over 50 years—and we do not talk of them much, those men who were our constant companions are never far from our thoughts. Years have passed but we remember them as they were—forever young. Proud. Proud of each other, proud of their outfit, and proud of their country. Especially, proud of their country. Many were only 18 or 19, but they were men just the same. Like the corporal not far from me who was shot dead by the first burst of those machine-guns. Or like the runner who was wounded beside me. He was a brave kid who no matter how tough the going always had a grin on his face. Lying together I bandaged his hand and his shoulder. He whimpered a little, that brave kid. He said, "Captain, am I gonna die?" I said, "Of course you're not gonna die. It's just your hand and shoulder. Neither is serious. Both will get well. The medics will fix you up. Don't worry about anything."

And when I was carried back to the aid station he was already there. He raised his head and with a big grin said, "There's my captain. Him and me was wounded together." Do you think I'll ever forget that boy?

It has been many years since the 4th day of November 1918. I have been in other wars and seen other men die for their country and I have the same strong feeling for all of them.

In 1938 November 11th, Armistice Day, was made a Federal holiday. In 1954, after World War II, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, and that was all right. We World War I veterans were happy to have all veterans share our historic day. They had earned the right. I was in their war too, a colonel commanding a greatly augmented regiment in the African Landings (Torch), under General Patton. My 47th Regimental Combat Team assaulted Saffi, Morocco, at night so General Harmon could unload his tanks at the docks and move north to help Patton take Casablanca. It was the French who were resisting, with elements of the Foreign Legion. We had the town, the docks, and a beachhead the first day though the fighting went on elsewhere for three days. It was on Armistice Day, 1942, that all resistance in North Africa ceased. My 15 killed at Saffi were buried in the little European Cemetery, just

across a gravel path from the graves of many more French soldiers. Later a French General and I laid wreaths on a central monument. My brave young Americans died in their first operation. I shall never forget them. They were so young, and they loved their country.

After we had defeated the Germans and Italians in North Africa I was promoted and fought the Japanese for two years in the Pacific—on Guam and Leyte, the Kerama Rettos, Ie Shima where Ernie Pyle was killed, and on Okinawa. On all those places I saw many more young Americans die doing their very best to bring honor and safety to their homeland—the land they loved.

Veterans Day on November 11th was a very special day for all of us, a day for remembering and doing special honor. A day which for over 50 years had become a tradition. Then something happened. How? Who knows. I do not understand it, but for some strange reason the Congress of the United States abolished a day that for over 50 years had belonged to veterans. All veterans. They abolished November 11th as Veterans Day and in its place decreed that the 4th Monday of October should henceforth be known as Veterans Day. The reason given was that it would give everyone a nice long holiday—from Friday until Tuesday. To hell with tradition. To hell with the veterans, both living and dead. Just give everyone time to get out on the roads and go crashing into one another, killing five or six hundred people, and giving the Public Safety Council more practice in predicting the holiday slaughter.

Of course it is well known that our brilliant, overpaid members of Congress habitually take for themselves long weekends—every week. I suppose they wanted John Q Public to share a little of their profligate pleasure. Also I suppose there were commercial reasons for abolishing November 11th as Veterans Day and making it into a long prosperous weekend for motels, restaurants, wreckers and ambulances. What matter if Veterans Day falls on a different, meaningless date each year.

As for me Veterans Day is November 11th and always will be, and it will be for all Florida veterans as well because last May our legislature enacted a bill changing the date back to the old one and the governor signed it. More than that, about 33 other states have passed similar bills. One state legislature passed such a bill and their governor vetoed it whereupon the legislature passed it over his veto, which gives some indication of the strength of sentiment over the country.

We don't need two Veterans Days. Just one. And that one must be when the veterans want it—all 29 million of us—November 11th. Congress will act just as soon as it tires tearing the country apart as it is happily doing at present.

SERVICE BATTERY 26FA BATTALION

It is a little late to offer each member of our great organization and his family a Happy and Prosperous New Year. But I do hope that the editors of our fine paper are able to find space for this expression of friendship "Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year."

