

College of the Holy Cross

## CrossWorks

---

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

---

3-1-1978

### The Octofoil, March/April 1978

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil>



Part of the [Military and Veterans Studies Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, March/April 1978" (1978). *The Octofoil*. 221.  
<https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/221>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the 9th Infantry Division Association at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Octofoil by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.

# 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 XXXIII Number 2 -

Mar-April 1978

## BIRTHPLACE OF OLD GLORY



General Dwight D. Eisenhower (l), Supreme Allied Commander, and Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, (r) CG, 12th Army Group, talk with Major General Louis A. Craig, CG, 9th Infantry Division, during their visit to Butgenbach, Belgium.-Dated November 8, 1944.

### Honored Gen. Craig

When General Craig was honored last year at the luncheon in Washington one of the speakers was General Westmoreland. Because of the delay in receiving the report we regret that we were unable to print the speech. It may be a little late but here is the talk given by Westy when he saluted General Craig.

I am privileged to be a party to this proud and happy occasion and congratulate those who made it possible.

As many of you know from personal experience, the 9th Infantry Division of WW II was not a flashy unit.

It was steady, professional, reliable.

It pursued sound tactics - no razzle-dazzle.

It was a disciplined division. It did not boast; its accomplishments spoke for themselves.

Awards were passed sparingly on the basis of truly outstanding performance.

Hence, there was mutual confidence up and down the chain of command.

The Division exuded integrity and had a modest pride.

It was a division with character.

Why was all this so?

Simply. Because of its leadership!

A military organization is uniquely a reflection of its commander - not the reverse.

The 9th Division was superbly led on the battlefields of North Africa, Sicily, and Western Europe by (2) two remarkable commanders.

I will speak of the latter of these - our honored guest.

This gentleman was (and still is) a man of great moral and intellectual depth. He was a military professional in every sense. Self-effacing and modest, he spoke softly and politely to all. He never harangued or engaged in pompous exhortations. Never did he use crude, vulgar or blasphemous language. Dignity and integrity were his hallmarks. He lead by example!

A disciplinarian - yes, but a man of scrupulous fairness and compassion.

He made his decisions rapidly based on sound principles and proven tactics. He never equivocated.

He was a sensitive officer but avoided decisions controlled by his emotions. But he was also human and had his emotional moments.

Three come to mind: He was disturbed by the steadily mounting casualties the Division suffered during the long weeks in the dismal Hurtgen Forest. He was frustrated by the weak leadership from above during the early days of the Ramagen bridge head. He was distressed that his Division was restrained on the Elbe River and not allowed to advance into Berlin.

But, he accepted his orders from above and gave them his wholehearted support.

He was a master as a senior administrator giving his staff great lee-way under his clearly announced policies.

(Continued on next page)



The Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia is "The Birthplace of Old Glory". In this little Colonial dwelling Betsy Ross, seamstress and Patriot, stitched the First American Flag.

PENN'S TOWN - Philadelphia, which is approaching its tricentennial, is a lovely old city made for strolling. The central section (Center City), less than 30 blocks wide, was laid out by William Penn in 1682. Orientation is easy because the north-south streets are numbered, running westward from Front Street (instead of First Street) near the Delaware River to the Schuylkill River around 30th Street. Broad Street (the equivalent of 14th Street) forms the main stem in the center of town, crossing the main east-west thoroughfare, Market Street, on the site of City Hall. Many of the east-west streets bisecting the numbered streets are named for trees, from Lombard on the southern edge of Center City to Cherry on the north. An old rhyme pinpoints the main streets north and south of Market: Market, Arch, Race and Vine

Chestnut, Walnut, Spruce and Pine.

Compressed within the narrow streets and alleys of this oldest section of town is much of the history and flavor of Philadelphia. Here, too, is much of the city's cultural life and entertainment, as well as some of the best restaurants in the country. Everything is clustered within strolling distance of the leading hotels. Get a free map of Center City from any hotel desk, at the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Center at 16th and John F. Kennedy Boulevard, or at the National Park Service Visitors Center at Third and Chestnut.

Reunion dates - July 27-28-29 are just around the corner. No one can afford to miss the boat - you'll be sorry if you do. Ninth Infantry Division reunion time is always a happy occasion - but to meet in the City of Brotherly Love in 1978 should make the occasion doubly attractive. For what could be more enjoyable than to see old buddies, to laugh, to reminisce and enjoy each others company. That is what the reunion is all about. There is no other commitment, other than to enjoy yourself.

### Reservation a must

We cannot stress enough the importance of your filling out the registration form that appears in the Octofoil and return it to the Reunion Committee. The Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter is putting plenty of hard work into the preparations for the 1978 Reunion. They are doing everything possible to assure our members a good time when they visit Philly.

Remember  
The Dates

PHILLY REUNION  
JULY 27-29

## mail call

Continued

CHARLES A. BODNAR  
187 New York Avenue  
Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621

I am sending in my dues for the next three years. I wouldn't miss the Octofoil; for I eagerly look forward to reading it hungrily every time it arrives. I'm also looking forward with great expectations to the Philly reunion where I expect to meet and B. S. with quite a few of the old buddies from the 47th A. T. Co. From the news I gather quite a few of them are making it a special occasion to be at this convention.

I also have a lot of interesting stories to tell them after visiting our old battle areas. Some of the stories I have are as hard to believe as some of the combat stories we had coming home with us. I'm quite sure they will enjoy hearing how some of the old areas are today, compared to the way they looked when we were there.

