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The Octofoil, September/October 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 5

SEPT-OCT 1975

BIG APPLE HOST '76

Taps Sounded

It's always a sad task to announce the passing of our comrades and more so to write about the demise of a Gold Star Mother, Mrs. McClathcey, who lived at 707-17th Street, Munhall, Pa. Years ago Mrs. McClathcey attended several reunions. We had met her son Jim a number of times as he was with the F.O.P. of the 84th F.A. and attached to the 2nd Bn 47th. He was killed on the way to Cherburgh, the same day Lt. Colonel James Johnson was hit. The Colonel died in an evacuation hospital.

Lester Erdley Hq. Co.3rd
Bn 39th Inf
William O'Donnell 47th
Inf
Raymond Johnson Co K,
39th Inf
Frank Carroll Med. Det.
60th Inf.
James Hammon 26th
F.A.

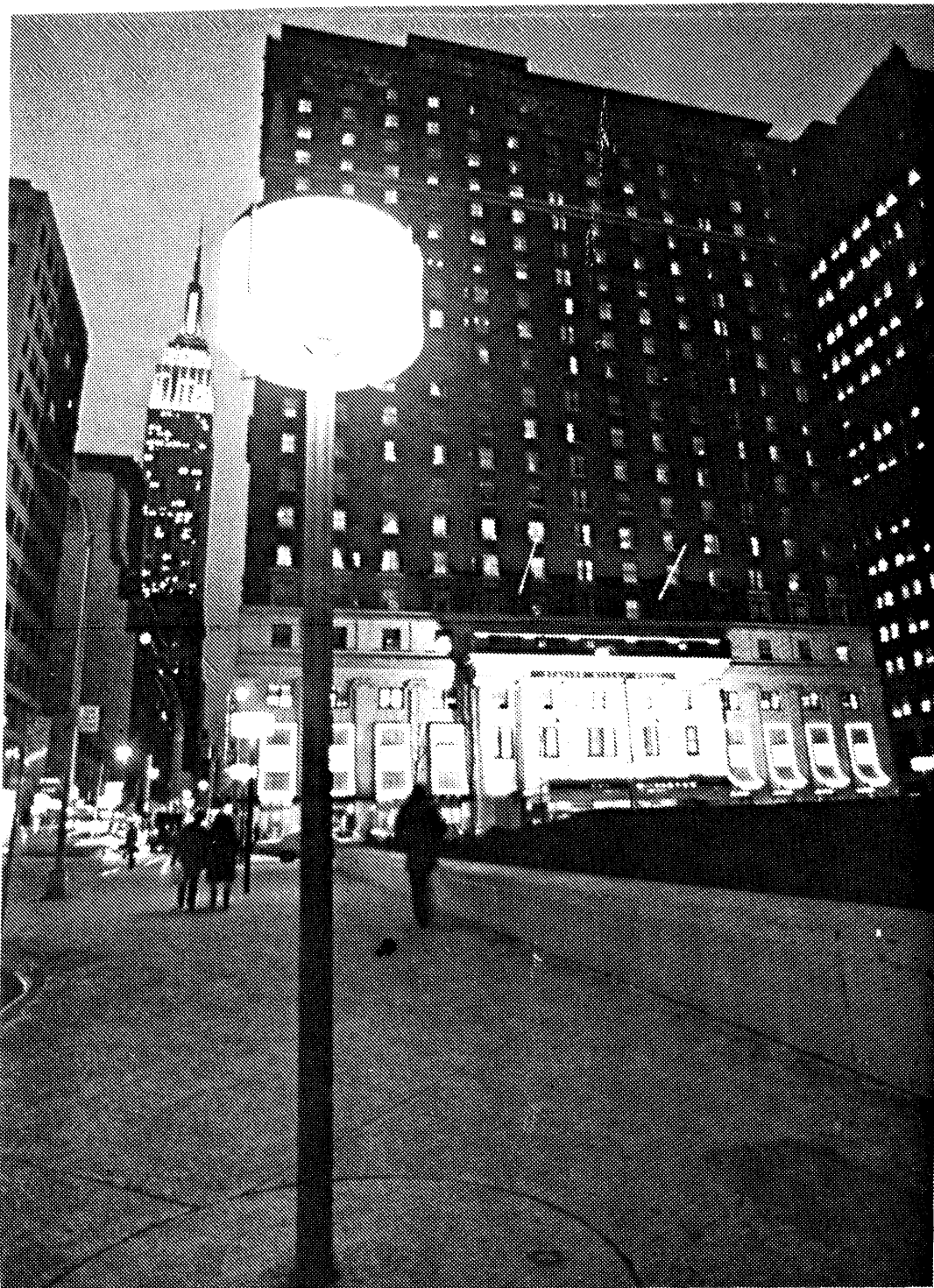
To their loved ones we offer our
sympathy. May they rest in
peace.



Young writer seeks
anecdotes.

Author Tom Lashnits is writing a book about American forces in Africa and Europe during World War II. He is looking for first hand accounts and personal anecdotes about any phase of living, working and fighting overseas. If you want to help with a true story that is funny, tragic, heroic, historic, or just plain strange, please drop him a note at 30 Locust Ave., Rye, N.Y. 10580. Or call collect, evenings: 914-967-7150.

"Look at you" shouted the sergeant. "Your tie is crooked. Your hair isn't combed. Your shoes aren't polished. Your pants aren't pressed...suppose some country suddenly declared war!"



A night photo of the Statler-Hilton Hotel taken from across the street at an angle in front of the new Madison Square Garden. This will be our C.P. for 76.

New York In 76 July 22 - 24



31st Annual Reunion
REQUEST FOR SPACE
IN SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Attached is copy for an ad in the color-printed 1976 New York Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association Program.
Full Page \$40.00
Half Page \$25.00
Quarter Page \$15.00
One Eighth Page \$7.50

Booster ads - \$1.00 name and unit
Send all copy, checks and money orders to the New York Reunion Committee of the Greater New York Chapter, Ninth Infantry Division Association, P.O. Box 411, Richmond Hill Station, Jamaica, N.Y. 11418.

"BIG APPLE"

The New Yorkers have been busy workers the past year getting ready for the 1976 Reunion that will be held in the "Big Apple." The Statler-Hilton Hotel on 33rd Street and Seventh Avenue will again be host for our group. The last time a reunion was held at this hotel was in 1965 for in 1970 the New York Reunion was held at the Hotel Commodore.

