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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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9-1-1976

## The Octofoil, September/October 1976

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 XXXI Number 5

Sept-Oct 1976

## REDEDICATE MONUMENT

### Monument At Immaculate Conception Church

#### FUN IN CHICAGO FOR NINTH DIVISION MEMBERS

CHICAGO - Chicago goes all the way to meet your reunion needs. No matter what your interest, you'll find plenty to keep you happy here. A fine hotel, superb restaurants, good touring, sports, fascinating museums, zoos (including some especially for children), every kind of shopping, top name entertainment, fine transportation ... Chicago has them all, and more.

Chicago is home of the "most, biggest and best" in a lot of areas. For example: this is the world's busiest air, rail and truck center. There is the St. Lawrence Seaway, which now makes Chicago the world's greatest inland seaport, playing host to ships from all over the world. The Board of Trade here is the world's largest grain exchange, and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange is the leading market for farm commodities. This is the world's mail order center -- both Sears' and Ward's national headquarters are here.

Did someone say food? Chicago is a true melting -- and cooking -- pot, and the restaurants show it. You can find German, French, Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, Polynesian, Russian, Greek, Korean, Turkish, Italian ... and the list goes on and on. Price? A couple can do well for as little as \$5.00 for a full dinner, or to as high as \$150. Do plan to try at least one of Chicago's top restaurants ... and remember, there is no better city in the world in which to eat prime beef.

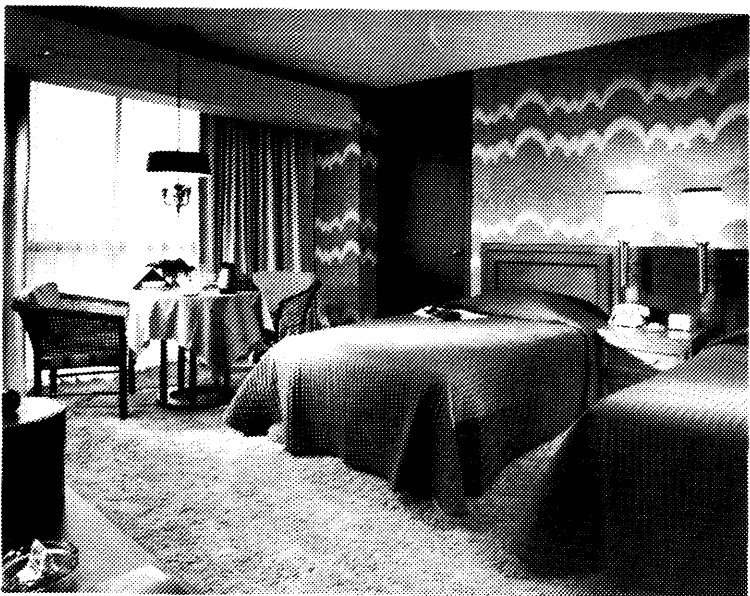
Do you like to push buttons and get into things? Go to Chicago's famous Museum of Science and Industry where there are thousands of buttons to push, wheels to turn and countless things to explore from a coal mine to a captured German submarine.

Chicago is a city of museums. These range from the Art Institute with its famous collections of oriental works and French Impressionists to the Field Museum of Natural History, Shedd Aquarium, Museum of Contemporary Art, Oriental Institute on the University of Chicago campus, Adler Planetarium ... to special museums which highlight Polish history, health or Chicago's past as the Historical Society.

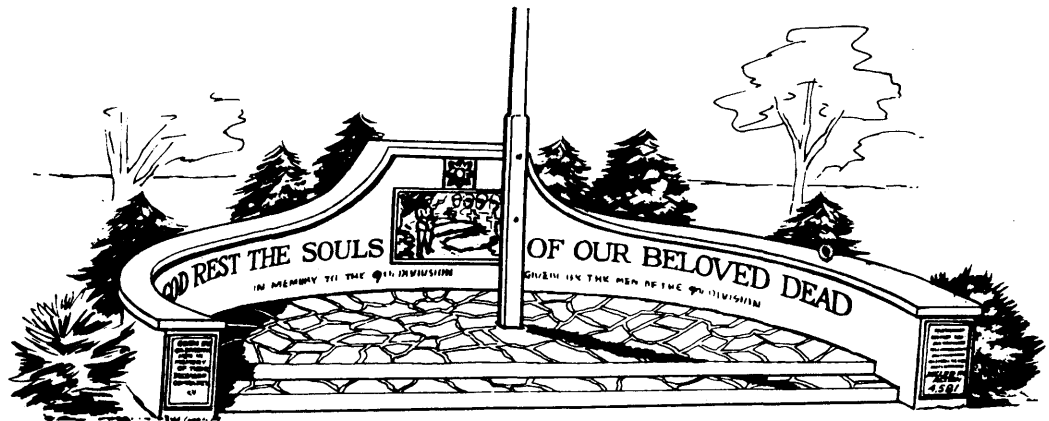
Sports? You can watch everything from football to polo. You can sail, fish, play soccer or tennis or golf or badminton. The choice is yours.

No visit to Chicago is complete without a tour of Old Town. This unique, section of the city on the near north side is the home of interesting shops and good entertainment. Coffee and jazz joints sit next to unusual shops selling everything from paper dresses to Japanese flowers to imported china and silver. You can buy a cannon or suit of armor, penny candy or French cooking utensils.

Chicago is great shopping. Just about anything available in the world can be found on the shelves of Chicago's merchants, whether you prefer the large department stores of State Street or the smaller elegant shops and stores on North Michigan Avenue, including the new Water Tower Place. All of these are within walking distance of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.



Ninth Division Association members attending the Thirty Second Annual Reunion in Chicago will be staying at the elegant Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lake Front rooms such as the one pictured above.



★★★★★★

### Taps Sounded

Answering their last roll call we add the names of these Comrades to that long list that has gone before them. Remember them in your prayers.

**William F. Cassidy, Med. Det. 47th Inf.; John Cochran, 60th Inf.; William E. Hansen; Anthony Berdinski, Co. C. 60th Inf.; Frank L. Grutzius, 26th F.A.**

**May they rest in peace.**

Mrs. William F. Cassidy  
PO Box 65  
Cleveland, New Mexico  
Mrs. William Cassidy widow of Bill (Med Det 47th Inf) writes "On December 19, 1975 my husband William F. Cassidy passed away.

I'm sorry I didn't let you know sooner."

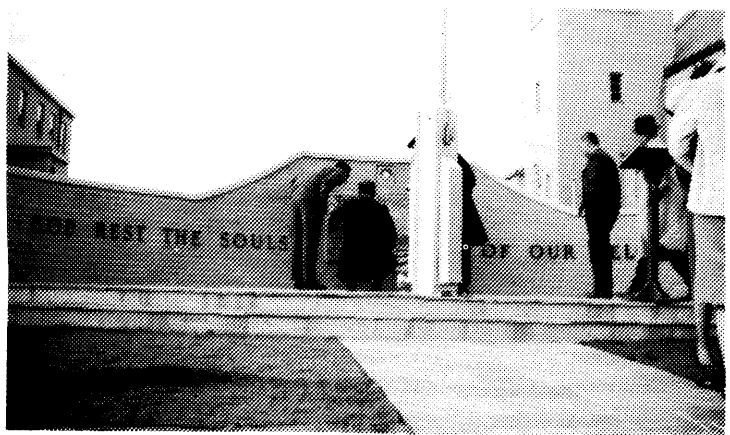
We were saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Cassidy as we knew Bill from our days with the 47th. He joined the outfit at Chicken Road before we headed for North Africa and I always marveled at this big red headed Irishman speaking Spanish like a native with the Spanish guys we had in the outfit. Shorty Salinas and Natius Ganoa were from South Texas and the three of them "hung" around together. We can still hear them harmonizing Spanish songs.

