The Octofoil, July/August 1975

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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Editors 'Sound-Off'

Some time when you have a moment or two to spare try the following experiment. Take out a rule and measure the number of inches of copy that are in each issue of the Octofoil. Then, sit down at a typewriter and try to knock out a letter that will take up one or two inches of space in the paper. You will be surprised to learn that it takes a hell of a lot of typewritten copy to fill up one or two inches of printed space in the paper.

After completing the experiment, you will have no idea of the problem that faces your Editors every time we go to press with one or two inches of copy that are in each issue of the Octofoil. Then, sit down at a typewriter and try to knock out a letter that will take up one or two inches of space in the paper.

We are saddened to announce the passing of two "Old Reliables." The Memorial Fund was handled by Phyllis Perna. Irene Orenstein our Broadway reporter keeps us informed about the activities of the theater-dealers from the big, broad town. Joe McKenney writes about the 30th F.A. and other notes from New York.

Well Done

Three cheers for the guys and gals from the "Motor City." During the past year they devoted many long hours to the plans for the reunion. The Michigan Chapter went all-out in its efforts to provide a memorable time for the "Old Reliable" who would be attending the 1975 Reunion. Their hard work paid off, everyone had a good time. Somehow or other, the committee even got time to entertain. In addition to provisions, they provided three days of perfect weather, cool, a mild breeze and bright sunny skies.

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Ladies Auxiliary Help Elections

The Ladies Auxiliary were to be outdone by the old soldiers and they held their business meeting along with a social on Friday afternoon.

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THE OCTOFOIL

SPECIAL RETIREMENT REVIEW

FORT MYER, VIRGINIA
27 June 1973

Today the Department of the Army, and the U.S. Military District of Washington, are proud to honor with this review the Sergeant Major of the Army, Leon L. Van Autreve on the occasion of his retirement in recognition of his distinguished service to the Army and the nation. I welcome Sergeant Major William G. Balleschód of the 158th Transportation Company in the reviewing party will be General Fred C. Weyand, the Chief of Staff, United States Army.

SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY

Leon L. Van Autreve

Leon L. Van Autreve was born January 29, 1900 at Felton, Pennsylvania. He entered the military service from Delphos, Ohio in August 1926. After basic training at Fort Belvoir, he served overseas with the 80th Infantry Division and participated in the invasion of France. He was discharged in August 1945 and reenlisted again in March 1946. During the intervening years Sergeant Major Van Autreve attended Ohio Northern University.

After a tour in Germany from 1946 to 1948, he served as an instructor with the ROTC at the University of Toledo. From ROTC duty he was assigned to the CONARC Armor Board at Fort Knox, Kentucky, remaining there until reassignment to Korea in 1960.

In July 1969 Sergeant Major Van Autreve attended the University of Maryland and Alaska. During his Army service, he attended George Washington University, University of Toledo, University of Maryland and Alaska Methodist University.

In March 1973 Sergeant Major Van Autreve was selected by the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, to be Sergeant Major of the Army. He was sworn in as Sergeant Major of the Army on July 1, 1973.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

When it comes to pension and compensation there is a difference. Compensation is paid to a veteran for service-related injuries. On the other hand, pensions are paid to veterans who are totally disabled for disabilities not traceable to war-time service. Both may be payable to veterans survivors. However, pensions, which are based on financial need, may be paid only if income does not exceed established income limitations.

Tony Carmeci sent this picture taken the summer of 1974 showing the death of Dom Barbed - shown second from the left. All former members of Company M 38th Infantry, they are left to right: Walter Siwek, Leo, John Cudias, Tony Carmeci, Nick Asperger and Art Clark.
The treasurer Thomas Boyle was called upon for his report and he gave a detailed report on the income and spending of the past year. The treasurer included his report by stating that in opinion of the treasurer the association have been paid, settle the financial condition and the financial condition may be congratulated for its efforts to do. President Wilson thanked Boyle for his report.

Upon a motion duly made by Charles Koskie and seconded by Bill Remer it was voted to: Accept the treasurer's report.

Scholarship

John Clouser Chairman of the Scholarship Committee was called upon for the report. It is a permanent committee consisting of Melvin and Frank Orenstein, and chaired by John Clouser.

Clouser explained these present at the meeting how the recipients are selected. They are selected in members of the Ninth and selected acceptability and ability of all the candidates. This year and because of the high numbers of the candidates were limited to awarding six grants. This year the awards will go to:

Marvin Feinberg, son of Irving Feinberg of 2nd Bn. 47th Inf. - $100.00
Martin D. Sullivan, son of Edward Goldstein, B Co 408 Inf. - $100.00
Kevin E. Sullivan, son of James Sullivan (Decesed) A Btn 26th FA - $100.00
Julianne K. Wisniewski, daughter of Edwin Wisniewski. Sev Co 47th Inf. - $100.00
Laurel A. Wisniewski, daughter of Edwin Wisniewski, Ser 47th Inf. - $50.00

The Board of Governors at their Spring meeting approved the place on July 30th at conventions and awards. President Wilson thanked John Clouser and his Committee for their efforts. It was motion made by Robert DeSandy and seconded by Paul Clark Wilson thanked the motion was voted. Accept the report of the Scholarship Committee.