I've never really met you Dan but it seems like writing to an old friend whenever I write to anyone concerning the Octofoil. I'd like to meet you at Philly. I'll be there!

47th R S O

Joseph D'Aleo  
407 Carver Drive  
Bethlehem, Pa. 18017

Enclosed are some reproductions of shots Ruth (the Mrs.) and I took on our trip to England last summer.

They cover what I think are interesting views of the 47th Infantry Regiment's home-away-from-home during 1943 and 1944.

During our stay in Winchester we took a tour on the surrounding area in a Landrover. We spent some time in Alresford (now called New Alresford) where the headquarters of the 47th Infantry Regiment was located. One of the enclosed pictures shows the town's Main Street (which is highlighted in some tour books as being one of the most beautiful small town streets in England). On one door of a building along the right side of the picture is a plaque stating: "This house was the headquarters of the 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, U.S. Army - 1943 to D-Day June, 1944."

Just outside of town and beyond the beautiful thatched-roof cottage (shown in another picture) there was embedded in the River Itchen's bank a memorial to the mascot of Headquarters Co., 47th Infantry. It reads: "Here lies Hambone 11, faithful friend of the 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, May, 1944."

It apparently was the way the townspeople of Alresford and nearby Alton said "Thanks, Yank."

Though this might be interesting to you ... and possibly something you might want to put in an issue of OCTOFOIL.

Hope to get to the Philadelphia reunion.

3rd Bn. Medics - 47th  
JOHN C. FRIEL  
P.O. Box 373  
Covington, Va. 24426

It seems I only write to you when it is dues time. Needless to say, I always enjoy the Octofoil, and the news of the association. Occasionally there is a letter from one of the fellows I knew. It was nice to see the letter from John Jacobs of the 3rd Bn. Medics, 47th.

My work schedule always keeps me from the conventions, but hopefully I will be able to attend one soon.

Keep up the good work on the Octofoil and give my best regards to any of the fellows who knew me.

## Tip Of The Hat

The association is ever grateful to these members who remembered the Memorial Fund:

Irv Terchak  
Jim Droney  
Fred Veno  
Bill Morrison  
Anthony Kucjewski  
Fred Dick  
Frank Machek  
Richard Martin  
Doug Deas  
John Compel  
Joe Fenerty  
Warren Evans  
Howard Heilman  
Ray Berthiaume  
Roland Pope

We salute these members and a special thanks to Howard Heilman who for several years has sent a donation of \$50.00 to this fund.

## Memories

Many things can be written about the attractions at a reunion but when all is said and done the only thing that really matters is the "old timers" themselves. We all look forward to being with the old gang and are anxious to see our old pals once again.

The Reunion Journal is our greeting card to the Association. You can sign this card by taking an ad in the Journal. Like the commercial greeting cards our ads come in all sizes and price ranges. If you want to spread your name across a whole page and feel like splurging you can

33RD ANNUAL REUNION  
REQUEST FOR SPACE IN SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Arthur J. MacDougall  
5051 Homestead Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19135

Dear Arthur:

Please insert our greeting (or ad) in the Souvenir Journal to be issued at the 33rd Annual National Reunion at the Hotel Sheraton on July 27th, 28th, and 29th, 1978.

Name

Address

City

State.....

Unit

Full Page \$40.00

Half Page \$25.00

Quarter Page \$15.00

Note: Make all checks payable to Arthur MacDougall, Philly Reunion Committee.

One eight Page \$7.50

Booster includes

name and unit \$1.00

Deadline for the Reunion Journal is June 30th.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION  
ASSOCIATION  
July 27-30, 1978

Please reserve.....room(s) for.....

person(s):

NAME

SHARING WITH

ADDRESS

FIRM

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Will arrive on

(day)

(date)

at

m

Will depart on

(day)

(date)

at

m

Philadelphia Sheraton Hotel

1725 John F. Kennedy Boulevard

Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

## CHECK ACCOMMODATIONS PREFERRED

Single (1 person, 1 bed)	25.00
Twin (2 persons, 2 beds)	30.00
Suite (1 bedroom)	70.00 80.00 90.00

215-568-3300

FREE SELF PARKING FOR  
REGISTERED GUESTS

To Insure Reservations, Room Requests Must Be Received 14 Days Prior to Scheduled Arrival. If arrival is after 6 p.m. we require a one-night deposit or payment of the room guaranteed through American Express credit card to hold your room.

CHECK OUT TIME—12 NOON

## THE OCTOFOIL

Form 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue,  
Weehawken, N.J. 07087  
Octofoil Associated Editors Walter O'Keeffe and  
Daniel Quinn.

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

Albert Perna, President  
2642 S. Juniper  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19148

Vincent Guglielmino, 1st V.P.  
114 Charles Street  
Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

William Bongiorno, 2nd V.P.  
3 Cedar Ridge Terrace  
Bedford, Mass. 01730

Robert DeSandy, 3rd V.P.  
23430 Colonial Ct.  
St. Clairshores, Mich.  
48080

Harrison Daysh,  
Judge Advocate  
Kensington, Md. 20795

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer  
39 Hall Avenue  
Somerville, Mass. 02144

## Board of Governors

1978  
William Klauz, New York, N.Y.  
Ralph Carci, Cheverley Manor, Md.  
Herbert Olsen, Randolph, Mass.  
Elmer Wagner, Bay City, Mich.  
Albert Perna, Philadelphia, Pa.