NEW LOOK

The Hilton has been completed refurbished and a lot of "loot" being spent to keep it up with the times especially the "new look area" of that section of New York City. Since Madison Square Garden relocated across the street from the Hilton the area has become a bee hive of activity.

Throughout the years the New York reunion has always had the largest attendance and this coming year will be no exception. All indications are for the largest turnout of all times. The committee workers are putting a package together for the three days that will be the "big daddy" of them all. Ball games, TV shows, tours and what have you, will be in store for the old timers and their families.

REUNIONS GET BETTER

It seems that each year the reunions get better and better with each chapter trying their darndest to out do the previous year. Then too we've become just a little bit older and even though it seems like yesterday it's been thirty years since we held our first reunion in New York City in 1946. The Division lost 4561 men in World War 2 and we would venture to write we've lost about the same amount of members since that time.

REMEMBER DATES

July 22, 23, 24th are the dates for 76 and we hope our members will make plans for next years vacation that will include these three days.

It's now thirty years since the association was formed and we feel that the "Old Reliables" have tried their uppermost to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades and keep alive the spirit de corps of the old outfit. Many young people have been assisted to further their education through the Associations Scholarship program. We sincerely hope the approaching reunion will be the start of another thirty years of notable achievements.

Traveling down road of history

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BATTALION SIXTIETH INFANTRY APO 9

SUBJECT: Second Battalion
History, 1 Jan 45 to 1 Aug 45.

TO: Commanding Officer, 60th
Inf., APO 9, U.S. Army.

DIVERSIONARY ATTACK

The New Year of 1945 found the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, commanded by Lt. Col. Quentin R. Hardage, preparing a diversionary attack upon the town of Konzen, Germany. In the bitter cold that had frozen feet and benumbed faces since early November, Company "F", supported by tanks and TD's, advanced to the outskirts of town but were halted and forced to withdraw by very heavy concentrations of mortar and small arms fire. The Battalion then occupied defensive or secondary positions near Kalterherberg, Germany and Camp Eisenborn, Belgium, for most of the month, reviewing tactics and receiving replacements for lost equipment. For five days they were oriented in preparation for a proposed attack in the Hofen area with the town of Lohren the objective. A well coordinated attack on 30 January met only slight resistance in taking the objective. In the dark hours that precede the dawn, Companies "E" and "G" pushed off from Rohren and moved abreast to attack Widdau, a few thousand yards to the northeast. There had been very little preparation for this move and no previous reconnaissance. Supplies were running short, and the men were still fatigued from the day's action, but despite these obstacles, the attack was a complete success. The enemy was not organized for defense, and a Battalion C.P. was found sleeping. Over a hundred prisoners were taken without a fight and contact was made with the 5th Armored Division, which was moving southeast from Imgenbroich.

MONSCHAU

After two days in billets in Hofen, the Second Battalion, in reserve supporting the 1st and 3rd Battalions, moved into an assembly area just behind the latter, which was advancing through the Forest of Monschau towards the city of Drieborn. The next morning Company "F" jumped off in the attack and took over houses in Drieborn before being pinned down by enemy machine guns. While "F" continued to draw enemy fire, "G" Company made a broad left flanking movement and swept into the center of town. The Armor was called in and tank-infantry teams mopped up enemy strong points. Company "E", moving to join the rest of the Battalion, was held up temporarily by positions which had been bypassed by the swift advance of "G". The entire operation netted about 300 prisoners.

SCHWAMMANUEL DAM

After a week of relaxation in Division reserve, 2nd Battalion moved far north for a special job. This was the operation long remembered as "Schmidt", Schmidt being the largest town in the vicinity of the battle. The objective of the attack was to capture the high ground dominating the town of Hasenfeld and overlooking the Schwammanuel Dam on the Roer River. At the time it was

not generally known how important the success of this mission was to the projected offensives of three Allied Armies. Other units had tried for several days to take these enemy positions but were unsuccessful in all attempts.

APOUNDING

In the frosty darkness, men with the cold in their bones gulped down cupfuls of hot, black coffee and moved out toward the objective. Companies "E" and "F" attacked abreast and pushed a thousand yards over open terrain, until heavy enemy fire pinned them down. Then they really caught Hell. Partially surrounded and with absolutely no cover, they received a pounding that left them shaken. All types of artillery and mortar completely saturated the area, and supporting tanks were halted far back by thick belts of Teller Mines. Then the Germans counter-attacked. Again and again the waves of gray-clad figures hacked violently at the flanks, virtually isolating the forward elements and inflicting heavy casualties, but they were always halted. Finally, a mine flailer was brought up, which cleared a path for the tanks, and the attack lashed out again. The violence of this new assault drove the enemy off in confusion and overran their defenses. In order to maintain the impetus of the attack, "G" Company was taken from reserve and committed into the town of Hasenfeld. In the outskirts of the town, the enemy repulsed the attack from reinforced cellars and entrenchments, supported by tanks within the town. Despite the tenacious defense, darkness, and snow and ice, men continued to infiltrate into the town. By 0400 the next morning, the town was completely under control, and aggressive patrolling cleared the enemy from the west bank of the Roer. For the next two days, the town was subjected to a severe shelling, and a projected plan for an immediate crossing of the river was cancelled. A short time later, at a Regimental ceremony, the Division Commander read a letter of commendation from the Commanding General of the Fifth Corps, praising the 2nd Battalion, 60th Inf., for the magnificent performance at Schmidt. A Presidential Citation was eventually awarded the Battalion for the operation. Returning to the old sector once more, the Battalion relaxed for four days in Drieborn, then moved to an assembly area in Germeter, and thence to a forward assembly area at Brandenburg, on the Roer River, relieving elements of the 82nd Airborne Division. There followed a period of anticipation, each night sending a patrol to cross the Roer and each night thwarted by the flood waters from the broken dams. Finally the 39th Infantry crossed in the First Division sector and cleared the bank opposite the Battalion's position. On 27 February, the Battalion crossed on a ponton bridge under a heavy cover of smoke and moved into position on the high ridge overlooking the Cologne Plain. On the next day the Battalion moved into the town of Niddeggen. "G" Company advanced and captured Berg, which had thrown back the onslaught of the 39th. With hardly a pause, they continued

their advance, taking a hill to the northeast, No. 303. "E" and "G" Companies then advanced abreast and took Muldenan, meeting only slight resistance.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Lt. Col. Hardage, the Battalion Commander, left on 1 March for a well-earned furlough in the United States. Major Ralph C. Johnson, Battalion Executive Officer, assumed temporary command of the Battalion. Since the first of the year, 90 per cent of the attacks by the Battalion had been made in the early morning before dawn. The Companies followed a pattern of by-passing the outpost line and pouncing upon the main body of troops in whatever town they might be. The majority of the time they had found the enemy asleep and had taken a great number of prisoners with only a minimum of casualties.

