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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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5-1-1975

## The Octofoil, May/June 1975

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

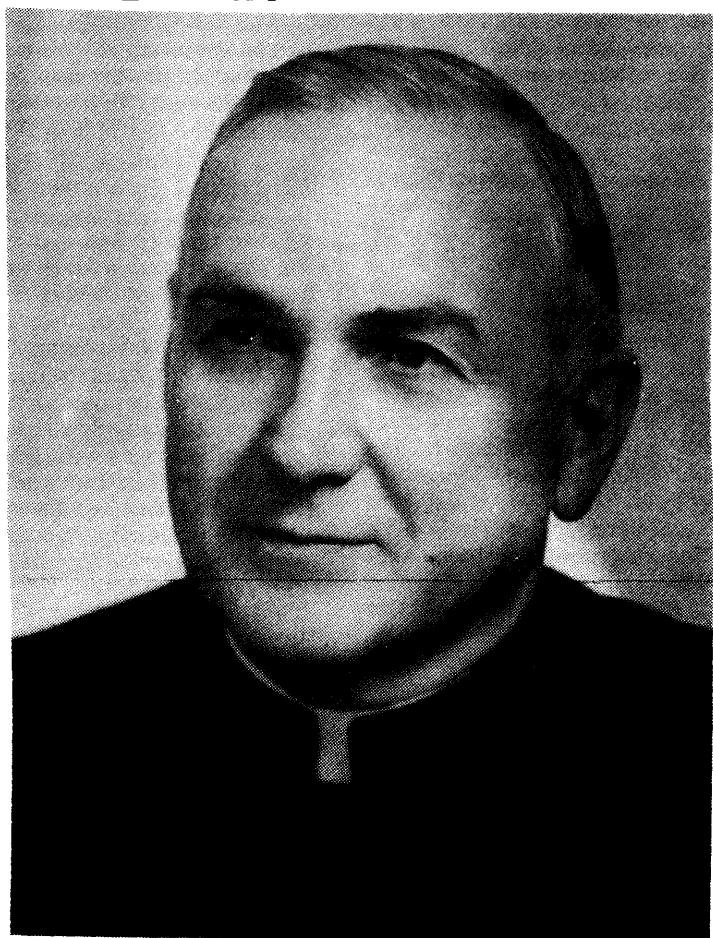
Association Dues: \$5.00 per year - \$1.50  
will be earmarked to pay for the Octofoil

Volume XXX Number 3

May-June 1975

## See You In Detroit July 24

### CELEBRATES 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



Father Edward Connors

June 21st was a gala night in Worcester as over 200 men and their families gathered to honor Rev. Edward Connors on his 70th Birthday. They came from all over to celebrate the night with the former Chaplain. While most of the people came from the Massachusetts area there were others from the Pennsylvania New Jersey-New York areas and the President of the Association Richard Wilson was there to offer his congratulations.

Ron Murphy was the Toastmaster at the dinner and he read the following Ode that he had written to the "good Padre".  
Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief,  
Is a game that children play.  
Rich man, poor man, beggar man, priest  
Is the man we honor today.  
It has been said that if you have one  
Friend, that's tried and true  
No one in the world is wealthier than you.  
It has been said to have a friend,  
A friend you have to be.  
He has been a friend to all  
A friend he will always be.

Father is a rich man, -  
Rich beyond compare  
His wealth is not in money,  
In gold or jewels rare,  
Yes, Father is a rich man,  
His fortune has no end,  
For every day that passes  
He makes another friend.  
Father is a poor man, He has no  
worldly wealth,  
He has his clothes, his room and  
bed,  
He also has his health.  
But this we know of Father  
Should a fortune come his way  
Everyone would get a share,  
It wouldn't last a day.

The word "beggar" brings to  
mind  
A sight that's sad to see,  
With hands outstretched,  
clothed in rags,  
And Crying, "Pity me".  
Yet Father is a beggar,  
He begs upon his knees,  
"Lord, forgive your children!  
Have mercy on them, please."

Priest to the people he's served  
through the years,  
Sharing their joys, their  
sorrows and tears.  
Priest and friend, to the men of  
the 9th in the war  
Priest and friend, to them still,  
wherever they are.



The site for the Memorial Services to be held on Saturday morning July 26th in Detroit. Opened in 1950 as the first unit of Detroit's new riverfront Civic Center, the Veterans Memorial Building serves as a memorial to the city's war dead and a center for veterans, civic, social and convention activities.

### \*\*\*\*\* Taps Sounded

It is indeed our sad duty to report the demise of the following "Old Reliables":

James A. Craft - Co I 60th Inf;  
Lester Erdely - Hq's 3 Bn 39th Inf;  
Victor Goldfarb - Co M 47th Inf;  
Clyde O. Christensen - Bty B 60th FA

To their bereaved we extend our deepest sympathy. May they rest in peace.