Another Season

Another Christmas Season has passed. Like many before it the men of the United States Postal Service have brought to my door many "Merry Christmas Greetings." It is always a delight to know that many friendships of the great years 41-45 still have the same meanings.

Mrs. Loren Doyle, Humbolt, Illinois whom I first met in Columbus over 20 years ago added a note about her two sons. Loren Doyle, 1st. Lt. U.S. Army, Masters Degree, Analytical Chemistry from Purdue, will be in Germany for the next three years. Eric Doyle, 2nd. Lt. U.S. Marines, Quantico likes the life and may stay for 21 or more years. Loren Sr. a driver for Col. Johnson, 26FA, plans to retire from Penn Central the end of this year.

Jim Leach, son of our Arnold, was married this past year. He is a school teacher in St. Albans, Vt. His bride is also a teacher.

Keith Griffin, son of our Paul is still in the Air Force. The Griffin Family is now living in Ravenna, Ohio.

Ernest Natalini via U.S. Army, Denver, Colo., and Springfield Mass. is a teacher at West Point. Guy Meadows of Detroit will be married this summer. Ernest will be in the wedding party. Both were in the same class at Michigan State. THE FATHERS OF BOTH BOYS WERE 26FA MEN BACK AT FT. BRAGG 1941. That is one for Ripley.

Jim Daniels lost a son to some nice girl via wedding bells. If any Ninth men on the West Coast want to fight the war all over again he can find Jim 3363 Perilita Avenue, Los Angeles. John Brazil 5275 Red Winery Rd. Geyserville, Calif is the manager of a large stock ranch.

Add A Note

The next time you send a card to anyone, any kind of card, make sure you add a note about yourself, your family or a member of the old gang.

How are your plans coming along for the trip to Atlanta?

Sincerely yours,
Joe McKenzie
95 Washington Av.
Waltham, Mass.
02154

Michigan Doings

The only assembly line in Michigan that hasn't slowed down is the one that prints membership cards for the Michigan Chapter. While everyone else reports cut-backs the Chapter reports gains. This past year was a very successful one for the gang from Michigan and they topped it off with a tremendous Christmas party at the DeSandy's home in St. Clair Shores.

Big Turnout

Despite real cold weather thirty-four members braved the elements to attend the party. Once they arrived at the party the members soon warmed up. Bob DeSandy had on hand a good supply of that well known medicine which is guaranteed to cure chills and is also rumored to cure snake bite. Don Lewis got the gang in a festive mood by leading them in a good old sing-along.

Among the guests was Betty Rumennapp, she brought along her mother and they had a great time reminiscing with their old friends from the Chapter.

Nominations for 1974

During the Christmas Party the gang took time out to hold a brief business meeting. At the meeting they came up with a slate of Officers for 1974. Here it is:

President - Gene Reedy - Everett Tapp; Vice-President - Tom Hatton - Everett Tapp - Ed Wisniewski - John Young; Adjutant - Kleb Stockford - Everett Tapp - Bill Phelps; Treasurer - Bill Meadows - Gene Reedy; Secretary - Jim Brunner; Chaplain - Floyd Hennessey.

Elections will be held at the February 15th meeting, may the best man win.

News-Notes

The members of the Michigan Chapter really get around and see the world. Fred and Jane Josey and the family took a Holiday train trip to Toronto. They thought that it was a wonderful experience and recommend it highly to their friends. Elmer Wagner made another one of his frequent flight to Europe. He is enjoying the good life of a bachelor. Maybe he has a girl in France? Betty Rumennapp spent some time touring Texas. Bill and Barb Meadows ran away from the ice and snow and enjoyed the sun in Hawaii. Ann Pehote also left Winter behind she headed for the sunny climes of Florida.

As time goes on, Wedding Bells are sounding more often in the families of Chapter members. The most recent happy occasion was the wedding of Bill and Barb Meadow's son, Guy, to Miss Tonda Waugh in Saginaw.

The Chapter was saddened to learn that Kleb Stockford's brother had been killed in November. The Chapter sent its sympathy to Kleb and Vi.