COLOGNE PLAIN

Now it was the turn of "F" Company to take up the attack. On 2 March, they took the town of Embken, advancing through small arms fire from the flanks, but meeting no enemy opposition inside the town. The town, however, was heavily booby-trapped and troops were forced to use great care in searching the buildings. A well armed patrol cleared a number of machine gun positions from the wooded rise opposite the town. The Battalion then spent a day re-organizing in an assembly area in Fussenich. The companies boarded trucks on March 5, in order to catch up with the swift advance of the Armored Divisions. That night was spent in Lommersum on the Erft Canal, and early the following morning "F" Company led an advance through the 39th Infantry's position in the recently acquired town of Oldheim, through a thousand yards of open field, across a waist-deep stream, and into the town of Dunstekaven. Resistance was heavy, and mine-fields and flak guns slowed the advance into the town. Just beyond the town, in which they paused only long enough to reorganize, the companies encountered a great number of flak guns and SP guns, scattered through the Zur Kotten Forest. After being pinned down for a number of hours, the Battalion finally fought its way into Buschhoven, the day's objective. The town was not completely cleared until midnight. Under a

sporadic shelling by SP's and mortars, the Battalion once more resumed its drive, chilled by almost constant rains and sharp winds. Soon the fire became so accurate and intense that the move was halted. After a quick conference, the objective was changed; "F" Company took Witterschlick and fought its way to the high ground just beyond, taking several prisoners. "G" Company advanced through "F" to take the other end of the ridge, and the Battalion objective was secure. That night, "E" Company overcame light small arms fire to take Imbekoven, the original objective for the day. The next day, Red Battalion brought the line up even on the flanks, and the 2nd pushed on to Stalag No. 6, which formerly had held American prisoners of war. The Germans had their backs to the Rhine now and no place to go. The lightning advance across the Cologne Plain was more than they had bargained for and they were compressed into a pretty small pocket. They fought in Stalag No. 6. With overhead fire from machine guns, "E" and "F" Companies pushed up the hill and pushed again, all the while showered with air-bursts from enemy flak guns. Late in the afternoon, they finally got into the outskirts of the camp, and then it was all over.

TIME FOR REST

Now was the time for a rest. The First Army had done the hard, bloody fighting from Normandy to the Siegfried Line, and through the Siegfried Line to the Rhine. Cologne was as good as ours and it was time for the other Armies to take up the drive beyond the Rhine and into Central Germany. But Fate denied them even a particle of the rest they so richly deserved. At Remagen, Germany, the Ninth Armored Division found an old railroad bridge still intact and quickly crossed to establish the world famous Remagen Bridge-head.

LUDENDORF BRIDGE

On 9 March 1945, the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, crossed the Rhine River on the Ludendorf Bridge. German artillery fire from 20mm to 380mm in caliber, sent a solid rain of steel into the town and onto the bridge. An ammunition truck was demolished by a direct hit, sending a cloud of flame and debris into the air and jarring the crumbling foundations of the ancient structure.

SMALL ARMS

The next day "G" and "F" Companies moved through a narrow, tortuous valley and then up a precipitous ridge under machine gun and small arms fire. Taking the ridge, they dug in for the night, which brought with it an artillery barrage by several batteries of howitzers. The next day, "F" Company left the ridge and followed "E" Company up an adjacent one under heavy mortar, artillery and small arms fire. By late afternoon, though, the hill was taken. Continued shelling kept most of the men in their holes the next day, but a fifteen man patrol from "E" Company knocked out four machine guns and took forty prisoners. The night following, the Battalion attacked the town of Noll and St. Katharinen. "G" Company took Noll and the southern half of St. Katharinen, while "F" made a flanking movement and came in from the left to take the northern half of the town. In the advance, "F" Company also took the town of Hetrescheid against scattered small arms and artillery fire. The Battalion Anti-Tank platoon knocked out two enemy SP's which were withdrawing from the outskirts of St. Katharinen.

SURROUNDED

On the night of the 14th, "F"; Company attacked the town of Lorscheid but was halted by machine gun and SP fire after taking only a few buildings. "E" Company, which attempted to flank the town on the right, was thrown back by heavy fire of all types and was withdrawn into St. Katharinen, leaving "F" Company, whose radios had gone dead, out of contact with the Battalion. The first platoon of "F" Company spent the night in a house surrounded by enemy tanks and infantry. They were subjected to heavy SP, tank, and machine gun fire, but continued a desperate defense throughout the night and until noon the next day. At that time "G" Company came up behind a smoke screen, accompanied by supporting armor; they contacted "F" Company and completed the capture of the town.

Cont Pg. 4



2-28-45 - MEN OF COMPANY E, 2nd Bn. 60th Infantry waiting to move on from the town of Niddeggen, Germany.
The sign reads, "The enemy remains the enemy".

Cont from Pg. 3

AUTOBAHN

A week's rest put the Battalion in fighting trim again, and it struck out to cut the Cologne-Frankfurt Autobahn, thus depriving the enemy of a chance to send mobile reserves from the south to the Ninth Army bridge-head in the north. On the night of 22 March, the Battalion crossed the Heide River in strength, "E" Company at one ford and "F" and "G" Companies at another. After several machine gun nests on the high hill opposite were destroyed, "E" and "F" simultaneously captured the towns of Strauscheid and Rahms. "G" Company, no longer needed for support, advanced at dawn upon the town of Weissenfelt, but were held up most of the day by small arms and automatic fire. Now the Battalion was at the Autobahn. After probing with strong combat patrols, "E" Company took the town of Hodden on the east side of the highway, and "G" and "F" Companies followed through by taking Hombach. Ordered to continue the advance, the two Companies fanned out, "G" taking Epgert and "F" occupying high ground four hundred yards north. At midnight, the Seventh Armored Division began the first of a series of long dashes which carried it deep into the heart of the Reich, and early in the morning, the Battalion boarded trucks, tanks, and TD's, and followed. For three days they dashed through the rolling hills and broad, green valleys, roaring through countless tiny villages and staring in amazement at the hundreds of prisoners marching back to the rear. Finally they were halted by a lack of supplies and rested for a few days in the little village of Frontyhausen, just south of Marberg.

