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The Octofoil, November/December 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 6

Nov-Dec 1976

CHICAGO NEXT BIG EVENT



Leading the marches to the Memorial Services - l-r - President of the Association Charles Koskie, General Westmoreland, Rev. Edward T. Connors and Rev. Ralton Spears.

THE 32nd ANNUAL MEMORIAL IN WORCESTER "AS WE SAW IT"

There was no Michigan Chapter bus or train heading for the Memorial Week-end in Worcester. However, there were 20 from the Chapter who made that Pilgrimage on their own and it was a fine turn-out.

Both Board members, Pres. Elmer Wagner and V.P. Everett Tapp flew together and the weather was ideal for them. The rest of us: V.P. Ed & Marge Wisniewski; Fred, Jane & Randy Josey; Floyd & Leora Hennessey; Tom & Gerrie Hatton; Jim & Louise Rushlow; Bill, Barb & Don Meadows; John & Thelma Obermiller; Rose and I have encountered all kinds of weather along the way. Everyone took their own route. PLEASANT FOR EVERYONE.

Again, we are grateful to Franny Maher for the countless hours that he spends on the room accommodations, year after year. His efforts go a long way in making that Week-end so pleasant for everyone.

After checking in at the Sheraton-Lincoln or the Holiday-Inn, the place to meet most of the Gang was at Father Connors' C.P. Room. It was great to see so many familiar faces as the big week-end was beginning to unfold.

The final Board Meeting of the year took place on the upper level at the Sheraton on Saturday, Nov. 6, 4:30 PM. Here we had the first hand report from Emil Langer, Co-Chairman with Frank Fazio on the New York Convention. A round of applause was given for everyone who worked on the various committees that made the Reunion so great last Summer.

(Please turn to Page 3)

Tip Of The Hat

Every year at the Holiday we receive a beautiful card from JOHN THORNTON of Chicago and besides submitting his dues he always includes a most generous donation to the Memorial Fund. But what really gives the secretary a big pick up (cause there are times we too wonder what's it all about) is the extra dollar in cash that John sends - "buy yourself a drink Dan". Now John you ought to know that I am not a drinking man but thanks a million - I thank you and the association thanks you.

The association is also grateful to the New York Chapter members who traveled by bus to Worcester and donated \$125.00 to the Memorial Building Fund. WALTER O'KEEFE and BILL KLAUZ added \$100.00 to this amount. Many thanks to all.

★★★★★★

Taps Sounded

It is our sad task to announce the passing of these "Old Reliabilities"

Lloyd C. Wofford Co B 15th Eng.

Albert Haber Hq 2nd Bn. 47th Inf.

John Agosta A Co. 60th Inf. May they rest in peace. To their loved ones we share your grief.

I am sorry to inform you that my father Albert Haber passed away on September of this year.

He was always very proud of his membership in the Association and his memories of all the wonderful men he served with.

Debra Haber

SEEING CHICAGO

CHICAGO - Chicago makes sightseeing easy for Ninth Division members. Both Gray Line and American sightseeing offer air-conditioned bus tours of varying lengths not only of the city but also the entire metropolitan area. Gray Line tours begin at 400 N. Wabash Avenue, and American Sightseeing begins at the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Both companies pick passengers up at key locations throughout the downtown area such as the Hyatt Regency Hotel, site of the Ninth's 1977 reunion.

Boat tours through the Chicago River canal system and on Lake Michigan are an important part of a visit here during May through September. Mercury Sightseeing boats and Wendella Sightseeing boats depart from the Michigan Avenue bridge one block from the Hyatt Regency Hotel. They offer one and two hour sightseeing tours of the city as seen from the river and lake. Other boat sightseeing companies offer tours from various points in the downtown area.

Another exciting way to see the city is from the observation decks of Sears Tower or the John Hancock Center. The skydeck on the 103rd floor of Sears Tower, world's tallest building, offers a spectacular view where photographers can take shots of the city and suburbs, Lake Michigan and neighboring states. The observation deck on the 94th floor of the Hancock building offers a breathtaking view day or night. Adult admission to both observation decks is \$1.50; \$1 for children under 12, and both buildings' observation decks are open daily from 9 a.m. to midnight.

Many visitors choose to take a walking tour for a close-up look at some of Chicago's famous landmarks. The Chicago School of Architecture conducts 15 different architectural walking tours of the Loop, northshore and south side.

The Chicago Park District maintains 20 miles of public bicycle paths along the lakefront and 35 miles of bike paths through city parks. The bicycle tour provides a unique view of the city's fast-changing skyline from both northern and southern vantage points. Ample bike rental facilities are available throughout the city.

Many establishments of different kinds offer interesting tours. Among them are the Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Chicago Post Office (world's largest), Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Daily News, Chicago Tribune, Jane Adams Hull House, Midwest Stock Exchange, Quaker Oats Test Kitchens, Sears Roebuck & Co., and the University of Chicago. Almost all of these tours are free.



Chicago's behemoth in the sky -- Sears Tower -- is a \$150 million "building that works!"

Though Sears soars to 110 stories, 1454 ft., (observation level, 103rd floor, 1,350 ft.) making it the world's tallest building, contained within its nine modular tubes -- stacked three square - are solutions to transportation, fuel and people problems. The building's designers included an efficient elevator and escalator system serving 16,500 building occupants, an electric heat and lighting operation alleviating severe burdens on fuel and a viable use of open space for plazas and sculpture along with recreations, shopping and restaurant facilities.

CHICAGO TRANSPORTATION CENTER OF THE USA

Chicago is the transportation center of the United States. O'Hare airport is the busiest in the world. Amtrak uses Chicago as the hub of its passenger rail service. Numerous Interstate Highway routes converge on the city.

O'Hare Airport has more passengers per year than any other airport in the world. There are direct air flights from every major city in the United States and also from many smaller cities. The Old Reliabilities attending the 1977 Reunion may take the Continental Air Transport buses directly from O'Hare to the Reunion Hotel, the Hyatt Regency Chicago. (There is also a Hyatt Regency at O'Hare) The bus fare is \$3.15 one way. Take the North West Loop bus.

32nd Annual Reunion
July 28-30, 1977
Chicago, Illinois

All Amtrak trains come into Chicago's Union Station. The hotel is a short taxi ride from the station to the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Interstate Highway Routes I-80, I-90, I-94, and I-55 go through Chicago or connect with another Interstate route into Chicago. I-94 and I-90 from the east are routed on the Dan Ryan Expressway. I-94 from the north and west comes in on the Kennedy Expressway. I-90 from the west is routed on the Eisenhower Expressway. I-55 from the southwest is on the Stevenson Expressway. I-80 passes to the south of Chicago. You can't miss it.

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PAY YOUR 1977 DUES NOW

If you have not already done so, please remit your 1977 dues at once in order to save your Association time and expense of mailing out dues notices and reminders.

