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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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1-1-1975

## The Octofoil, January/February 1975

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 XXX Number 1

Jan-Feb 1975

## BEACHHEAD: DETROIT

### Tip of the Hat

We are grateful to these members for remembering the Memorial Fund:

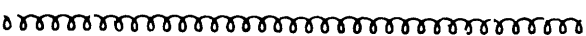
Howard Hillman  
William Morrison  
Anthony Forte  
Frank Machek  
Joseph Smyth

They were extra generous and some young men and women who are granted a scholarship will indeed benefit by their thoughtfulness.

### NEW YORK CHAPTER

New Yorkers schedule events for 1975.

1. May 2, 1975 Meeting - Past Presidents night.
2. May 10, 1975 Saturday Night - Dance at 69th Armory.
3. May 17, 1975 - Memorial at Pinelawn Cemetery (Meet in Parking lot). Then to Bethpage Park for a short picnic to refresh ourselves. (Parking lot - 11:30 A.M.)
4. June 6, 1975 Meeting - Committees to be formed in preparation for convention in Detroit, Michigan.
5. Convention in Detroit - July 24, 25, 26.
6. October - Memorial Mass - Worcester, Mass. to be announced in Octofoil as to the exact date.
7. November 7, 1975 Meeting - Nominations of Officers for 1976.
8. December 7, 1975 Meeting - Election of Officers for 1976.
9. December 14, 1975 - Christmas Party at Armory. If you went to the last one, you won't miss this one.



### REQUEST FOR SPACE IN SOUVENIR PROGRAM

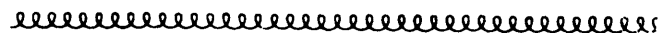
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QUARTER PAGE. \$15.00  
Booster Ads. \$1000 name and unit

HALF PAGE \$25.00  
EIGHTH PAGE. \$10.00

Make checks payable to:  
9th Infantry Division Association  
1975 Reunion, Michigan Chapter

Send to: James Bruner  
3448 Southgate Drive  
Flint, Michigan 48507

CHAPTERS-PLEASE FORM A COMMITTEE TO SOLICIT ADS AND BOOSTERS.



DETROIT REUNION PARADE  
AND MEMORIAL SERVICE

John Bonkowski, Chairman of the Detroit Reunion Memorial Committee, has announced that the 70th Army Reserve Division Band will lead the parade from the convention hotel to the Veterans Memorial Building on Saturday morning. There, the annual memorial service will be held in honor of the 4,581 men of the Ninth Division who paid the supreme sacrifice during World War II. In addition to our traditional participants in this solemn service, U.S. REP. LUCIEN N. NEDZI, of Detroit, and a long time member of the House Armed Services Committee, will be the guest speaker. In the past, Congressman Nedzi has participated in numerous patriotic and veterans' functions. Last year, he served as parade Grand Marshal of the 100th observance of Memorial Day in Detroit. Both the 70th Division Band and Congressman Nedzi participated in the last Detroit Reunion in 1968. The parade permit has been approved and permission has been granted for holding the memorial services.



### Taps Sounded

We were hoping that this would be an issue of the Octofoil that we wouldn't have the sad duty of announcing the passing of a comrade but we received the sad news of the demise of an old friend and comrade.

Barney Fritz of the 3Bn. 47th Infantry

May he rest in peace.

### DETROIT ... THE CITY WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

If cities were represented by colors, Detroit would be all the hues of the rainbow.

Like the automobiles for which it is famous, the Motor City has something to please everyone regardless of taste or pocketbook.

Diversified ... historical ... modern ... fun-loving ... sophisticated ... hospitable ... aggressive ... cosmopolitan ... beautiful.

The Detroit area is all of these and more.

### CITY OF CONTRASTS

Detroit's many-faceted character makes for interesting contrasts.

The roots are deep in American history. Founded in 1701, it is the oldest city in Mid-America. Yet, striking new buildings dominate the skyline, and its program for urban renewal is a model for the nation.

Located nearly a thousand miles from any ocean, Detroit is a major international cargo port and the Detroit River is the world's busiest waterway carrying more commercial traffic than the Suez and Panama Canals combined.

Detroit is closer to some European seaports, via the St. Lawrence Seaway and the great circle route ships follow across the Atlantic, than is New York.

Detroit is the only United States city north of Canada.

The Detroit City Charter provides for non-partisan election of all municipal government officers.

The residential population is a mixture of practically every race, creed and national origin. Mansions whose owners trace back their ancestry to the first French settlers stand near the homes of sons and daughters of immigrants.