Mary E. Hansen writes to inform us of the passing of her husband William who died July 12, 1976.

Al Bruchac writes about the demise of Lt. Col. John Cochran who passed away August 18, 1976- "He served with the 60th Inf. and at one time was Commanding Officer of the original Cannon Company. He was one of the oldest members of the Division coming to the 9th at Fort Bragg. He attended the reunion in Atlanta."

On Sunday November 7, 1976 the members of the Association gathered at Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester to remember the deceased of the Ninth and to rededicate the Monument that was completely restored. Overlooking Gold Star Boulevard on the Church grounds the Monument was first dedicated in 1962. Through the years the weather had played havoc with the stone and mortar and at first it was believed a few repairs was all that would be necessary. It was later revealed that the damage was extensive and so the membership voted at the general meeting at the 31st reunion to defray the cost of this project.

The weather for the weekend was good, and the crowd was large, for the 32nd Memorial Mass and Services.



Shown examining the Memorial at Worcester are members of the Association. The Monument was restored to its original style.

### Tip Of The Hat

**We are grateful to the widows of Harry T. Briggs and Sylvester Byrne for their thoughtful contributions to the Memorial Fund, and we are extremely proud of the Ladies Auxiliary who donated \$200.00 for the restoration of the Memorial at Worcester.**

As a former Phillipsburgh, New Jerseyite and to show my appreciation for effort on behalf of widows, children and other family members, I'd like to send a small contribution.

I realize it's very small but over half my income goes to Doctors, etc., for me to stay alive and keep breathing and oh how I do enjoy life. The two grandchildren Jon aged 7 and Karin 5 1/2 are really something to live for.

Please put \$20.00 in scholarship fund from Linda Bronson to help (ever so lightly) someone as you did help her. Thanks again for so much.

Mrs. Harry T. (Sally) Briggs

Chicago in  
1977

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

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Ret.)

Honorary Member Emeritus

Rev. Edward Connors, Worcester, Mass.

The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail, \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are (\$5) per year with \$1.50 of the (\$5) earmarked for six issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. of any change in address.

Published six times a year, July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association: News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good conditions.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of their fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

Copy must be received on or before the 10th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th. Photographs must be received on or before the 5th day of publication month. Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

Volume XXXI Number 5

Sept-Oct 1976

Veterans holding National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) term policies are encouraged, to give consideration to converting the five-year level premium insurance to a permanent-plan policy.

The NSLI program was started in 1940 to serve the insurance needs of World War II servicemen. More than 22 million policies were issued before the program ended in 1951.

Term insurance premiums increase sharply at each renewal after age 50. While

premium rates for permanent plans are higher than those for term policies issued at the same ages, they remain constant throughout the life of the policy.

After conversion to permanent-plan insurance, veterans will continue to receive present insurance dividends, the amounts dependent on the new insurance plan selected. Policyholders who purchased paid-up additions to their term insurance will be permitted to retain them.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find 1977 dues for:

Name..... Serial No. ....

Street Address .....

City.....Zone..... State.....

I was a member of:

Battery.....; Company....., Regiment.....,9th Div

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year .....\$5.00 ☐

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund ..... ☐

THREE-YEAR MEMBER .....\$13.00 ☐

Life Membership .....\$50.00 ☐

Octofoil Automobile License Disc.....\$ .50 ☐

Decals, 25c; (5) five for .....\$ 1.00 ☐

Ladies' Auxiliary Member .....\$ 1.50 ☐

Combat Route Map.....\$ .50 ☐

60th Infantry History.....\$ .50 ☐

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Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐

Illinois ☐

New England ☐

Ohio ☐

Greater New York ☐

Washington, D. C. ☐

Michigan ☐

Fayetteville - Fort Bragg, N. C. ☐

## Board Meets

The 122nd meeting of the National Board of Governors was held in Worcester, Mass., at the Sheraton-Lincoln Inn on November 6, 1976 at 4:44 p.m., attended by Messrs: Charles Koskie, Paul Clark, Fran Maher, Walter O'Keeffe, Ralph Carci, Everett Tapp, Herb Olsen, Willaim Klauz, Elmer Wagner, Al Perna, Pat DeColli, George Bako and Anthony Chaconas. Also in attendance were 1st Vice-president Vincent Gugliemino, 2nd Vice-President William Bongiorno, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, Treasurer Thomas Boyle, Past Presidents Frank Ozart Emil Langer, Fred Josie, John Bonkowski, Ronald Murphy and former Board members Michael Deresh and Max Umansky.

President Koskie 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 121st meeting held in New York City on July 23, 1976. Upon a motion duly made by Al Perna 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 of file.

Thomas Boyle the Treasurer was called upon for his report and he reported on the income and spendings for the quarter ending in September. Upon a motion made by Fran Maher and seconded by Pat DeColli it was voted to: Accept the treasurers report.

Emil Langer Co-chairman of the 1976 New York reunion was asked for his final report and Emil supplied the members with copies of the income and expenses for the reunion. He had turned over to the secretary a check for \$855.77 the profits realized from the reunion.

Upon a motion made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Ralph Carciit was voted to: Accept the financial report of the 1976 reunion.

Upon a motion made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Fran Maher it was voted to: Give the New York Chapter members a standing vote of thanks for a job well done and give them a check for \$100.00 as a gratuity for a wonderful reunion.

Frank Ozart reported on the 1977 Chicago Reunion and told the members the Illinois Chapter members are busy guys these days in order to make sure that the Chicago reunion will be one of the best. More details of his report will appear in the Octofoil.

Fran Maher Chairman of the Memorial Restoration Committee reported to the members that the Momument was completely rebuilt as the old one had to be taken down to the foundation and reconstructed.

Upon a motion made by Walter O'Keeffe and seconded by Pat DeColli it was voted to transfer from the Capital Funds the sum of \$4500.00 to pay the contractor.

Harrison Daysh Chairman of the Committee for future reunions addressed the members and as the year will be 1979 when this committee will be charged with the reunion and keeping with the policy of preparing the reunion sites two years in advance the committee will begin its functioning at the Board meeting in the Spring of 1977. Meanwhile several members of this committee obtained brochures from several resort areas.

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

1. Date filed: 9-29-76. 2. Title of Publication: THE OCTOFOIL. 3. Frequency of issue: Bi-monthly. 4. Location of known office of publication: 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. - Hudson County. 5. Location of headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publisher: 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. - Hudson County. 6. Name and address of the Publisher and Editor: Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J.

7. Owner (if owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated form, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given.)

Name and address: None.

8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or other securities (if there are none, so state):

Name and address: None.

9. FOR OPTIONAL COMPLETION BY PUBLISHERS MAILING AT THE REGULAR RATES (Section 132.121. Postal Service Manual) 39 U.S.C. 3626 provides in pertinent part: "No person who would have been entitled to mail matter under former section 4359 of this title shall mail such matter at the rates provided under this subsection unless he files annually with the Postal Service a written request for permission to mail matter at such rates."