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

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Charles Koskie, President
4334 Hirschberg
Schiller Park, Ill. 60176

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114 Charles Street
Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

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39 Hall Avenue,
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Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

Board Member Emeritus

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 spirit 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 6

Nov-Dec 1976

**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	

**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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund		<input type="checkbox"/>
THREE-YEAR MEMBER	\$13.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Membership	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Octofoil Automobile License Disc	\$.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decals, 25c; (5) five for	\$ 1.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ladies' Auxiliary Member	\$ 1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat Route Map	\$.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
60th Infantry History	\$.50	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley <input type="checkbox"/>	Greater New York <input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois <input type="checkbox"/>	Washington, D. C. <input type="checkbox"/>
New England <input type="checkbox"/>	Michigan <input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio <input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville - Fort Bragg, N. C. <input type="checkbox"/>

**47th HISTORY CONT.
SEPTEMBER 1944**

One PW stated that his company was practically decimated by their own artillery and mortar fire.

It was estimated that the enemy had lost at least 50 percent of the attacking force. About 135 enemy dead were picked up in SCHEVENHUTTE, 35 wounded were evacuated by out Aid Station and 37 prisoners captured. Included among the dead and wounded are casualties which occurred when an enemy shell landed in the PW enclosure. The 3rd Bn's. casualties amounted to 7 men killed and about 40 wounded.

On Sept. 23, Co. "C", who on the previous day had been sent to assist the 3rd Bn., moved back to their former positions East of KREWINKLE. The 1st Bn. of the 39th Inf. was attached to the West of the main road running SE from SCHEVENHUTTE. Numerous patrols were sent out during the day and night and in some places the enemy was contacted no more than 100 yds. from our forward positions.

The following day, the 2nd Bn. was relieved from occupation of the high ground West of GRESSENICH by elements of the 3rd Arm'd Division, and moved to an assembly area behind the 1st Bn. of the 39th Inf. preparatory to taking over their positions. Contact patrols were maintained by the Regimental I&R platoon between their position at KREWINKLE and the 3rd Arm'd. Division.

Considerable activity was observed in GRESSENICH by the Regimental OP and our artillery shelled the town, starting several large fires.

On Sept. 25, the 2nd Bn. relieved the 1st Bn. of the 39th Inf. who rejoined their regiment. Several patrol clashes occurred during the day and night and one enemy patrol set off booby-traps in front of Co. "A".



Some of the Happy faces at the 1976 Worcester Memorial Dinner.

ACTIVE PATROLLING

For the remainder of the month, the Regiment maintained the same defensive positions and experienced no large scale aggressive action by the enemy. Active patrolling was carried out by all Bns., including contact patrols to the 3rd Arm'd Division on our left. The enemy also attempted to infiltrate patrols behind our lines and on several occasions sustained casualties from our booby traps. Intermittent artillery and mortar fire fell on all Bns. but to a lesser degree than was experienced when the positions were first occupied.

Casualties for the period totaled 468 - wounded officers 15, enlisted men 304, 55 enl. men killed, 1 off. and 83 men missing and 1 off. and 9 men died of wounds.

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**77 REUNION
in CHICAGO**

**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.

RESERVATIONS NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Reunion July 28-31, 1977
Hayatt Regency Chicago
151 East Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Name

Address

City State Zip

Arrival date

Departure date

Convention Room rates	
Single (1 person)	\$31.00
Double (2 persons-1 bed)	\$31.00
Twins	
(2 persons-2 beds)	\$31.00
Executive Suites	\$95.00
Regency Suites	\$130.00

Reservations must be received 21 days prior to opening date of Convention.



(Continued from Page One)



REUNION

Pres. Chuck Koskie, and Frank Ozart presented their progress reports on the coming Reunion in Chicago next July. The Souvenir Journal is open for Ads and the surprisingly low rates are printed elsewhere in this issue. The Michigan Chapter has already set its goal for a record hundred Boosters and we know that we can do it.

OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE

Board Member and Chairman of a special committee, Franny Maher, reported that the Memorial Shrine has been completely rebuilt and the structure retains the same appearance as it did at the time of its dedication in 1962. All corrective measures have been taken in the process to make this monument less susceptible to the severe New England winters. The Association approved to finance the restoration of this beautiful Shrine in honor of our Fallen Comrades and we all have the opportunity to contribute to the Memorial Shrine Fund.

MERGER

Pros and Cons were discussed on the merger issue as well as some future Convention sites. The Meeting was adjourned in time for the big get-together at the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall.

WONDERFUL PARISHIONERS

This was a great night at Father Connors' Coffee Shop, as we got to call it. The place was completely filled and it seems as if the crowd is getting larger as time goes on. The wonderful Parishioners took care of the food and refreshments and made sure that no one went away hungry. In General Westmoreland's own words, "I've never seen so much food at one time in my entire life." And so it was.

The music and friendly atmosphere was as pleasant as ever. The entire congregation from the Michigan Chapter managed to sit together at the same table and it was a most enjoyable occasion. We were treated to a real surprise when John & Thelma Obermiller walked in late that evening. We didn't expect them to make it this year after John was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic earlier in the week. It took a great deal of determination to make that trip after being discharged in the morning. They just weren't going to miss that Memorial Week-end if at all possible and we admire them for it. The Party was coming to an end when I offered to show The Obermillers a short cut back to the hotel if they would just follow me. Paul Revere's mid-night ride did not have anything on us. We arrived about 45 minutes later at The Sheraton with Thelma leading the way. (This is another page of humorous experiences in our book of memories.)

It may seem that we are always showing pictures of the old gang trying to keep in step but actually it is because they are the only photos we receive with groups. Here's the gang on the way to the 32nd Annual Memorial Mass and Services.

TRADITIONAL PARADE

Sunday morning, after enjoying that cup of coffee and dough-nuts back at Connors Coffee Shop, we found our way down to the Fire-station about a half mile away. Here the troops assembled for what is now a traditional parade. The American Legion Vernon Hill Post Band led the march to the Immaculate Conception Church. The Memorial Mass at 10:00 AM was once again concelebrated by Father Connors and Father Jerry Rowan with Tom Boyle as Commentator.

REDEDICATION

Immediately after Mass the scene moved to the out-door Shrine. This year it was something special. There was a presentation of the Flag from Fort Lewis, Washington and the raising ceremony by General Westmoreland and President Koskie assisted by the Color Guards of the Worcester Police Department. Taking part in the traditional service were Father Connors, Ralph Witzkin, Rev. Speers, Gen. Westy, Pres. Koskie, Franny Maher, City Mng'r. Francis McGrath, Mayor Thomas Early, Congressman, - Joseph Early and Father Rowan. Former Congressman, Harold Donohue was also in attendance. The rededication was like turning back the pages of time. The names of our 4581 Fallen Comrades were sealed in a microfilm container and once again placed into the Shrine walls by General Westmoreland. Placing of the wreath by the President, Volly by the Vernon Hill Post Honored Riffle Squad, Taps and Benediction concluded this most impressive ceremony.