### CITY UNDER THREE FLAGS

The Detroit story began when Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac was commissioned by French secretary of state Jerome Phelippeaux, the County Pontchartrain, to establish a new outpost for protection of French fur trade in the Great Lakes territory.

Cadillac selected the narrowest point on the straits connecting Lake Huron and Lake Erie and built Fort Pontchartrain d'Etoit, (Fort Pontchartrain on the Straits).

For 59 years the settlement remained a French stronghold until it was surrendered to the British in 1760 along with all of Canada.

### A FOREIGN COUNTRY JUST MINUTES AWAY

The Detroit River is the international boundary between the United States and Canada and no visit in the Detroit area could be complete without a trip across that boundary.

Proximity to Canada makes Detroit a truly international city.

A five-minute ride through the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel or over the Ambassador Bridge puts you in a foreign country. Toll for a car and two passengers is only 75 cents, and buses run on a regular schedule between downtown Detroit and downtown Windsor for 35 cents a trip.

Customs can be cleared in less than a minute by American citizens.

Windsor's downtown area offers a myriad of shopping delights for the visitor. Many items, such as English, china and woollens, can be purchased for prices far below what they cost in the United States.

Fine restaurants and posh night spots add excitement to the trip into Canada, and the best view of Detroit's glamorous nighttime skyline is from Windsor's riverside Dieppe Park.

### PLANNING ON DETROIT REUNION

Past President Fred Josey heard, recently, from three former 60th Officers, who participated in the North African D-day landing at Port Lyautey. They wrote him, stating they are planning on being in Detroit for the reunion. They are:

NORBERT J. HENNEN,  
Major General AUS (Ret.), 1130 Washburn Avenue, North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55412

COL. JOHN R. DILLEY  
(Ret.), 200 Robin Way, Taft, California 93268

LT. COL. HAROLD W. SMITH (Ret.), 1230 Cree Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80915.

**75 Reunion  
JULY 24-26**

# Traveling down road of history

Part Two. Thirty years ago a great battle was taking place that was called the Battle of the Bulge. This is a story of the 47th Infantry that was in that battle.

## Roamed the Woods

German paratroopers roamed the woods in small bands or occasionally appeared singly. One GI of Company C, 47th, came face to face with one of the latter and was literally caught with his pants down. He succeeded in waddling crab-like to the tree against which his rifle was leaning and despite the handicap of unhitched trousers.....draped carelessly around his feet succeeded in wounding the startled Nazi during the ensuing interchange of rifle fire.

Other 47th "Raiders," prowling about the woods, engaged the paratroopers in brisk but fierce encounters, taking few prisoners during this period, and losing exceptionally few members of their own patrols.

Patrols of the first battalion, probing constantly to its front and flanks, bore the brunt of the fighting as its sector was alive with paratroopers. These airborne troops were the same unit reported to have been lurking in the woods between the regimental CP and Eupen the night the CT arrived in the area.

## German Noblemen

Under the command of a German nobleman, Freiherr August von der Heydte, a lieutenant colonel, they had been dropped during the night of December 17, near Malmeden, and had made their way cross-country to a prearranged rendezvous in the dense woods bordering the southside of the Eupen-Monschau highway. Here they had dug in, awaiting the arrival of the main body of German troops which, von der Heydte had been assured, were already occupying Monschau. During their jump all radio equipment had been smashed and, left without any means of communications, they had been forced to remain in hiding, even while the 47th CT passed in convoy less than two hundred yards from some of the positions they were then occupying.

With the realization that the German drive had been stopped somewhere southeast of Eupen, but unwilling to admit this fact to his men, von der Heydte placed the cause of their plight on the men's "poor jump." He ordered them to split into groups of not more than four and, if possible, work their way back to Monschau where they would be "safe."

Because of the confusion attendant upon stabilizing the American lines in the sector many paratroopers succeeded in infiltrating through the American Lines and eventually reached Monschau. Discovery that the town was still held by the Americans came as a severe shock to them, and they attempted to reorganize. But neither von der Heydte nor his officers were to be found.

## SURRENDERS

The group led by the former took refuge in the home of a German after reaching Monschau. Due to exposure von der Heydte had contracted a heavy chest cold, bordering pneumonia, and also a severe case of trench foot. With his troops scattered throughout the area, contact with his subordinate officers lost, the town on Monschau still under American

control, and his physical condition such that he was powerless to move from bed, von der Heydte threw in the sponge. On December 22 he penned a request that he be taken prisoner, addressed the note to "Commanding Officer, Military Government, Monschau," and ordered his host, Mr. Bouscheens, to deliver it.