In accordance with the provisions of this statute, I hereby request permission to mail the publication named in Item 1 at the reduced postage rates presently authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3626.

10. FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (Section 132.122, Postal Manual)

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (Check one)

Have not changed during preceding 12 months

Have changed during preceding 12 months

(If changes, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. copies printed (net press run)	1,500	1,500
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street venders and counter sales	None	None
2. Mail subscriptions	1,260	1,255
C. Total paid circulation	1,260	1,255
D. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means	110	100
E. Total distribution (sum of C and D)	1,370	1,355
F. Office use, leftover, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	130	145
G. Total (sum of E and F - should equal net press run shown in A)	1,500	1,500
I certify that the statements made by me above are correct.		

DANIEL QUINN, Editor and Publisher, The Octofoil.

Walter O'Keeffe Chairman of the Committee on the study of a possible merger with the Ninth Inntry Division Octfoil Association formed by the members of the Ninth now stationed at For Lewis, Washington, reported that this committee's primary function is to explore all facets of the questions and to develop plans for alternate courses of action. O'Keeffe told the members the committee is not empowered to take any action beyond the collection of the information and data it may require to develop its report. As of this

date the response from the members has been even with about 50 percent for the merger and the other half of the correspondence wishing to remain as is with the membership limited to those who served in WW2.

O'Keeffe reported that he will continue to solocit opinions from the membership. President Koskie thanked O'Keeffe for his report.

Upon a motion duly made by George Bako and seconded by Paul Clark it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
Daniel Quinn  
National Secretary

## 32nd Annual Reunion July 28-30, 1977 Chicago, Illinois Request for Space in Souvenir Program Prices

Full Page	\$30.00
Half Page	15.00
Quarter Page	7.50
Back Cover Page	50.00
Booster ads	\$1.00 per name and unit
Make out checks to Reunion Committee, Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail Copy and checks to: Mr. Frank Ozart, U.S. Route 45 and Laraway Road, Frankfort, Illinois 60423	

## CHAPTER NEWS

## Michigan Doings

We opened the new season with our Annual Outstate Meeting on Saturday, October 2nd at Zehnders in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Many came early and spent a day in a friendly town, famous for its Bavarian setting and year 'round Christmas decorations.

A very friendly after dinner program featured Chairman, Elmer Wagner's slides. Many of them were from the recent New York Reunion.

## NEWS-NOTES

The Out-door Party at Fred & Jane Josey's home in Grand Blanc on August 21st was very enjoyable. The weather was ideal and there was a fine crowd at this Chapter's last event of a wonderful Summer.

Hosts, Fred, Jane & Randy Josey  
Rodger & Jennie Alsgaard  
Chuck & Charolotte Fox  
Don & Helen Lewis  
Kleber & Vi Stockford  
Floyd & Leora Hennessey  
Ed & Marge Wisniewski  
Len & Lorry DeBell  
Jim & Audrey Bruner  
John Al & Jane Young  
Bob & Flo DeSandy  
Maurice & Viola Mitchell  
Mr. Harold Lewis & Stan Gutek  
Tom & Gerrie Hatton  
Ernest & Elsie Young  
Everett & Irene Tapp  
John & Rose Bonkowski

## PLEASANT SURPRISE

Our big and pleasant surprise was seeing Maurice & Viola Mitchell, who arranged their trip from Florida to include this grand occasion. We finally got the chance to present Mitch with the Special Chapter Award. It was a gratifying and an emotional moment for all of us. Our very Best Wishes to this grand couple and we hope to see them again, soon.

Good to see Kleb & Vi Stockford. Everyone will be pleased to hear that Kleb is looking fine and back on the job, again.

We thank Tom & Gerrie Hatton for bringing a new couple with them from Saginaw. Rodger & Jennie Alsgaard have never heard of The Association before and are now planning on doing a lot of catching up. Rodger is a former F Co. 47th man and a buddy of our National President Chuck Koskie during the War. They have made their first contact already and may meet in Frankenmuth after all these years.

It has been quite a while since we've seen Elsie Young and it certainly was nice to have her and Ernie at the Party. She's feeling much better now and that's what we like to hear.

Vice Pres. Everett & Irene Tapp covered many miles to be in Grand Blanc that evening. His trip began in Kentucky where he was visiting his folks. On the way he picked up Irene in Ohio and still managed a few hours with us. Again we are proud to say that these are the kind of people this Chapter is made of.

The round trip for Floyd & Lee Hennessey wasn't a short one, either. To be exact, 180 miles just this side of Toledo.

Sorry to learn that Don Lewis' Mom was in a serious auto accident but somewhat relieved when she was taken out of Intensive Care, the day we met in Grand Blanc. At the same time, his sister Shirley Gutek was hospitalized with a blood clot in her lung. Many of us have met her and her husband, Stan and have enjoyed

their company on the Chapter Bus Trips to the Reunions. Don's Dad and Brother-in-law stopped by to spend a few minutes with us on the way to the hospital and it was so nice of them.

Mentioning hospitals, Audrey Bruner has under-gone surgery recently and doing fine, but must take it easy. Although it was late, it was nice to see her and Jim at the Party.

The Convention was a main topic of the day. Chick & Charlotte Fox brought many fine snap-shots of that week-end in New York and everyone enjoyed them.

In our last News-Notes, we made a plea to those who seldom make the Chapter doings. Well, we were delighted when Len & Lorry DeBell showed up. They are active bowlers and it seems like there are conflict of dates between their League and our Meetings. Sorry about that.

John Al & Jane Young are looking fine and you can tell that retirement is agreeing with them. Would be nice to see them at all of our doings. (I've been up North a couple of week-ends ago and stopped by at their home in Lewiston. No one was home but the evidence was there that someone is keeping pretty busy and enjoying it.)

When you're having a nice time the hours go by quickly. Just like it was planned, the table was set at 6 PM. The meal was like a banquet. Our Hosts treated us to delicious turkey and ham. All the side dishes that the Gals brought along were to everyone's delight. There also was plenty of good tea and coffee on hand. To top it off there was that tender sweet-corn and tasty water-melon that Don & Helen brought along.

In the absence of Pres. Elmer Wagner who was on one of those European Trips again, Vice Pres. Ed Wisniewski presided at the brief Meeting. He did a fine job in quick order.

Speaking of trips, we missed Bob & Flo DeSandy at our Out-state Meeting on October 2nd, they returned a day late from their vacation in California.

Don & Helen Lewis also joined the travelers group. They flew to Europe two days after the Party. We should see a lot of interesting pictures, that is, if Don doesn't leave his camera somewhere along the way.

Chaplain John Zulkiewski called to let us know that he missed the Meeting due to illness in the family.

A note from Bill & Barb Meadows tells us that they are enjoying their retirement and the time is going by so swiftly. They came across Ed Valkoun from Flint and passed along his dues for another year. This is appreciated.

Tippie Plunkett wrote that she missed the Reunion in New York, but was happy to hear that everyone had a grand time. She appreciates the Program Book and so many cards from all her friends. Can't make those trips anymore, doctor's order. We know that everyone joins us in wishing her the very best, always.

We often mention the kind of Members that our Chapter is blessed with. Here's a note from one of them and I hope that he doesn't mind me printing it here:

An invitation has been sent to National Pres. Chuck & Irma Koskie. There was a large wedding in the family that they had to attend to that week-end. However things look very promising for Frankenmuth and we're looking forward to seeing them there.