Rich man, poor man, beggar man, priest  
On this your day of days,  
We wish you "Happy Birthday"  
You're in our hearts always.  
Ron Murphy

ONCE AGAIN, THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER WELCOMES ALL THE MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES OF THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION OF WORLD WAR II. FOR THE 30th ANNUAL REUNION IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN ON JULY 24-25-26.

THE HERITAGE HOTEL, (FORMERLY, THE DETROIT HILTON) OUR REUNION HEADQUARTERS HAS OFFERED THESE SPECIAL RATES WHICH WILL PREVAIL THREE DAYS BEFORE AND THREE DAYS AFTER THE CONVENTION.

Single	\$17.00
Double	\$23.00
Twin	\$23.00
Two Bedroom	
Luxurious Suite	\$75.00

(only a few available)

FREE PARKING FOR GUESTS.

IMPORTANT TO MENTION THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION IN MAKING THE RESERVATIONS AND AT THE REGISTRATION DESK.

ALL ROOMS ARE AIR-CONDITIONED, REDECORATED AND WILL MEET YOUR SATISFACTION.

ALL ACTIVITY ROOMS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE CONVENIENCE TO ASSURE A SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION.

FREE ICE AT THE REFRESHMENT HOSPITALITY CENTERS.

TWO POPULAR RESTAURANTS AT THE HOTEL - THE COFFEE SHOP AND THE BEEF BARON STEAK HOUSE.

GOOD SHOPPING, THEATERS AND SIGHT-SEEING IN THE AREA.

## THE OCTOFOIL

Form 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087  
 OCTOFOIL ASSOCIATED EDITORS Walter O'Keeffe and Daniel Quinn.  
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## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Honorary Member Emeritus

Rev. Edward Connors, Worcester, Mass.  
 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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May-June 1975

Volume XXX

### LADIES MEETING AND SOCIAL FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1:00 PM.

The Ladies will conduct their brief Business Meeting and hold their Annual Elections. The Social Period will feature

Father Gerry Rowan as a hand writing analyst. This should be a lot of fun. Assorted fancy buttered cookies, coffee or tea will add to a pleasant afternoon.

### 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 ☐

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Please credit the following chapter:

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

## REUNION

Good news for all you golfers. The Detroit Reunion Committee hasn't forgotten you. We have just learned that the committee has come up with a great arrangement for all the "Old Reliabilities" who want to show off their talents as golfers. Members of the Association who want to shoot a round of golf will be able to do so at the Arrowhead Golf Club located on I-75 just north of Detroit. Chairman Fred Josey had worked on the details of the golf outing and he tells us that members should be ready to leave the hotel at 12 noon for the trip to the course. Plans have been made to accommodate the ladies if they care to take on their better halves in a game of golf. The course is a 27 hole layout and clubs and shoes can be rented from the pro.

## A SHOPPER'S PARADISE

Those who seek more than cultural enrichment to fill their leisure hours will not find the Detroit area wanting.

The downtown area is a shopper's paradise.

Woodward Avenue from Grand Circus Park south to Cadillac Square is lined with stores and shops offering practically every conceivable item at prices to suit all pocketbooks. The central shopping area extends several blocks to each side of Woodward and merges with the financial district.

Shoppers in downtown Detroit can browse through stores ranging from giant merchandise centers, like the J.L. Hudson Company, world's tallest department store, to small, exclusive specialty shops.

For a change of pace, some of the nation's most modern, functional suburban shopping centers are only minutes away from downtown via the city's vast freeway system.

## EATING IS AN ADVENTURE IN DETROIT

A booming major city located on an international border with a population that is a mixture of dozens of ethnic groups unquestionably holds forth the promise of fine places to wine and dine and exciting spots for nighttime relaxation. Detroit makes good on that promise.

For those who like to relax amid opulence, a host of plush restaurants offer a chance to divide a Chateaubriand or savor rare prime rib in surroundings that vary from the polished mahogany and red velvet of the Tudor era to glittering examples of the 20th century at its sophisticated best.

The more adventuresome eater will not want. Detroit has much to intrigue him.

He can enjoy sauerbraten at a German restaurant that has been serving Detroiters at the same location since the middle of the Civil War.

He can nibble on shrimp tempura atop the city's most modern skyscraper in a setting imported all the way from Thailand while ships from all the ports of the globe pass below and the lights of Canada glimmer in the distance.

There are restaurants that serve food just the way the Chinese eat it, and others that serve it the way Americans think the Chinese ought to eat it.

For variety, the international minded diner in Detroit will find Polish, Greek, French, Middle Eastern, Italian, Mexican, Continental and Japanese restaurants, and even a restaurant that serves such delicacies as fried ants and lionburgers.

