The Octofoil, September/October 1974

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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May they rest in peace. We extend our sympathy to their loved ones.

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Rumor Laid to Rest

A letter from Frank Wade’s wife put an end to some of the rumors that were heard at the Atlanta Reunion. Libby Wade writes that contrary to rumors which, Frank was told, were floating around at the convention in Atlanta, he is alive and well.

Politics have taken his time this summer. Miss Louise Gore filed in April for the Republican nomination for Governor and this summer. Miss Louise Gore filed in April for the Republican nomination for Governor and she asked Frank to be her running mate as Lt. Governor. They were successful in the primary on September 8, and are in high gear now for the general election.

The first week of September, Frank was in the hospital for a kidney stone operation. It was a sudden attack and incapacitated him for ten days just before the primary. But he is fine now. Prospects look good for November 5th and we are optimistic.

Sorry we had to miss the reunion—maybe next year. Best regards to all.
The OCTOFOIL

Form 3574 should be sent to 432 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087. ASSOCIATE EDITORS Walter O'Keefe and Daniel Quinn.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct.

DANIEL QUINN, Editor and Publisher, The Octofoil.

When the item is received it will be catalogued and recorded and shall remain forever the property of the P.H.S. Each item will be displayed with the donor's name.

Now that many of our members our reaching retirement age, they are making plans to move to more milder climes and they are clearing out attics and cellars, deciding what to take along and what to leave behind. Its almost certain that they will throw out souvenirs that have been away for many years. These valuable items of World War II should be sent to the P.H.S. where they are saved for posterity.

Volume XXIX Number 5
Sept 1974

Tip Of The Hat

Many thanks to Rev. Edward Connors and Louisa Mansford for their contribution to the Memorial Fund.

TIP OF THE HAT

Victor Made the Trip from Atlanta to Westminster

Walter Victor, the association’s photographer left Atlanta on Friday night October 18th and arrived at Kennedy Airport in New York on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Saturday and made his way into the Army Dependents’ Housing where he met the New Yorkers for their chartered bus to Worchester at 9:30 a.m.

The plane was not new to him but the bus was. He was most interested as the bus left the Garden Arena and made its way to the 25th Street Army Area where the New Yorkers held their meetings. This trip was made to pick up the recipients for the trip and rare and behold after driving about a block away from the Army , Edwin Feinberg discovered her husband Irving had not gotten back on the bus. After much searching to the “wagon master”, Walter O’Keefe, the bus came to a halt and as we looked out the back window we could see Irving jumping after the bus. He certainly slowed down since he was the 2nd Bn 4th Infantry Battalion Commander’s radio operator but in those days he had to sometimes lug the radio on his back.

The rest of the trip was uneventful, except for a little mix-up on room reservations at the Sheraton Hotel. At the reception on Saturday night Victor and some old Pvt films of the Atlanta reunion which everyone enjoyed. He also had a Video tape but for lack of proper equipment it could not be shown. Fred Jones will try to have it on film and will show it at the Detroit reunion next year.

“Walter O’Keefe and Adolph Waldavegna were most helpful in getting me to the New York Airport for my trip home. It was a wonderful trip but next time my wife Ruth will be with me everyone was asking for her.”

World War II Moments Wanted

Curator for the Peabody Historical Society is an “Old Reliable” Sylvester Byrne who served with the 38th F.A. Bn. The Historical Society which is located in Peabody, Mass. has undertaken the monumental task of creating a Military Museum. The many ardent young workers of the Society want to preserve America’s military past so that it can be used as an educational process for the public.

All the present time the Military Museum contains items that span the era from King Philip’s War to World War II. The numbers of the society are now putting together a display that covers World War II and they are seeking military items from that period. “‘Red’ Byrne wrote that he hopes that the World War II display will contain many items donated by former members of the Ninth Infantry Division. He feels that since many of the men who served in the 9th came from the East a museum in that part of the country should be more readily available to them and their families.

Ministers wishing to donate items to the museum should write to Red at 7 Meade St. Peabody, Mass. 01960. When writing to him please give the following information; a brief description of the item, where obtained, outfit and rank to which it relates, a statement and an address saying that he is donating the item to the Peabody Historical Society.