At 0800 the same morning the message was delivered to Lt. Col. James D. Allgood, of Dallas, Oregon, commanding the first battalion of the 47th, which then was in Monschau. The note read:

December 22

Dear Sir:

I tried to meet German troops near Monschau. As I could find there no German troops, I surrender because I am hurt and ill and at the end of my physical forces. Please be kind enough to send me a doctor and an ambulance, because I am not able to walk. I am lying in bed at Mr. Bouscheens and waiting for your help and your orders.

Yours sincerely,

Frhr. v.d. Heydte, Colonel-Lt. Commanding the German paratroops in the section of Eupen and Malmedy.

With Lt. Lawrence Langland, battalion S-3, Capt. Binder, battalion surgeon, and four aid men to serve as litterbearers, Col Allgood set out for the home of Bouscheens where he discovered von der Heydte in bed, just as the note had stated.

Taken back to the battalion CP and given medical attention, the German colonel - who first attained prominence as commander of the German paratroop force which descended on island of Crete - became quite voluble.

"We did our best," he said, in defense of his troops, during a conversation with Major W.R. Chance, battalion executive officer. When told that his adjutant, a Lt. Mundt, and his company commander, a Lt. Kokne, had been captured the previous night he expressed surprise. "They are good officers; I am sorry to hear of their capture," he said. The average young officer in the German army was "no good any more" he said.

## HUMOROUS LIGHT

Interrogation of these German paratroopers at first battalion headquarters lent a humorous light to an otherwise grim picture. To the GI questioners the Germans were requested to give merely their name and classification number, which they readily did. After this was completed the GI would glance up at the Nazi. "weren't you born on - giving his correct birthday -" he would ask. The surprised Jerry would quickly answer in the affirmative. "And didn't you live at - whatever his address might be?" the GI would continue. "Yah! Yah!" would repeat the Jerry, wide eyed with amazement. "And weren't you married to - naming the trooper's wife?-- the lad would continue blandly. By this time the bewildered Nazi could do little more than nod his head vigorously, utterly at a loss to understand how the Americans knew so much about his personal life.

The mystery, however, was not as deep as it would appear to be. One of the first paratroopers captured was Lt. Mundt, the

adjutant, and routine searching disclosed three company rosters on his person, complete with the name, classification number, home address, and nearest of kin of every man who had jumped with him.

## TACTICS ELIMINATED

During the next few days hundreds of the hapless German paratroopers were killed or captured, and the threat of their harassing tactics behind the lines was eliminated. In the meanwhile, constant probing of the main enemy positions to the front, by both reconnaissance patrols and combat patrols, revealed that large forces of German troops were being held in readiness in assembly areas northeast of Monschau, and that full complements of enemy troops occupied the numerous pill boxes and reinforced dugouts which formed the first barriers to the Siegfried Line defenses in that sector.

To prevent further assemblage of enemy forces within such striking distance of the strategically important road not leading into Eupen, artillery barrages of great intensity continually pounded the areas where large groups of troops were known to be gathered. Combat patrols of platoon strength, and greater, made daily forays into the enemy lines where they also succeeded in destroying many pillboxes and capturing scores of prisoners.

To add to the difficulty of the operations heavy snows fell. It was extremely difficult for patrols to make great progress afoot because the snow not only formed a striking contrast against their uniforms, making them easy targets for enemy small arms and mortar fire, but it also drifted in some places to a depth of five feet. Too, enemy mines and booby traps were more easily concealed beneath the layer of snow, presenting an additional hazard to patrol members.

## HEAVY STORMS

The heavy storms also played havoc with the roads, over which thousands of vehicles were forced to move in order to maintain a constant stream of supplies to the troops. In the sector occupied by the third battalion it was impossible to use motor transportation. Horses were utilized to haul food, water and ammunition to the company supply depots near the forward positions.

Evacuation of casualties in this sector also presented another problem, quickly solved, however, by using small, tracked, snow buggies to tow improvised, toboggan shaped sledges of heavy unfinished beams and captured sheet metal. The sledges were constructed by company carpenters in the ordnance workshops to the rear.

## 15th ENGINEERS

To facilitate the passage of vehicles into other battalion sectors, Company B, 15th Engineers, an important unit among those comprising the 47th CT, constructed a wire-mesh road net extending almost one and one-half miles from the main Eupen-Monschau highway, through the dense Eifel mountains.

During the period from December 20 to January 10, the Germans made continuous attempts to find a weak spot in the defenses organized for the "Raiders" by Colonel Smythe. Enemy reconnaissance patrols on strength repeatedly approached the American lines in daylight and darkness. Vicious

small scale engagements flared up upon their detection by one or more of the numerous outposts defending the positions, and after brief exchanges of fire the marauders were invariably beaten back to their own lines.