P.F.C.

From there, we were back at the Sheraton-Lincoln for the final event of the Memorial Week-end. The Banquet Room was filled to capacity and Father Connors was at his best with his grand Irish humor. We were honored to hear the Most Rev. Bernard J. Flanagan, D.D., Bishop of Worcester Diocese; a representative of the Immaculate Conception Parish; our Secretary Danny Quinn and the other dignitaries that took part in the Out-door Ceremony. - We also learned from Danny, what P.F.C. means. If Father Connors ever addresses you as such, as he did Gen. Westy, take pride for you have been given a great compliment, - "Personal Friend of Connors."

MUCH TO BE THANKFUL

The afternoon went by very quickly and after the last "Farewells" everyone was on their way. For Rose and I, it was only a short drive of about 35 miles to the West. We've spent a couple of days with our Cousins in Three Rivers, Mass. where we've left my mother and two sisters on the way to the Memorial. Their hospitality was out of this world as we shared an early Thanksgiving Dinner. The enjoyable trip back home included a stop at the Marion Fathers Monastery in West Stockbridge, Mass. and the Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, New York. There was so much to be thankful for.

John Bonkowski
Michigan Chapter

Worcester Recollections:

As per usual the Greater New York Chapter was well represented at Father Connors' Memorial Mass and Buffet Supper over the week-end of November 6, 1976 and November 7, 1976.

The story starts on the evening of November 5th when the Chapter held it's regular meeting at the 69th Armory, East 26th Street and 7th Avenue, New York City. Walter O'Keeffe reported that he had 44 people signed up for the Bus Tour to Worcester, Massachusetts the next morning. He told us the bus would be leaving at 9:15 A.M. from West 32nd Street and 7th Avenue, New York City. Walter had made motel reservations for all of those going by bus. Most of the members left the meeting early because they wanted to go home and get some rest before boarding the bus. About five of us accepted the invitation from William Klauz to have a drink at the 69th Regiment Officer's Club, which was having a party in the Mural Room next door. There was Dan Quinn, Lou Almasy, Ed Tobin and myself. I didn't get home till 1:30 A.M. Some of the refreshments from the meeting, including beer and possibly some other liquids, were to be loaded onto the bus for consumption on the trip to Worcester.

The writer did not go on the bus tour as he was driving up with his friend, Charles Wider. The latter is the cousin of Charles Hoffmann, Co. B, 125th Engineers. Dan Quinn remembers the story of how on a previous trip Art Schmidt was accused of stealing Wider's wallet and putting his money in his artificial leg. The truth is that Wider had left his wallet home and Art had to foot the bills for both Wider and himself.

Like the last time Schmidt and Wider made a stop in Webster, Massachusetts to visit Wider's cousin before going on to Worcester.

Camaraderie

Wider and I arrived at Father Connors Coffee Shoppe about 7:30 P.M. on November 6th. There was still plenty of delicious food left. Since I had warned Wider not to eat anything before getting to Worcester, he fortified himself by ordering a double order of ham and eggs and potato pancakes for breakfast at a Howard Johnson's. We had good appetites when we arrived in Worcester and were able to do the delicious food justice. Dancing followed the buffet supper, but the writer enjoyed most the camaraderie between himself and his buddies from B Co., 15th Engineers. To mention a few there were Tony Madonna, Tony DePetrie, Sid

Levenson, Jimmy Keohane, Peter P. Thomas, Fred D'Amore, Pat DeColli, George Williams, Al Ferrante, James Mullen, Jimmy Davison, and Wimpy from Bethel, Maine. The only depressing thing is that there wasn't near enough time to talk over all of our past experiences. Father Connors was his usual cheerful self.

INSPIRING

Father Connors was his usual cheerful self.

On Sunday morning Schmidt introduced Wider to the free doughnuts and coffee at Connors Coffee Shoppe. We then waited to view the parade of marchers come up to the church. Everyone was in step. It was very inspiring to see the men come marching up the hill to the church. Although this was the 32nd Memorial Mass, it was still impressive. The words and prayers always bring back sad memories. After the service there was a Dedication Service to rededicate the Memorial outside of the church. Among the speakers, Ralph Witzkin said the Jewish Prayer. A corporal in the active 9th Infantry Division, who was chosen the soldier of the month, presented Father Connors with an American flag, which he said had flown over Division Headquarters in Fort Lewis, Washington. He assisted General Westmoreland in raising the flag. General Westmoreland placed the microfilm of the names of our 4,581 dead in the Memorial. After the services everyone went to Sheraton-Lincoln Motel for the dinner.

32nd Annual Reunion
July 28-30, 1977
Chicago, Illinois

WELL REPRESENTED

The New York contingent was well represented at the dinner. We occupied at least four tables. There were the usual speeches and jocular fisticuffs between Father Connors and General Westmoreland. The latter was the main speaker. Several prizes were given out; many of which were won by members of the New York Contingent, including the writer and Charles Wider. The stuffed chicken dinner with all the fixings was delicious. At the dinner I sat with the New York contingent. Later, I learned that the Engineers had reserved a seat for me. I missed out on an opportunity to talk to some of the Engineers. As he promised, Father Connors saw that the dinner was over by 3:00 P.M. so that we could all get an early start home. There was a sad note at the dinner in that Edward Egan and Betty Rizzo were unable to attend because of illness. Get-Well Cards were passed around for everyone to sign and the cards were to be sent to Eddie and Betty.

The writer had occasion to speak to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Johnstone of Rochester, New York. Bruce was with Co. C, 9th Medics. Bruce is a member of the Greater New York Chapter. Also present were Mr. and Mrs. Sabbatino Agostinelli of Rochester, New York. Agostinelli was with Hqs. Co., 9th Medics. He is a Life member of the New York Chapter. Aldor Cook, 1st Sergeant, C Co., 9th Medics, was also present. He comes from Schenectady, New York.

Everyone was delighted to hear Father Connors say that he would hold another Memorial Mass next year. The writer and Charles Wider arrived home about 9:30 P.M. Wider has already made reservations to make the trip with me again next year.

Arthur R. Schmidt,
Chapter Secretary

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR MEDALS?

For each ribbon you earned, there is a medal that goes along with it. That includes Good Conduct, Victory Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Unit Citation, etc. All those medals, badges and ribbons you earned by your service with the 9th are waiting to be sent to you if you have not already received them formally from the U.S. government. There is little effort on your part to have them delivered by mail to your home.

Simply send your name, address, Army Serial Number and the dates you entered service and were discharged from service. That's all! No other details are needed. Merely say that you are requesting the decorations you are entitled to. Keep it brief. The address to send your request is:

Commanding Officer
Army Records
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo. 63132

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CONCERNED VETERANS to check the beneficiary listings on their GI insurance. The VA can pay the proceeds only to those listed. Do you still list some long forgotten friend instead of your wife and family?

Early to bed and early to rise is a give-away that you don't give a hoot for television. (Right?)