RUHR POCKET

This was the famous Ruhr Pocket. The 2nd Battalion moved into a position near Girkhausen, which was taken by "E" Company on 2 April. "G" pushed through, inflicting heavy casualties on enemy artillerymen who were caught moving their pieces away from the town. By nightfall they had taken their objective, Hohelye. "F" Company, pushing for a vital crossroad, met very stiff resistance by approximately two hundred Germans. A heavy artillery barrage, closely followed by shooting, yelling riflemen, took some one hundred prisoners and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. That night the enemy artillery spoke back, inflicting heavy casualties on our troops at the crossroad. Early in the morning "E" Company jumped off and took Westfeld, holding it in the face of repeated enemy counterattacks. "F" Company moved through unseasonable snow onto the high ground north of the town, and "G" moved into a position on the right.

NEW PLATOON

On 5 April, "E" Company took Lengenbeck, capturing thirty-one prisoners. It was the first taste of combat for a colored platoon which had recently been attached to the company. "F" Company took the resort town of Nordenen the next day and pushed on to high ground. "E" Company took high ground to the left of "F" and "G" Company straightened the line by taking Nesselbach on the right. For the next four days

the three Companies alternately rode tanks or struggled through the steep and thickly wooded mountains. Final objectives were all reached by the evening of the 10th and the Battalion was pinched off into a secondary position by other units. The collapse of the Ruhr Pocket was nearly complete.

HARZ MOUNTAINS

On 15 April, the 2nd Battalion boarded trucks and set out to clean up a tough pocket in the Harz Mountains. They spent one night in an assembly area in Guntersberg and occupied three small towns the next day. These were Harggerode, Silberbutle, and Strassberg. "F" Company pushed off for Magdesprang the next morning, meeting stiff resistance in the jagged ridges which ran parallel to the route of advance. They were finally halted just short of the town by a series of cross-firing machine guns which raked the length of the narrow corridor with a killing fire. A terrific fire fight ensued which lasted the whole of the following day. Tanks, TD's, SP's, mortars, machine guns, rifles and grenades combined to leave the peaks and crags reverberating throughout the day, and heavy casualties were suffered by both sides. Just before dark the town was entered from two sides by "E" and "F" Companies and the battle was over. After a morning of aggressive patrolling, "E" and "F" Companies moved out into the mountains, meeting little resistance, and "F" set up a road block with tanks at a vital crossroad. After two days of patrolling the area in the vicinity of the road block - revealed no Germans but surrendering ones, the Battalion rode trucks to the vicinity of Greppin and Hofen, where defense positions were organized overlooking the Mulde River. From 22 April to 28 April the Battalion sent regular patrols across the Mulde, one of which brought in one thousand prisoners. On the 29th, "F" Company relieved a party of the 104th Division in Bitterfeld and set up an outpost on the Bitterfeld Bridge to bring in prisoners who were fleeing from the approaching Red Army. The area across the river was patrolled regularly and great numbers of prisoners were brought in. A training schedule was set up for all men not engaged in patrol or outpost work.

MEET RUSSIANS

On 2 May 1945, 2nd Battalion met the Russians. A Russian Major rode up to the "F" Company outpost on the bridge, accompanied by a truckload of happy, shouting, singing Russian soldiers, all carrying sub-machine guns. They caused a great deal of excitement, and Battalion officers came out to greet them officially. Training went on as usual. On 7 May the following message was received from Regimental Headquarters:

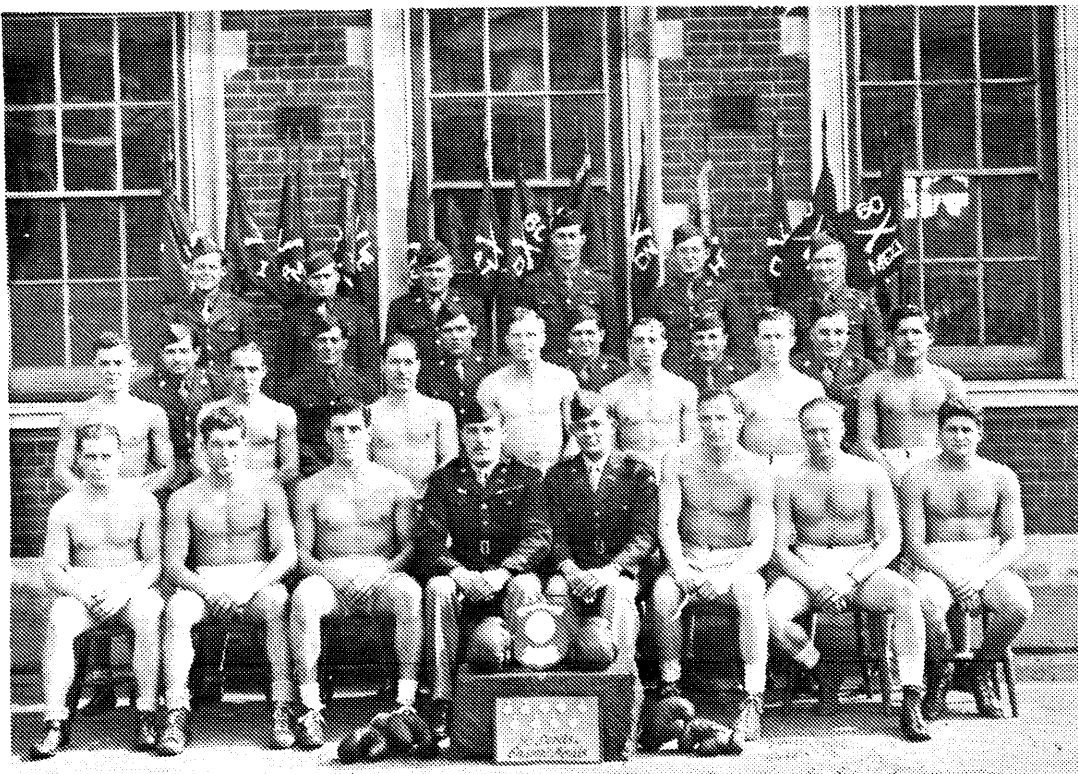
"AT 0001, 9 MAY 1945, ALL HOSTILITIES IN EUROPE WILL CEASE."

SIGNED, EISENHOWER.

The message was phoned to all Companies in the Battalion. Training went on as usual.

