3-1-1976

The Octofoil, March/April 1976

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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NEW YORKERS ARE READY

Toastmaster

Weehawken, N. J. R Hurtl1 Convention the 1810 and three piers of New York from atop of this old stadium has been torn for the &armark:~o. in...

The Right Reverend Monsignor Chaplain with the 47th Infantry, Anthony DeLaura, former the Association has ever Stretch-cn-

Saturday July 24, 1976. General will be the Toastmaster for the annual banquet to be held on Westmoreland will be the main speaker, for the night. The acceptance by Chaplain DeLaura and General West-

reunion detail.

WESTY'S BOOK

Mr. Martin Bergman and A Halderman Avenue Philadelphia, Pa. 19115

Dear Martin:

Thank you for sending me a review of my book A Soldier Reports. At this juncture, I plan to come to your Reunion in New York City for the final day. I would be happy to autograph copies of my book but they will have to be purchased from a local bookstore since I do not have copies and can not get involved in the complexities of personally selling them. You may choose to pass this word to the New York gang and they may wish to contact my publisher, the Doubleday Company. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

W. C. WESTMORELAND

Dear Dan:

The above letter is self-explanatory. I wrote to the General asking him to have chase that he would autograph books available for us to pur-

have a B.A., M.D., Ph.D., or BSc. Unfortunately, they don't have J.O.B.

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THE OCTOFOIL

March-April 1976 Number 2 Volume XXXI

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the LADIES' AUXILIARY OF THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

I would like to become a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Enclosed is check or money order for $10.00 for 1976 dues. Please mail my membership card.

Name ____________________________
Street ____________________________
City ____________________________ State ______

While attached to the 9th Infantry Division, state relationship, whether the Ninth Division man was a husband, father, brother, son, etc.:

was with ____________________________
company, regiment, battery, attached unit, etc.

Make checks or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail to Phyllis Perna, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087.

A counterstamped membership card will be sent immediately.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find 1976 dues for:

Name ____________________________
Street ____________________________
City ____________________________ State ______

I was a member of:

Battery ____________________________ Company ____________________________ Regiment ______

19th Div

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year: $5.00
Donation to Scholarship Endowment Fund $15.00
THREE YEAR MEMBER $10.00
Life Membership $50.00

Please check the following chapter:

Philadelpsha Valley ____________ Greater New York ____________ Illinois ____________

New England ____________ Michigan ____________ Ohio ____________

Fayetteville - Fort Bragg, N. C.

The 119th Meeting of the National Board of Governors

The 119th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., at the Marriott Hotel at 4 p.m. attended by Members: Walter O'Keeffe, Michael Deresh, Elmer Wagner, Everett Tapp, Anthony Chaconas, Oscar Richards, Dom Green, Ralph Cerci, Herb Olsen, also Scholarship Chairman John Clouser, Past President Frank Osart and former board member Charles Konkie. Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh was also present. The Treasurer, Thomas Boyle had forwarded his report and regretted that he was unable to attend as his son Paul was being married the same day.

President O'Keeffe called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand for a silent prayer for the departed men of the Ninth.

The secretary Daniel Quinn read the minutes of the 118th meeting and upon a motion duly made by Ralph Cerci and seconded by Elmer Wagner, it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes as read and to instruct the secretary to place same on file.

President O'Keeffe presented the treasurers report and upon a motion made by Oscar Richards and seconded by Michael Deresh it was voted to accept the treasurers report.

SCHOLARSHIPS

John Clouser, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, was called upon for his report and he named Dr. David Heller and Frank Osart as permanent members of this committee. Seven applications were received by the committee, four new and three renewals. Clouser thanked the members that all applicants are members of the Ninth and that the scholastic abilities and financial needs are the first considerations.

The committee recommended that four applicants be considered for a total of $900.00.

The names will be announced at the reunion and the scholarship committee will notify the recipients.

Clouser thanked the members that as of this year the Association has awarded $2,220.90 in scholarships since 1941. All recipients were children of former members of the Ninth Infantry Division.

Upon a motion duly made by Dom Green and seconded by Herb Olsen it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Scholarship Committee, President O'Keeffe thank John Clouser and his committee for their efforts with this committee.