Chicago in
1977

NEW YORK CHAPTER

The New York Chapter meets the 1st Friday of the Month at the 69th Regiment Armory, Lexington Avenue and East 26th Street. The November and December were well attended. Very few members live in the City, that is Manhattan, but the gang turns up faithfully every month with Guys like Val DeMaria driving about an hour to come in from Connecticut.

The meetings were opened this past year by President Emil Langer who starts the proceedings with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer for our departed comrades.

Arthur Schmidt who has been Secretary of the Chapter since Dom Miele retired tries his best to keep the minutes up to date but when Irv Feinburg gives the Treasurers report this is a sight to behold. Most times he has the Chapters financial matters written on the back of a book of matches but once in awhile he comes up with a detail written report -- No matter - the reports are always accepted.

After the business part of the meeting, the gang adjourns to the refreshment stand where Frank Fazio and his committee of Al Orletti and John Parisi have the goodies and spirits on tap.

Notes

Val DeMaria is recovering from his recent accident and was able to attend the Christmas Party held on December 12th.

Ed Egan is on sick call and the gang misses him at the meetings.

Harold Jaffe has been attending the meetings after an absence of a few years.

Wild Bill Zwill came out of retirement and has a Taxi business in Matawan, N.J. His wife Betty runs "The Stitching Post" (Art Needlework) in Morganville, N.J.

Elect Officers

At the December 3rd meeting Charles Warner, Chairman of the Nominating Committee named the slate of Officers his committee had chosen for 1977. A motion was made to have the secretary cast one ballot for a unanimous vote. The following will lead the Chapter for the new year:

President, Harry Meltzer; 1st Vice-President, Nick Palega; 2nd Vice-President, Al Orletti; Secretary, Arthur Schmidt; Treasurer, Irving Feinberg; Judge Advocate, Edward Egan; Chaplain, Ralph Witzkin; Sergeant at Arms, George Bako.

Board of Governors: Herminio Suarez, 39th Inf.; Al Munatore, 47th Inf.; John Morris, 60th Inf.; Arthur Schmidt, Special Troops; Calvin Polivy, Division Artillery. Remaining on the Board were John Parisi, 39th Inf.; Frank Fazio, 47th Inf.; Edward Tobin, 60th Inf.; Adolph Wadalavage, Special Troops and James Haroutanian, Division Artillery.

The new Officers will be installed on January 7, 1977.

Taps Sounded.

Several members led by Vincent Guglielmino and Art Schmidt visited the funeral home where John T. Agosta was waked, to pay their respects and that of the association. John had served with Company A-60th Infantry. He was laid to rest on December 7, 1976 at Long Island National Cemetery.

The Jack Scully Scholarship fund was increased with donations by William Klauz, Emil Langer and Hugh Lee.

William Klauz opened a discussion on ways and means of the New York Chapter members helping to reimburse the Association for the monies spent on the Memorial Monument in Worcester. The Chapter members who used the chartered bus to Worcester had donated \$125.00 to this project. (It should be noted that Walter O'Keeffe and Bill Klauz added \$100.00 to this amount). The subject was tabled till another meeting.

On December 12th, 1976, the New York Chapter held its Annual Christmas Party at the 69th Regiment Armory Mural Room. Festivities were to begin at 1:00 P.M., but Frank Fazio and his crew had arrived hours before to set up the bar and tables. The writer arrived at 12:30 P.M. and they were still working feverishly. Their labors were well paid off as we had the largest crowd ever to attend the Christmas Party, despite the rainy weather.

It was the writer's job to collect money for the 50-50 Club Raffle and another raffle for additional prizes. I am happy to report that we did better on each raffle this year than we did last year. The names of the winners of the 50-50 Club were Andy Andriola, John Mutchko, Rev. Hugh Whitaker, J. Albanese, C. V. Maraldo, Joe O'Brien, W. Raymond, Millie Graziano, Anthony J. Carmeci, M. Kaczynski, Ed Tobin, Edward J. Maher, and Peter Mezzapelli. John Mutchko won 1st Prize. There were 27 winners of prizes on the second raffle. Top prize was an afghan knitted by Mrs. Betty Rizzo. The names of the winners are available upon request. I have to thank Harry Meltzer for helping me out. It would have been a pity if I had to go without partaking of the delicious food which was available.

The bar was kept busy until the last die-hard left the party. Drinks were on the house as was the food. I know I will get in trouble for not listing the names of all of the people who worked hard to make the party a great success. All I can say is, "Please forgive me." Nevertheless, I will try to name a few. At the Bar there were Al Orletti, George Bako, Frank Duffy, Vincent Guglielmino and William Klauz. At the buffet tables there were George Bako, Frank Fazio and William Klauz. Emil Langer and Frank Fazio conducted the drawings for both raffles. William Klauz and John Parisi worked on the clean up detail.

We had good music for dancing from 2:00 P.M. through 6:00 P.M. We have to thank George Bako for arranging for the band. Everybody had all the food and drink they wanted. The prizes were piled high at the Christmas tree, and as a person won a prize they were free to go to the tree and pick up any prize they chose. Winner of the Afghan was Phylis Polucci.

President Emil Langer thanked everyone for attending the party. He gave special credit to Frank Fazio for doing a fine job as Chairman of the Christmas Party Committee. Emil gave special praise to the people who went from table to table selling tickets on the chances. Without them we would not have gone over last year's record. Emil also thanked all of the people who worked to make the party a success.

I believe it can safely be said that anyone who attended the Party went home feeling happy that he attended.

Before I forget I must mention that Salvatore Longo, Jr. and Martin Feinberg were the winners of the Jack Scully Scholarship Awards. Each was awarded \$100.00. They were chosen from the eleven applications received.

Signed: Arthur R. Schmidt, Chapter Secretary

Illinois Chapter

Busy Chapter

On this busy week before Christmas as I sit at husband's desk (after a goodly amount of pushing papers aside to make room), looking at the snow covered ground, my thoughts "naturally" turn to the reunion in July. I must admit, this has been prompted by the arrival of our Octofoil, the clutter on the desk of letters and brochures from the reunion hotel, the Chicago Convention Bureau, sight-seeing promoters, airlines and travel information and numerous promotional fliers. The Illinois Chapter has indeed been busy. The planning committees and general membership will meet at the home of Chairman John Clouser in January to get down to the nitty-gritty for what promises to be a most exciting reunion.

Planning

The fall monthly meetings have been devoted to preliminary planning and the flinging about of ideas for the three evening affairs.

Reports of the Memorial Service and Board of Governors meeting at Worcester were made by President Koskie and Paul Clark. Chuck's wife, Irma, and Frank Ozart also attended. All were extremely impressed and inspired by the service. The travelling Koskies also reported on their trip to Frankenmuth, Michigan where they were guests of our neighboring Michigans annual Out-state meeting. They had a wonderful time and were royally received by their hosts.