1979  
Charles Koskie, Schiller Park, Ill.  
George Bako, Bronx, N.Y.  
Francis Maher, Worcester, Mass.  
Pat DeColli, Philadelphia, Pa.

1979  
John Bonkowski, Detroit, Mich.  
Dave Gelman, Forest Hills, N.Y.  
Salvatore Trapani, Rockville, Md.  
Paul Keller, Columbus, Ohio  
Frank Ozart, Frankfort, Illinois

Daniel Quinn, Secretary  
412 Gregory Avenue  
Weehawken, N.J. 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 condition.

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.

Publication No. 402820

VOLUME XXXIII Number 2 - Mar-April 1978

Co. I 47th Inf.  
LEROY V. WINCHEL  
Rt. 82  
Salt Point, N. Y. 12578

Enclosed you will find check for \$13.00 for three years dues. Sorry, I let them run out.

I would like to hear from anyone who took part in or remembers a small musical show we put on for different units after the war ended. The name of the show was "OH MY ACHING BACK MUSICAL SHOW".

I'm sure most of the members were from the 3rd Battalion, I, K, L, M and Headquarters Co.

Hope to hear from some of these "stars".

47th MED. DET.  
ERNIE LONG 3rd Bn.  
517 Bayfair Drive  
Bay Village, Ohio 44140

Enclosed find check in the amount of \$13.00, this will pay my association dues for three years.

There's so damn much snow in Cleveland, I doubt if we will thaw out before July 4th.

Well, my 70th birthday will sneak up on me March 25th. And I thank the good Lord, for the return of my good health.

Sincerely hope you, your lovely wife and family are enjoying good health. - Regards to all the old gang.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASS'N.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, Natl. Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.,  
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087

Enclosed please find dues for 1978

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 ☐Three-Year Member \$13.00 ☐LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$50.00 ☐Ladies' Auxiliary Member \$ 2.00 ☐Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund ☐Octofoil Automobile License Disc \$ .50 ☐Combat Route Map \$ .50 ☐60th Infantry History \$ .50 ☐

Please give credit to the following Chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐New England ☐ Michigan ☐Ohio ☐ Fayetteville-Fort Bragg, N.C. ☐

# Traveling down road of history

**HISTORY OF THE  
47TH INFANTRY-  
November 1944**

## CITADEL OF THE ENEMY

The port of Antwerp, one of Europe's largest and finest, was vitally essential to continued Allied offensive operations. The enemy had tenaciously defended all French ports, even though hopelessly isolated from the main German forces. In those ports we had captured, the harbour facilities had been destroyed with a thoroughness so characteristic of the German efficiency. The port facilities of Cherbourg, Marseilles, and the Normandy beaches had been strained to the utmost by the demands of the great offensive which had brought us to the very citadel of the enemy. For the preponderance of men and materiel which would have to be assembled for the final offensive against Germany, another large seaport was indispensable.

## KEY TO PROBLEM

Antwerp was the key to the problem. The city had been captured by the British, virtually intact and unharmed, in the early stages of the invasion of Holland. German occupation of the estuaries of the Scheldt River and their possession of Welcheren Island, which guarded the sea approaches to the great port, denied us usage of its vast facilities, however.

Accordingly, all energies were turned to the reduction of these enemy defenses. While the British and Canadian Armies were so engaged, the American First Army, of which the 47th Infantry was a part, continued the defense of their sector of the front.

## POSITIONS UNCHANGED

The particular mission of the 47th Infantry during the opening days of November was the continued defense of the Mausbach - Schevenhutte sector of the First Army front, and until mid-November, the defensive positions of the Regiment remained unchanged. From November 1st to November 10th, the Regiment continued its attachment to the 3rd Armored Division, and on the latter date, the 47th Infantry was relieved and attached to the 1st U.S. Infantry Division, in order to facilitate operations during the anticipated offensive. This attachment remained in effect during the balance of November.

The period from the 1st to the 16th of November was characterized by the same vigorous patrolling which had proven so effective during the previous month. The enemy, too, continued his patrolling activities, and in several instances, enemy patrols were apprehended in attempting to penetrate our positions. There was a noticeable increase in enemy artillery activity thruout the period, particularly in the use of long range pieces shelling our rear areas. Our own artillery continued their effective counterbattery work and harassing missions.

## LARGE SCALE OFFENSIVE

Then on the 6th of November, the Scheldt estuaries and Welcheren Island were cleared of the enemy, and Antwerp became available for use as our main supply port. It was the go-signal for the large-scale offensive which had been planned for our sector, and unmistakable signs that something big was in the offing filtered down to the Regiment.

The complete plans for the coming operations were received from higher headquarters. The strictest secrecy discipline was enforced, for the espionage threat could not be minimized, as we were operating in enemy territory. Colonel Smythe held innumerable meetings with his battalion commanders and staff, and plans for the accomplishment of the 47th Infantry's particular mission were made in the minutest detail. Despite the extended period the Regiment had been tactically employed, the men were, on the whole, in good physical condition and anxious to get started on this last lap of our journey to Berlin. Because of our enviable record of past successes in past engagements, the Regiment was confident that its part in the coming operation would be performed with exemplary efficiency.