Meeting National Board of Governors

Minutes of the 116th Meeting

The National Board of Governors met at the Heritage Hotel, Detroit, Michigan on July 24, 1975 at 5:05 p.m.. attended by Messrs: Richard Wilson, Paul Clark, Bob DeSandy, Walter O'Keeffe, Mike Devereux and Alfred Orenstein. Also in attendance were: Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, Treasurer, Robert DeSandy, Vice-President Fred Josie and Paul Keller. The members in stand for a moment of silence in honor of the departed men of the Ninth.

Upon a motion duly made by Bill Bonkowski and seconded by Bill Remer the minutes of the 115th meeting of the Board was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Minutes of the 117th Meeting

The National Board of Governors met at the Heritage Hotel, Detroit, Michigan on July 30, 1975 at 4:00 P.M., attended by Messes: Richard Wilson, Paul Clark, Emil Wagner, Everett Tapp, Anthony Chaconas, William Hennemuth, Oscar Richards, Al Perri, Bill Bonkowski and Michael Deresh. Also in attendance were: Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, Treasurer, Robert DeSandy, Past Presidents John Clouser, Walter O'Keeffe, Fred Josie and Paul Keller. The members in stand for a moment of silence for the memory of the departed men of the Ninth.

Upon a motion duly made by Bill Bonkowski and seconded by Michael Deresh it was voted to: Dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 11th meeting of the Board.

Upon a motion duly made by Michael Deresh and seconded by William Hennemuth it was voted to: Discontinue with the Treasurer's report.

ELECT OFFICERS

Elections of Officers for the year 1976 was called for with the following members elected:

President: Walter O'Keeffe Past President: John Clouser
Vice-President: Emil Wagner Advocate: Harrison Daysh
Secretary: Thomas Bailey Treasurer: Robert DeSandy

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The troops as they were waiting the start of the march to the Memorial Services.

The "gals" following the troops to the Memorial site.

The gang keeping in step with the ever popular dance the "Alley Cat".

The business part of the three day reunion at the General Meeting.

Some of the New Yorkers with Otto Guyer from St. Louis, Missouri on the left next to Otto (l-r) is Betty Rizzo, George and Paula Bako, Mike and Nina Deresh, Max Umansky, Art Schmidt and Bill Klaus.

Pictured at a recent reunion at West Haven, Conn., a group of 15th Engineers L-R Ernie Newhart, Charlie Roberts, Jim Tajmaro and Jerry Fasano. They made quite a hit when they appeared in the same outfits at the sing-along.
CHAPTER NEWS

NEW YORK CHAPTER

IT WAS A GREAT REUNION AT THE 9TH 

SING ALONG

THURSDAY evening was the "47 Reunion" and we saw a Sing Along. The band played and we sang the songs of the pre-war era of W.W. II and continued on with our own music of today. A good time was had by all, thanks to the combination of the band leader of the peppy band and our talented M.C. Fred Josey.

CAY'S BAR

An innovation was made at the reunion when Walter Victor donated a watermelon to the chapter. He said the audience thought sung the best song. The audience "applauded" after each chapter song using the song of their choice, especially when they recognized the singing potential of some of the chapters. The Philadelphia-Delaware Chapter came running into the Dance Hall in a bathing suit outfit amidst a tremendous amount of laughter. It was an involuntary reaction on this occasion to witness the enthusiasm of the audience when the chapter displayed their best efforts to win the coveted prize. This display of enthusiasm will always be remembered by those of us in the group. The dance was a surprise ending. Nearing the end of the prize, the watermelon was divided among the audience. Friday night we had a dance and a Night at the Races. Saturday was the big day and the conclusion of a memorable reunion.

Reunion Notes

Wherever mention is made of the names of people, it is assumed that they are members of the 9th Division. Walter Victor, the official historian of the 9th Division, was present.

Illinois Chapter Notes

The 30th reunion of the Chicago chapter was held in Detroit this year. Among those of us who were in Detroit will be able to remember this reunion. The twenty-third reunion of the Michigan Chapter was held in Detroit this year. The 30th reunion of the Detroit chapter will be held in Chicago next year.

NATIONAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The national board of governors met in Chicago on November 9, 1975. The date of the next national board of governors meeting will be announced in a future issue.

Harry O.'s Corner

SOLACE BOOKS

Souvenir Reunion Books are available for those who paid the extra fee. Request one from the secretary, Jim Broder, 2304 Southgate Dr., Phila., N.C. 19108.

CONT FROM PG. 3

Meeting National Board of Governors

Opening President Richard Williamson welcomed the guests to the meeting. He thanked the members for a “wonderful” evening of the association. He asked the members for their support for Walter O’Keeffe and wished Walter a most successful year.

Walter O’Keeffe accepted the gavel and thanked the members for their continued support.