## OBSERVATION POST

A partially demolished building, midway between the advanced positions of the American and German lines northeast of Monschau was a prize eagerly sought by both sides. Because of the commanding view from its interior it served as an ideal observation post. But control of the spot was dependent upon the number of men which could be sneaked into the house during the night, since artillery from both sides was trained on the place during the day. On one occasion a trio of men from the first battalion attempted to occupy the house but were driven away by six Germans, already in the building. Returning to their own lines the Americans increased their strength to six and started back to the house, determined to rout the Jerries. The latter apparently anticipated such a move for, during the absence of the American patrol, it added six to its group. Again the GIs were outnumbered two to one, and were again forced to beat a hasty retreat. The following evening the doughboys were at the scene just as darkness descended and after arranging a series of booby traps in the building, they withdrew. Shortly afterward the Jerry patrol arrived and a series of violent explosions reduced the house to rubble.

During the first ten days of January the CT succeeded in capturing 52 prisoners and reducing 11 pillboxes and dugouts.

## FINAL ATTEMPT

The final attempt to pierce the regiment's line came on January 26, in the Kalterherberg area. A patrol of eight Germans advancing toward the lines was spotted by an outpost of the third battalion. Grenades and small arms fire killed three members of the patrol and wounded two. The remainder made their escape. Shortly afterward, an enemy force estimated at more than a company, attacked the position. The outpost was reinforced with two squads, and artillery and mortar concentrations were immediately directed against the Germans. The ensuing battle lasted more than an hour, during which the Nazis made numerous assaults upon the positions before withdrawing.

During the next few days the situation remained static throughout the entire sector, and on January 30 the 47th CT launched an attack from the positions it had held intact since December 18: positions of such strategic importance that denial of them to the rampant Germans had prevented von Rundstedt from pivoting his right wing on Monschau, had unquestionably forced a

revision in the original plans for the Nazi drive, and had played a vitally important part in bringing about the eventual and total collapse of von Rundstedt's ambitious offensive.

The Nov.-Dec. '74 issue of the OCTOFOIL was most welcome, as always. Of particular enjoyment was its recalling of the events of December '44 in the 47th Sector, and the epic military feat of our CO, then Colonel Smythe.

At the time, the 47th POW Interrogator Team, of which I was a member, had set up "shop" in a farm house near Mutzenich, about half way between Monschau and the Regimental CP on the road to Eupen. Our prize "interrogatee" during that period was the commander of the German parachute task force "von der Heydte" (see EIGHT STARS TO VICTORY, pp. 285,286).

On one of my trips to Germany some years ago I came across an article in a German newspaper, in which it was reported that a certain professor at the University of Wurzburg, a Freiherr von der Heydte, had come into question on his fitness to teach there.

Upon my return home, I directed a letter to him, questioning whether or not he might be one and the same as the parachute commander we had encountered in Monschau back in Dec. '44. A copy of his reply is enclosed. Thought it might be of interest.

October, 5th 1954.

Freiherr von der HEYDTE  
C.o. Professor an der  
Universitat Wurzburg.  
Dear Mr. Silberberg!

I just received your kind letter of September, 13th, when I came back from Spain where I had to lecture in summer Schools.

May I thank you very much for your letter and for what you said.

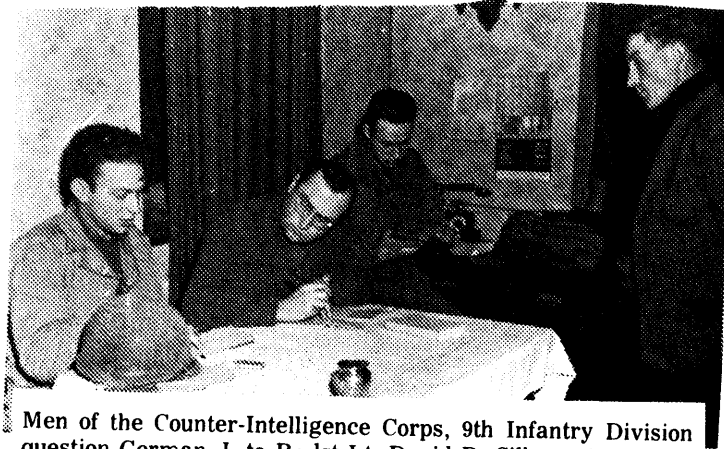
The colonel von der Heydte you heard of when you were in the vicinity of Monschau, was indeed me, and I was taken prisoner by the U.S. 47th Infantry Regiment. I was treated by your comrades in a very human, chivalric way and all help was given to me.

So, I am glad to hear at least of one American who served with this gallant regiment, and to express my gratitude I feel towards his comrades.