## OVER-WHELMING IMPORTANCE

The attack was designed to seize the crossings of the Roer River, preparatory to the crossing of that barrier, continuation of the push to the Rhine River, and the occupation of the strategic Rhineland. The importance of this sector of Germany cannot be over-emphasized; Germany's war potential is almost entirely contingent upon her possession of the vast resources which are contained in the Rhineland and the Ruhr, and to deprive her of either one or the other would so seriously hamper her war effort as to preclude her continuation of the war for any length of time. In view of the overwhelming importance of this region, the determined, fanatic resistance which met our attack at every point was readily understandable. Every mile of ground lost measurably decreased her ability to prolong the war.

## ROER AND RHINE

The Roer River ran generally parallel to the Rhine and about twenty-five miles to the west of it. Although not normally a major barrier, it offered a natural line of defense to the enemy, and it was anticipated he would gradually withdraw to the eastern side of it when hard pressed, to extensively prepared defensive positions. A number of flood control dams had been installed near the headwaters of the river, near Schmidt, and as long as the Germans retained possession of these dams, it was entirely possible for them to raise the level of the river to flood stage, thereby flooding a goodly portion of the terrain over which we were to operate.

## HURTGEN FOREST

Possession of these dams, therefore, was the key to the Roer River defenses. Several strong attacks had been launched from positions held in the dense Hurtgen Forest prior to the 16th November attacks, in an effort to wrest from German hands the control of these dams. The Germans, in accordance with a full realization of their importance, had massed an amazing quantity of artillery guns for the protection of the approaches to these dams, and these guns, coupled with tenacious infantry defense, enabled them to successfully stave off the vicious attacks which were launched.

It was anticipated that the Germans would not flood the Roer River until we had successfully breached her east-bank defenses; thus if, simultaneously, the west bank

of the Roer and the headwaters' dams could be secured, the crossing of the river could be effected without the threat of flooding.

## FULLEST USE

Accordingly, on November 16th, 1944, the attack was launched. Inclement weather had made necessary a postponement of the attack, for once again, the fullest use as to be made of our tactical air supremacy, and the attack to be preceded by strong bombing and strafing attacks in the vicinity of Eschweiler and Weisweiler - due north of our positions. The air attack was to begin at 1215, and continue until 1245. Concentrations by Corps, Division and our own artillery were to be fired shortly before H-Hour on Gressenich, in a preparation in direct support of the attack of the 47th Inf. attack.

The air show proved to be a partial re-enactment of the great Normandy spectacle. British, as well as American, four-motored bombers were used in the attack on the cities of Eschweiler and Weisweiler. Later, the Regiment passed through these towns in motor convoy, and the scene of almost total devastation which met our eyes was grim evidence of the destructive powers of the weapons of war. The air preparation ceased sharply at H-Hour and the 47th Infantry moved forward.

## DETERMINED OPPOSITION

The 1st Battalion attacked on time due north toward Gressenich, the first town to the north of our positions. Very little hostile fire was encountered initially, as the simultaneous attack of the 3rd Armored Division, attacking east, had involved the enemy. But as our advance continued, and they reached the southern edge of the town, heavy small arms fire and 88mm tank and SP fire, coming directly from the town, slowed the advance considerably. By the end of the day, the troops of the battalion had seized several houses on the southern edge of the town. As the 1st Battalion left their positions to attack north, the 2nd Battalion was instructed to cut the road leading northeast from Gressenich, which they succeeded in doing by 2215 hours, when a road block was established astride the road. During our first day, the Regiment got a taste of the determined opposition which was to characterize the battle thruout.

## STEADY PRESSURE

The steady pressure of the 3rd Armored Division and the cutting of the road running northeast from Gressenich, made untenable the enemy's positions in the town, and on

November 17th, the 1st Bn advanced through the rubble-strewn streets, meeting only moderate opposition, and by 1030, the town was reported clear. Long-range artillery fell intermittently on the town throughout the day, adding to the destruction which had been wrought by our artillery and air-corps.

Conditions were extremely unfavourable for the attacker, for the continual rains which had fallen in the area in the weeks before the attack had transformed the earth into an ocean of mud. The break in the inclement weather had proven only temporary, and after the attack had started, the heavy rains resumed their incessant downpour. It was all but impossible to employ tanks for anything but use as infantry supporting weapons.

## EXCELLENT OBSERVATION

Gressenich was a vantage point which afforded excellent observation to the north and northeast. The smoke-stacks of the factories of Eschweiler and Weisweiler appeared, distinctly visible, even through the smoke and haze caused by our bombing and shelling. To the north, Hill 232, which had been captured on the previous day by the 16th Inf., could be seen from Gressenich. On the 19th of November, the 1st Bn of the first 47th occupied the hill, immediately after the 16th Infantry had vacated it preparatory to their attack to the north. The plan for the day was for the First Bn to jump off from Hill 232, and attack and seize Hill 187 and Hill 167, the key terrain features of the southern approaches to Weisweiler. The 3rd Bn was then to move from their positions in the vicinity of Schevenhutte and occupy Hill 232, as soon as it was cleared by the 1st Bn, then, contingent upon the successful seizure of Hills 187 & 167, attack and seize the village of Bovenberg.

## WELL DEFENDED

Hill 187 proved to be extremely well defended. It was necessary for the First Bn to attack across open ground which was directly under the observation of the enemy entrenched on the hill. Their advance was met by observed

artillery fire, mortar and small arms fire. Progress was slow, and by nightfall, they had reached a line some 500 yards short of their objective. The attack was resumed on the 20th of November, and the relentless artillery, mortar and small arms fire continued incessantly. By evening, they had reached the base of the hill and preparations were made to continue the attack in the morning.