Kris Kringle Comes to Koskies

You wouldn't believe the load of goodies which appeared on the snack tables for our Christmas Party at the Koskies. And it must be added that quite an assortment of bubbies graced Chucks well decorated bar. Ann Belmonte was the game director. We finally were able to prove what we knew all along -- Paul Clark and Georgine Winkelman were the finalists in a "Feather Blowing" contest. Draw your own conclusions!!! Bill Hennemuth was the official time-keeper and umpire for the dice game in which many people rid themselves of scads of "white-elephant" gifts. The grand prize of the evening, contributed by the Bob Pappas, was won by Bud Remers guest, Martha Watts. This was a grand evening and a great opening for the approaching Holidays. President Chuck and his First Lady of the Ninth, we thank you for opening your doors to us!!!

ASAD NOTE

We are saddened to report that the father of Bob Winkelman passed away in September and in Mid-December his mother passed away. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to you, Bob and Georgine.

Cheers to Bill, Joe and Bud

Chapter President Bill Hennemuth recently was promoted in his position at United Oil Products. Joe Lacic has been promoted to Operations Manager for Kester Solder Company in Chicago. The celebration following one of the fall Chapter meetings produced almost as many headaches as the promotions have. All kidding aside, we know you guys of the Ninth are more than capable of handling your added responsibilities.

Bud Remer is hanging up his steam-fitters tools and retiring as of January first. He has spent a number of years on a Government assignment at the O'Hare Complex. Happy Retirement and Good Traveling, Bud!!

A Final Thought

The Illinois Chapter families extend to all their comrades of the Ninth a wish for a Happy and Rewarding 1977!!! We would like to share a part of that Joy with you at the reunion in Chicago. Make it one of your New Years Resolutions to get together in 1977!

Mr. & Mrs. J. Clouser
901 Graceland
Des Plaines, Ill.
60016

Michigan Doings

The final event of a very successful year took place on Saturday, December 11, at 8 PM. The occasion was the Annual Chapter Christmas Party at Bob & Flo DeSandy's home, 23430 Colonial Crt. in St. Clair Shores, Mich. 48080.

Everyone who has been there knows of their wonderful hospitality.

NEWS-NOTES

October 2, '76 will long be remembered. The Outstate Meeting in Frankenmuth, Mi. was an outstanding success. Chairman, Elmer Wagner had a splendid program arranged in the Garden Room at the famous Zehnders on a most beautiful Autumn day. They came from all over. There were 45 present including our National President, Chuck & Irma Koskie.

The Cocktail Hour at 6 PM was followed by a delicious Chicken and Ham Dinner. This was great but the night was still young. The informal introductions by the Chairman, remarks by the President, friendly conversations and slides of that grand Convention in New York last Summer were enjoyed by all. Those that were there really have a night to remember. We are thankful that there were so many newcomers in the crowd and now they know what this Association is all about. Our gratitude to everyone who came to help make this such a great event.

Our thanks to Tom & Gerrie Hatton for a job well done on the Reception Committee and Doris Williams who took care of the Decal sales.

For Pres. Chuck Koskie and Rodger Alsgaard, it certainly was a day that they'll never forget. The two buddies from F Co. 47th met for the first time since the war ended. An old friendship has been rekindled.

This was the first time that we've seen Dale & Lucy Demski in quite a while and we were pleased to have them back. The same to Earl and Faye Hyde.

NEW-COMERS

The New-comers in the crowd were: Jack & Barbara Robinson, Frank Morbitzer, Clark & Dorothy Davidson, Ray & Dorothy Poirier and William Zimmerman. Some of them may have made a National Convention or two, but this was their first Chapter event. We'll be looking forward to seeing them at our future doings along with all the Members that we haven't met yet. The Christmas Party on December 11th would be an ideal time.

Fred Josey did a great job promoting the Raffle and we thank everyone who took chances on the Drawing. Our congratulations to William Zimmerman, the lucky winner on his first night with the Chapter.

Bruno, Cheryl & Stacy Zmiky were guests of Chap. John Zulkiewski. Richard & Joan Bacashihua came along with Vice Pres. Everett & Irene Tapp and it was nice having all of them with us.

There were a few Regulars missing in the crowd and we know that if at all possible they would be there: Bob & Flo DeSandy returned a day late from their vacation in California. The John Al Youngs flew in that very night from their Western trip. Charlie Fox was ill again so they had to cancel their reservation. There was a family wedding for The Lewis' but Don was sick and missed both events.

SAD NEWS

The sad news came from Mrs. Edna Berdinski, informing us that Tony passed away just a few days before the Outstate Meeting.

We never get to see Jim & Louise Rushlow except during the Memorial Week-end. The big surprise was when we saw John & Thelma Obermiller as they walked in along 10:30 PM. John was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic on Monday before the Memorial. He undertook extensive tests for his heart condition while Thelma remained near-by. He was discharged that Saturday morning until further treatment will be arranged. From there, he and Thelma drove all the way to Worcester to join the Gang. This is dedication and determination and we all admire them for it.

The Memorial Shrine has been completely rebuilt and appears just as it did when it was first dedicated in 1962. The Association undertook the cost of this project and if anyone wishes to donate to this cause, may send his contribution to the Memorial Shrine Fund.

Before we close this note, John Al & Jane Young have just completed their move to their new retirement home. Here is their address, drop them a line or give them a call, they'll be happy to hear from you.

John Al & Jane Young
P.O. Box 504
Lewiston, Mich. 49756

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

The Editors of the Octofoil wish to thank all those who sent the beautiful Christmas Cards and best wishes for the New Year. We would like to wish all the members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Any youngster will run an errand for you if you ask him at bedtime.

Traveling down road of history

Part II - History of the 47th Infantry-September 1944.

VERVIERS

On September 12th, the Regiment remained in the assembly area vicinity of VERVIERS. Reconnaissance parties from all Battalions were sent to reconnoiter routes to the high ground E of EUPEN in preparation for the contemplated move the following day.

The next morning, movement to the new area, the high ground E of EUPEN, was begun at 0800.

The shortage of gasoline, resulting from the Army's swift advances and consequent extension of supply lines, had for sometime been acute. All the recent moves had been made without fuel reserve, and quite often, enough gasoline for the days' advance was received only an hour or so before the time set for departure. Every effort was made to conserve the supply, as, for instance, on the movement being made on September 13th, when the troops were forced to march to the new area to save the gasoline that would otherwise be used to shuttle with the organic transportation.

The occupation of the high ground E of EUPEN was completed by 1300 without any contact with the enemy.

EUPEN

EUPEN, though Belgian territory prior to the war, was populated - in the main by German-speaking people, and it was here that the first noticeable change in the civilian attitude was apparent. Whereas before all the towns had profusely displayed the flags of the Allied Armies, here one was very seldom seen. Most of the people were extremely cool, barely noticing the troops passing by.

The Regiment was now poised at the very citadel of the enemy, the border of Germany itself; a further advance would take it into the highly vaunted defenses of the Siegfried Line and on to German soil.