The OCTOFOIL
Phillips-Delaware

The Philadelphia Chapter was well represented at the Memorial Mass in Worcester. Father Corsin and the parochial foundation of Sacred Heart Church once again showed their love. We thank them very much.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

As we prayed for our faithful, the death of Victor DeCosse was the only one in our minds. Victor died on Oct. 19. We planned to attend this Memorial Service at that place upon the altar stood a golden Chalice. It was a gift from his dear wife, Ann, to preserve his memory, and that of all the North Division Troops. We shall miss his smile. He worked tirelessly to help make our chapter function.

SICK CALL

On our recent trip we have Al McGough, who underwent surgery recently to repair his knee. We hope he will make a speedy recovery, and expect to see him at the next meeting that he will be held at Marty Kresovetz Home, 801 West Avenue, Nov. 16, 1974.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Troccoli
President
201 Dill

110 Chestnut Ave.
Worcester Heights
New Jersey 08097

Michigan Doings

On November 9th the Michigan Chapter will hold its out-of-county meeting at Battle Creek, Mich. Headquarters for the meeting were at the Battle Creek Holiday Inn and Capital Ave. Members who planned to stay overnight had to do so at very reasonable rate. Early arrivals will enjoy the hospitality of the Chapter’s C.P. from 9:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The evening program began with a cocktail hour in the John Howard Room, followed by an excellent prime rib dinner. After the dinner the members will view pictures and slides that were taken at the Atlantic reunion.

Please

Once again the hospitality of Bill and Barbara Meadows and Don and Helen Heron was outstanding, and the members and friends who attended the Chapter’s picnic on August 24 at Little Island Lake had a great time.

With the luck still seeming to be with the ladies in the drawing, first prize was won by Sue Mason, who was kind enough to provide the parking facilities at the beach. The weatherman cooperated, there was an abundance of good, the roast corn was excellent, and food was plentiful. There was a sufficient supply of “red pop” and everyone had an enjoyable day. Even the barge was a retreat from the parade to the Robertots cottage across the street where the flag was lowered. Some members of the chapter have already forgotten how to march.

Harry O’s

NEW YORK CHAPTER

OCTOBER MEETING

V.P. Mike Deroski did a bang up job as Acting President of the N.Y. Chapter meeting that was held on Friday, October 4, 1974 at the 29th St. Armory. It was just the right kind of weather that brought out the largest attendance of the year. The membership enjoyed a pleasant social evening.

OTHER NEWS

We were happy to see Irving Greenberg, Chi-MI 43rd Infantry, a new member who joined us. We received letters of appreciation from the two officers of the chapters that sponsored the awards. They were Lawrence Langen of the-26th Ind. and Family. The raffle winners were Harry Orenstein and Lou Almassy.

A good job!

We were sorry to hear the sad report that Lou Almassy’s wife passed away. Our sincerest condolences to Lou and his family.

John Russo flew in from Florida and Henry Dietrich from Cape May, N.J. to be present with their long time friends. Lou Almassy was retired from the Post Office. The raffle winners were Charlie Warren, Bill Klauz and Harry Orenstein. An announcement was made that Mike Gatti was celebrating his (67th) Birthday. Good luck to you, Mike, and our best wishes to you for many, many more happy birthdays. It was announced that Pres. Joe Kearns was in the hospital for an operation, so we all hope you have a speedy recovery. There was a good crowd of old men in the audience when it was reported that Mike Gatti’s father passed away recently. Ours deepest sympathy to the bereaved family.

IlliNOIS CHAPTER NEWS

The monthly chapter meetings on the third Friday of each month have resumed and will be at Ted Preston’s Ranch off River Road in Schiller Park unless otherwise informed. The general format for these meetings is to meet in a private room for the business portion and then enjoying socializing in the bar restaurant with singing around the old piano for those who are in the mood. While the October meeting was well attended, there was discussion with regard to attracting more members with better attendance. Much effort is being made through personal contacts to secure a regular attendance of the usual Christmas party to be held at the Chunk Kooko. While all parties were not finalized, President Bill Hennennich has announced that the date will be Saturday, December 7th. The mention of that infamous date generated much discussion of reminiscing (Top priority on the November meeting agenda is to complete party plans so that details can be relayed to all by Secretary Bob Winkelman.)

FAREWELL TO SUMMER

On the last day of summer, the club sponsored a cookout gathered for a picnic at Can- sylvania Park and Everyone was there. It was a表明 the weather was not quite right but it didn’t discourage the heavy turnout. The food was cooked and touch football kept young and old warm. Bill Hennennich got the award for showing greatest improvement in volleyball, while Georgia Winkelman was selected for first place in shivering. For added warmth, good food, drink and comradeship will be missing.