## ATTACK RESUMED

On the 21st of November, the attack was resumed and the western part of the objective reached. The enemy fire was even more intense than on the previous days, and their position, as they advanced, became increasingly more exposed and open to observation by the enemy; it was impossible for them to run the enemy off the eastern part of the hill, for from his well dug-in positions, he could bring down a withering cross fire of bullets on the doughboys advancing from the western part. The 3rd Bn, meanwhile, attacked thru the heavily-wooded area from their positions on Hill 232, with Bovenberg as their objective. In their initial advance, the battalion met only moderate resistance, but when the assault units were about 300 yards short of their objective, they were brought under intense small arms fire from their front and flat-trajectory fire from the flanks. The entire area was relentlessly blanketed with prepared artillery and mortar defensive fires which continued thruout the day without the slightest let-up. All roads and trails were perpetually interdicted, and the woods in most places were impenetrable because of the trees felled by bursting shells. Casualties for the day sustained by the 3rd Battalion alone were heavier than the entire regiment had ever suffered in one day. The supply and evacuation problem proved to be of the utmost hazard. When informed of the situation, the Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division ordered the 47th Infantry Combat Team to cease forward movement until heavy artillery concentrations could be brought to bear on areas of resistance, and dominating terrain features. At about 1600, a concentration fired by all the artillery units of the Corps, consisting of approximately 17 battalions of various calibre guns, was fired on Hill 187 for three minutes. For the balance of the day and thruout the night, Cannon Company laid harassing fire on the hill.

## POSITIONS CONSOLIDATED

Hills 187 & 167 were found to be clear of enemy by 1st Bn patrols dispatched early on the morning of the 22nd. The enemy, however, still had observation on the hills, for the patrols were subjected to intense artillery barrages. Despite this, the 1st Battalion put a platoon on each hill where they established defensive positions and road blocks. The 3rd Bn continued to receive artillery and mortar fire thruout the 22nd; reorganization and consolidation of positions was accomplished and the supply and evacuation problem somewhat alleviated.

On the 23rd of November, the 2nd Bn moved from their positions near Schevenhutte and prepared to carry on the attack. Their objectives were Hucheln and Wilhelmshofe, both on the southern outskirts of Weisweiler. They reached the edge of Nothberg by 0800 and continued on thru the town, meeting considerable artillery and flat-trajectory fire, and were able to advance only to a point just beyond the eastern edge of Nothberg. Meanwhile, the 3rd Bn sent a patrol to Bovenberg and found the enemy there in some strength.

Continued on page 3

+++

What's hurting our economy?  
People who refuse to live  
beyond their means!



Dated 11-8-44 - Lt. Col. Donald C. Clayman, 3rd Bnd. 47th Infantry receiving the DSC, for action in France.



## MICHIGAN DOINGS

## Annual Service

Sunday, May 21, 2 PM. The Chapter's 5th Annual Memorial Service will be held at Christ Church, 960 East Jefferson, Detroit, Mich. This is the same location as last year, a few blocks to the east of The Renaissance Center. There is plenty of free parking next to the church. We're hoping for a great turn-out in honor of our Departed Comrades.

The brunch at the Ponchartrain, which had been an important part of our Memorial Program in the past, could not be arranged this year. The Le Cafe has been moved to the top and the rates increased from \$5.95 to \$9.50. The only hours that they would be able to accommodate our group, that Sunday is 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Chairman, Bob DeSandy checked with The Plaza and other places with no luck. We're still looking for a suitable location and will make a final decision at the April 22nd Meeting. - Anyone interested, but not able to make this Meeting, should contact us for the information. There will not be any News-Notes till our June Picnic Notice.

## Convention Bus

While on the subject of traveling, we are still looking for 18 people (9 couples) for our Convention Bus to Philadelphia. The time is growing short, if you're interested please let us know. - We wrote to National Pres. Al Perna, whose home Chapter is hosting this Reunion. Arrangements have been made with The Sheraton Hotel about expediting room assignments upon our arrival, no matter what hour. Pre-registered rooms for everyone on the bus will make it super convenient. This could be accomplished by submitting a complete passenger list two weeks in advance. Would you like to add your name to those that plan on going on that Convention Bus?

## Guys &amp; Gals Boosters

The Chapters "Guys & Gals" Booster page for this year's Reunion Journal is off to a good start with 28 names entered. We'd like to top last year's record 125 and we've got a long way to go. The cost is still one dollar per name with your Unit included.

## Sympathy expressed

Just after the last Notes were sent out, Mary Crosskill, Tippie Plunket and Bob Smith notified us that Don Crosskill passed away so suddenly. It was just at the last Memorial Week-end in Worcester that Don & Bob have decided to join our Chapter and it was in those last Notes that we've mentioned their appreciation for taking them in. - Our Sympathy in behalf of the entire Chapter has been expressed.

## Like To Hear

Bob Smith's letter also mentioned that he'd like to hear from all former 2nd Bn., 39th men. Write to him at: 134 Roger Ave., Bellevue, Ohio 44811.

Len Kowalski became the 21st Life Member in our Chapter. We also received 3 year dues from "Doc" Rishel and John Maule. We thank you for the benefits gained by paying your dues through the Chapter.