The Field Order received for operations on September 14th directed the Regiment to attack at 0830, outflanking from the East the towns of ZWEIFALL and VICHT and be prepared to assist the 3rd Armored Division on our left. Otherwise we were to proceed in our zone and assist the 39th C.T. in the seizure of road centers in the vicinity of DUREN. The Regimental plan of attack was for the Battalions to move out in column. At the RJ 1/2 mile N of ROETGEN, the 1st Battalion would continue on the road going N while the 3rd Battalion turned off to the E. The 2nd Battalion would follow the 3rd Battalion on the right route, prepared to continue the attack in that sector should it be necessary for the 3rd Battalion to render assistance to the 1st Battalion on the left route.

ROETGEN

At daylight, patrols from the Regimental I & R platoon moved out to precede the Regiment on routes of advance. At 0830, they crossed the German border at ROETGEN, without having contacted any enemy. The Battalions began the attack at 0830 and just beyond ROETGEN, encountered the first line of prepared defenses consisting of pill-boxes, anti-tank ditches, and dragons'-teeth obstacles. At the previously mentioned RJ, the 1st Battalion proceeded, followed by the 2nd Battalion, while the 3rd Battalion turned E.

At 1030, the I & R patrol on the right route encountered hostile small-arms fire from a small enemy force and succeeded in capturing two prisoners and dispersing the rest. The 1st Battalion encountered no resistance and advanced to ZWEIFALL where they were held up by a blown-out bridge. One platoon was sent beyond the bridge-site and met small-arms fire just N of town.

The 3rd Battalion advanced about three (3) miles when it contacted the reconnaissance patrol preceding them, who were engaged with the enemy at that point. They captured forty (40) prisoners in this vicinity and proceeded on. They had advanced less than 1000 yds when they encountered two 47mm guns (AT), both of which were knocked out with little delay. In this encounter one of the Tank Destroyers attached to the 3rd Battalion was disabled by a mine, causing some casualties.

A patrol sent out by the 2nd Battalion encountered an enemy truck which they destroyed, killing three Germans.

ZWEIFALL

The 39th Infantry, meanwhile, who were on our immediate right flank, were held up by numerous pill-boxes emplaced in heavily wooded areas. The 47th Infantry, by their continued advance, were well out in front of any friendly elements, including the 3rd Armored Division on the left, and were forced to consolidate where they were to avoid weakening the salient by overextension. The 1st Battalion was at ZWEIFALL, the 2nd Battalion was at a RJ about three miles SE of ZWEIFALL and the 3rd Battalion about six miles NE of ROETGEN.

The concrete pill-boxes and bunkers which were passed during the day were unmanned by the time they were reached but bore evidence that they had very recently been vacated. Lighted lamps, burning wood fires and freshly prepared food pointed to the fact that the occupants had fled in some instances a matter of minutes before our approach. They were for the most part well stocked with food and ammunition.

At 0630, an enemy force estimated to be about 350 men, attempting to withdraw from the SW, encountered the 3rd Battalion. In the ensuing fight, the majority of the Germans were taken prisoner and the balance dispersed through the woods. At 0900, the 2nd Battalion was counter-attacked from the N and NE by an undetermined number of infantry and at least one tank. The 3rd Battalion was moved N to assist the 2nd Battalion. At 1330, the situation was cleared up when the enemy withdrew, after we had destroyed one Mark V tank and captured many prisoners. The 1st Battalion was held at ZWEIFALL pending the outcome of the attack of the 2nd Battalion. As soon as the route was clear, the 1st and 3rd Battalions continued the advance while the 2nd Battalion remained in position to protect the flank and line of communication.

The concrete fortifications encountered on this day were manned but by distinctly inferior troops who surrendered soon after being fired on. Small groups of enemy infantry, who were attempting to infiltrate back to their lines after having

been by-passed, were encountered and captured. The total number of prisoners taken during the day amounted to 425, including a colonel, a major, and 3 other officers. The colonel, incidentally, was the commanding officer of the military police organization in the district.

The following day, the 1st Bn. was directed to proceed to VICHT, the 2nd Bn. to MAUSBACH and the 3rd Bn. to SCHEVENHUTTE, then NW to GRESSENICH.

The 1st Bn. reached VICHT at 1530 after cleaning out many pill-boxes and capturing over 100 prisoners. At 1730, they were ordered to move to MAUSBACH, formerly the objective of the 2nd Bn., who were instructed to proceed to KREWINKLE (9841) At 2100, the 1st Bn. had reached MAUSBACH and were preparing defensive positions around the town.

The 2nd Bn. reached KREWINKLE at 1845. They had captured about 95 prisoners, 38 of whom were taken in a small arms fight.

SCHEVENHUTTE

The 3rd Bn. moved North towards SCHEVENHUTTE. About 400 yds. short of the town they were fired on by small arms but succeeded in fighting their way to the objective. They moved through the town on their way to GRESSENICH but just outside of SCHEVENHUTTE, were brought under heavy shell fire from enemy tanks. The bridge leading from SCHEVENHUTTE was blown and the approaches mined, which prevented the 3rd Bn. from bringing up their tanks. The enemy was apparently in considerable strength and strongly entrenched at GRESSENICH, so the 3rd Bn. established defensive positions around SCHEVENHUTTE and prepared to continue the attack on the following morning.

All three Bns. experienced intermittent mortar and artillery fire throughout the night.

It was planned on Sept. 17 to move the 1st Bn., less one platoon of Co. "C" and the Bn. AT platoon, from MAUSBA CH to seize the dominating ground to the South of GRESSENICH, preparatory to capturing the town itself. But before the plan could be put into effect, the 2nd and 3rd Bns. were counter-attacked, the 2nd Bn. rather heavily.

The attack in the 3rd Bn. sector started about 0610 and came from the East and North. Some of the enemy succeeded in getting behind the Bn., but no serious envelopment was accomplished.

At 0730, the 2nd Bn. was counter-attacked by infantry, advancing in groups of from 15 to 20 men and supported by heavy mortar and artillery concentrations. Some of them were within 200 yds. of the 2nd Bn's. positions before being stopped and driven back by our artillery, mortar and SA fire. Although the attack was brought to a standstill, the enemy still continued aggressive action and a detachment of 10 tanks was dispatched from 3rd Arm'd. Division to assist the Regiment. However, 5 of these tanks were disabled by enemy action while en route and only 5 reached the 2nd Bn.

At 0820, the 1st Bn. began movement to the high ground and at 1040 had reached it and dug in. A platoon of Co. "C" and a platoon of AT guns were left to defend MAUSBACH as planned.

The 2nd and 3rd Bns. continued to receive extremely heavy artillery, mortar and SA fire throughout the day and night and suffered the highest number of casualties in a single day since crossing the Meuse River, 45 wounded and 14 killed. Four of the Bns. jeeps and one 57mm AT gun were knocked out. Several times all of their lines of communication were cut by artillery fire.