## Harry O's Corner

## NEW YORK CHAPTER

President Mike Deresh conducted the closing meeting before the summer recess on June 6, 1975 at the 26th St. Armory. It was one of the largest turnouts of the year and also one of the liveliest and most interesting. There was a great deal of enthusiasm at this meeting because May was a very active month. Mike knew how to cope with this enthusiastic group and their sophisticated remarks. There was going to be many topics to be covered on the agenda and Mike had to use his expertise to expedite the meeting. There was going to be no procrastination at this meeting if everything was going to be covered.

We made final plans for the Detroit Convention and selected the following Committees for the Reunion:

Committee: Nominating - Bill Klauz; Alternate: Val DeMaria.

Committee: Miscellaneous - Harry Wax; Alternate - Herminio Suarez.

Finance: Walter O'Keeffe; Alternate: Vincent Guglielmino.

Committee: Newspaper - Arthur Schmidt; Alternate - Harry Orenstein.

Committee: By-Laws - Eddie Egan; Alternate: Ralph Witzkin.

Committee: Board of Governors - Bill Klauz

## May Chapter Events

Pres. Mike Deresh reported on all the activities. There was a good turnout for the Past Presidents Night on May 2nd that drew many old timers to the meeting. The May dance on May 10th was well attended and was a social and financial success. The turnout for the Memorial Services on Saturday, May 17th, which was followed by a picnic, was an outstanding event.

## Plans for the Trip to Detroit

Frank Fazio did a good job reporting on plans for the plane transportation and answered questions concerning the trip. Refreshments followed when the meeting adjourned.

## Other News

Betty Rizzo attended the Memorial Services and donated a beautiful Afghan to the Chapter. Many thanks, Betty, for your lovely gift. A letter was read from the New England Chapter that Father Connors was celebrating his 70th birthday and that a party was to be held in his honor on Saturday evening, June 21st at the Immaculate Conception Church. The New York Chapter will be represented at Father Connors party.

Mike Deresh welcomed Al Seeley at the meeting. Al had been away from the meetings for quite a while. And do you know what? Al was one of the lucky raffle winners in addition to Ed Tobin, Dr. Hy Seslow and Al Orletti.

Sincerely yours,  
 Harry Orenstein  
 687 West 204 St.  
 New York City 10034

Three race tracks will feed you in grand style while you watch the ponies run, and in the winter you can drive to the hills of Oakland County in less than an hour and watch ski races while you eat.

Dining out in Detroit can be as much of an adventure as the visitor wants to make it.

## ILLINOIS CHAPTER

When the long awaited Spring finally comes to Illinois, thoughts of the Old Reliabilities turn to a most important chapter event, that of honoring our comrades who are no longer with us. This years memorial service took place at the Rock Island National Cemetery which was established in 1863 on this Mississippi River island on Sat. May 31st. At this beautiful and hallowed site, honored burial has been accorded those who served in the Civil War as well as members of the Armed Forces of the United States in the Mexican War, the Indian Wars, Spanish American Wars, World Wars I and II and the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. The 9,000 or more specially designed headstones bearing the name, rank, dates of birth and death and military unit are so neatly aligned that they appear to extend into infinity as one stands in their midst to reflect on the supreme sacrifice so many made.

## GRAVESITES

The grave sites of the following Ninth Division men were located: Pvt. William Thomas who served in W.W. II and Korea and Denis W. Brown and Darrian Gordon who were in the Vietnam conflict. For the service, the men and women of the Illinois Chapter were led to the gravesite of Robert Wennerstrom, 2nd. Battalion, 80th Infantry by color bearer Paul Clark. This solemn group was led in prayer by John Clouser. Chapter Chaplain Bud Reimer gave an inspirational talk in which he reminded all present to live fully, count our blessings and graciously accept whatever the future may hold in store for us. A beautiful Octofoil floral arrangement was placed on the grave by Mike Belemonte. Following the closing prayer, taps were sounded by Richard Quinn of the Naval Reserve and echoed by Jerry Anderson, a U.S. Navy Recruit. Copies of the service were duplicated by Superintendent Arnold and will be preserved in the archives of the Veterans Administration in our Nation's Capital. A special note of thanks is extended to Bob Pappas of the Illinois Chapter and to Supt. Arnold for making all the necessary arrangements.

## PARTY and POOL

## at the PAPPAS

Bob and Beryl Pappas opened up their Moline home following the Memorial Service. After a few refreshments to relax and loosen the elbow, the guys got involved in a pool tournament. Several elimination games had been played when Beryl rang the dinner bell. Nothing ever stands in the way of appeasing the appetites of these chow hounds so the champion hustler never was determined. After the sumptuous dinner, about half the weary group returned to their motel rooms. The heartier contingent went to the American Legion Hall for late evening dancing.