Our hosts have extended an invitation to Father Connors but he couldn't make it either. He sent his thoughts and prayers as he always does every day to the men of The Ninth, especially at Daily Mass.

Well, Father Connors couldn't come to us, so we'll go to him. The 32nd Annual Memorial week-end in Worcester is a lot closer than we may think. Another good turn-out from the Chapter is expected in Worcester on November 6th & 7th.

Fred & Jane Josey, Jim & Audrey Bruner, John & Rose Bonkowski, Tom & Gerrie Hatton, Len & Lorry DeBell, Elmer Wagner, John Zulkiewski.

Other Regulars who almost always make the Memorial are The Rushlows, Obermillers and Meadows and we'll probably see them there again this year. If anyone wishes more information drop Father Connors a note:

Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove St. Worcester, Mass 01605. For room reservations write to: Fran Maher, 14 Davenport St., Worcester, Mass. 01610  
Elmer Wagner, Pres.  
John Bonkowski, Sec.

## NEW YORK CHAPTER

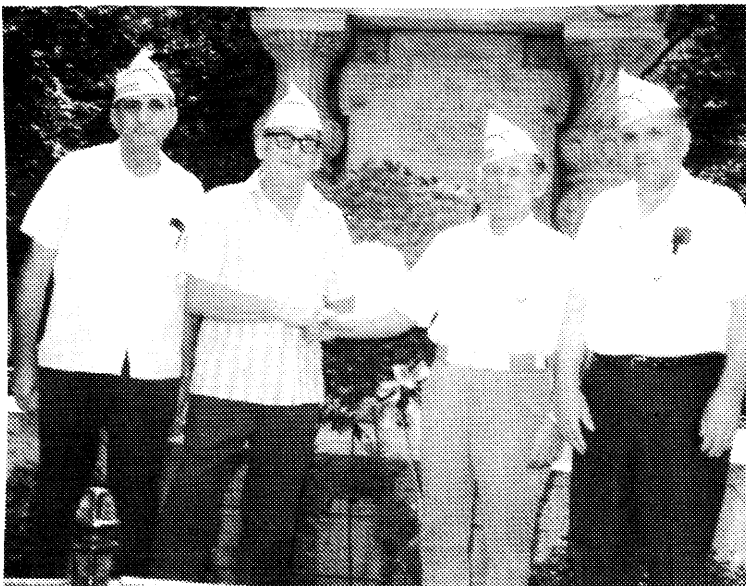
## INVENTOR

Irving Feinberg, Treasurer of the Greater N.Y. Chapter, 9th Inf. Div., has invented a new corrugated tray and sleeve which has been selected by United States Postal Service Headquarters to be used for dispatch of almost all mails within the U.S. Postal Service.

Known as the MM or "Handi" tray and sleeve, more than four million of them are being distributed to mail processing centers and to large volume mailers across the country.

The advantages of the new tray are that it is inexpensive, lightweight, stacks and stores easily, results in less damage to mails, eliminates sacks and sack repair and cleaning and expedites the movement of mails. The tray will be utilized by Readers Digest to handle their 30 million piece Christmas mailing. Because of its versatility the tray is expected to become the No. 1 piece of equipment within the U.S. Postal Services.

Joe McKenzie  
95 Washington Avenue  
Waltham, Mass., 02154



These "OldTimers" from the 39th Infantry get together at the N.Y. Reunion-shown left to right Frank Russo, Co. B. 39th, Irv Terchak, Co. B. 39th, Andy Seasock, Co. B. 39th and Ernest Strippa, Co. A. 39th.

SERVICE BATTERY 26th  
FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Father Connors made all necessary plans for our annual visit to Worcester. As in the past, the Memorial Mass focused our attention on Ninth men who did not return, on Ninth men who have died since returning home and on our great effort to make this country safe. Our attendance at this Mass to pray for one another is the greatest display of devotion we have acquired for one another.

As usual, the parishioners at Immaculate were prepared to make our weekend in Worcester the most enjoyable. Early arrivals on November 6th found Connors' coffee Shop on Saturday night the best place to eat and meet the old gang.

Change your records to read:  
Richard M. Hill, 9791 Audelia, Dallas, Texas, Apt. 171  
Mrs. Lewis Ortigari, South Royalton, Vermont 05068  
Truly G. Hammock, Moved -- Left no address.

Manny Effron, 6903 Ventor Ave., Ventor, New Jersey 08406  
Jesse Hill, Brownwood, Texas 76801 Rt. 1 Box 285

At last report Dick Hill was the featured musician at the Greek Key, a plush restaurant and night club in Dallas. After discharge, Cecil Williamson became a mechanic, then a farmer (over 200 acres), made a bundle, then retired. His trouble was that he had to be busy; so now he is a machinist. Paul and Lois Griffin celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Three Griffin boys are at Kent State. Carlo Matalini of 26FA medics at Ft. Bragg has a son teaching at West Point. John Murray retired a little over one year ago and immediately took off for Venezuela. Pauline Albenese, daughter of Joe, is studying pharmacy at the U. of Rhode Island at Kingston. Manny Effron is now retired. Jerry Langer is now selling real estate in the Big Apple. Bill Bongiorno retired last year and is enjoying every minute of it. Harry Fry had a stroke in Sept. 1975. From last report he had fully recovered and was awaiting the doctor's decision as to when he could return to work. He has a grandson, age 2. Willie Leonard added a note to his Christmas card of last year. He said Worcester is a long way from Louisiana and doubts if he will ever make it. Willie said he thinks of the old gang quite often. Jim Newton (Ft. Bragg) retired after a heart attack. He has a 4-year old grandchild. Harold and Jo Ann Wallace are grandparents for the second time.

## Mail Call CONT'D

C.J. Richards  
Hornbeams Swarraton  
near Alresford  
Hampshire, England

You may remember that over 3 years ago I sent you, through the Department of the Army at Washington, some photos of a dog named Ham-bone Junior - sorry, I mean the stone headstone at the grave of a dog etc., who was the pet of the 47th Infantry Regiment at Alresford and was buried by the side of our river. (I have since heard that the poor little fellow was killed by a car)).

Since sending you those photographs, I have met a man in Alresford who has the original 'headstone' and will gladly part with it, should the 47th Infantry Regiment like to have it. But these are the difficulties: the 'headstone' is made of heavy oak, (I think) and weighs about 30 lbs. It is approximately 3 1/4 feet high and 18 inches in width. I imagine, therefore, that no visitor from your Country would want to take it back to the U.S.A. by air! If, however, you know of any visitor from the U.S.A. returning to England by boat and would like to take the memorial with him I could arrange, somehow or other, to let him have it.

The whole idea is rather a wild one, but as I love all dogs and was in both World Wars, I thought that this letter might interest you, even if it has no further result.

I wish I could visit the U.S.A. again but am now 81, and don't suppose I ever shall. I came back from Burma (where I worked for about 30 years) through Canada and the U.S.A. but didn't get any further than New York and Niagara - that was in the 1930's.

Excuse this rambling letter. Should you ever come over here, do pay us a visit - we live about 25 miles from Southampton.

With all good wishes to you and the Members of your Association.

Mrs. Harry Briggs  
c-o P.W. Bronson  
Route 1 Box 43  
Charlo, Montana 59824

Sally Briggs widow of Harry Briggs (26th F.A.) writes "Hello to all Ninth Division People everywhere and especially to you who have continued to send the Octofoil in spite of my negative attitude in returning many thanks. I really do look forward to receiving the news and always look especially for the 26th F.A. letters-news to see any Bty C names though Harry was in Bty A at one point.