President Walter O’Keeffe then called the meeting to order. The 1975 Reunion Site, Four locations were submitted: Illinois from the York Chapter, Philadelphia from the Philadelphia Chapter, New Jersey from the Washington chapter, and Florida from the Florida Division station, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Earl Lew was elected the majority of the votes and got a hearty hallucination of by-laws, protest, etc.

Williamson Bennet of the Illinois Chapter met to note the minutes, “the vote was not according to the By-laws of the association in that these bids were not submitted to the Board at the Spring meeting held in Pittsburg.”

President O’Keeffe informed the members that the minutes and next year and asked to meet at the end of the summer meeting at the end of the summer meeting and to determine the outcome of the site of the 917 site.

We were especially pleased that the publicity for the reunion, handled by Elmer Wagner, was successful in bringing in several new members for the chapter. We extend a special invitation for extended the invitation for the meetings of the chapter.

Walter O’Keeffe of the New York Chapter was elected National President of the Association.

Two daughters of Ed and Margaret Wight were awarded scholarships from the national association. They will both be attending Oakland University in Rochester in the fall.

General William Westmoreland was at the reunion, and he surprised Father Connors on Saturday night by promoting him to One-Star General.
It’s been 32 years since I last attended the reunion. It was a terrific week. I made up a twelve week strike where I worked at the Territorial Co. Went back to work on Wednesday the week we had the reunion. Now I am retired, so I’m free at last.

Was sorry to hear about the death of Tom. A sincere friend and leader of Company G, 39th Infantry. Tom would always look up with a smile and talk to G Company at every reunion. The trip is Europe in 1975 with Tom and his wife Margaret was a memorable experience we will remember forever.

Regards to all.

Harmon Green
1336 Amicitia Ave
Waveland, Miss. 39669

I am sorry for not paying my dues and missing out on the October issue. It was just pure neglect on my part. I had a centennial occasion in “78” and in October of “78 my Doctor told me I was in bad shape. I was doing fine but was having4 difficulties breathing. I see no point in continuing the series by Bill Krepe about the 20’s. We were in the same Company. Enclosed find membership dues for three years. Sorry for being so negligent. Good luck to all.

Cin A & F 47th Inf.
Joseph Williams
2000 Holly Oaks Lake Road, East
Jacksonville, Fl. 32211

We attended the reunion this year due to conflict which involved my graduation ceremony at Fort Lauderdale, Florida on July 31st. I was awarded my Doctorate of Education by the Florida Board of Regents June 19, 1975 and received my diploma on July 31st.

It was such a thrill to be with so many of our old friends and acquaintances last August and we look forward to the May-June issue. Some of the “Nomads” live on the front lines, carried, the dead and wounded and the mess Sgts. and cooks did much fighting as well. I am sorry for not having my由于rings to a meeting last Saturday night. I hope my friend Willie O’Keeffe and Emil Langer.

Wilbur Taylor
Star RTE 6, Stop 6
Last Hills, Calif. 93240

My son’s cooks and I did patrol duty in the hills and woods and the front lines, carried the dead and were under heavy fire many times. I’m more than sure mine sons and cooks did much more, it seems one never hears about it.

For the story in our book on the history of the 47th Inf., the full story is not true facts. The full story is that I got this off my chest, hope this finds you and your family in the very best of health.

Robert A. Urban
125 Park Avenue
Chattanooga, Tenn. 37424

Robert enclosed a check for three years dues and writes “Enjoyed the March-April issue of the Octofoil especially the article on the 47th Inf. I was wondering if you could use the Memorial in Worcester.”

Now that I got this off my chest, hope this finds you and your family in the very best of health.

Viola M. Mennell
125 Park Avenue
Chattanooga, Tenn. 37424

I fully loaded the 30 caliber machine gun that was on the jeep and we started up the road. As we drove along this foggy morning soldiers on the road. For a moment I thought we were GI’s. When we turned the corner in the woods the machine gun moved to throw down their rifles. One pretended to shoot and I would have to fire at him. Thank God he dropped his rifle. I then told Kelly to take over the machine gun and Kelly did not like it. I took the trailer and they gave themselves up. This shook us up and we backed up the road.

Betty Rizzo
1320 SW 5th Street Box 17
Miami Beach, Fla. 33137

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This is an example of the script that is used to generate the text in the image. The text is a combination of natural language and structured data. The natural language text is the content of the document, while the structured data includes information about the author, date, and other metadata. The text is formatted in a way that is easy to read and understand, with paragraphs, headings, and other formatting elements. The text is also tagged with specific tags, such as “Co. G 39th Inf.” or “Co. F 47th Inf.”, which indicate the division or company of the soldier who wrote the letter. This is useful for identifying the content of the letter and understanding its context.

Overall, the text is a rich and detailed account of the experiences and memories of the soldiers who attended the 47th Infantry reunion. It provides a window into the lives and experiences of these soldiers, and their interactions with each other and their families. The text is a valuable resource for understanding the history and experiences of the 47th Infantry, and for honoring the memory of those who served.

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