NO CELEBRATION

The 9th of May was declared a holiday and all troops listened to broadcasts from London and New York. There was no jubilant celebration that day in Bitterfeld and Hofen; the men were too recently out of combat, and combat was still in their voices and their faces and their minds. There are too many memories of good friends who had died to make this day



Members of the 60th Infantry's boxing team are shown in photo taken in England back in 1944. Although many faces look familiar the only ones your Editors recognize (not being 60th men) are second from left on the front row - Al Sebeck, George Alberts and Matty Urban in uniform. Matty was the Officer in charge of the team. He promises to have the team well represented at the New York reunion in 76.

possible. And, too, there were solemn thoughts of the Battle of the Pacific yet to be won.

REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

There was a Regimental Memorial Service in the town square of Bitterfeld dedicated to the memory of the soldiers who gave their lives in the holocaust of war.

FOUR YEARS OF WAR

So the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, bone weary from combat over the whole of two continents, settled down to the job of Army of Occupation in Germany. The men who were rightly known as "Hitler's Nemesis" laid down their arms and set about to re-learn the ways of Peace. During four years of war they had defeated the enemy on every field of battle where he had chosen to meet them; Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium and Germany fell beneath their mighty blows. Who can say that another group has done more in the winning of the war?

From Bitterfeld the Battalion moved on 16 May to the Third Army area, occupying a position in the vicinity of Seysdorf, thirty miles north of Munich. Eight days later they moved again, to the village of Manching, Germany. The

Companies moved into former Luftwaffe officers' apartments adjacent to a large airfield. Scattered over the field and in trees around it were a great number of wrecked German fighters and bombers. They seemed a symbol of the annihilation of the once proud German War Machine.

REDEPLOYMENT

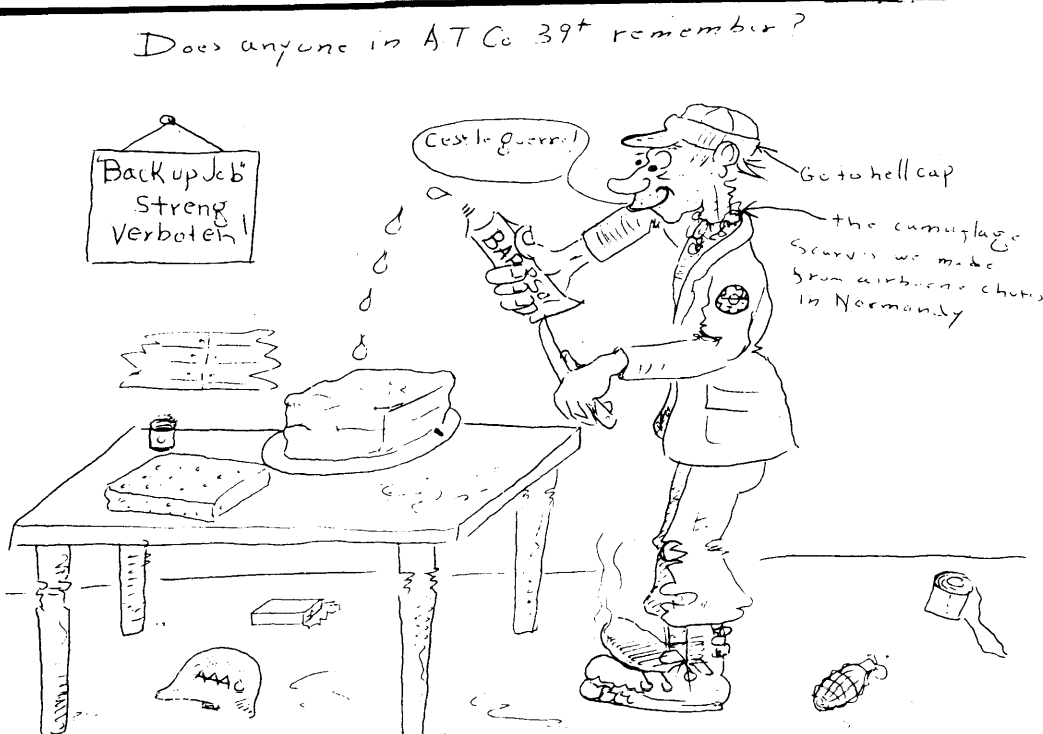
Then the 2nd Battalion began to cope with problems of redeployment. Men with the supreme wealth of eighty-five points were sent home. Men arrived from other Divisions, swelling the Companies to double their strength and men were drawn out for the Pacific War, bringing the Companies back to normal. Training programs were religiously adhered to and at the present time the Battalion has acquired the high polish and snap of a garrison unit.

BLESSED WITH PEACE

And after the world is once more blessed with peace, the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, will continue her duties in the conquered Reich until the people of the United States feel that her services are no longer needed.

UNCLAIMED GOVERNMENT BONDS Many veterans of World War II will remember purchasing U.S. Savings Bonds through allotment procedures under which a small portion of their military pay was automatically deducted to purchase savings bonds to help finance the war effort. Recent information from the General Accounting Office indicates that 706,000 of these bonds with a face value of about \$50 million have never been claimed. The total of ex-GIs involved is 188,000. Many bond owners have been determined by checking VA records and other means. However, all veterans of World War II are being called upon to check their memories to determine if they may have purchased U.S. Savings Bonds and over the years forgotten all about it. If so, they should immediately contact the Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.

My aunt was like a flower:
when she began to fade,
she dyed.



Henry Geisel is a member who recalls from time to time a sketch of past. The story behind the sketch appears in mail call.

Harry O's Corner

NEW YORK CHAPTER

New Yorkers Start The Ball Rolling

President Michael Deresh set the wheels in motion for the 1976 New York Reunion when he appointed the most logical choices as chairman Emil Langer and co-chairman Frank Fazio. Many of us can remember previous accomplishments of these two Reunion Chairmen from previous New York Reunions. As, for example, at the 1965 New York Reunion tickets were obtained for the World's Fair, and immediately after the Silver Anniversary Reunion in New York in 1970 a large group of the 9th Division Association members made the memorable trip to Europe revisiting many places and cities where they had been 25 years ago. You can be sure that another enjoyable reunion is planned for your pleasure when Emil and Frank pool their time, talents and ideas and especially more so, since we have as an added incentive the 1976 Reunion in the Bicentennial year.

October Meeting in Review

Co-Chairman Frank Fazio rendered a detailed outline of the 1976 Reunion. He told the Reunion Committee what their functions were going to be, and to reach their objective, another memorable reunion, all out effort would be necessary.

Walter O'Keeffe, Chairman of the Bus Committee, reported that the New York Chapter was chartering a bus for Father Connors Annual Memorial Mass in Worcester on Sunday, November 9, 1975.