How I would enjoy attending a reunion but my health will not allow it. I'd especially like to be in Father Connors Coffee Shop every year. Life holds much for people to do and with my Lord's help life will continue to be productive and wonderful. I do miss Harry.

Since I am so remiss in writing count this address change as a very sincere thank you and very early Christmas greeting card. You, and I do mean all you, have done a fantastic amount of good, by including widows, etc., on your mailing list. I for only one love you for it."

Editors note: Another letter from Sally appears in the Memorial Fund column, she made a most generous donation to that Fund.

77 REUNION  
in CHICAGO

# Traveling down road of history

HISTORY OF 47th INFANTRY — SEPTEMBER 1944

## COMBAT TEAM

The regiment, organized as a combat team, was currently engaged in rapid pursuit of the enemy across Northeastern France. By swift and concise moves, the enemy was consistently denied the opportunity of organizing a defense adequate to deter our advance for any length of time. The Germans, in their retreat to avoid contact and possible subsequent capture, generally abandoned towns and cities only a few hours before our arrival, and on several occasions, being totally unaware of the proximity of American troops, were overtaken while in the process of evacuating. In a few places, screening forces were left behind to cover the withdrawal of larger bodies, but for the most part the enemy seemed reluctant to become involved at all, and these tactics were used only when our advance threatened to engulf any sizable portion of his forces. Since the anticipated defenses at the Seine, the Marne and the Aisne Rivers had been successively compromised. It was presumed that our crossing of the Meuse River would be contested and that the enemy units retreating before us were endeavoring to reach that line.

## OBJECTIVE

On Sept. 1st, the regiment, less the 3rd Bn. which was still assisting the 3rd Armored Division, was assembled at DIZY LE GROS and received orders to occupy VERVINS as the objective for the day.

The 2nd Bn. moved from the assembly area at 0800; followed shortly by the 2nd Bn. Patrols from the Regimental I & R platoon preceded the battalions to reconnoiter the routes to be used, and key personnel from the Regimental Command Post, designated as the forward C.P., followed as closely as practicable behind the advancing troops. This latter procedure was instituted during the series of long-distance moves currently being made by the Regiment and was found to afford opportunities for closer contact and better coordination between forward elements.

The 2nd Bn. was motorized at 0845 and, turning right in VIGNEUX-HOCQUET, proceeded on towards the objective. The 1st Bn. continued through VIGNEUX-HOCQUET and reached VERVINS at 1145.

## BROUGHT HOME

In passing through PLOMION it was brought home to us rather forcefully what type of enemy we were up against. Most of the houses were mere skeletons, thoroughly gutted by fire, the interior of each a mass of still-smouldering rubble. The townspeople were in a state of profound distraction from fear and grief, some staring blankly as we passed through and others weeping bitterly. The Nazi SS troops had murdered several women and children, and then set fire to the homes with incendiary grenades.

After VERVINS had been occupied and while the Regimental Intelligence Officer and several other officers were conferring near the town square, a German command car came racing by the occupants either unaware that the town had been captured or hoping to make their way through by a bold move. They were immediately fired on and after the car was pierced several times by bullets, they stopped and surrendered. One of them was an officer and the others enlisted men, apparently couriers, as they were carrying commitment orders for an anti-aircraft battalion.

## SEIZE HIGH GROUND

On the following day, the Regiment was ordered to seize the high ground North of BOIS L'ABB'E, and began the advance at 0800.

At 1030, the I & R platoon contacted a squad of enemy at WIGNEHIES who fled when fired on, and the 1st Bn. occupied this town at 1130 without further resistance. The Reconnaissance patrol encountered an enemy force, estimated to be a platoon, at GLAGEON and again later in the day they made contact again, and succeeded in killing 2 Germans and capturing 3 more without suffering any casualties themselves. In the vicinity of the objective, they were fired on by an A.T. gun, which was destroyed by one of the tanks attached to the Regiment. By 2100 both Bns. had occupied the objective and established defensive positions.

## BURNED THE TOWN

One of the prisoners captured during the day was a Master Sergeant from the SS Division Polizei, and after a lengthy interrogation, admitted that he was a member of the battalion which had burned the town of PLOMION the day before. He also divulged the names of the Bn. commander and several other officers who were responsible for the atrocity.

The Field Order received for operations on 3 Sept. directed that the regiment move rapidly, with tanks, tank destroyers and one light field artillery Bn., and seize bridges across the Meuse River, with particular attention to the bridge at DINANT.

The 2nd Bn. was motorized and moved out first, followed by the 1st Bn. using their organic vehicles for transportation. The 2nd Bn. encountered some light resistance shortly after crossing the border but bypassed it and proceeded on. 1st Bn. at BEAUMONT met a strong enemy force consisting of infantry tanks with artillery and Nebelwerfers, which were disposed generally to the NE of the town.

The Regimental I & R platoon, who preceded the Bns., had crossed the Belgian border at 0730, and were the first to contact the enemy. They were fired on while approaching the town of BEAUMONT, and had one man killed and two wounded. At 1215, they reported that the enemy was withdrawing and that BEAUMONT was clear. The Bns. renewed their advance, the 1st Bn. going through BEAUMONT and the 2nd Bn. toward BARBENCON. Notification was received that the attack was delayed because of a shortage of gasoline, so defensive positions were established, the 1st Bn. a mile NW of BEAUMONT, and the 2nd Bn. about half a mile East of BARBENCON.

## FIRST DAY

This was our first day in Belgium and the welcome we received was the heartiest and most spontaneous yet. We encountered several American airmen who had been concealed by the Underground since their plane was forced down seven months before. They were accompanied by the woman who was the leader of the Underground movement in that vicinity.

The next day, the Regiment was ordered to move to PHILIPPEVILLE and await further orders in Division reserve. The 1st Bn., however, was to be left at BEAUMONT to maintain defense in that area and the 84th F.A. Bn. was to remain with them.

At 0800, the 2nd Bn. moved to PHILIPPEVILLE, reaching there at 0905. Orders were immediately received that the Regiment would move by bounds on order, the next objective being ST GERARD. At 1315, the 2nd Bn. began the motor movement to ST GERARD. In the vicinity of the wooded area just south of FLORENNES, The Regimental I & R platoon overtook a column of two companies of enemy infantry marching down the highway and immediately opened fire on them. The Germans quickly dispersed in the surrounding woods and in response to a call from the I & R, one company from the 2nd Bn. and several light tanks were dispatched to assist. A number of the enemy were killed and about 75 of them captured.

Upon arrival in ST GERARD, the combat team was ordered to move south immediately to FLAVION, there to be joined subsequently by the 1st and 3rd Bns. Movement was begun at 1730 and completed by 1830.

In accordance with instructions in F.O. No. 31, Hq. 9th Infantry Division, a demonstration was made by one platoon of "F" Co. with mortars, light machine guns and light tanks at DINANT at 0001, and another one by Co. "G" at VIREUX at 0630. These were to create a diversion for the other two Regiments of the Division, who were attempting to establish bridgeheads across the Meuse River.

At 0200, the 1st Bn. rejoined the Regiment from its assignment to the defense of BEAUMONT and with the arrival of the 3rd Bn. at 1300 from attachment to 3rd Armored Division the entire Regiment was assembled at FLAVION.