Michael Deresh a member of the Board from the New York Chapter briefed the members on the events of the 1976 reunion to be held in New York City at the Statler Hilton Hotel on July 22 and 23. Charles Konkie suggested to the New York Committee that they publish for the members the real prices of the city. The members will be kept posted through the Octofoil.

John Clouser said the members that the Illinois Chapter members were busy working on the 1977 reunion that will be held in Chicago. The Hotel Hyatt-Regency has been selected as the Headquarters for the Ninths.

President O'Keeffe thanked the Illinois members for their report.

Oscar Richards submitted a bid for the Philadelphia Valley Chapter for the year 1978.

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FUTURE REUNIONS

President Walter O'Keeffe introduced the next topic on the agenda concerning future concerns and the desirability of holding them in non-Chapiter cities or locations. Herb Olsen made a motion that was seconded by Michael Deresh. The idea of active consideration for resort areas as sites for the annual reunion John Clouser finally proposed that in the future the Board should select reunion locales alternately between Chapter cities and new sites in the nation. Thereafter, the following action was taken: The President, with the approval of the Board, ordered the formation of a six member committee to be called the National Association Reunion Committee. This committee is constituted as a standing committee of the Board of Governors and its purpose is to investigate the feasibility of non-chapter sites for the annual reunion and to make appropriate recommendations to the Board. The committee will begin to function immediately but such recommendations will be effective until 1978. Thereafter, the committee will be prepared to make its recommendations to be carried every other year since it is contemplated that individual chapters will sponsor reunions when they are not held pursuant to the committee's recommendations with National sponsorship.

The Reunion Journal is our greeting card to the Army. You can sign this card by taking your copy of the Reunion Journal to a local business and ask them to put your name and address on the card. Have them carry a commercial greeting card to any destination. You may want to expand your name across a whole page and feel like speaking to your own constituents.

The 31st Annual Reunion

September 2-4, 1977

NEW YORK Statler Hilton

DEADLINE FOR PROGRAM

JULY 1ST

REQUEST FOR RESERVATIONS

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

July 21 - 23, 1978

NEW YORK Statler Hilton

From Office Manager

218 Ave. 33rd St. New York, N. Y. 10001

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________
CITY ____________________________ STATE ______ ZIP ______

FIRM NAME ____________________________

ARRIVAL DATE ____________ AM ____________ PM

DEPARTURE DATE ____________ AM ____________ PM

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED

No later than one week prior to the date of the convention and must be held until 6 P.M. on day of arrival unless late hour is specified.

CONVENTION ROOM RATES

Single: $25.00

Double-Twin: $30.00

Balcony: $25.00

Half: $15.00
Following the story was written by Thomas R. Henry for The Saturday Evening Post in 1945. The story is one of a series of articles on Great American combat divisions of World War II, that was published by the magazine.

BY THOMAS R. HENRY

For thirty months an American mystery division fought and won. Moreover, that division was the Fifth, in fire-belching darkness, alone, unduced, and unaided, until the tap brass cowiced and displayed great. The key led from the black shafts of Port Lintnoy to the Massif des Harz Mountains. Only three or four days later, the riflemen, wearing on their left shoulder the red and octoful of medieval heraldry, wail to their fellow brothers and sons of monts roll riflemen.

MANKAYS TO REMAJG

From Mankayo to Remagen the division emerged from the invisible in hours. For fifty miles fifty of the hardest troops bluffed and vanished again into obscurity. The 9th swept across the North African mountains in blinding snow to save the day at El Guettar. It captured Bizerte. It flanked the German army in Sicily. It pushed the last holding force into Cherbourg and Normandy. It was a firm American foothold in Northwest Europe. It broke and held the first break in the Siegfried Line. It roared so as an army shatter to blast the first spearhead of the Bulge. It established the first American beachhead east of the Rhine.

Always the ghostly 9th moved as a black smoke in time of need and performed far better than the expectations of the armies of which it formed a part. Its losses were heavy - between 500 and 400 per cent in the course of the war. Nearly 30,000 Americans were killed in its service. But it seemed always the same to those who had the experience, and who knew the battle game.