Your letter is a proof that the spirit I could experience when I was taken prisoner, was inspiring the whole regiment, and your kind and sympathetic words really gave me a great satisfaction at the moment I was attacked in such an insolent way by some old nazis.

I hope to hear from you again, and am with best regards

sincerely yours,  
Baron von der HEYDTE



Men of the Counter-Intelligence Corps, 9th Infantry Division question German. I. to R: 1st Lt. David D. Silberg, Memphis, Tenn., George Novak, Cedar Rapids, Ohio, and Sgt. Herbert Schader, Union City, N.J. and the German Civilian.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**THE OCTOFOIL**  
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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 esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

Copy must be received on or before the 10th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th. Photographs must be received on or before the 5th day of publication month.

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Volume XXX Number 1

Jan-Feb 1975

#### TAX REMINDER

Generally, all monetary benefits received by veterans and dependents from the VA are tax free. An exception, however, is the interest earned on G.I. insurance dividends left on deposit.

## DUES ARE DUE

#### NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find 1975 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:

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## 26th Field

Gentlemen:

Happy New Year.

It may be a little late for such a greeting but I do hope that the New Year will bring you much happiness to all.

The Christmas season is a time and the only time of the year when many members pen a note to some of those with whom they served. Some of the notes look a little suspicious. Instead of bold strokes as a man would make these notes resemble the delicate handwriting of the lady in the home. Please, whoever does the writing, continue only more often.

Lois Griffin did the honors for our Paul. She reports that two of their sons are at Kent State, one in the Army stationed in Turkey and one in the 7th grade. During the past year they traveled far and wide seeing the USA.

Mary Bolow sent out the cards for Joe. Joe is 1A again after recuperating from the serious injury he received near Elsenborn.

Joan Wallace took the occasion to say that Harold is beaming all over because they have a new grand daughter.

Betty England has more free time than Louis so she penned a note to say that he retired after working 22 years for General Motors.

Lovina Leonard said that Willie looks forward to receiving the Service 26FA news letter. Some day he hopes to see some of the old gang.

Mollie Fribush sent the good news that Paul is quite busy with their grand children, Marc and Andy.

Joyce Roscoe assumes the job as assembling all the news about the Roscoe family. It is published in news letter form and sent to their friends. Maybe more of us should do the same. Her son Larry, an Air Craft Commander, is still flying the big birds out of North Dakota for the strategic air command. Daughter Linda recently became a mother for the second time. Elmer Roscoe is feeling much better after a long overdue hernia operation.

Twenty five cards were received without notes from other members of the gang. I'll be willing to wager that more than half of them were addressed by members of the auxiliary.

Dick Hill wrote "Dear Joe and Family. Say Hi to Fr. Connors and all of the gang for me. I miss you guys and hope someday to make a reunion.

It is not too early to think of your golf game, family outings to the beach or the country for the coming summer. Remember to include DETROIT in your plans.

Sincerely,  
 Joe McKenzie  
 95 Washington Avenue  
 Waltham, Mass., 02154



Colonel Von Der Heudte, 37, was captured by troops of the 47th Inf. A parachute Commander, he had held out for several days but wounds and illness forced him to send a note for his captors to come and get him. R to L with the Colonel are: 1st Lt. L. Morris, Irvington, N.J., Captain W.R. Taber, Montgomery, Ala., Military Government Officer of the 9th Division and Lt. Col. John R. Woodruff, Division Medical Officer.

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## Michigan Doings

#### NEWS-NOTES

The Christmas party was a rousing success. President Everett and Irene Tapp hosted the party in a gayly decorated home, and the food was a gourmet's delight. Everyone who attended was very appreciative. Those attending were:

Everett and Irene Tapp, John and Rose Bonkowski, Bob and Florence DeSandy, Elmer Wagner, Tom and Gerrie Hatten, Floyd and Leora Hennessey, Don and Helen Lewis, Richard and Jean Bachashihua, Tony Zulkewski, Bill and Barbara Meadows, Al and Jane Young, Gene Reedy, Fred and Jane Josey, Ernie and Elsie Young, Maurice and Viola Mitchell, Jim and Audrey Bruner, John Zulkewski.

The case of VO was won by Peter Fitzpatrick of Dearborn on a raffle ticket sold by Don Lewis, and the lucky winner of the 1/2 case was J. Pugliese who bought his ticket from Maurice Mitchell.

Bill Meadows won the regular bottle raffle for the evening.

John Zulkewski's brother, Tony, joined us for the evening and entertained by playing his accordion.