The ferry across the rapid flowing Meuse River at Dinant, Belgium, is very much in demand now that the bridge has been destroyed. The Bridge was blown up by the retreating German Army to try to halt the advance of the onrushing Ninth Infantry Division. September 1944.

## MEUSE RIVER

The 2nd Bn. was designated Division Reserve Bn. and ordered to send one company to ONHAYE for the purpose of patrolling all road nets between there and the Meuse River.

At 1545, the 1st Bn. was attached to the 60th Infantry and moved to the vicinity of that Regiment's No. 3 crossing of the Meuse River South of BEAUMONT, but later the same day reverted to Regimental control and were ordered to cross the Meuse River the following morning at 0400. The 3rd Bn. was scheduled to cross behind the 1st. Both Bns. were to complete crossing before daylight and be prepared to attack at 0730 to the NE, E, and SE in order to remove any threat to the bridgehead site.

The following morning the 1st Bn. began crossing as scheduled in assault boats furnished by the 15th Eng. Bn., but upon debarking, found that they were on an island in mid-stream instead of on the opposite river bank. The 3rd Bn., who at 0300 had moved to an assembly area, immediately began crossing at the 60th Infantry's No. 2 crossing-site (919816), and by 0800 all the foot troops of the Bn. were on the East bank of the River, proceeded North and crossed behind the 3rd Bn. Although the terrain was definitely in favor of the defenders, with commanding ground affording them an excellent view of the River, both Bns. accomplished their crossings unobserved and were not fired on until they commenced climbing the slopes on the East bank. (1st Bn. was under heavy cross machine gun fire and some mortar fire at original crossing and received mortar fire at subsequent crossing.)

A floating treadway bridge was being constructed at HASTIERE by 1st Army Engineers under constant interdiction artillery fire, and long before it was completed, the 3rd Bn. ingeniously fashioned a raft from logs and oil drums and floated several jeeps and the Bn. A.T. guns across.

## FIRMLY ENTRENCHED

The 3rd Bn. set out to seize the road junction one mile SE of BLAIMONT and at 0835 they had organized a base of fire astride the road leading SE to it, and proceeded toward the objective. The enemy was firmly entrenched at this point and resisted stubbornly with mortar, machine gun, small arms and 20 mm fire. Several artillery concentrations were fired on them and the 3rd Bn. succeeded in gaining control of the RJ by 1130, but continued to come under heavy fire of the

type mentioned above. At 1500, the enemy launched a local counter-attack with infantry and armored vehicles from the direction of MENSIL ST BLAISE against this Bn. but it was repulsed without their gaining any ground.

The 1st Bn., meantime was experiencing considerable difficulty in their attack on the right of the 3rd Bn., they met the same stiff resistance. In attempting to advance SE, they were met by a strong counter-attack coming from that vicinity. The enemy succeeded in partially enveloping Company "C", about half of Co. "C" being captured. The remainder of the two companies managed to extricate themselves and withdrew to reorganize with the rest of the Bn.

The treadway bridge was completed at 1530 and priority granted to the Tanks and T.D.'s of the 47th C.T., who upon crossing, were ordered to assist the 3rd Bn. first, and then go as a unit to the 1st Bn. to help them.

At 2045, the Bns. were ordered to hold in place for the night and to start active foot and motor patrols at daybreak.

## BRIDGE HEAD

This bridgehead across the Meuse River had been secured in spite of conditions which were wholly to the enemy's advantage. The day was such as to preclude any assistance to us by air, with a heavily overcast sky and intermittent rainfall.

*continued*



9-1-44 - Town of Plomion, France-Incendiaries planted by the Germans when they fled the town, destroyed nearly every building in the town. Scenes like this were found by the Ninth Div. on their arrival.

# 47th HISTORY CONT. SEPTEMBER 1944

The terrain very definitely favored defense and the attackers were forced to move straight uphill almost from the moment the East bank was reached. The fact that the enemy failed to use the commanding ground to harass the Bns. while crossing was a tribute to the secrecy discipline of the troops involved. He did, however, delay completion of the treadway bridge at HASTIERE, which aggravated our supply problem to no little degree since no vehicles could be gotten across. It also prevented our bringing the added weight of the attached armored vehicles into play, which, had we been able to use then would have offset the advantage the enemy possessed in this respect. The action of the 3rd Bn. in improvising their own ferry system enabled them to get equipment, ammunition and supplies which they otherwise would not have received until the following day.

Throughout the day, the 2nd Bn. remained on the West side of the River in Division Reserve. At 1900, Co. "G" had again been sent to ONHAYE for the purpose of patrolling all road nets between there and the Meuse River.

The following morning, at daybreak, patrols were sent out by both Bns. and it was found that the enemy had withdrawn. One prisoner was taken by the 1st Bn. who said that his particular unit had suffered 50 percent casualties from our artillery, which seemed more than probable judging from the large number of dead left behind by the retreating enemy.

The 1st and 3rd Bns. were assembled and at 1200 moved out by motor for CINEY. The 2nd Bn. was ordered to stay in same positions and guard the bridge at HASTIERE.

Six men from the Regimental I & R platoon were reconnoitering the route of advance and at 1400 observed an 88MM gun, manned by 12 men emplaced near a railroad station 1 mile East of GENDRON. Unable to move their jeep to a position which would enable them to fire the mounted 30 caliber M.G., they dismounted the gun and carried it forward. While the platoon sergeant, T-Sgt. Plewniak held the machine gun in his hands and fired, the platoon leader, 1st Lt. Elliot E. Williams fed in the ammunition. They fired about 500 rounds at the gun and into the station, keeping the Germans pinned down until a light tank could be brought up. The tank then opened up with its machine guns and covered the position while the lieutenant and sergeant from the I & R worked their way down a steep hill to it. As they approached the station, the Germans opened fire, wounding the sergeant in the thigh. They continued on, however, and succeeded in capturing all 12 Germans, including 1 officer.

Later in the afternoon, the 3rd Bn. encountered a Mark V tank North of CELLES, which one of their attached tanks destroyed, capturing 3 prisoners.

At 2000, the Regiment occupied the town of CINEY (123918) and established perimeter defense to the N, NE, E, and SE. The Germans had left there only a few hours before and we were the first American troops to enter the town.

## "WHITE ARMY"

The Belgian "White Army", comprised of members of the Underground, seemed to be in considerable force in CINEY. Immediately after our entry they began parading up and down the streets in a variety of uniforms and carrying every conceivable type of firearm. They were almost belligerently cooperative and felt that their four years of waiting had been fully justified when we handed over to them the prisoners taken during the day. They promptly locked them up in the local Gendarmerie until the arrival of the Division PW Enclosure.

On Sept. 8th, the Regiment was ordered attached to the 3rd Armored Division to assist them in the occupation of LIEGE and was instructed to move to the NE into the angle between the Meuse and L'Ourth Rivers, in the direction of ANGLEUR.

The movement was begun at 0800 and completed by 1030. No resistance was encountered en route and the Regiment moved into an assembly area South of LIEGE prepared to take over the defense of the town itself next morning. At 1900, the 2nd Bn., less Co. "G" rejoined the Regiment from its assignment to Division Reserve Company "G" was left behind at HASTIERE to maintain guard at the bridge across the Meuse River.