GRESSENICH

At 0130 on Sept. 18, the 3rd Bn. was again counterattacked locally from the vicinity of GRESSENICH. An "I" Co. road block was overrun but by 0330 the attack was stopped and the road block restored. The enemy was seen to have at least one flamethrower, and one of the nine prisoners captured stated that they had orders to take SCHEVENHUTTE and MAUSBACH at all costs.

The 2nd Bn. was still under a relentless artillery bombardment from long distance heavy calibre guns. Strong enemy patrols had also infiltrated into their lines. At 0340, the Regimental Commander ordered the 2nd Bn. to move back due South about a mile, to the vicinity of the 1st Bn. C.P., in order to get out of the impact area of the hostile artillery and to reorganize. In the afternoon, they took up positions on the commanding ground to the South and SE of MAUSBACH, relieving Co. "C" who rejoined the 1st Bn. The 1st Bn. extended their flank to the West to take over some of the positions formerly occupied by 2nd Bn.

Enemy patrols continued to be very active in the 3rd Bn's. sector until obstacles were erected to hinder their approach. Concertina and barbed wire were laid and trip-wire booby traps set up in both the 1st and 3rd Bns. areas.

On Sept. 19, the Regiment concentrated on consolidating and strengthening positions. There was no significant activity on the part of the enemy, except that at 0730 the heaviest enemy artillery barrage ever heard fell to the North and West of our positions, emphasizing the amount of artillery the enemy had at his disposal.

Concentrations of mortar and artillery fell in the Bn. areas throughout the day, causing the Regiment a total of 33 casualties, 2 of whom were killed.

On the morning of Sept. 20, the 3rd Arm'd. Division launched an attack on our left, seizing the highground about 2 miles West of GRESSENICH. In the afternoon the 2nd Bn. of the 47th Inf., less Company "G", was moved over to occupy this position in order to relieve the armored infantry so they could continue the attack. Co. "G" remained in defense of MAUSBACH.

During the night and in the early morning of Sept. 21, the 2nd Bn. heard indications of enemy activity to their front, such as tanks moving about, but no aggressive action resulted. The 3rd Bn. was shelled by a railroad gun reported to be in the vicinity of JUNGERSDORF, about 4 miles NE of their positions. This heavy shelling continued throughout the day and caused numerous casualties among the civilians in SCHEVENHUTTE. About 20 of them were treated by the 3rd Bn. Aid Station on this date, bringing the total number of civilians treated since the occupation of the town to about 65. At the request of the 3rd Bn. C.O., most of residents of the town were evacuated that evening and the following morning by Military Gov't. personnel.

DUREN TO ESCHWEILER

The Regimental O.P. observed traffic on the railroad running East and West from DUREN to ESCHWEILER. The enemy was apparently evacuating factories in the district and the activity continued for several days.

At 0615, on 22 Sept., the report was received by radio, from Major Tanner, Executive Officer of the 3rd Bn., that a very formidable counterattack was being directed against their position. The attack which started about 0600 was preceded by a particularly concentrated artillery preparation according to Major Tanner's radio report, and was described as the biggest show that Jerry had ever put on against them. At the time of the report, the main effort seemed to be coming from the East, while a force of undetermined strength had worked its way around to the SE of the position, thus threatening the South flank and lines of communication. It was requested that all defensive artillery fires prepared for the East of the 3rd Bn. position be immediately fired.

At the time of this report, the attack was in its early stages and it could not be definitely determined whether additional assistance would be needed in the 3rd Bn. sector. However, the 1st Bn. was immediately alerted to be prepared to move in that direction should the situation demand it.

POSITION OVER RUN

At 0640, a radio message from the 3rd Bn. stated that their position had been overrun and requested that help be sent as quickly as possible. "C" Co. was immediately ordered to move to the East on the South flank of the 3rd Bn., to clear and protect the line of communications, and to assist the 3rd Bn. on their right flank.

After the Commanding General was informed of the situation, the 3rd Bn. of the 60th Inf. was ordered to move to vicinity of 00548 to assist the 3rd Bn. The 1st Bn., 47th Inf., was directed to send a representative to 994388 to contact 3rd Bn., 60th Inf., and inform them of the situation. A wire line was immediately laid to Nutmeg Blue, to provide direct communication with Regimental Headquarters.

Reports reaching Headquarters from various sources confirmed the fact that the lines of communication in rear of the 3rd Bn. had been overrun after the road block covering the South flank of the Bn., was broken through. One platoon of the Cannon Co. in position at 008422, found it's position untenable, and was forced to abandon the guns due to heavy, direct machine gun and mortar fire. The firing blocks were removed and the personnel withdrew to covered positions. These guns, however, were later recovered in good condition.

HEAVY CASUALTIES

At 0900, the 3rd Bn. reported that the enemy was withdrawing to the East after having suffered extremely heavy casualties, and at 1000 Co. "C" retook the bridge on the 3rd Bn's. supply which the enemy had held for a time.

From PW's captured during the action, it was learned that the attack was launched by a full-strength Bn. whose mission was to retake SCHEVENHUTTE at all costs and that they had marched all night in order to get around our left flank.

Cont Pg. 2

MAIL CALL

Mrs. James McInerney
204 Pennsylvania Avenue
Matamoras, Pa. 18336

Mrs. "Mac" as she is known affectionately by our members and Gold Star mother informs us that she has moved to Matamoras, Pa.

"The welcome mat's out just as before -- Although it's in front of a different door" - Regards to all.

47th A.T. Co.

Howard G. Waldman
26 Newman Street
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

"First-Warmest greetings and best wishes to all. This short note is to inform the members that Books 'N Things, a Boone, N.C. bookstore, a friend and acting as an agent of Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, informed me that they had mailed out all the books, autographed and inscribed by the General of a "Soldiers Report". These books were ordered by the members at the New York reunion because of the fact that they were unable to purchase same as the New York bookstores were sold out early Friday morning of that week.

The book requested by the daughter of Victor Butswinkus, for her father was also autographed and the General personally saw to it that it was delivered promptly. (The General is really a great guy). Mrs. Butswinkus confirmed that Victor was pleased and overjoyed with his inscribed copy of a "Soldiers Report" - which leaves me to say - that I am just that much more proud to have served with that "Good Author".

Co. M 47th Inf.

Wilton M. Taylor
Star Route Stop 6
Lost Hills, Calif. 93244

Enjoyed the Octofoil, especially Dom Miele's cheery letter. Also saw the names of Co B 15th Engineers members who were at the reunion. I would like to take this opportunity to ask them if they knew Lloyd Chester Wofford of Co B. 15th Engineers? He passed away in October in a Veterans Hospital in Los Angeles. A letter from these members to his wife would be appreciated. Mrs. Bernice Wofford lives at 517 Rose Street, Taft, California. I worked with Lloyd at Mobile Oil - he was a hard worker.

Also would like to say "hello" to General Randle. Read the nice letter from General Hoyle who is 93. I believe he was the C.O. at Fort Bragg when I joined the 47th Infantry in 1942.