Don't forget that the Michigan Chapter is hosting the 30th Annual 9th Infantry Division Association Reunion this July 24, 25, and 26th, and we need your support. We need ideas, time and money so be a Booster. We are taking ads for the program booklet now. A full page ad is \$40.00, a half page \$25.00, quarter page \$15.00 and an eighth page is \$10.00. Boosters are \$1.00 per name. Send all money to Secretary Jim Bruner, and indicate what you would like to say in your ad. We have taken bids from printers and have discovered that the printing of the program will cost a little over twice as much as it did in 1968 so from that alone you can see that we will need all the help we can get.

Your Reunion Committee is working; there was a meeting on January 16. We would like your suggestions so either attend a meeting or write in your ideas. The more participation we have the better chance we have to come up with a successful reunion that all will enjoy.

## 75 Reunion in Detroit

JULY 24-26

PAY  
 DUES  
 NOW

#### ILLINOIS CHAPTER

#### REPORTS

There was no evidence of a recession among the Illinois couples at the November meeting when a turkey was raffled which the Paul Clarks donated. Treasurer Chuck Koskie eagerly sold chances to members and patrons alike at Tedtman's Bar where the meeting was held. One of the patrons was the lucky winner. At the business meeting, another raffle for cash was held for members only. Georgia Winkelman lucked out on that drawing. The business portion of the meeting was spent making plans for the coming Christmas Party on December seventh. Following the meeting, the gang joined with Joe Lasic to help him celebrate his birthday.

#### Christmas Party

Chuck and Irma Koskie went all out to decorate their home for our gala Christmas Party. The troops appeared on this wintry Saturday night with lots of reinforcements for creating a festive mood. Ann and Mike Belmonte planned and directed the fun and games. There was lots of chatter and song spiced with delicious appetizers and beverages. The traditional gift exchange added to the spirit of the party. To top off a great evening, Irma prepared a beautiful midnight buffet. Frank Ozart's guest, Jean, was delighted when Frank provided a Birthday cake for her to share with all.

The Jerry Fajners were welcomed as newcomers to the Illinois chapter. It was good to see the Ted Prestons who braved their way in from Wisconsin. Bob Pappas soloed to the party. We hope you're well over the flu by now, Beryl. The guy who left the party loaded with the most prizes and gifts looked more like Santa Clouser than John. Starting the Christmas season with all our friends from the 9th gets everyone geared for a great Holiday Season.

#### First Meeting of '75

Most of the regulars attended the January meeting. It seems some of the group are enjoying winter vacations. Paul Clark was reported to be in Hot Springs, Ark. The Koskies told of plans to vacation in Florida which included a visit with Betty Rizzo. The Clousers will be in Las Vegas for a school administrators convention in February.

#### Special Services

Preliminary plans are currently being arranged by President Bill Hennemuth and Bob Pappas for a special Memorial Day service and week-end rendezvous. Members are asked to reserve the weekend of May 31st for a trek out to Moline. The Memorial service will be at the Rock Island National Cemetery. Headquarters for this event have not as yet been selected, but we've been assured that this will be a very memorable weekend. Secretary Bob Winkelman will publish detailed information as soon as it becomes available via newsletter.

This first meeting of the year prompted Treasurer Chuck Koskie to extend his palm for annual dues. Our ever active promotor, Frank Ozart is already pressing for record Illinois attendance to our good neighbors reunion in Detroit. The monthly meetings will continue to be at Tedtman's unless otherwise notified.



# MAIL CALL

We are still trying to catch up with the mail that arrived during the Christmas season. Almost every card bore a message and we would like to print all of them, but that is impossible. Here are just a few of the letters we received from members of the Association

John E. Thornton Company D,  
60th Inf.  
Box 3782 Mdse. Mart  
Chicago, Ill. 60654

Do hope that this card finds all the gang in good health, and that things are going along real good for everyone. I am doing pretty good for an ole retired guy of 66+?? Enclosed is a check for my dues and a donation to the Scholarship fund. Hope and pray that 1975 will bring an improvement in world conditions and also bring world peace everywhere. Things are not too good right now, so let's hope for the best.

George F. Long  
714 Penny Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235  
Hope that this finds everyone in good Health. Wishing all the gang the best for the new year.

George Berday 47th Inf.  
DeSoto Trailer Park Lot No. 286  
100 N.E. 6th Ave.  
Homestead, Fla. 33030

The years sure go by fast. I nearly forgot it was a new year. Last year was a pretty busy one for me. Hope the next one is better for all of us. We've sure got a bunch of people down here who are afraid of the cold weather. It's beautiful here now, in the 70's and 80's and one blanket at night. Luck to all for the new year.

Major John M. Alley  
4701 Kenmore Ave. 1317 E  
Alexandria, Va. 22304  
Glad the "Octofoil" came yesterday. It reminded me that I had not paid my dues for this year.