## LIEGE

The mission of the combat team for Sept. 9th was to clear the city of LIEGE of any resistance which might remain. The 1st Bn. was assigned the Eastern sector, the 3rd Bn. the center and the Regimental I & R platoon was to patrol the Western sector of the city. The 2nd Bn. in reserve was not to be committed beyond one company to help the I & R in the Western sector. At 1000, all Bns. moved to positions within the city which would enable them to defend to the East and SE. Road blocks were established, a guard of at least 1 platoon of infantry and 1 tank or T.D. was maintained at each bridge and each Bn. sector was patrolled throughout by motor.

## CIC PERSONNEL

The CIC personnel attached to the Regiment contacted members of the Underground in LIEGE and found that they were well-organized and possessed quite a store of valuable information. From one of them, an agent of the British Intelligence Service, information concerning the defenses of the Siegfried Line was received and passed on to Division Hq.

It was at this time that a notable increase in enemy air activity was encountered. The day before, a formation of about 20 German planes flew directly overhead at low altitude while a goodly portion of the Regiment was in convoy on the road. They did not, however, commit any hostile acts against us, but were heard to discharge rockets at some target, which judging from the sound, was not very distant. They attempted several times to destroy bridges in the sector with bombs but were unsuccessful, and at one time strafed the approaches to one of the bridges while several of our vehicles were in the immediate vicinity. In all of these attacks we suffered no losses either in personnel or vehicles, although one stick of bombs struck several buildings in the town causing numerous civilian casualties.

## UNTIL RELIEVED

The Regiment was ordered to stay in positions until relieved by units of the 1st Infantry Division, at which time we would proceed to an assembly area in the vicinity of BEAUFAYS.

Just before 0100 on 10 September, an officer from VII Corps Hq arrived at the Command Post with orders for the 47th C.T. to send a screening force to protect to the N and E as security for the Corps Command Post. At 0200, Co "F", a platoon of mortars from Co "H" and a platoon of 57mm guns from AT Co were dispatched on this mission.

At 1045 the Regiment was released from attachment to 3rd Armored Division and instructed to proceed to an assembly area in the vicinity of BEAUFAYS under 9th Division control. The movement to the new area was completed at 1800. Co "G" was left to guard bridges while the 3rd Battalion was instructed to leave a platoon at the two bridges in their sector.

Late in the evening, orders were received instructing the Regiment to occupy on September 11th, the high ground NE of VERVIERS.

The following morning movement to this area was begun at 0900 and completed by 1700 without any contact with the enemy. The 951st FA Battalion, a First Army unit with 105mm howitzers, was attached to the Combat Team and accompanied it on the move.

The force, which on the previous day had been sent on a special mission to VII Corps Hq, rejoined the Regiment and Co "G" was dispatched in its place.

## CONT'D NEXT ISSUE

## 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.

## 76 Reunion



+++

Ann and Pat Morano in their costume of the Colonial days as they appeared at the dance on Friday night.



At a first glance we thought it was the Rockettes lining up for their number. Actually it was some of the "Gals" waiting for their better halves to show up for the New Years Eve party in July.

## MAIL CALL

Les Ronay  
19709 Ventura Blvd.  
Woodland Hills, Calif.

Just recently, after 30 some odd years, I finally managed to revisit that area of Eupen-Monchau Aachen, Duren. That area where the 9th Infantry had tough going.

As my daughter now resides in the Wolfsburg region I took a side trip and after 30 odd years I really didn't recognize much terrain.

That particular area is now fully developed and Monchau is now a tourist attraction (the attached photo's should give our members some idea of what it looks like today.)

Penny and I took the Rhine boat trip, of course nothing is the same, didn't recognize Remagen Crossing area nor Bonn etc.

The heavy dark line indicates our route from Koln to Aachen-Duren area, down to Nideggen, Monchau, Gemund, Drienborn, Sulpich back to Heimbach and Hurtgen area.

Having had personal reasons for this particular trip I was grateful that I could do so, but from all indication of my complete view of Germany, as we did not go to the area, I say this is the only country in the world to live in.

Also made a side trip to London, would have liked to revisit Winchester area, had too much to do in so short of time. Was glad to get home and enjoy good old California.

Would like to have the time to come for the New York Convention, but at present I'm squashed for time that unless I can make proper arrangements I will have to wait for some future date.

The attached for your placement at the convention for our members.

15th Eng.

A.F. Rago  
80 Mapes Avenue  
Springfield, N.J. 07081

We will try to attend the Xmas Party, it all depends on Al's health. I'm going to call John Mutchko tonight, maybe they will join us. Say hello to all.

47th Inf.

Emil J. DeDonato  
61 Claremont Avenue  
Totowa, N.J. 07512

I am still semi-retired. I work out of my home doing some advertising work for a few customers. This year my wife and I plan to take a few months off for a winter vacation in Florida. Our third son will be graduating Penn State in '77 and let me tell you that's going to be a big relief after putting two other boys through college since 1972.

My wife Audrey and I enjoyed the last reunion and hope to make others in the future. We were planning to attend the Memorial Mass in Worcester but another commitment came up and so will not be able to go. It is truly a remarkable feat to see so many people attend these functions after so many years have past. That's a tribute to the few who work so hard the year round.

Best wishes for continued success and also for a happy and prosperous New Year. P.S. If you or any other member of the association knows the whereabouts of Julius Willen (HQ. Co. 47th Inf.), please have them contact me.

Co. F. 47th Inf. 9th Div.  
Earl Wilkey, Jr.  
402 Calhoun Avenue  
Rome, Ga. 30161

October, 1976 was a good month for me. As I went to Florida with my son Wayne and stopped in Alapaha, Ga. and seen my 1st Sgt. Felton Jones. It sure was good to see Felton again after all these years. We plan to do it again soon.

I would like to thank Felton Jones, Vincent Gugliemino, Sam Bumie and Hoppie Hopkins for writing my power of attorney William O. Horgen in my behalf. Thanks! You are the greatest.

Also talked to Gen. Edwin Randle in Clearwater, Fla. He was doing fine. Good luck to all.

47th Inf.

Len Kupkowski  
2771 Gazelle Street  
Dunkirk, N.Y. 14048

I am working as yet in Penn. but I manage to get home on weekends. I am working at Shippingport, Penn. on a nuclear electrical plant there.

Say hello to the big one, Ed Egan, if you see him for the Kupkowski family.

Thanks a lot for checking into the problem.

9th Ord. Co.

John J. Kowalski  
3624 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15201

Sorry I'm later with the dues. After a number of heart attacks and nine weeks in three different hospitals I'm running a little bit late.

As of July this year I'll be moving back to Pittsburgh.

I hope I can make the reunion.

9th Signal Co.

E.H. Spink  
Box 15 Stonebrook  
Cosby, Tenn. 37722

As you see answering letters isn't one of my assets. I am enclosing check for \$13.00 for which includes my '76 dues.

I would appreciate it if you would send me the Octofoil which covered the last convention.

All is O.K. and I am enjoying my new home in the Smokies. Now that I have retired I am busier than ever.

K Co. 60 Inf.

Merton H. Beebe  
176 East Robbins Avenue  
Newington, Conn. 06111

I am enclosing my check for my 1977 dues. Previous years I have been a little slow in forwarding my dues and I do not wish to be delinquent.

I have had a good year in fairly good health playing golf and enjoying my home and friends.

Sorry I couldn't make this year's convention due to circumstances beyond my control.

The best to you and our comrades in one of the best military associations I know of.

39th Inf.