Val Grgurich recently underwent surgery and is mending slowly.

Eddie and Carrie Krause gifted the Chapter with a beautiful hand-crafted Octofoil. The Octofoil will be displayed at all the Chapter's affairs.

Reunion Bus

Once again the Chapter is making plans to charter a bus for the trip to the annual reunion. This year the gasoline shortage makes the bus trip seem even more attractive. Seats on the bus should go fast, so if you are interested don't waste time, contact the Chapter's officers and make your reservations now.

Retires From Office

For many years John Bonkowski has served as Secretary of the Michigan Chapter. During this time he has been one of active Chapter Secretaries in the Association. His letters to the "Octofoil" have kept us up-to-date on the activities of the Chapter and were always most welcome by the Editors of the paper. The hard work he did in preparing these reports helped to make our job a lot easier. In his last letter to the "Octofoil" John wrote "These Notes will be my final as I have declined the nomination for Secretary in 1974. My five years on the job have been wonderful. I feel that this Chapter has come a long way and will continue to grow and become greater with Jim Bruner as the Secretary. We are fortunate to have so many good active members in Michigan." We will miss John's lively reports and we hope that he will continue to drop us a letter every once and a while so that we can keep in touch.

Atlanta
Reunion Dates
Aug. 1-3

MAIL CALL

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

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

This is the time of the year when many members pay their dues, almost every member includes a little personal note with their check for the dues. Here are some of the notes that we have received recently.

Co. M 60th Inf.

Wilfred Thornton
515 E. Dubail Ave.
South Bend, Ind. 46613

Enclosed are my dues for another 3 years. Hope I can be around to pay it several more times, it seems that each year a few more old buddies pass on.

In two and a half years I hope to retire from the milk business and take it easy. Last November, my wife and I spent a week-end with Cole Gronseth and his family at Suttons Bay, Mich. While there we viewed the color slides that he took in Europe on that great trip they made three years ago. Those slides brought back many memories for me.

Co. B 47th Inf

Joseph S. Pojany
2956 NE Benjamin St.
Mpls, Minn. 55418

If nothing unforeseen occurs, my wife and I are planning to attend the 1974 reunion in Atlanta.

Am looking forward to visiting with all my buddies from Co. B 47th Inf.

Co E 47th Inf.

Martin Bergman
9815 Haldeman Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19115

I look forward to the "Octofoil", you are doing a great job. I'm sorry I can't attend the reunion this year in Atlanta. My convention for Ex P.O.W's takes place just one week before, July 28th for five days. It is being held at Las Vegas. I am interested in hearing from any 9th Division boys who are former P.O.W's.

Co L 60th Inf.

Ed Brewer
8736 W. 74th St.
Overland Park, Kansas 66204

Enclosed is my check for 1974 dues. I plan on retiring at the end of May to northwest Missouri. Will keep my hands busy a couple of days a week in the printing business. As soon as we have a new address I will send it to you, don't want to miss any issues of the "Octofoil"

Co. H 47th Inf.

Raymond H. Gardner
Rt. 1 Box 321
Hilton, Va. 24258

Just a little note to tell you of my appreciation for the efforts that you have put forth in carrying on the activities of the Association. I saw General Westmoreland at Johnson City, Tennessee's Memorial Service at Veterans Administration and I had a chance to have a brief chat with him. Although I am close to the Washington, D.C. Chapter, I rarely get up that way.

84th F.A.

Sam Robinson
1000 Paradis Rd., N-2R
Swampscott, Ma. 01907

Enclosing a check for another three year "term" with the 9th. I sold my home in Marblehead and have moved into an apartment complex in the next town of Swampscott, am enjoying it.

Co. G. 47th Inf.

Walter C. Kraft
925 Paseo El Mirador
Palm Springs, Calif. 92262

This has been an excellent year for my firm and myself financially; however, I had to use up life No. 7 in a Washington D.C. hotel fire. They sent for my oldest son and wrote me off. I was in Washington helping the Coast Guard get 22 1/2 million dollars for expanding their base in Kodiak and since I supply most of the products that they use, this was no time to die.