Michael Deresh mentioned the calendar of events for the remainder of the year:

November 7, 1975 - Nomination of Officers

December 5 - Election of Officers

December 14 - Christmas Party

Dan Quinn told us of his meeting Louis Pandolfi at Newark Airport while on his way to the Detroit reunion. Louis works for United Airlines and promised Dan he would try to attend the Worcester Memorial.

Birthdays

George Bako and Harry Wax were celebrating Birthdays. Many, many more happy birthdays, George and Harry.

Raffle winners were Eddie Egan, Alfred Seeley and Harry Wax.

After the meeting adjourned, delicious refreshments were served.

Harry Orenstein
687 W. 204 Street
New York, N.Y. 10034

MICHIGAN DOINGS

The Michigan Chapter has been invited to the home of Bob and Florence DeSandy at 23430 Colonial Court in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, on Saturday, October 4, 1975, at 7:30 P.M. The phone number is (313) 884-1756. Consult the enclosed sketch for directions and bring your wife along for a pleasant evening together. There will be refreshments, our regular bottle raffle, some songs around the piano; maybe even some dancing, who knows? Come on out and enjoy.

NEWS NOTES

Tickets for the Christmas Cheer Raffle will be distributed on October 4.

We received a note from Red Thompson. They were not at the reunion because they were vacationing in Europe at the time.

Picnic

About 30 people including children attended the picnic at Little Island Lake in August. Also there were three dogs in attendance. (?) Our hosts and hostesses, the Meadows and the Lewises, once again provided a good time for all who could make the trip.

Attending were: Elmer Wagner, John and Thelma Obermiller, Floyd and Leora Hennessey, Gene Reedy and a friend with a car load of children, Bill, Barbara and Don Meadows, Len and Loretta DeBell and daughters, Fred, Jane and Randy Josey, Tony and Tootie Berdinski, Elna Van Velt, Don and Helen Lewis, Charley Fox, John Zulkiewski.

The bottle raffle was won by Bill Meadow's neighbor, Pat Keasling.

The 31st Annual Memorial Mass and Service for the deceased of the 9th Infantry Division will be held at the Immaculate Conception Church, Worcester, Mass., Sunday, November 9, 1975, at 10:00 A.M. (Please note the change in date to coincide with the old date for Veterans' Day.

Free Buffet Supper will be served by the praishioners at Connors' Coffee Shop on Saturday Night, and Sunday's dinner will be at the Sheraton Lincoln Inn.

Souvenir Reunion Booklets are still available. Contact Jim Bruner.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party this year will be at the home of Fred and Jane Josey in Grand Blanc on December 6. Reserve that date and details will follow in the next newsletter.

Sincerely,
Tom Hatton,
President
Jim Brunner,
Secretary

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

On a sunny, Sunday afternoon in September, the Illinois chapter families gathered for their summer finale. The setting was the patio and yard of the Bob Winkelmans. The traditional volleyball games were played with both sexes of all ages joining in the competition. The big highlight of the day was when the infantry challenged the artillery for a tough match. Two foursomes were pitted against each other with Bud Remer, John Clouser, Mike Belmonte and Joe Lacic battling for the artillery. The infantry team consisted of Chuck Koskie, Bill Hennemuth, Bob Winkelman and Frank Ozart. The fleetfooted, fast moving infantry were bombarded by the artillery who won by a narrow margin. Wind was an important factor, but in this particular game there seemed to be heated blasts coming from both sides of the net. With all this activity, the appetites were well whetted for the luscious picnic lunch. Georgene Winkelman provided one of her ceramic creations for a prize drawing which Mike Belmonte won.

A Royal Meeting

The October meeting was hosted by Roger Elmer and his lovely Doris in their Chicago home. The busy Elmer's had been guests at a gala dinner honoring the visiting King Olav V of Norway on the previous evening. We all enjoyed hearing about his royal gathering and were proud that the Elmer's were included for this elite affair.

During the business portion of the evening, it was decided to have a Thanksgiving Turkey raffle as a money making project. Several members offered to donate turkeys and Treasurer Chuck Koskie is in charge managing the project.

Attending Memorial

President Bill Hennemuth and Peg, Frank Ozart, and Joe Lacic and Ceil announced that they will be attending the Memorial Service in Worcester. While this is a long journey from Illinois, everyone who has ever attended this impressive event, returns home with glowing reports.

Other business included making preliminary plans for the Christmas Party on December 13th at the Joe Lacies in Niles. The November Meeting will be at the home of the Jerry Fajnor.

Casualties Listed

The "fall" season has taken its toll on our members. Lorraine Clark managed to limp to the meeting after having fallen while getting out of her car at a MacDonalds. Jerry Fajnor was nursing a bruised elbow which was the result of slipping on the basement steps. Jerry had also been hospitalized with another unrelated ailment this fall. Bob Pappas has been released from the hospital after recovering from surgery for a bursitis condition in his shoulder. Thankfully all are reporting satisfactory improvement.

A Sad Note

A former Ninth Division man, Stanley Solak was killed in an auto accident recently. Although members of the local chapter did not know Mr. Solak, there may be members elsewhere who remember him. He is survived by his widow, Bernice who resides at 4243 S. Knox in Chicago.

Thirty-five Years of Service

Coincidentally, both Chuck Koskie and Bob Winkelman were recently honored by their respective companies for thirty-five years of loyal service. Bob has been employed as a carpenter and craftsman for these many years and was honored by his union. Chuck has a responsible position with the Northern Illinois Gas Company. Because of their ambition and pride in their work, these men continue in civilian life to qualify as Old Reliabilities!!

New York In 76
July 22 - 24

Then there was the mentally disturbed poodle who couldn't be helped by the psychiatrist; he wasn't allowed on the couch.