The tempting attractions of Philip’s restaurant’s chest lunch led to speculating on the rest of the meal. This was a picnic in the park. The Hennennichs had a previous commitment to attend a Chicago Bears football game so had to forego the picnic. However, this is the only time of year when the weather permits gathering at the park with a blanket on one arm and a blonde (Peggy) on the other, and sitting right on the grass from the cups.

The picnic was conducted through the McCormick mansion which is now a park, and old warm. Ann Bellmonte worked tirelessly for the club. We were all honored by the presence of General McSorley, one of our Gold Star Parents. Mrs. Mac is feeling fine and she enjoyed herself meeting with many old friends from the Association.

Memorial

The New York Chapter turned out a large contingent for the 2nd Annual Memorial Service at Worcester. As they have done for many years, the chapter hired a bus for the pictures of deceased members up signed for the bus trip and they had a great time in Worcester. We were all honored by the presence of General McSorley, one of our Gold Star Parents. Mrs. Mac is feeling fine and she enjoyed herself meeting with many old friends from the Association.

The 9th QM’s

The following QMs were present:

Charles Cheever,
Frances, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hennessey,
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Borkow,
Mr. and Mrs. John Anglin,
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Annes,
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ornestin,
Mr. and Mrs. Rossano,
Mr. and Mrs. Everett Tapp,
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mole and his friend
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Costanza
and Mrs. Francescato.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Orenstein
W. N. Y. 26th St. Armory

75 Reunion in Detroit

A group of New Yorkers prepared to board chartered bus for trip back home after leaving the Sheraton-Lincoln Motel in Worcester.
MAIL CALL

We keep diligently away at the pile of mail on the desk but we just can't get to the bottom of it. The reason at Atlanta went over big with the younger crowd and they are writing in to tell about the great time they had down south.

John "Pat" Foley St. 1 - Box 968 Montclair, N. J. 07043

Like many other "Old Relics" I am joining the ranks of the retired. Effective August 1, 1974, I retired from the F.B.I. after 23 years of service.

Jean and I are moving to Virginia in September. Enclosed is my dues for three years. Sorry, I didn't get to see you before leaving New Jersey.

Co. F, 67th Inf. Ed Hopkins 112 Springwood Ave. Metuchen, N.J. 08840 Enclosed is my dues. Sorry I won't be able to make the Atlanta reunion. This summer I certainly missed the picnic that the New York Chapter used to hold. They were held practically in my backyard.

I wish I had been of Cannock Co., 47th every now and then. He has a milk can on his front porch with the 9th Division insignia emblazoned on it. He lives around the corner from me.

Bry B 66th FA Br. Joseph F. Mahoney 4 Marquerite Rd. Walpole, Mass. 02081

Sorry that I won't be able to make the reunion at Atlanta. Went there before leaving New Jersey. There is certain, I should be there.

Co. G, 60th Inf. Curtis Boesch 2141 Alexander St. Florissant, Mo. 63033

Just a line or two or several to let you know that MacDonald and his wife came from Atlanta. About 300 miles and spent the weekend with Carmen and I. Mac was in Co. M, 60th from the beginning, an original cadreman, and then went on to spend 30 years and retire. We absolutely had a marvelous time reminiscing of the past. From Nov. 8, 1942 until 1960. Of course you can realize Mac knew twice as much about the Division as I, so I was only a chicken road recruit.

I will say this though, special events like recruiting or relocations or what not; my very best buddy then and now, George Brum and I had to laugh at all things whether funny or sad to keep the reunions thinking. "Well, this isn't the bad after all." I know of course we knew a little different, it was only living history.

I can assure you with all our stories and jokes, there is a silliness or what have you, both Brum and I had more than an innocent melders 16 year old son being put in jail.

Dan, will see you many, many friends from Co. M in Detroit for the 75 get together.

AT. Forrest

16th Eng. Co.

George Badger DeSoto Trailer Park 106 N. 6th Ave. Homestead, Fl. 33030

I was looking only a mile or a mobile home costs a bit more too. Won't be able to get to Atlanta but hope that everyone has a great time.

Hdg Co. G, 60th Inf. Norman L. Martin 738 Lehman Ave. Belleville, Ill. 62223

I have missed the reunion, hope to make it next year.

THE OCTOFOIL

Co. G, 12th Inf. George Dehmnom Essex - 4F 2450 Seligwick Ave. Bronx, N.Y. 10469 Went to Europe for a few weeks last summer. Took the QE II and I landed at Cherbourg, went by car to Brest, More English, Utah and Omaha Beaches and the Military Cemetery. Then went to Paris.