## Fond Memories

Our good member, Doc Rishel from Mifflinburg, Pa. sent his dues with a nice note. He and Only mentioned some fond memories of our ETO Trip, back in 1970 and that grand Convention in Chicago last Summer.

John Bonkowski  
19941 Hickory  
Detroit, Michigan 48206

## ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

## "Big Winter"

The "Big Winter" is over and the Illinois Chapter Members are anxious to get going. After cancelling the January meeting because of severe weather, illness, and President Hen-nemuth's broken toe, we finally had our first meeting of '78 in February. At that time the "cabin fever" ridden bunch decided to make the March meeting a dinner party.

## From A La Holstein to Zwiebelfleisch

The day was March 18th, the place was the Red Star Inn of Chicago. Twenty-two of us gathered for dinner which ultimately came to be a Birthday Party for Lorraine Clark. Strolling minstrels accompanied our singing of greetings and added a few catchy verses of their own for Lorraine. The strolling German Band also played some favorite songs for a sing-a-long. Special numbers directed at our postman, Mike Belmonte and at Bud Remer who just returned from south of the border added to the festivities. Everyone was pleased with the variety of German food served at this well known Chicago inn. Bud Remer invited us to go over to his nearby Legion Post for some after dinner partying. St. Patrick's Day festivities were in progress, so we joined right in. Our birthday gal, Lorraine, had the good fortune to win a pair of lamps in their raffle.

We haven't decided who got the better deal, but somehow Cas Pawalac walked off with Frank Ozart's coat. Hope you guys got that straightened out.

## Looking Ahead

The April meeting will be an important one as plans for the annual Memorial Services and picnic will be made.

Scholarship applications are being processed and the committee consisting of John Clouser, Dave Heller and Frank Ozart, will be determining the recipients soon. Frank, John and Chuck Koskie will be attending the spring Board of Governors meeting in Pittsburgh.

Already many have indicated their plans to attend the reunion in Philadelphia. We hope to have a sizeable delegation from Illinois.

John J. Clouser  
901 Graceland Street  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016

## NEW YORK CHAPTER

The New York Chapter will honor its past Presidents at the May 5th meeting that will be held in the 25th Street Armory. This is always a big night with many of the old timers showing up to honor the former Presidents.

## Pinelawn Cemetery

On May 20th the members will gather at 11:00 A.M. to pay their respects to the members buried at the National Cemetery, Farmingdale, Long Island. Several hundred men who died in WW2 are buried there along with many members who have since died after the War. Dom Miele who passed away in February and John Rizzo's grave will be visited and decorated.

## Picnic

After the services at the cemetery the members will travel to Bethpage Park where a picnic will be held.

Worcester Memorial November 5, 1978.

## SADLY MISSED

Julie Bako, brother of George, Company G - 47TH, died in January. Although he was not a member, he participated in all the affairs of the New York Chapter. His greatest thrill was to march with the group at Father Connor's Memorial Service in Worcester. He attended the New Yorkers Christmas party held in December but was forced to leave early due to ill health. Our dear friend had been suffering from cancer for over a year. May he rest in peace. To his family we offer our belated sympathy.

(Continued from page 4)

## 47th HISTORY CONT.

## VICIOUS DEFENSE

The plan for the following day was for an armored battalion from the 3rd Armored Division to attack from the positions held by our 2nd Battalion on the eastern edge of Nothberg and attempt to reach the western edge of Hucheln, at which point the 2nd Battalion would pass thru them and clean out the buildings in the town. This armored battalion started out in the attack as planned, but were immediately brought under strong AT fire, and after having one tank destroyed and another bogged down, they withdrew. The 2nd Bn then resumed their attack, with instructions to stop and dig in, should the resistance become too heavy. The enemy created a vicious defense, contesting each yard of ground and stubbornly defending all strategic points. A platoon of Company F, on the left, succeeded in reaching the western edge of Hucheln by 1730, and Company E, who had encountered a heavily mined area, was withdrawn and sent up to go thru Company F's position. Company E found practically every house in Hucheln occupied by the enemy, necessitating each building being thoroughly searched and the enemy routed out by smoke and grenades. By nightfall, elements of the 2nd Battalion had reached the eastern edge of the town, where positions were established for the night.

## STRONG POINT

The fortified factory, the strong-point of Bovenberg, still delayed the advance of the 3rd Battalion. During the 24th of November, several concentrations of artillery were placed on the factory, and in an attack on the strong-point, K Company successfully occupied it and flushed out the remaining enemy.

## TREMENDOUS LOSSES

The stubborn opposition which met the 47th Infantry's attack in its sector of employment was characteristic of the enemy's defense thruout the First Army Front. The Ninth Army, newly committed, had pushed thru to the Roer River near Julich and Geilenkirchen, but the 4th Division's attack towards Schmidt and the headwaters of the Roer River was met with fanatic resistance. Losses suffered were tremendous. Despite determined efforts, they had been unable to secure this most strategic town.

## PUSHING THEIR WAY

The 2nd Bn continued its attack on Wilhelmshohe on the 25th of November. Despite heavy machine gun and mortar fire, they succeeded in pushing their way up to the town by 1030 hours. The advance continued, and after having reduced many strong-points defended by machine gun and bazooka fire.

all connected by underground tunnels, they reached a point only some 300 yards from their assigned objective. K Company was moved to positions protecting the left flank of the 2nd Battalion, and the First Battalion moved from its location near Nothberg to positions on the right of the 2nd Bn, preparatory to moving southeast on the following day.