Sorry we were not able to make the reunion last summer and it look's as if we will be in California during the next one, perhaps we can make the 1976 reunion.

Beny Kovac  
Norwalk, Conn. 06850  
Just a few lines to let you know that Barney Fritz passed away on or about January 5th, 1975. Al Bravin called and asked if I would write you about our great pal Barney. If you want more information get in touch with Al Bravin at 420 Fairview Ave., Fort Lee, N.J.

Tony Carmeci  
Enclosed is my dues for 1975 plus a donation for the scholarship in memory of Leo Burdek who passed away November 9th, 1974. Leo was one of the old gang from Company M. I am enclosing a picture of the last time we got together in the summer of 74. We had a great time at Leo's home in Elizabeth, N.J. He had the sign made for the occasion.

Art Clark showed movies of his trip with the Association to Europe. They were great. We also lost Pat Solmaine this year. We miss the articles about the 47th which were written by General Randle and which appeared from time to time in the "Octofoil". They gave us a great insight on matters about which we knew so little when they were taking place.

## 75 Reunion in Detroit

Company B 9th Med.  
Bn-39th Inf.

P.A. Radichio  
1427 15th St.  
Santa Monica, Calif. 90404

I was very delighted to make the Atlanta reunion for two days and real gald to see my old C.O. Dr. J.P. Roller and his lovely wife and also my dear friends Jackk Wilson, his lovely wife Eva. It was great to see Vito Splendorio the swinging iceman from Amsterdam Ave. New York City and Earl Craig's widow Anita. I left Atlanta and saw Joe Lodarello for an hour or so, he is looking better than ever. Returned again in November and got together with Joe and Vito. Joe really loves those mules at Belmont.

Out in California, I spent some time with Ed Egan's friend Morgan he lives in Venice, Calif. We had a great visit going over the 9th Div. days in Fort Bragg. I also saw Les Ronay last summer, he is looking fine still in the Real Estate business.

Hoping all the gang comes to the Detroit reunion in 1975. I am looking forward to seeing them again.

Bill Chapman  
Special Troops 9th Div. Hdq's  
I wish all the boys good health and a prosperous New Year. Sorry I haven't been more active in the past, but maybe the future will be different. I feel fine, except for a compound fracture of the left wrist. After eight weeks it seems to be coming around O.K. According to the doctor it is now back to 50 per cent of normal. As of December 27th I am retired. Plan to take it easy.

3 Bn Hdq's  
39th Inf.  
Maxwell Katz  
288 Cedarhurst Ave.  
Cedarhurst, N.Y. 115166  
Enclosed is my dues for 1975. Sorry I haven't been in contact with the Association more often. My regards to any of the boys more active than I am.

F. McDermott Company B, 60th Inf.  
315 Hazel St.  
Clifton, N.J. 07011  
Sorry I can't get to the New York meeting because I am on a steady night shift. Give my regards to all the gang.

Company I  
47th Inf.  
Leon Krikorian  
302 W. 188th St.  
New York, N.Y. 10040  
Enclosed is a check for my dues for the next three years. Hope to be able to attend some of the New York Chapter's future meetings. A happy New Year to all.

Marty Gill  
Enclosed is my dues for 1975. Enjoying a good recovery after last December's lung surgery, but getting fat and older. Best regards to all.

Raymond Ledwith  
9141 N. Riveria Drive  
Tucson, Ariz. 857704  
The New York Meeting notice was forwarded to me. I am now living in Tucson, Ariz. Would like to have the "Octofoil" sent to me here as I would like to keep up with the Association news.

Dom Miele 47th Inf.  
121 Mastic Blvd.  
Mastic, N.Y. 11950

Forgive me for the delay in writing this letter, I intended to write earlier but the photos of the Christmas party arrived only this week. I was very happy to be able to attend the New York Chapter's Christmas party, since I promised Art Schmidt when he visited me in the hospital that I would be there.

First of all I want to thank all the members who visited me in the hospital and all my friends who took the time to send me get-well cards. The visits of Mr. & Mrs. George Apar and Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kearns were especially welcomed.

I will always cherish the beautiful watch that the New York Chapter presented to me at the Christmas Party. I want to thank all the members who made the Christmas Party such a memorable event for me especially President Joe Kearns and Frank Fazio who arranged the affair. My brother-in-law, Mr. Gulle who was nice enough to drive me to the party had a great time meeting all the gang from the Ninth.

I was very sorry to hear about John Rizzo passing away. It really hurt me to hear of it. He surely was a great pal to me and all the members of the Association.

In closing, let me say, best regards to all my buddies in the Association, the New York Chapter and to the new officers who were elected for 1975.