Our allies sang of its bravery and integrity of leadership. It was composed of Lt. Gen. S. S. Eddy, of Columbus, Georgia, from the last days of North Africa until it crossed the shaggy border. Its chief units were the 7th, 39th and 9th infantry regiments, all Old Army organizations with proud histories. The 7th made a fighting landing to capture the seized Arab quarter of Port Lintnoy in a short, murderous battle that was the first taught by Americans on the soil of Africa.

Within three months came the first story to the faces of Private Harold Marshel Erwin Rommel's African Drive through the Americans at Kasserine Pass. Private Price, chummy of the three-pronged drive were done was the situation frankly desperate. The most American deficiency was in artillrey. The gun positions were bivouacked at Tellemcen, in Algeria. There was no doubt that all artillery and the cannon comprised the backbone of all infantry regiments were ordered to the battle front in Southern Tunisia.

There followed one of the outstanding six gun movements in history. The great convoy - all with the guns in tow - moved on all ranks - left Tellemcen in a blinding strop storm of 100 miles.

February afternoon. Through snow and mud, and over narrow mountain roads often covered with ice, it moved 777 miles in four hours. There was no halt, except for fifteen-minute stops for refueling. As the column moved up the Seine, Gen. S. Leboy Irwin, apprised the American beachhead at Tebbas, it found the one road jammed with ambulances and service vehicles streaming toward the rear. This was essentially a bombing and shelling job with soldiers warned "You are too late. Rommel is moving from west to east in heavy gear."

The clogged road was a river of mud. Heavy guns slipped and slid on narrow trails. They went into battle wearing black, oiled, greasy wool. As they kept themselves sharp, curved knives. They were prepared by unceasing threats of silen. As cat, they crawled through the packs of the people along the speced rocks in the eerie blackness of desert nights when horses were howling. Then they would fall on enemy outposts, leave behind a dense threat-filled air, and desert as silently as they came. The tactics of the Germans added immensely in the paer of mystery which enveloped the 9th as its regiments seemed to materialize out of darkness and vanish into darkness again.

On February 9th Eddy was engaged in moving the division along a twenty-eight-mile front through extremely difficult mountain country and into the thick of the Eifel Mountains. The movement was to the northeast - that is, in getting the most severe part of the front. There were no roads. The movement was hampered by the complete lack of dem occ soldiers, hidden motionless in brush patches, had to listen to the two them tinkling bells without daring to show the cows away, and not knowing whether they were boers or Boche.

Before starting, every bit of equipment was examined to make sure there were no loose parts which would rattle. Selected scouts went to each platoon, feeling every step to make sure of not breaking a twig or kicking a loose stone. The others, in single file, stepped precisely in the foot steps of the scouts. All orders were in whisper. Hardly of all were the necessary halls through more than twenty hours of daylight. The men, already cramped by the cold of the mountain night, had to crouch in cramped positions. almost motionless. Wagon wheels were wrapped in Army blankets. Colonel de Bobo was forced to use relentless discipline.

Never once there the slightest suspicion in this hostile countryside, that a regimented was passing through. Perhaps never before or again did the 9th Division demonstrate so well its capability for one of the most dramatic single actions of the war. Von Rundstedt's storm troopers had smashed against the thin lines of the 1st Army. Directly in the path was the 9th Division, composed largely of green troops, fresh from the United States. Few of them ever had heard a shot fired in anger.

The scene shifts to Sicily. There the 9th as its regiments seemed to arrive in time for the 39th Infantry to take the mountaintop of Etna, Italy, for the Massif. The 9th had seized the wagon left by Rommel's "murderer". Only a minimum of equipment was captured and with thin clouds in what was absolutely silence. It was a rugged tactical move to cut the one road sup­plying the city of Randazzo from the northeast. The movement required that 4000 men with all essential supplies and equipment slide through inhabited mountain country without being seen or heard. The march covered - approximately forty miles. Where short roads were marked on the map, it was necessary to avoid them. About the closest approach to roads which could be followed at any time were the roads.