## USE TANKS

Then on the 26th of November, it was planned to use tanks. The town of Frenzerberg was designated as the objective of the day's effort, and the plan was for F Company of the 2nd Battalion to mount tanks of the 3rd Armored Division and proceed east toward the objective, while Company K moved northeast toward the objective with the mission of protecting the 2nd Bn's left flank. The 1st Bn was to move between a railroad and a main road running parallel between Weisweiler and Duren and then attack a strong-point south of Frenzerberg.

## STRONG A.T. FIRE

The attack got off at 1045, but strong AT fire coming from the right front stopped them immediately. Company K, who attacked simultaneously, reported good progress along their route, and accordingly, the 2nd Bn was withdrawn and sent down the route which had been taken by K Company, in order to strike at the objective from the north. K Company reached Frenzerberg by 1300, and succeeded in occupying the southwest corner of the fortified castle housing the enemy. The 2nd Battalion planned to send Company G northwest along the railroad and around to the east of the castle after dark so as to cut off the escape of the enemy, while Company F, supported by tanks, would move up the road coming in from the north. The battalion moved off at 2030 hours and had reached the strong-point by 2100. Company G took up positions to the north of the castle while Company F joined Company K to the south of it.

The 1st Battalion attacked as scheduled at 1400, and their progress was steady until 1545, when heavy flat-trajectory fire from the strong-point they were attacking held them up temporarily. By dark, they had reduced the strong-point and had taken up defensive positions in the vicinity of it.

## REQUEST TRUCE

On the 27th of November, artillery was fired on the fortified castle which the 2nd Bn was trying to take, and the shelling continued all day long. Several fires were started, but the thickness of the walls prevented its becoming untenable for the occupants.

During late afternoon the commander of the German troops in the castle requested a truce to evacuate his wounded and Captain Ewald, our prisoner of war interrogator, was sent to make arrangements. He attempted to effect a surrender, but was unsuccessful, and allowed them to evacuate eleven seriously wounded patients.

On the following day, it was planned to have G Company assault the strongpoint, while Company F covered the rear. As planned, Company G moved into the building, and at 1030 in the morning, they reported that the enemy had been cleared from all the buildings.

## 145 CONSECUTIVE DAYS

Word was received on the 29th that the 47th Infantry Combat Team, after 145 consecutive days of tactical employment, was to be relieved and given a rest. The 29th and 30th of November were spent in disengaging and assembling preparatory to rejoining the 9th Infantry Division at Elsenborn. Our attachment to the 1st Infantry Division officially ended on the 30th of November, and the regiment awaited with pleasant anticipation the coming days in the rest camp at Camp Elsenborn.

## Med. Det 84th FA BN.

64 East Main Street  
Wappingers Falls, New York  
Dial 297-2640

## James F X Delehanty

A beautiful day to send in my 9th Division Dues on good old St. Patrick's Day. Sorry to be tardy, but 'better late than never so the saying goes!

I was a member of Capt. Satings Medics 84th FA Bn during N. Africa, Sicily, England, France, Belgium and Germany vacations, all expenses paid by Uncle Sam. As you can see by the letter head, (Delehanty Funeral Home) the boys in the 84th FA Bn called me by the title of 'RIGOR MORTIS'. We had some good laughs which kept up the old spirit during tough times. All Best.

Hq. Co. 1st Bn. 47th  
FRED VENO  
713 Plainfield Road  
Juliet, Ill. 60435

Red ink again Dan. Sorry about that. I enclose my check for three years dues and a donation for the Memorial fund. - Regards to all.

PHILLY REUNION  
JULY 27-29

If you are planning on moving please notify the secretary of your new address. It will save postage and keep you on the Octofoil mailing list.

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 2.00 for 1978 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

## mail call

Continued

F Co. 47th

Ed Hopkins  
110 Hollywood Avenue  
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

I hope this makes the next issue of the Octofoil as I want to get the message out to F Company members.

I spent the better part of Sunday afternoon enjoying the hospitality of Tony Repetti and his lovely wife, Ted. It's no wonder that every VIP who came to our division was hustled over to our mess. The Repettis may not have invented the word "hospitality", but they certainly have extended its meaning.

I have Tony's promise that he'll go to the convention in Philly in July. In fact, he, Frank Gonzol, and I will be going together. Frank called last week and said he would send me his check as soon as he returned from Florida. Tony made a more than generous offer which I agreed to accept only if we didn't receive enough money to swing the cost of the suite. To date, I have received checks from George King (he put in a bit extra), Sam (Bill) Buemi, Stanley Putt, and Frank Smith, our old company commander. I know that Felton Jones and Earl Wilkey will be doing their damndest to make it up from Georgia. When I saw Smig Tokarchek during the Christmas holidays he swore on a stack of beer cans that he'd be there. Then with Tony's contribution and Gonzol's and mine we have enough for at least one night. I am going to reserve it for two nights, though, counting on you others to come through. I'll be getting in touch with Otto Geyer, Googy, Al Munatore, Pop Zucker, and as many other guys as I can. I really believe there will be a great representation from F Company 47th.

Danny, it's good hearing from these guys. Sam Buemi sent me pictures of his family, his package store, his gun collection, his cars, and his motorcycle. He says there is some kind of a conflict with the dates, but I know he'll be able to charm the little lady and get her to change the other date.