Except for the monuments and museums erected to commemorate the invasion you would hardly know that millions of men and equipment ever went through the area. I was hit as we entered Cherbourg and I remember the area and circumstances well. I thought I could locate the spot but Cherbourg has grown up and out and the old city line has many modern buildings built over old battle grounds.

We only had 8 days in France so I only had time to stay in Cherbourg for one day, then two days in Rayville where we were centrally located and could get to all the beaches from Jean Port du Pas de Calais and with us the American Military Cemetery. Then on to Paris where I worked in a hospital for 4 months after VE Day. Returned to England and visited Wales and Ireland. Returned home on the QE II. I felt very sad when I stood at the beach and looked out over the Channel - you can't go back to the past.

66th Inf. LTC Harold W. Smith 3300 Creek Drive Colorado Springs, Co. 80915 Before the ink turns red on my "Ootol", I thought it best to send along my dues for another year.

As my new address indicates, we sold our house in September and now have six months lease on a townhouse when I will make up our minds. With prices the way they are, we just may decide to remain in this area. In November I have some elective surgery coming up but nothing too serious, I hope. Just a bit painful. Other than that, our health has remained excellent. Sorry we missed Atlanta, but the house was up for sale at the time. Next year Detroit sure for sure.

We have been debating the merits of the cool dampness of Seattle, versus the hot dump of Florida and our health of course the dry climate of the midwest. With prices the way they are, we just may decide to remain in this area. In November I have some elective surgery coming up but nothing too serious, I hope. Just a bit painful. Other than that, our health has remained excellent. Sorry we missed Atlanta, but the house was up for sale at the time. Next year Detroit sure for sure.

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The Chow line on Saturday night as the parishioners feed the troops and their better halves at the school hall reception in Werkester.

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

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Westhaven, N.J. 07087

Second Class postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as second class

John J. Clouser

38th F. A.

Joe McKenzie 95 Washington St. Waltham, Mass. 02154 Joe is always on the lookout for former members of the Ninth Division. Last month he located another "Old Reliable" and sent us his name. The long lost member to Marvin Rich who lives at 175 Valentine St., West Newton, Mass. 02136. Marvin joined the 60th Inf. in North Africa and served with that regiment until the end of the war. He enlisted at the age of 18 and landed in North Africa with the 2nd Ranger bn. Later on he was assigned to the 94th. Marvin is anxious to hear from the older gang.

Bry B 66th FA Br. C. McKee Rm. No. 2 60th Co. 139 McComb, Ohio 43340

Want to catch up with my so, here is a check for two year dues. I've been busier than ever, for a few reunions from the North every so often and had over some old times. Hope that a good time in Atlanta. Hope that in the next few years I’ll be able to arrange things so that I can get to the reunion again.

If you’re planning on moving a wise move would be to notify your local post office and the VA of both your old and new addresses. Any veterans benefit checks you may be receiving will then follow and not be returned to the V.A. marked "Moved left no forwarding address.

"Don’t eat so much,” said the father to his son. “You’ll make a pig of yourself. Do you know where to reach me.

"Yes, Daddy,” replied the boy, “it’s a boy’s little eye.”

WORCESTER MEMORIAL

Shown enjoying the Florida/Sunshine after the Atlanta reunion are 1st Rear two: Vitia Spirandeli 9th Inf, Mr. Orletti Co 61st M. & B. Orletti Co 61st Marge Orletti, John Ritte Co 61st, and Betty Ritte, Marie Munster and Bill Kless Co B 61th Inf.

Front row: Frank Pasco Co H 61th, Vitia Spirandeli, Vita Pasco and Al Munster Co F 41st Inf.

While in the "Savannah" State they looked up some names of the Association. John and Betty Ritte, two displaced New Yorkers, welcomed the gang and showed them around their beautiful home in Florida. During their stay at the Fort Lauderdale Club the following were visited by Jimmy Carter. Jimmy served with H Co of the 47th and is now a resident of Fort Lauderdale.

Some of the gang from New York used the Atlanta Reunion as an excuse for an extended vacation. While everyone else was packing to go home. Frank Pasco, Al Orletti, John Munster and Lorning Kless were packing their swimming trunks and leaving in search of the beaches of the Carolinas. They were planning to move on to Florida and spend the fall laying on the beaches watching the bathing beauties. The boys took their wives along on this new adventure.