Irv. H. Terchak  
2559 So. 90th Street  
West Allis, Wis. 53227

Irv sends his regards to all and writes "I had a ball at the reunion and will attend the next one in Chicago in '77".

Editors note: Sorry about the delay in receiving the Octofoil, Irv, but without making excuses the paper is printed every other month or six times a year and with the Post Office delivery (bulk mail) I sometimes think they send it via China.

Frank M. Ridzi 60th F.A.  
R.D. 2, Box 230A  
Catskill, N.Y. 12414

Sends his dues and writes. Since my retirement five years ago from the New York Transit Authority I've been living and enjoying life in the Catskills. Hello to all. Take care and best of everything.

Co. C 9th Med.

John H. Lewis  
211 Midland Street  
Shelbyville, Tenn 37160

Almost dues time again. I will get this on in a few days early.

Louise and I had a wonderful trip to Europe in July. We stayed 4 days in Ingolstadt visiting the Karchic and Herald families. A short visit to Dachau then on to France. From there to Luxemburg where we visited the American Cemetery and more sightseeing. Next to Belgium, Bartogm, St. Vith, Mahnedys Liege where we stayed a couple of days. We visited 3 cemeteries near there. From there to Viviers, Eupen, Roetgen, Monchau and next to Remagen. A couple days in Frankfurt then home.

Hopefully, we will see you in Chicago.

9th Med. Bn.

Peter A. Radichio  
1427, 15 Street  
Santa Monica, Ca. 90404

I finally got around to drop the New York Chapter a line letting them know that the convention was a great job well done as Dom Miele said it all no other words needed.

I hope to be in Worcester this coming week and I hope to meet the gang again. This Father Connors is in my book, and every other member of our great association, as the man of the year so many times I hope he doesn't talk giving it up, as I like for him to be man of the year forever. Also, I might add the 3000 miles I travel to Worcester is like traveling around the corner to fulfill the Memorial mass obligation. Keep it going men.

I would like to answer letters from men on the West Coast. I would like to say that I did and talked to different people at the New York Convention. I started to talk in reference to having a convention in California. Well, let me say this 77 convention is in Chicago the 78 convention is in Philadelphia its the same backyard. Lets all yell at one time at the 77 convention and lets have a convention West of Chicago for a change maybe it will get people to travel west and see our great land of ours instead of hanging around East of Chicago. Lets start now singing the song "California here I come." I hope!

To the fellas in the 9th Medics, I did call Jack Wilson and we all wanted to know what happened to him and his wife Eva. Why they didn't come to the convention. The reason in short they are both well, but they changed their vacation plan this year.

Well, I don't know what else to say other than I hated to see the great Yankees go down in defeat. As the Dodgers used to say wait till next year.

I am going to say that if I don't see you guys and gals at Father Connors Coffee Shop I'll surely see you all at the Chicago Convention. Cheerio and Good Luck. God bless you all and stay well.

P.S. The men in Co. B 9th Medics, would like to know our great C.O. Dr. Althoff's whereabouts. Anybody who knows please write to me.

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

## THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

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

Co I 60th Inf.

Albert M. Hodge  
5818 White Bluff Rd.  
Savannah, Ga. 31405

Re: Contacts with former Members of Co. "I" 60th Infantry

Greetings Dan & Mrs. Quinn:

Mabel and I travelled out to the Mid-West when our daughter, Debra graduated from Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minn., in June 75. While in that area we visited or contacted a few of my former friends and-or their families. The first was the former Spouse of Myles F. Bartusek - Jeanette, now Mrs. Norbert Deutsch. Myles was killed in an automobile accident on September 3, 1958 just one mile from his home New Prague, Minn. They had one son Philip who was only two months old at the time. We were welcomed during our brief stop off by Norbert, Jeanette, Philip and one of Norbert's sons by his former marriage. I was able to carry on an extended conversation with Philip who never was privileged to meet or should I say remember his father. It was a great honor for me to have an opportunity to converse with Philip and relate a few of the Peace and War-Time escapades.

We stopped for two days at Minneapolis-St. Paul after which we journeyed on to Alexandria where two most enjoyable days were spent with Eddie F. and his lovely wife Lois Benesh. Eddie is what we in the South would characterize a "Gentleman Farmer" because of the size of his farm, and the tremendous amount of mechanized farm equipment, several cattle, and two registered Arabian Mares. However, due to poor health combined with the routing of a New Interstate Highway which severed his holdings, it became necessary for he and Lois to sell a portion, but retaining several hundred acres that was in a good state of cultivation. Due to this, his activities were curtailed and he entered into semi-retirement. Additionally they own a lake side cottage which they utilize for recreational purposes, as well as renting in off seasons. They have three daughters viz., Mrs. Elsie Thompson who with her husband graduated from St. Olaf Lutheran College, and both are engaged in the teaching profession at Northfield, Minn. Mary and husband Mark reside in Loveland, Colo., where Mark is employed as an Engineer in the research division with Hewlett-Packard. Mary graduated from Augsburg Lutheran College at Minneapolis, and Margret their youngest attended St. Olaf for one year, and then entered the Univ. of Minn. Margaret is a music major and did some summer studies at Prague Czechoslovakia, her Mother accompanied her, and together they were able to tour Western Europe, as well as visit one of Eddie's Uncles while over there.

We were saddened to learn however; that, Eddie passed away on April 26, of this year. He had surgery on his stomach, and became progressively worse. Eddie will be missed by the local citizens. He was very civic minded, and along with his other activities, he accepted an appointment to the Local or County Selective Service Board. He and Lois made our visit as previously stated most enjoyable. Eddie even let me have the pleasure of actually sitting on the first snowmobile. All who knew him in Service, had great admiration and respect for this great gentleman, who served his Country well, and might I add that he did sustain a shrapnel wound.

Several days were spent in the area of Fargo, N.D., and Hawley, Minn., where our daughter was an attendant in a wedding of one of her Class Mates.

A slight detour was made on our return in order to stop briefly to meet and speak to one of the Sisters of a fellow Soldier and friend of mine who was killed in action during the Normandy Campaign, from Red Granite, Wisc. S-Sgt. Edward M. Withers, you will recall was awarded the Silver Star Medal posthumously in lieu of the Distinguished Service Cross for Heroic Achievement during the Normandy Campaign. The writer along with former 1st Sgt. James M. Miller, Platoon Sgt. Sammie Goodwin prepared Affidavits attesting to the fact that his Platoon Leader, 1st Lt. Donald Ross had made such a recommendation citing therein the facts which merited such an award. Lt. Ross was subsequently K.I.A. The writer was advised after award for Silver Star Medal was made, that no member of the Family was known so, recordation would be kept in archives. The writer contacted the Sec. of The Army's Office via telephone, and furnished the name of Mrs. Floy Smith, Red Granite, Wis. Ed's Sister. A formal presentation was not desired by Mrs. Smith, but she did receive the Medal, and was most appreciative of the fact that we followed through in his behalf. Dan I appreciate you processing the resolution that we forwarded to Gen. Westmoreland at the Pittsburgh Reunion in connection with this award.

I am now retired on disability from the Savannah District, Corps of Engrs., as Asst. Dist. Chief Appraiser Real Estate. We regret that we have not been able to attend the last two Reunions.

Please remember us to Mrs. Quinn. Regards to all of my fellow soldiers. I solicit your prayers for the families of those who have passed on.

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Chicago in  
1977