Co A 39th Inf  
Harry B. Odom  
Monhegan Island, Maine  
Dear Dan:

Just noticed that I am behind on dues, so put me in for another three years. My busy time of year is from June through October, July and August it's seven days a week from morning till late at night. Reunions are hard for me to make as they hit on my busy time. I guess I'll have to retire so I can make one.

If anyone from the 9th is in the area - drop in and visit me. It's the only General Store on the Island.

(Editors note: Harry-why not try to attend the Memorial Service in Worcester at the end of the year.)

Co M 47th Inf  
Wilton M. Taylor  
Stop 6, Star Rte  
Los Hills, Calif 93249

Just a note to inform the Octofoil that Richard Kenkennon of M Co 47th lost his wife after a lingering illness. She passed away early in January of this year. Richard was with the outfit from Bragg of 1942 to a hitch after the War then he spent another tour of Duty in the ETO from which he returned to civilian life at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Let me know how I stand with my membership and I will forward a check for same. Say hello to all the gang.

1st Bn 60th Inf  
John K. Moore  
38 Pescara Lake  
570 57th Avenue W  
Bradenton, Fla. 33507

It's that time of the year again, - Dues Time, when I must come out of hibernation and "kick in". And I am glad to do it. Look forward to the Octofoil and its news of former comrades.

I have only happy and proud memories of my time with the 9th. Regards to all.



## THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

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

## 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.



Med. Det. 1st Bn  
39th Inf Co. D.  
Earl Duncan  
Route 1 Box 173  
Humboldt, Tenn. 38343

I'm sending my 75 dues for the association. I still enjoy reading the Octofoil so much. Still living in Humboldt and it has been some time since I last wrote.

Enjoy very much being a part farmer and I am employed now at the new Eaton Axel Plant here in Humboldt and enjoying my work very much. I would like to hear from any old buddies and members of the 9th. In closing may I wish all the members the best for 1975.

Co. K. 39th  
Anthony P. Forte  
115 St. Joseph Ave.  
Joliet, Ill. 60436

Enclosed you will find my dues for three years also a donation for the Memorial Scholarship fund. I have missed the last three reunions because I couldn't get the time off from my job but I intend to be in Detroit with bells on.

I sent my Octofoil to my comrade in Mass. to see if he belonged to the association and as yet I haven't heard from him. I do hope he comes to the reunion as I haven't seen him since the end of the war.

Anyone traveling through Joliet is more than welcome to contact me and come to the house and have a drink with me.

Co. K. 47th  
John Mrugala  
Box 11-R.D. 1  
Barnesbori, Pa. 15714

John sends his dues and wishes the best for the coming year to all his former comrades that he served with in K Co.

On Dec. 28th, John lost his mother after a lingering illness and says "She gave me a lot of moral support in her letters during the war."

My family is fine and in the best of health and may God Bless You all.

60th Inf  
John Compel  
2020 Barnesdale Ave.  
McKeesport, Pa. 15132

Dear Dan  
Enclosed you will find payment for my 1975 dues and do hope to make it to the Detroit reunion this year.

H Co. 47th  
Harold Fernandes  
1076 N. Diamond  
Jacksonville, Ill. 62650

It has been such a long time. I sure would like to hear from some of my old buddies from H Co. Percy Owens and Sandy Hayes live in my town also. I have been visiting and corresponding with 1st. Sgt. Carl Lane. I hope to attend the Detroit convention.

I had a heart attack and major surgery. Now I seem to be getting along just fine. I did have to give up the carpenter trade.

My wife Charlotte and I have two daughters. Nancy is married and has a little girl, Erika Janet. She arrived at convention time last year. Shirley is an R.N. in neurosurgery and lives in Norwich, N.Y. She is planning a spring wedding.

I enjoy the Octofoil very much. My best to all.

Mrs. Betty Rizzo  
11201 S.W. 55 St. Box 17  
Haven Lake Est. A-13  
Miramar, Fla. 33025

Betty writes congratulations to Mike Deresh on becoming President of the N.Y. Chapter. And says to thank Walter and Dan for the wonderful tribute paid to John in the Octofoil. I would like to have a list of things that are to be held during the year, as I am going to try to make Pinelawn, etc. if I know the dates.

Love,  
Betty Rizzo

**RESERVATIONS**  
**The Detroit Heritage Hotel**  
**1565 Washington Boulevard**  
**Detroit, Michigan 48231**  
**9TH Infantry Division Association**  
**July 24-27, 1975**

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Arrival Date	Hour	am, pm	Departure Date	
Single				\$17.00
Double				\$23.00
Twin				\$23.00