On Sunday a.m. the early risers met for breakfast together before returning to their respective homes.

## POINT OF INFORMATION

As of July 1st, 1975, the headstones as provided by the government will include only the following information: name, dates of birth and death and branch of service deceased was in. If further information regarding the unit is desired it must be specifically requested and will be recorded as it appears on the discharge papers. Members whose papers do not reflect discharge from Ninth Division may make application for a change in their records.



# Traveling down road of history

Part 2 and conclusion of history "Penetration of the Siegfried Line by the 47th Infantry Regiment.

During the time the enemy artillery was far from inactive and laid on KREWINKEL all day, causing 37 casualties. Our own 81mm mortars fired 2000 rounds.

the 84 FABN 2800 rounds and the cannon Co plus 2-105's from the 746 Tank Bn (attached) fired 1084 rounds on the enemy in DIEPENLINCHEN and the woods NE plus the woods E of WEISSENBERG. The cannon Co had an observer in KREWINKEL and the "results were excellent." The fire of the 81's was limited by the rationing of ammunition.

## WIDE OPEN

About 1500 hrs 9 tanks from the 3rd AD moved from MAUSBACH up the wide open draw toward GRESSINICH. An enemy tank just outside of DIEPENLINGHEN was observed getting into position and almost immediately knocked out 2 of our tanks which burned. The rest dashed quickly for KREWINKEL and upon their arrival there brought down additional enemy artillery. Some barrages consisted of about 100 rounds of 170mm or larger.

Just at dark 40-50 men counter attacked from the vicinity of WEISSENBERG across the aforementioned open ground. The 81mm mortars fired 700 rounds in addition to artillery fire and the counter attack was repulsed after dark. About 2300 an enemy patrol of 30 men moved SW from (990415). A friendly patrol allowed the point (4 men) to pass through, then killed them with hand grenades thrown by Sgt. Walter Ruark. Pfc. Clayton Harrison opened up on the remainder with an BAR causing numerous casualties. The next morning they found the equipment of about 10 men.

## GRAVE SITUATION

The Bn CO reported the Bn surrounded, making the situation look quite grave when in fact it was quite secure (according to the company officers interviewed) and the Bn was ordered to withdraw which it did before daylight, moving into positions in the woods S of KREWINKEL. The next day the CO was relieved and Capt. Allgood took command.

The 1st Bn moved out quietly, B Co in the lead. Originally they were ordered to take GRESSENICH. About 1000 hrs they reached the edge of the woods in the vicinity of (994418) and halted. On observation they found GRESSENICH well defended as had the 2d Bn. The regimental CO was contacted and after surveying the situation ordered both the 1st and the 3d to go into defensive positions. (See overlay). About 1600 an enemy patrol moved S into the Bn area, where they were ambushed, leaving 5 dead and 1 wounded. About 1800 a 2 man patrol came into the position and both were captured without firing a shot.

The morning of the 18th about 0530, just before light a company of enemy infantry moved NE along the road just in front of them. They did not fire because of a desire for secrecy as their tanks and TD's could not get to them for the road blocks. About 0830 a 12 man patrol came into their area be-

tween A and B Cos. killed 6, captured 5 PW's and 1 got away. In the afternoon 5 men bearing a red cross flag came into the position and were captured. One protested violently that the flag gave them immunity but another agreed that since they had seen the position they should not be allowed to return. The enemy then began shelling the edge of the woods.

## COUNTER ATTACK

The counter-attack of the 22d Sept was the highlight of the 3d Bn. At 0530 a small enemy attack was made from the N in the vicinity of (006424); 15 minutes later another was made at (009424), thus drawing the attention of the Bn to the N. Both attacks were purely small arms and easily repulsed. At 0555 the most terrific artillery barrage that Maj. W.W. Tanner (present CO of 3d Bn) had ever seen the enemy put down started falling near L Co's position and rolled right back over the Bn CP at RJ (007417). A PW said the enemy artillery consisted of 2-150mm howitzers, 1 Bn (9) 105's, 5-3 gun batteries 150mm howitzers, 210mm pieces available on call, and in addition 120mm and some 80mm mortars. The barrage lasted for 15 minutes and destroyed all wire communications, also putting a number of radios out of commission. For more than a half hour the only means of communication was messenger which was highly hazardous. The attack started at 0610, the main effort being from the E with 2 companies abreast, one of which, the 6th Co., 48th Regt., came through L Co's position. It was still quite dark in the woods, the front of the Bn was over 3 kilometers long, and the enemy overran the right platoon of L Co.