THE MEMORIAL FUND OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Scholarship Information

The Memorial Fund of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was established by the members of the association to commemorate the memory of their comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice in battle. As a part of this fund the association established a scholarship program. Scholarships are awarded each year to relatives of men who served in The Ninth Infantry Division. Each scholarship is for one year.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A person who wishes to apply for a scholarship must be related to a man who served with The Ninth Infantry Division. Children of former members of the division will be given first consideration, but children of men killed in combat given first preference. Applicants who are not children of former members of the division will not be considered unless no child of a former member qualifies.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The following procedures must be followed by those wishing to apply for the scholarships:

1. Send a letter of application, written in expository form, to the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following: name, address, age, and sex of the applicant; name, address, and occupation of the applicant's parents or guardians; the name and address of the secondary school the applicant is attending or has attended and graduated; the name and address of the college the applicant expects to attend; the vocational goal of the applicant; and the name of and degree of relationship to a former member of the division. The unit and dates of service in the division of the former member must be included.
2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include at least the first seven semesters of the applicant's record.
3. The applicant must have a counselor or principal of the high school he or she is attending write a letter of recommendation to the chairman of the scholarship committee.
4. The applicant must take the PSAT which is given every October. The applicant must see that the results of the PSAT are sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee. These results may be included with the high school transcript or sent to the chairman from the College Entrance Examination Board. The SAT of the CEEB may be submitted in lieu of the PSAT.
5. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.
6. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.
7. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee after the applications have been considered.
8. Recipients of the scholarships may apply for renewal of the scholarship each year. A copy of the student's college grades, a financial statement, and a letter requesting renewal of the scholarship should be sent to the chairman by March 15.
9. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, 901 Graceland St., Des Plaines, Illinois 60016.

VA HOSPITALIZATION

Many veterans become ill and use their life savings to pay for needed hospital care before they inquire as to their entitlement to be admitted to a Veterans Administration hospital. Medical and hospital care are very expensive today, and most people who are regularly employed are covered by some type of health and hospitalization insurance. In some instances, veterans fail to realize that they may be eligible for care in VA hospitals even though they are covered by insurance. Eligible for admission to any VA hospital is a veteran who was discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions from either a peacetime or wartime period of service in the Armed Forces of the United States. Medical emergencies always have first priority for admission, followed by veterans who require hospitalization because of a disability which was incurred during service. Some veterans must show evidence of inability to pay for the needed care before they can be admitted. This is not necessary, however, if the veteran is seeking treatment for a service-incurred disability, if he is receiving VA disability compensation or pension, if he was released from service because of a service-connected condition, or if he is 65 years of age or older.

DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Sons and daughters of veterans totally disabled in service, or of veterans who died of service incurred disabilities, are reminded to apply now for maximum use of their educational entitlement under the Dependents Educational Assistance section of the GI Bill. The children are eligible for thirty-six months of educational assistance. The monthly payment for full-time attendance is \$220 with proportionately lesser amounts for three-quarter, half-time and less than half-time enrollment. A four-year program should begin by the applicants 22nd birthday. Except under special circumstances assistance payments may not be made beyond a student's 26th birthday. In addition to the GI Bill assistance, eligible students may also receive concurrent payments from the State Education Department. To qualify, they and their parents must meet the States residency and other requirements, and the course of study they intend to pursue must meet with the Education Departments approval.

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

THE OCTOFOIL

MAIL CALL

Dear Dan,

I hope you realize that the Birthday Party was not my idea and I really was embarrassed that so many Ninth Division people came such long distances. I must admit, however, that it was a great night and I am truly grateful to all.

I expect to attend the Convention in Detroit and, as always, I look forward to being with the gang once again. As you know, our Memorial Services this fall will be returned to the usual date - namely the Sunday before Veteran's Day. We shall gather at Connors Coffee Shop Saturday evening, November 8th. On Sunday the 9th, the Memorial Mass and Service will be in the Immaculate Conception Church at 10:00. The dinner after the Mass again will be at the Sheraton Lincoln Inn. I would like to make this a really big year as we celebrate the Bi-Centennial of our country. I have a strong feeling that the men of the Ninth will make a very special effort to be with us this year as we express in a very practical and prayerful way our devotion to our country.

Keep up the good work, Dan, as our Ninth Division leader. Every blessing to you and Marie and your family. God bless all the men of the Ninth Division and their families.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,
Rev. Edward T. Connors
Immaculate Conception Rectory

353 Grove Street
Worcester, Mass. 01605

Co B 9th Med Bn
Edward Rhoads
Munchenstrasse
Vienna 1120 Austria

Ed retired a year ago and moved lock stock and barrel to Austria but still maintains contact with the Association. He writes "I am receiving my Octofoil regularly, thanks to your staff. I appreciate reading the paper more since I am over here in Austria, papers and magazines are difficult to find and are expensive. In a recent issue I saw Lt. Leonard Morris's photo, a former B Co. 9th Medic. I wonder if he still exists?"

Glad to hear the reunion was a great success, the last one I attended was in Philly in 1968, really had a great time talking with Mazzela, Wilson and their wives and of course Danny Quinn.

Are there any former 9th Division men located here in Austria if so I would like to hear from them. Best regards to all.

Editors note: Lt. Morris has't been heard from in some time and his last address was in Newark, N.J. but like so many people who have left life in the city they get swallowed up in the suburbs. We don't have any members listed as living in Europe but there could be men from the Ninth who are not members of the association residing there.

Co G 47th &
Finance Div Hqs

Martin Gill
2401 Pennington Road
Trenton, N.J. 08638

Marty was planning a reunion for his old gang on October 4th and wrote "I am trying to obtain Norman Dean's address and hope you can help. He was in the A.G.'s section at Division Headquarters and to the best of my knowledge has kept up his membership in the Association.

I am having some success in getting the former ex-financiers from Division Headquarters together in D.C. on the 4th of October. Will let you know how well that turns out. So far it looks like at least twelve members and their spouses will be there. Kindest regards to all.

Editors note: We are happy to report that the secretary was able to supply Marty with Norman's address.

A-T 39th Inf

Henry Geisel
242 S. 3rd St.
Lehighton, Pa. 18235

Sorry I'm late with dues enclosed find same for 3 years.

While laying in bed the other night some of the crazy things that happened on the way to Dessau went through my mind. This enclosed sketch happened in Germany or on the Belgium-German border. The house had shelves in the kitchen which contained different food packets and cans of food. The writing was in German but this didn't stop some of the fellows from experimenting with the food. "Beefstew" Broderick being an ex-cook decided on a noble experiment. There were beaucoup synthetic sponges around (who washed vehicles at that time?) and also barracks bags loaded with Barbasol Shaving Cream. (another useless article). Well "Beefstew" assembled the most taste appealing layer cake using the sponges for cake and the shaving cream for icing. He then faded into the background and watched his dessert starved buddies as they went for the cake. He lived through it but it was close!

Sorry I could not attend the reunion. Sometimes the wife allows me to go out as long as I don't leave the front porch.

Nothing off color about "back up job". I imagine all outfits had made up expressions which only they knew the meaning of. "Beefstew" invented this one and it had to do with a person going into great detail about anything when one or two sentences would have been sufficient.