Best wishes to all you 47th men wherever you are and the Ninth Division members and to the New York Chapter members for a nice convention. I hope some day we can hold a reunion in Texas, Colorado or some Central location whereby us Western members would not have so far to travel.

Kindest regards to Father DeLaura and a speedy recovery from his last attack. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

77 REUNION in CHICAGO

To me, every baby resembles every baby I ever saw.

B. Btry, 376AAA

George F. Long
714 Penny Drive
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235

I received my Octofoil paper and while reading the paper I thought I had better get my '77 dues mailed in while I have a mind to do this. I may put it away and forget. Best of Luck to you and a Happy and Enjoyable Life.

Hq. 9th Div.

Bill Cardoza, Sr.
17 Jones Terrace - Apt. 5
Stoughton, Mass. 02072

It was real nice to see old reliables of the Ninth Infantry Division at the Memorial Services in Worcester.

My wife Sally and I had a very nice time. Sally was pleased to meet you and some of the other members. Also, Father Connors.

The Memorial Mass was very nice, and also the dedication of the monument. We hope to come there again next year. "God Willing". This was the first time I attended the Memorial since 1966. I shall try to attend a meeting in Worcester some time. Pray that you and Mrs. Quinn are in good health. Happy Holidays to all.

Serv. Co. 47th Inf.

John Kimerle
15 Evelyn Rd.
Roseland, N.Y. 07068

Enclosed my dues for the next three years.

I sure wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the officers, and committee members who made our 1976 New York convention so enjoyable. While we were registering, Pres. Emil Langer received a call from the West Coast, and none other than our old 47th Infantry artist George Morgan was expressing good wishes to all his old buddies. Seeing and enjoying the good comradeship of a convention like that was wonderful. The New Years party was tops - music by the band was just perfect - the draft beer hm - good.

General Westmoreland's visit was sure one of the highlights and a real pleasure to see and talk to him once again.

I'm closing. I know I'll be looking forward to the next reunion along with my wife Doris.

Can. Co 60th Inf.

Oscar Richards
467 Sharon Drive
Wayne, Pa. 19087

Sorry I could not attend the Memorial Mass and Services in Worcester. I have been busy since June as Department D.A.V. Commander here in Penna.

Give my regards to all our friends in the Ninth and especially to all my former buddies in Cannon Company 60th Infantry. I received General Westmoreland's book from North Carolina and autographed. Thank your wife, Marie, and Howie Waldman for handling the order at the N.Y. reunion. If everything goes as hoped and planned I expect to make the next reunion in Chicago.

Happy Holidays to friends and all Ninth men everywhere.

Co. K - 47th

John H. Mrugula
Box 11 - Rd. No. 1
Barnesboro, Pa.

I am enclosing a check to cover my dues for the year 1977.

I am back at my job since last February. I had my last checkup in May of this year. My doctor told me I was fit enough to go on a hike with a full field pack. I feel good but I have to watch my diet so I do not gain weight. I guess God was watching over me.

I read in the Octofoil that the Memorial Mass was on November 7th in Worcester. I could not make it but I was there in my thoughts. That week I had a Votive Lamp put up in my home parish for all the dead of WW II that served with the 9th.

Every now and then I look through my two books, "History of the 47th Inf. Reg." and "Eight Stars to Victory" and they bring back the memories that to me are very dear. It just seems as if it were only yesterday and I can still visualize the fellas that I served with from North Africa to Germany. It is a part of my life that will always remain with me. It was also a time of my youth for I was only twenty when I joined the 9th in North Africa in the early part of '43. When I think back I was fortunate to have served with an outfit that was made up of such excellent men. In my mind and heart I feel even till this day we were the best. To all my old buddies with whom I served I wish only the best and God's blessings.

P.S. May all of you have the best for the holidays.

47th Inf.

Roger Gartland
255 Charles Street
Watertown, N.Y. 13601

Roger sends his dues and writes "Soon after the first of the year, we'll leave for the sunny South where the sun will shine on us for three months.

Best of Holiday greetings to all."

60th Inf.

Roger Schaeffer
1664 Sunset Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44301

Once again it's "dues" time - enclosed you'll find the usual check. The current Octofoil was enjoyed, especially Al Hodges letter. He's a real "salt of the earth" type - the kind of man we'd like to see more of!

Nothing much is new here at home. I'm still active in professional music - my own dance band; directing the Yuset Khan Grotto Band here in Akron; playing as much as possible - although I've retired from school music teaching.

Best regards to all and here's to another successful year in 1977.

47th Inf.

George Berday
DeSoto Trailer Park
Lot 286
Homestead, Fla. 33030

George sends his dues and writes "Hope this finds all of you doing well. I'm having it a little rough right now. I was up at Walter Reed from April to the last of July taking Radiation treatments for cancer and this month I was in the hospital here at the Air Base. I couldn't move my right leg. I'm glad it finally came around again or I would have been in Reed again.

John and Stephanie Dolak were here about a year ago looking for a place. They'll be down after the first of the year. Say "Hello" to the gang."

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

Mrs. Helen Lagattuta
352 D Hackensack St.
Woodridge, N.J. 07075

Helen, widow of Joseph Lagattuta 1st Soldier of Company K, 47th Infantry writes "Hope you and family are well. Reading an interesting book of WW2 by James Jones. It brings back many memories of our days there. I believe you would find it interesting. It's like a large paper back with many pictures, cartoons etc. It mentions the Ninth but not enough - but all the areas where the Ninth was at.

Best wishes to all for Happy Holiday Season."

3rd Bn. Med
Det-39th Inf.

Robert C. Rushing
Imboden, Ark. 72434

Bob writes "I served in the 39th Inf. in forty-four and forty five as a Company Aid man. I am now sixty three years old and trying to get a pension. I have heart trouble and haven't worked in ten years. Have a small income but it doesn't go too far any more. I wrote to Dr. Brooks, he said he would help but need more information from some of the men I served with. If you can give my any information I would appreciate it. Regards to all."

Hq Bty, 26th F.A.

Robert Mason
2818 Garbett Ave.
McKeesport, Pa. 15132

Bob sends a beautiful Christmas card and adds "Really enjoy reading the Octofoil" - regards and best wishes to all.



TO YOU FROM ELDNAR

In every land a glad "Amen"

Welcomes Christmas once again,—

Holly wreath with bright red bow,

Carol-singing in the snow,

Gleaming star at tip of tree;

Jewelled with lights for all to see;

Children's laughter fills the air,

Love and joy are everywhere.

So our thoughts fly out to you

Knowing that you're rejoicing, too!

Agnes Randle

Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Randle
503 Althea Rd., Belleair
Clearwater, Fla. 33516

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 \$1.50 for 1977 dues. Please mail my membership card to-

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
give company, regiment, battery, attached unit, etc.)

Make checks or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail to
Mrs. Lillian Krasovetz
107 USA East
Gibbsboro, N.J. 08026