## WITHDRAWAL

The 3d Plat. of L Co in the center had no knowledge of the withdrawal of the 1st Plat. until S. Sgt. Willard D. Clark of the right squad reported the breakthrough to T. Sgt. Wm. J. De Grasse, acting 3d Plat. leader. Sgt. Clark then returned to his position on the right flank and "personally stopped the attack for about 10 minutes with rifle fire alone." He was hit by a hand grenade in both legs but kept right on firing and did not receive medical aid until the attack had been repulsed. The enemy was not much over 10 yds from him most of the time.

Sgt. De Grasse had only two squads in his platoon. He left his BAR's to protect the left flank and fought off the enemy with rifle fire and hand grenades, at the same time moving his men somewhat over to the right. They killed between 35-40 enemy in front of their position, pinning down those not killed. Sgt. De Grasse went out to pick up PW's and 6 arose. He took his eyes off one for an instant and the latter reached for his gun and was killed by the sergeant, who then returned with the others. He sent 2 riflemen out, covering them by the fire of 4 others and these 2 men returned with 31 PW's.

## MORTAR FIRE

The 81mm mortars had 60 rounds per gun ready with pins pulled and increments prepared, but laid on the FPL to the N. They were still getting mortar fire when the attack started. S. Sgt. Martin (wounded with 4 Mg bullets in his shoulder) contacted the mortars and advised them of the direction of attack. Lt. Silliman and S. Sgt. John F. Wesley each manned a gun

turning them to the East and started dropping them in the 3d platoon area. In the meantime, the enemy had set up several (Sgt. Westley said 15) MG's sited on a stretch of road to the front and including the mortar positions. Lt. Silliman was wounded but continued to fire until he passed out, after which his gun, too, was knocked out. Sgt. Westley fired the 60 rounds at his gun and then went to the ammunition dump (see sketch) for more. Finally realizing how hot it was he went toward the enemy and fired a few rounds from a 45 pistol. By this time, the mortar crews were also spraying the hedgerow with carbines and pistols. The sergeant then fired into the hedgerow with a sub-machine gun and the enemy scattered. S. Sgt. Porosky (then Pfc.) dropped a round in the mortar with one hand, and, at the same time, shot a German climbing over the fence into his position with the other.

Acting Sgt. Chilich, from his position on the left, kept firing into the right flank of the enemy, picking off 10, thus preventing them from getting into our MG position.

Sgt. Robert D. Moses and Sgt. Warren M. Wahlgreen had gone to the ammunition dump for more MG ammunition, and the former saw Lt. Silliman lying on the ground. He approached him, but just as he got to the lieutenant the enemy opened MF fire on him and killed him. Sgt. Wahlgreen took 4 boxes of ammunition back to the MG's and moved one of them into the corner of the field (see sketch) from which position he fired into the hedgerow.

Pvt. Harlow H. Emerson had a 50 cal. MG from a jeep in position S of the draw where the main action took place. Just at the "break of dawn" he fired a box of ammunition into the enemy killing 3. About 15 minutes later the enemy opened fire with a MG and Emerson fired on them, killing the crew. The enemy had captured one doughboy but released him when the 50 cal. opened up. At about 0645 - 0700 one platoon of I Co., the only reserve force available, located at 004415, attacked NE across the valley restoring L Co's positions.

## POSITIONS OVERRUN

At the same time as the attack above mentioned, another company, the 7th Co., 48th Regt., made a wide flanking movement to the S. A PW stated they had marched 8 kilometers during the night to get there. The engineer platoon and the howitzers of the cannon company were on the exposed flank. The latter had been there for 6 days and were placed there due to the problem of communications, and because it was the only available firing position because of the trees. Enemy MG's opened up less than 100 yds E of them, catching them completely by surprise, and the crews were unable to get to the guns, but instead joined the fire fight as infantrymen. Their positions were overrun but the guns were not damaged or lost, breech blocks having been previously removed. As the enemy turned N into SCHEVENHUTTE they were slaughtered by the MG's of the Engr. Plat. and Cannon Co plus rifle fire. At this point they were rather disorganized and dispersed. Some moved W of the road and headed N through the woods where they contacted the kitchen force of the Bn, becoming further disorganized.



Pfc Harold Richards, Mineral Ridge, Ohio, Co A 1st Bn, 47th Inf. doughboy advances by a German Barbed wire obstacles, Gressenich, Germany.

The A & P plat. and the CP personnel joined the fight and killed a few. One section of tanks and TD's were used as a mobile striking force and moved up and down the main street firing MG's and 76's at any enemy who put in an appearance. By 0900 the attack had been repulsed, the Bn suffering 13 killed and 34 wounded. They evacuated 34 enemy wounded, 45 PW's and over 150 killed, 86 enemy dead being removed from the Bn's position. It was impossible to determine the exact number of enemy dead as only the bodies in the Bn position were picked up, and many more were known to be killed by our mortar fire.