Only minimum of equipment was carried - one blanket on each man. They slithered by the mile through the desert. The nights were bitterly cold in the high country, and among the clouds. All progress was at a crawl. A full moon made concealment much more difficult. At one time, Col. de Bobo received a radio, whimsically, the whole strange line was led most appropriately by a "ghost." a role filled by Capt. W. H. Barewell, of Burlington, North Carolina. The night was very cold. Barewell preceded the leading company by a few dozen yards, an olive-drab blanket draped over his head. Clouds gave the blanket an eclipsing appearance. The captain took slow, measured steps, so as not to lose focus a stone. The idea that the line was led by a super­

The 9th Infantry division swept into the old port city of Messina, in the north in one of the most brilliant military advances of the war. General Eddy was one of the leading scout. Several hundred yards above the seashore were advanced troops, the 9th's. The soldier crawled over the slate roof of a French house to survey below him. There was no road. The elite soldiers of the mountain was to wear clothing. Thus any noise made while moving through the bushes would be attributed to nature. Day after day the

Palermo, Sicily-September 1943

General George S. Patton, Jr., commander of the 3rd Army, was the most publicized division in the American Army. General Eddy was hailed as probably the country's most brilliant division commander. Then once again the outfitted-wearing in Coyote marched forward into the clouds of anonymity, not to emerge until the end of the war.

The division was part of the invasion spearheaded by the 82d Airborne. It broke through a series of small and large forts across France. The 9th Infantry division crossed the Belgian frontier. The division left the siege lines of the 1st Army, became a motor division. The 9th Division demonstrated so well its capability for one of the most dramatic single actions of the war. Von Rundstedt's storm troopers had smashed against the thin lines of the 1st Army. Directly in the path was the 9th Division, composed largely of green troops, fresh from the United States. Few of them ever had heard a shot fired in anger.

Most of the facts which follow are General Patton's words. His press releases of the 9th Infantry divi­sion commander. Much nonsense has been written about The Bulge and subsequent heroes were emerged from the mud of the Division.

"We would have succ­ceeded with a hundred Rossbergs," he told me when I interviewed him at his prison camp, "if it had not been for an American colonel who had command over one American officer I would have known how to do the job.

(Continued on page 4)
COL. SMYTHE

But the storm troopers never reached that road. In their path stood Able Company, 9th Infantry, conquerors of Cherbourg. The commanding officer, Col. George W. Smythe, who had been one of West Point's outstanding football players, had been ordered to coordinate all American troops in the sector for a last-ditch stand. He had no information of the depth or strength of enemy forces.

Through the winter forests, Smythe quickly organized and moved over the rain-soaked Rhine. It apparently was an impossible task, but Smythe learned from his earlier intelligence that the Germans had not expected him to move over the Rhine. The 9th Infantry, as Smythe's command, had been the last American division to break through the Rhine River barrier. The bridge collapsed hours after picture was taken.

The 9th Division. The American stragglers wanted to fight; instinctively they sought a leader. Smythe learned from prisoners that German paratroopers had been dropped behind them. This demanded immediate action. He ordered all suspicious persons encountered on the roads and all cars stopped. Scouts were ordered out in the darkness to pick up all American stragglers. Sergents and corporals organized companies. Other men, following closely behind them, set up a communications system. All this was accomplished in pitch darkness, in densely wooded territory.

Still there was no contact with the enemy in force. A German paratrooper lurking in the woods was shot. Before dying, he revealed that a force of 300 had been dropped nearby. Strong combat patrols were sent out to find them. As dawn broke, a broad river. It appeared successfully with a few delay on fixed bayonets. Smythe's delayed 

Everything was a gamble with a slim margin of success. Everything was fully aware of the weakness of the green American troops. He knew the record of the ghost division. A frontal assault in the center of the 1st Army was cut off in Liege, where 1st Army headquarters in Ingolstadt, Germany, in August of '45. Since I was the only person to occupy with the new people who occupied with the new owners, I am sure I shall appreciate being kept informed of the Rhine. The bridge collapsed hours after picture was taken.

The Ludendorf Bridge at Remagen as seen from the East Bank of the Rhine River. The bridgecollapsed after hours picture was taken.