Recently drove by myself up the coast visiting the children. 2000 miles with my lower left leg still in bandages - no strain. Then flew home for six weeks, returned to Palm Springs for a few weeks and then flew back to Alaska. Give my regards to all the old gang.

Co B 39th Inf.

Andy Seasock
4270 Paces Ferry Rd.
Atlanta, Ga. 30339

Sure was good to see you in Atlanta. It's always good to see an "Old Reliable" and talk about old times.

Hoping to see a large turnout of the B Company 39th gang at the 1974 Reunion, come one, come all and see how the other half lives. Enclosed is a check for another three years dues.

15th Engs

Anthony J. Madonna
40 Orient St.
Worcester, Mass. 01604

Anthony sends his dues and tells us that he and James Kechane of Boston are planning to attend the Reunion in Atlanta in August. He concludes with regards to all.

15th Eng

Maurice N. Tougas
15 Parker St.
Central Falls, R.I. 02863

Maury renews his membership and sends his best wishes to the members of the Association.

A.T. Co 47th Inf

Charles A. Bodnar
187 New York Ave.
Bergenfield, N.J. 07621

Charles forwards his dues and writes - "I spent some time in Europe in some of the battle areas of the old outfit. I have very interesting and human interest stories of the people I met in the combat areas and how they still remember our division patch and the incidents that took place in certain areas. Do you think they would be interested to publish my trip into nostalgia?"

(Eds note - We certainly hope Charlie will send in a story, or two on his trip.)

Co D 39th Inf

Edward Lewis
1841 So 51st Court
Cicero, Illinois

Ed writes to apologize for being a little late in sending in his dues, but adds "things seemed to get tied up this time of the year". Hoping everything is fine with the association - best regards to all the old gang.

C.O. 47th Inf.

General Edwin H. Randle
503 Althea Rd.

Belleair, Clearwater, Fla. 33516
I couldn't keep my promise to attend the Boston convention. When I said I would be there I thought Mrs. Randle and I would be attending another meeting in Boston too. But it didn't pan out so I did not get to the convention.

However, I am pretty sure I can make it to Atlanta. That city is not so far with high speed 4 lane highway all the way. Well, I guess the high speed is out but No. 75 will still be there, if I can get enough gas to navigate it.

As I think you know I also have another book out. Its title is "Earnie Pyle Came Ashore, and Other Stories". The price of it is \$6.95, but both books can be had for \$10.95 which is a good deal in anybody's estimation. Where the two are ordered they also will be sent postpaid.

As one reader said about the Earnie Pyle Comes Ashore volume, "It is a hell of a good book."

Joseph B. Ward who landed at Safi from the USS Cole and received his copy of Safi Adventure on November 8, 1973, wrote me "After thirty years I finally found out what was happening around the rest of the town." He was with L. Company "and had my machine gun dug in above the docks."

Co B 47th Inf

Pat Morano
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201

Pat writes to congratulate Art Schmidt on his elections to the Secretary job of the New York Chapter, and adds "If it wasn't for the fact that I have to travel a long distance to go to New York from Penna., to attend the monthly meeting I would be there. Things are still stable here in our area with respect to the gas crisis (this is one of the benefits of living in a less populated area.) We do hope the energy crisis will not interfere with the Atlanta reunion." Pat tells us of a trip he plans to Florida by the Auto-train and is looking forward to the reunion in Atlanta next summer.

Co G 47th Inf

Reuben A. Hunt
232 Fifth Atrreet
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Reuben finds himself like most of the old gang "that time is catching up with us" and other than not being up to par as far as his health is concerned he keeps on moving along. He hopes to be in Atlanta this summer and feels real bad that he could not (because of health) attend the Boston reunion. He closes with regards to all the troops - "Good Luck and God Bless".

Chaplain 39th Inf

Rev. L.B. Kines
Provincial's Residence
5704 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, Md.