The foregoing account is based on interviews held with the following individuals:

Col George W. Smythe - Regt. CO  
Maj. John A. Boland Jr. - Regt. S-3  
M-Sgt. Jack Harvey - Opers. Sgt.  
Capt. Leon Sieminski - Cannon Co. CO  
Lt. Col. H.A. Schmidt - 1st Bn CO  
Capt. H. N. Webb - 1st Bn S-1  
Capt. John S. O'Keefe - A Co CO

Capt. O.C. Shockley - B Co CO  
Capt. Burton W. Anderson - C Co CO  
1st Lt. Frederic Scheel - D Co CO  
Capt. Daniel E. Duncan - 2nd Bn S-3  
2nd Lt. Walter E. Nelson - F Co  
Capt. Roy Code - H Co CO  
1st Lt. Stanley A Ball - Co E, 3d Plat. leader  
1st Lt. W. B. Cookman Ex Off. Co E  
Maj. W. W. Tanner - (At the time of the action Ex. Off.)  
1st Lt. W. L. McWaters - K Co CO  
Capt. D. W. Murphy - M Co CO  
1st Lt. Robert F. Hedges - M Co Platoon leader  
1st Lt. Gael M. Frazier - L Co. Ex. Off.  
2nd Lt. Ernest E. Smith - I Co., 3d Plat. leader  
T. Sgt. John F. Mangam - L Co 2d Platoon leader at the time  
S. Sgt. Warren M. Wahlgreen - L Co MG leader  
T. Sgt. (now 2nd Lt.) Wm. J. De Grasse - L Co 3d Platoon leader  
T-Sgt. Joseph B. Ward - L Co 4th Platoon leader  
S-Sgt. John F. Westley - Mortar Section leader

Prepared by Harry D. Condrion  
1st Lt. Inf., 2nd Info. and Historical Section HQ 1st U.S. Army.

## The 1975 Convention Program

### THURSDAY, JULY 24th

Registration ..... 10:00 AM-All Day  
Golf Outing ..... 12:00 AM.  
Board of Governors Meeting ... 5:00 PM.  
Opening Night Party ..... 8:00 PM.

### FRIDAY, JULY 25th

Registration ..... 10:00 AM-All Day  
Business and Committee Meetings ..... 10:00 AM.  
General Membership Meeting .. 1:00 PM.  
Ladies Meeting and Social ..... 1:00 PM.  
Board of Governors Meeting ... 4:00 PM.  
Dance ..... 8:30 PM.

### SATURDAY, JULY 26th

Registration ..... All Day  
Memorial Mass ..... 8:30 AM.  
Parade Formation and Memorial Ceremony ..... 9:30 AM.  
Afternoon Variety ..... 12:00 AM.  
Evening Mass ..... 5:00 PM.  
Cocktail Hour ..... 5:30 PM.  
Banquet ..... 6:30 PM.  
Dance ..... 9:15 PM-12:45 AM.

## Travel Tips

As usual, most of our members will travel to the reunion by car. Detroit is easily accessible via our interstate highway system or the excellent Ontario roads. Those coming via I-94 will enter the city from either the southwest or northeast. Within the city, I-94 is known as the Edsel Ford Freeway. Proceed on the Ford

Freeway to the Ford-Lodge interchange and follow the signs to downtown Detroit and enter the Lodge Freeway-I-696. Exit at Bagley St. and stay on Bagley to Grand Circus Park. The Statler-Hilton is located on Washington Blvd. at Grand Circus Park.

# MAIL CALL

It looks as if we will be seeing a lot of old friends at the reunion. We have heard from many of the old gang and they all say that come July they are making tracks for Detroit. Come one come all, the more the merrier. The following are some of the letters that we have received during the past month or two.

3rd Bn Med Detach  
47th Inf.

John C. Friel  
P.O. Box 373  
Covington, Va. 24426  
Here are my dues for the next three years. I keep forgetting them until I am in the red. Enjoyed hearing from you a while ago, started to type an answer to it but misplaced it. Hope to get to Detroit this year and will bring you up to date in person. My best regards to any of the old outfit and tell them I think of them often.

C.O. Co. F 47th Inf.

Otto Geyer  
1217 Quantock Dr.  
St. Louis, Mo. 63125  
Will make an extra effort to attend the reunion in Detroit. The way our friends are passing away, we had better make the most of it while we can. The passing of John Rizzo and Lenny Ricco leaves a void felt by us all. Last October I lost another great buddy, my wife Ruth.

Co. K 39th Inf.