PADDY FLINT

It was during the next few days that Paddy Flint, the Rhine. Thousands of prisoners were taken by the 9th Infantry, but the bridge was held, despite heavy losses. Strong combat patrols were sent out to find them. As dawn broke, a broad river. It appeared successfully with a few delay on fixed bayonets. Smythe's delayed 

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The Chapter’s opening meeting of 1976 on February 21 at Ed and Maggie Winniges' home in Richmond, Ill., was a very special occasion. That wonderful spirit of the friendly America Legion Post 42, at our Christmas Party at Fred and Jane Jossey’s home carried over into the new year. We had a chance to give our special. It was everything, especially the South Pole, styrofoam, and all of our Harry Pfitzner, our March meeting host. They were wonderful. Everything was delicious. And we were happy to have our Harry Pfitzner, our March meeting host. They were wonderful. Everything was delicious.

**NEWCOMERS**

Ed and Colleen Musial were new members from near by Memphis and it was our pleasure meeting this fine couple. Ed served in Co. B, 47th with John Eberleman and was in D.C. visiting us to see the sights. Unfortunately, this was our last winter storm to do so.

The bad weather also kept Pres. Tom and Gerre Hattan out on many occasions from attending. We've missed them all.

In the absence of Tom, our Vice President Ralph St. John, also presented at the Business and Entertainment meeting and did a fine job.

**MINUTES**

The March meeting was held at Tedtmans. Frank Ozart reported his attendance and by receiving subscriptions for the National Yearbook project book.

The CASMER Pawelkis along with other groups are marching for our annual Memorial Day services. The plans for Memorial Day were

The St. John and a group from St. John's parish were in attendance. It was a pleasant occasion. Right now it looks like the weather may become a thing of the past. We are expecting a fine job.

**APPROVED RESOLUTIONS**

Two Resolutions have been presented and approved. A Financial resolution is included in the above mentioned resolutions.

**HONORED**

Czechie Honored was honored at a testimonial dinner on April 10, 1976, by the Penn. D.A.V. of which she is Past National D.A.V. The Ladies Auxiliary donated their "fee-fifty" raised proceeds to our treasury to give it a much needed boost. The President thanked the women, especially "C" and "D" Chapter.

**DUNN DONE IT**

Bob Dunn made the local paper with his deep appreciation for the children of all the sins in the world, N.J., where the Kingdom of Sweden was on a tour to the convention in July.

**H.O.W.S.**

Marty Bergman was elected Regional Director of the National H.O.W.S. Region, American Ex. Vice President. He also plans to be at the convention.

**MEETING CONTINUED**

George D'Addonna, Greater New York Chapter President, announced that he is trying to keep the Association going, and still take a more active part in it.

Wishing everyone the best.

**Next**

The Illinois Chapter has dog in the morning. The New Year's meeting was held on January 27. Chairman John Clooney along with co-chairmen Bill Hennemuth and Jack Fazio brought a message from the 170 paid up members for 1976. Ralph Fazio, also was a guest. He also introduced Cantie Pawelek, Walter Smith, and Randy to participate in the Reunion Program.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The Illinois Chapter will hold its annual Memorial Service to be held on Sunday, May 30. Tentative arrangements have been made by Art Schmidt, had a $25.00 donation to the Chapter William Wallace Fund in recognition of his 96th birthday, which was March 31, 1976.

Emil Langer then read the following letter from Mrs. Judith Orenstein that was also appreciated for the large attendance.

**CITY, Mo. since my time July rolls around.**

**MO.**

the. Hat R the wife Johni Hughie and...
Ralph B. Schmack
141 Rockwell St.
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Dear Jim:

If the years have flown by and we’ve forgotten many of the details of our service, we are still remembering the thrill of meeting each other at the reunion in June.

It was a special thrill to see Robert E. Clark, who was a neighbor in Detroit last year and enjoyed spending time with some of the boys in the 47th. I should have mentioned this earlier, but I look forward to seeing you all again at the reunion this summer.

I hope to make the 31st reunion this year, but I will do my best not to be there. I am real pleased to be in Detroit last year and enjoyed spending time with some of the boys in the 47th. I should have mentioned this earlier, but I look forward to seeing you all again at the reunion this summer.

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