The "good Padre" keeps up his membership but we were sorry to learn that he has been on "sick call" and confined to quarters. He is making a slow recovery. "Hang in there" Chaplain. We hope to see you at the reunion this summer.

IS YOUR OCTOFOIL

ADDRESSED WITH

TELL-TALE RED INK?

It is that time of year when we remind you to check your membership card for "it is now dues time." A limited budget keeps us from mailing the Octofoil to those who fall in the delinquent class. Get on the band wagon and send in dues to the secretary's office, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J. 07087.

☆☆☆

Co G 47th Inf

Ken Millholland
540 6th Street N.W.
Hickory, N.C. 28601

I wish to thank the secretary for sending me The Octofoil although I kept putting off sending my renewal. I will take a Life Membership and so will not have to remember to renew.

I run into Dr. William MacLauchlin 47th, every now and then and we discuss what we read in the Octofoil. I've been kept busy since we change over from Letter Press to Off Set Printing a year ago. Do hope some time to enable to get to one of the reunions. (Ed's note - this should be the year Ken - the reunion is being held in your neck of the woods.)

Co. D 47th Inf.

Robert W. Nicholis
Ohokis, N.C.

Bob writes that things haven't been going too well with him recently. He has been beset with a series of illness that have caused him to undergo a serious stomach operation and have also left him with impaired eyesight. His problems have been aggravated by the fact that within a short period of time his wife has suffered the loss of her father, mother, and brother. Bob could do with some cheering up, so how about some of his old buddies getting in touch with him. He sent along a picture which shows some of the boys from D Company when they were at the Elb River waiting for the arrival of the Russians.

Can Co. 47th Inf

Bill Coen
1140 Overlook Drive
Washington, Pa. 15301

Renewing his dues for three years Bill writes: "I don't feel that I'll be able to get to Atlanta this summer - give my regards to all my buddies. My wife and I have become grandparents since last we saw you in Boston. My daughter presented us with a granddaugther in October and my son presented us with a grandson in December. He is presently stationed with the Navy in Newfoundland. Best wishes to all and may you have a good reunion.

9th Q.M.

Marvin Balthaser
800 Whitner Road
Reading, Pa. 19605

I always look forward to receiving the Octofoil. It keeps me informed of the activities of my old buddies. Harry O (Orenstein) is an old QM buddy of mine. His getting married certainly was a surprise to me. Met Horace Abrams a 9th QM whom I haven't seen in 23 years at a Reading Shopping Mall.

John K. Moore
38 Pescara Lake
570-57th Ave. W.
Bradenton, Fla. 33507

1st Bn. 60th.

"A", "D", and Hedtrs.

Dear Dan:

I am afraid my obligations to the Association slipped my mind. Just thought when reading the last bulletin, that my dues for the current year were way overdue. So, with my apologies for being late, am enclosing check for this year.

Stuck in this far corner of the country (and enjoying it) my contacts with other members are very few and far between, but I do look forward to receiving the Bulletin, and enjoy every paragraph of it.

Who knows, when enough other "old" timers retire and move down this way, we might even have a chapter in Florida.

Am hoping to see you in Atlanta.

Some veterans and dependents are of the opinion that once a claim for compensation or pension has been denied by a VA Regional Office the case is closed.

This is not true. A denial of a claim may be appealed as high as the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C.

If a claim for compensation or pension has been denied, a simple letter of disagreement based on a point of law may be submitted. New additional substantiating evidence may also be furnished in support of the original claim. These actions can be taken by claimants who have had a claim denied before the necessity of appealing to Washington.

Holders of GI life insurance policies were reminded today, to check the type of policy settlement they have selected for their beneficiaries.

In many instances the beneficiaries designated on GI policies are penalized following the veterans death because the mode of settlement selected provided for monthly payments over a period of years.

Other cases have come to light where veterans had chosen smaller monthly payments life.

Veterans or GI policy holders are urged to consider selecting the lump-sum payment option because generally this leaves the beneficiary with the privilege of taking the single payment or selecting monthly payments.

**PAY YOUR
DUES NOW!!!**

**Reunion Dates
Aug. 1-3**