Regards to all the old gang.

39th Inf

Al Geist
14040 Chelsea Drive
Alden Park, Ill. 60462

Al and Mayme Geist were moving at the time of our Detroit reunion and they could not attend. They wanted to make sure that their friends would be notified of their address change through the Octofoil.

Co L & Serv. Co 47th Inf
George (The Rock) Merz
69 W. Francis Street
Iselin, N.J. 08830

Dear Dan:

Yeah! The live wire is writing - little shaky but never the less sincere. Enclosed is check for 3 years. I want to thank you for doing such a great job all these years.

Some of the guys who might have soldiered with Ray Johnson, Co K, 39th Infantry, (he was captured at Kasserine Pass) will be saddened to know he passed away August 26, 1975. I don't think he was a member of the association.

Also must thank Bill Muldoon for sending me a "Souvenir Reunion Booklet". This guy is a true blue buddy.

My family is doing o.k. My wife is till putting up with my antics - four kids married - still need to unload the other three. Hope they elope when it happens. (9 grandchildren - one on the way) Well Dan I sure hope you and the family are in the very best of health. Keep pitching - as they say - There's only a few of us left. God Bless. -

+ + +

Chaplain 39th Inf.

Rev. L.B. Kines, S.J.
Provincial's Residence
5704 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, Md. 21210

Sorry but I'm really late. Enclosed find dues. I was unable to attend the annual get together this summer but the good Lord helping I will try and be with all in 76.

I am having ups and downs in the health routine, some good days but a lot more fair to bad. No wonder - I will be 70 in December 75. Really I am slowing up. Always enjoy the Octofoil. My best to all and God bless you always.

Co A 39th Inf

Paul Angelillis
314 East Mount Kirk Ave.
Norristown, Pa. 19401

I am a new comer to the association and I hope some day that I can attend a reunion. I hope to meet some of the old gang. I enjoy reading the Octofoil very much, it sure brings back old times. I happened to see the name of Bill Andrews in the Octofoil and was wondering if it was the Bill Andrews I was with in A Co 39th. If he is the same Andrews I hope he will write to me. Regards to all the old gang.

Div Hq. Co

Don Croskill
1120 Franklin Ave
Fremont, Ohio 43420

Don sent us a clipping that appeared in his local newspaper shortly after the Detroit Reunion. "The Ninth Infantry Division Association reunion was held in Detroit, Michigan attended by some 350 men and their families. Croskill renewed friendships with many men with whom he served during World War II . . . Croskill feels that there are other men in this area who are eligible to attend and who have not heard of this reunion anyone wishing specific information may contact him by telephoning 332-6189."

Don concludes - "We enjoyed the reunion very much and looking forward to seeing you all next year."

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

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

Charles W. "Hoss" Johnson
10 October 1975
100 Rambler Road Cambridge,
Maryland 21613

Even though 30 years has past, my mind still goes back to those days that I was with a fine outfit - The 9th Division. I started with the 9th on maneuvers in North Carolina in 1941, and stayed with them until my discharge in June 1945.

I had a lot of good friends in A Company, 15th Eng. Some of you will remember the truck named Abigail. I have only attended one reunion, but I think it would be nice if the A Company could get together - What a Reunion! I realize this may not be possible since some have left us. For those who are left it would be wonderful.

My wife, Kathryn, and I are retiring November of this year after 28½ years working for the State of Maryland.

Best of Luck to All!

John P. Taylor
NESHAMINY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

H Co 60th Inf

Thank you for the information forwarded to me.

I learned of the association through a close friend the late John Callahan formally a major in the 47th Infantry headquarters. John died this summer after a long bout with cancer. He is survived by his wife Mary and neighbors and still a resident in White Marsh Township. John had no children. John attended conventions regularly particularly since his retirement. He was my senior by about 17 years. I think that Mary would appreciate hearing from someone in the 9th Division Association, particularly the Padre who John seemed to know very well.

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and thank you for your attention to my request.

+ + +

Co F 47th Inf

Frank Gonzol
29 Dayton Ave
Middlesex, N.J. 08846

Enclosing a check for three years in the Ladies Auxiliary (Frank is a Life member) for my wife "Lyl". Your mention of our trip to Safe in the Octofoil brought a letter from Earl Wilkey, of Rome, Georgia, a former member of Co F, 47th. He said he will join the Association. We are both pretty well with the usual and unusual aches and pains. Hope all are in the best of health.

76 Reunion
July 22 - 24

NEW YORK

3rd Bn. Med 47th Inf

Ernest R. Long
517 Bayfair Dr.
Bay Village, Ohio 44140

We were sorry to learn that an old pal "Pop Long" was on "sick call" but glad to learn that he's coming along nicely. His lovely wife Martha writes "Ernie had surgery July 2nd for an aneurysm, the Doctor inserted a plastic tube from the aorta in the stomach, to the heart, replaced an artery in each leg and one from the aorta to the right kidney, the left kidney has collapsed. The operation was a success, he is now out of ICU all tubes removed except IV. As soon as he can retain liquids that will be removed.

It was touch and go for awhile but I guess the Good Lord wasn't ready for him as yet, for which I am most grateful. Hope we have better news next time - Good luck to all."

Editors note: Always will remember the day Ernie joined the outfit - it was the date after the St. Lo bombing and he had been assigned to the Division as a replacement and spent that infamous day July 25, 1944 in an area that was also bombed (by our own planes) where he and a group of replacements were told by General McNair that they were going to witness something never done in the annals of War - a mass bombing of the enemy front lines. A short time later General McNair was killed in that bombing. Ernie was sent to the 3rd Bn 47th, for the Bn. had been hit hard by the same bombing.

"Hang in there Ernie", and may God bless

+ + +

39th Inf

Ralph C. Alessi
5230 W. Banff
Glendale, Ariz. 85301

As of July 1st I will be living in Arizona but will be still a member of the New York Chapter. I want to give my regards to all the men and best wishes to all also to Colonel William Klauz who was my commanding officer in the 2nd Bn. 69th Inf while I was in the Guards.

VA HOSPITALIZATION - 65 YEARS AND OLDER Older veterans needing hospitalization for treatment of non service connected disabilities can be admitted to a VA hospital without having to sign the so-called "pauper's oath" as was formerly required. All honorably discharged veterans, including those with peacetime service, who are at least 65 years old and suffering from non service connected disabilities, are eligible for care in a VA hospital regardless of what their financial situation might be.