Anthony P. Forte  
115 St. Joseph Ave.  
Joliet, Ill. 60436  
Enclosed find my dues for three years and a donation to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Sorry to be late with the "75" dues. The dues slipped my mind because I had sent my Octofoil to a comrade who lives in Mass. I wanted to find out if he belonged to the Association. So far I haven't heard from him.  
I have missed the last three reunions because I couldn't get away from work. This year I intend to be in Detroit with bells on. I hope my comrade from Mass. will be there also. I haven't seen him since the end of the war. The enclosed photo was taken at Cantigny Post No. 367 V.F.W. I am a member of Cantigny and the post makes a plaque for each member.  
Any member of the Association who may be traveling through Joliet is more than welcome to contact me and come to my house and have a drink with me.

2nd Bn 60th Inf.

John Compel  
2020 Barnesdale A  
McKeesport, Penn 15132  
Hope to make it to Detroit this year, enclosed is my 75 dues.

2nd Bn. 47th Inf.

Herbert W. Clegg  
Its been a long while since last we met. Notice in TROA magazine that the 9th will meet in Detroit on July 24-26. Once again no luck, can't make it. However, I wonder if I can do you any good in England and Europe. My wife and I are going to take several weeks this fall in covering the same route we all once took with Uncle Sam.

Mr. Richard Wilson,  
President  
Ninth Infantry Division  
Association  
530 East Elm Avenue  
Woodbury, N.J. 08076  
Dear President Wilson:

It was my privilege to attend the 56th Annual Dinner of the Officers of the 1st Division, held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Saturday, April 19, 1975, and I could not help but be impressed by the number of officers currently on active duty with this famous Division who attended as well as veterans of the wars and engagements in which it participated.

Many of those present were veterans of the Vietnam conflict which causes me to wonder what effort we have made to open our Association to the valiant and deserving men who carried the Octofoil to that distant battleground. I feel very strongly that those who have served in combat with the 9th Division, in whatever "war", should be members and that the traditions of the Old Reliabilities should not be allowed to fade away with the passing of those of us who served in World War II.

Respectfully,  
Boardman F. Lockwood  
Life Member  
47th Infantry)

34751 Moravian Dr.,  
Apt. No. 203  
Sterling Hts.,  
Michigan 48077

Dear Dan:

Enclosed is my check for a year's dues. It seems that I only get the Octofoil when dues time comes around or maybe time just flies faster now.

Included in the check is \$10.00 for a 1/8 page ad, the copy is enclosed. I recently wrote an 84 page booklet that I feel a lot of the old gang might enjoy reading.

Sorry I can't make the reunion, but after 10 years in the Detroit area I've finally retired and am going to Colorado to do some "gentleman" ranching.

It sure is rare to see anything in the Octofoil from men from either Company C or Cannon Company of the 39th Infantry.

By the way, the wife and I spent about a year in Germany for the Department of Defense in '71 and '72 and we visited many of the towns I had been in during and immediately after the war. Some changed, but many looked the same. I even ran into a man who remembered me in Kubbach. He had been on the German soccer team against whom we played a few times. We were written up, pictures and story, in the local newspaper. We enjoyed it tremendously but were glad to get back. Till next time.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Fabian S. Reinhart  
Cp. C 39th Inf.

Co. F 47th Inf.

Frankie Gonzol  
29 Dayton Ave.  
Middlesex, N.J.

Frankie must be on vacation, he sent us a card from Safi, North Africa. His message read "Greetings from our Safi adventure" The postcard showed a picture of Safi Harbor, the chateau by the sea, and the entrance to the Medina.

Enclosed are my 1975 dues and hope to see you in Detroit this coming July 24-26 for our annual reunion.

This will be the first year Tom Shine won't be with us and he will be missed by all who knew him as a hard working member of the Association and also as one of the finest Platoon Sgt's. in the 39th. Reg't.

For your information Tom also turned down a battlefield commission in Sicily in order to stay with the boys in his platoon from Bragg.

See you in Detroit.

Best Regards,  
Bob Smith  
G. Co., 39th, Reg't.  
N. Africa-Germany  
AAA-O

34th F.A. Div. Hqs.

Al. Benoit  
156 Harris St.  
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

Enclosed are my dues, Thanks for reminding me, it slipped my mind. We don't know whether we can make the reunion in Detroit this year. Sis and Pete Lemieux, and Noella and I are planning to visit Mary Lou and Joe Dailydas this summer in Arkansas, the date is uncertain. However, we shall see you in Worcester, Mass. in the fall, to be sure.

47th Inf.

Wilton Taylor  
Stop 6 Star Route  
Lost Hills, Calif. 93249

Enclosed is three years dues. Please send my kindest condolences to the family of Barney Frits. The last time I saw him was at Winchester Barracks in the Spring of 44. He was always so jolly and had a kind word for everyone. In the article I wrote about Richard Kirkennon of Co. M 47th losing his wife in death, I failed to give his address. It is 705 West Irving, Creston, Iowa 50801. I am looking for the address of Dom Miele Co. M 47th and Paul Glendering, Co. D 47th.

If any of the gang want a nice restful ride, they should try Amtrack Cross-Country trains. The trains come complete with diners, club cars, high level coaches, reclining seats, piped in radio, and friendly passengers.

9th Med. Detachment

Raymond J. Ledwith  
3636 N. Campbell Ave.  
Tucson, Az. 85719

Read the news about the reunion and am very sorry that I won't be able to attend. I am now living in Arizona. I served with C Co. 9th Med. Bn., give my best regards to all.

AT Co 47th Inf

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

Charles sends his dues and writes "Sorry I can't be there for the reunion, but I look forward to reading about it." He continues "I see by your address (the secretary lives in Weehawken which is near Bergenfield) that we are practically neighbors. Drop in for a chat and we can have a drink". Best regards to all.

★ ★ ★



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

## THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

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

Regt Hq's & Co B. 39th Inf

James A. Bailey  
4038 Norman Rd.  
Stone Mountain, Ga. 30083

Enclosed herewith is my check for 1975-76 membership in the Association. Ever since the reunion last year in Atlanta, I have let my application lay on my desk with full intent to put it in the mail box the very next day. Sorry I have waited so long. I was an original member away back when dear Stan Cohen was so active with the association, but I suppose the fact that I am a rooted Southerner and our ranks are thin in the South, I have not been too anxious or motivated. I was editor of the Falcon for over a year in Fort Bragg and had a good overview of all Division functions. I found it the most rewarding part of my association with the 39th. I still, after 30 years have close contact with a dozen or more old comrades in arms-tho we see little of each other because of the long distance problem of North-South areas.

My best regards to all my former comrades and may we always cherish our association. I would be pleased to hear from any old pals who remember me as the "Falcon".

Regt. C.O. 47th Inf

Edwin H. Randle  
503 Althea Road, Belleaire  
Clearwater, Florida 33516

Sorry, but I will not be able to be at the reunion this year. Please give my best regards to all.

Co A 47th Inf

John Jacobs  
23381 Aurora Rd.  
Bedford Hts, Ohio 44146

Sending his dues John writes "Sorry cannot attend the reunion this year. Hope someday it may come to Ohio and I'll be sure to attend. I talk to Pop Long once in awhile and he is just fine. Best wishes to all.

A-T Co 47th Inf

Oliver H. Carter  
3107 Walters Lane  
Forestville, Md. 20028

Time flies! Tell tale read caught up with me-didn't mean to fall behind. The enclosed check should take care of it for another 3 years. I'm forced to spend this summer recuperating from surgery but will make an effort to attend the Memorial Service in Worcester. Give my regards to everyone.

Co C 47th Inf

Frank Chatto  
2955 E 67th St.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44127

I am writing a few lines to let you know I'll make this annual reunion. At present we are on a two week annual training at Camp Grahling, Michigan. I'm a motor sargeant with the 107 Armored Cav. of the Ohio National Guard.

I'm sure looking forward to a great time at the Detroit meeting. I am in hopes of meeting some of the old fella's that served with C company of the 47th Inf. At that time Bill Klauz was an extra-officer and he transferred to B Company as C.O. I'm in hopes he'll remember this hunky.

M Co. 60th Inf

Cole Gronseth  
Box 200 RT 1  
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682

When I saw my address on the Octofoil in red I thought my eyes were giving me some trouble-too many Martinis. When I looked at my membership card I realized "senility", not eye trouble, was my problem.

Anyway enclosed is my check for 3 years. I've sent in for my room reservations for the Detroit reunion. This past year I've had contact with Carl Brady, of Mobile, Wilfred Thornton of South Bend, A.J. Moore Southfield, Orville Stanel, Java S.D. and Bob Daransoff, Forest Hills, N.Y. Hopefully all of the above and more from M Company will make Detroit.

Div. Hq Co

Harold G. Perry  
3430 Golt Ocean Drive Apt 202  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33308

When we moved to Florida a couple of years ago, somehow my membership fell by the wayside. I'm a charter member, having signed up in Ingolstadt in June 1945, also I was one of the three organizers of the Detroit Chapter and its first President. Then we moved to Washington, DC in 1954, for almost twenty years.

Those Detroit boys will put on a good convention, you can be sure. - Regards to all.

HOME LOANS FOR WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS  
Unremarried widows or widowers of veterans of WWII, the Korean Conflict, post-Korean Conflict, or Vietnam Era service whose deaths were service-connected, are eligible for a GI home loan.

### RESERVATIONS

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

Name

Address

City  
Arrival Date  
Single  
Double  
Twin

State  
Hour am, pm Departure Date

Zip  
\$17.00  
\$23.00  
\$23.00