I'm looking forward to seeing Otto Geyer. I haven't seen him since the early fifties when I used to pass through St. Louis two or three times a year. Otto would lay out the red carpet as well as the red eye for me. And wait till the guys see F.M. Smith. The years have really mellowed him. He acts and looks like a million bucks. I certainly hope he makes it to Philly. I am confident that he will. To my knowledge he has never failed to accomplish anything he set his mind to.

Once again, I am appealing to the guys I haven't heard from. Send me your check for ten bucks to cover cost of the suite for two days plus refreshments. But even if you don't send a check come to Philly. Your presence is much more important than your cash. Also, try to contact anybody else whose address you may have and tell them of the great turnout of F Company men that we'll be having. Remember that one of our members is leaving the Association Board of Governors at this convention. Let's give Chuck Koski a royal send-off.

2nd Bn 60th Inf.

John Compei  
2020 Barnesdale A  
McKeesport, Penn. 15132

Hope to make the Philly reunion. Enclosed find my dues for 78 and the rest apply to the scholarship fund. Best wishes to all.

60th INF

Norbert J. Hennen  
4130 Washburn Ave., No.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55412

Dan:

I see that I have been given the "red ink" treatment on my Octofoil. Enclosed is my check for another year of membership dues.

Attached is a photo copy of a page of the ARMY magazine which is self-explanatory. Colonel Bryant has had a number of articles in ARMY recently. They relate, of course, to his experiences with the Ninth Infantry Division. You might find them to be worthy of re-printing in the Octofoil.

Sincerely,  
Chick Hennen

Good Moment in Sidi

About Col. Randall H. Bryant's "Bad Moment in Morocco" (December): I have often wondered what happened to Randy Bryant. We were in the original cadre of the 9th Infantry Division and lived across the street from each other in Fayetteville, N.C.

His experience related in his story revived many fond memories for me. I fail to remember the jasmine and brocades, although I do have a faint recollection of filigreed marble.

Apparently his powers of observation were more keenly honed than mine, which is clearly reflected in the fact that he went from S2 of the 47th Regiment to G2 of the 9th Division, while I stayed in the 60th.

In any event, as S2 of the 60th Infantry Regiment, I was also included in various visits to the "palaces" of local pashas. His experience recalls one of the more extravagant spreads in Sidi bel Abbes where we also went through numerous courses of strange food.

Our briefings included such admonitions as the necessity of tearing at the roast lamb with our undified left hand. As I was observing this ritual, leaving the tableware undisturbed, an Arab boy who was waiting on table leaned over my shoulder and admonished me in excellent English: "Use the silverware; it's easier."

Maj. Gen. Norbert J. Hennen  
AUS, retired  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Hq. Co. 60th Inf.  
I. and R. Platoon

NORMAN L. MARTIN  
320 Lake Fair Lane  
Winter Park, Fl. 32789

Although I can't get around too well anymore, I still will find a new member.

I had the surprise of my life the other day when an old buddy, "Martin Brown" for Hq. Co. Regt. I & R platoon called me. Hadn't seen him in 34 years. We spent a half a day and evening together talking about places and people almost forgotten. We intend to get together again before he heads back up to that cold climate around Corning, N.Y. He stated to me that he had given \$10.00 to Chick Hennen back in 1945 for dues and the Eight Stars to Victory but hadn't received a dues card or history book. You can look forward to receiving his application for membership.

Called John O'Rourke, who lives in Orlando sometime back and had a short talk. Still haven't gotten around to see him.

Talked to "Stumpy" Libretto around Christmas time and had a nice chit-chat.

Hope this finds you and the rest of the 9th members well and happy.

Be a part of the reunion and remember your buddies through the Reunion Journal.

A.T. 47th

Howard G. Waldman  
26 Newman Street  
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

I've been getting about one new current address a week since the middle of Jan., however none of them have ever been members of the 9th Association. Of those, as of this date, I've received 7 replies that they will attend our T-T Co. reunion held in conjunction with the 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. this July in Philly. That brings our confirmed total to 23 Anti-Tankers as of the moment, and if the replies and the new addresses keep coming at the same rate, we hopefully could have 35 to 50 of the old gang there for our first and perhaps last -- "Big Bash."

Dan, I'm enclosing one of the affirmative replies I've received to show you the enthusiasm this endeavor (A labor of love) has generated.

In that regard I'd like to ask another favor from you. (in addition to the addressee your going to send me) Do we in the N.Y. or National Chapters have any of the Phila. Sheraton Hotel brochures that were available at the Chicago reunion. If so, would it be possible for you or whoever has any to send as many as they can on to me. I would like to send out the brochures in the letters I send to those who do not belong to the Association, or have never attended any of our "Reunions."

My best regards.

Co M 47th

Walton Taylor  
Star Rte Stop 6  
Lost Hills, Calif. 93249

Wilton is a "railroad buff" and enjoys riding the rails. He meets many new friends and takes in the beautiful scenery of the Grand Canyon Country and Rocky mountains.

He recalls when he spent 4 months in Paris and writes "I met Sgt. Moltroder and Jerry Sullivan. Also Lester Schweir of Co. L 47th-Capt. Tanners runner. Coming back to the States I ran into Bob Winkleman of M Co. along with Devoir. In the States he met John Tomastick and Morris Taylor".

I am enclosing a letter I received from the widow of General Patton. I had written to her on the death of the General and this was her reply. The letter is dated Feb. 1947. "Dear Mr. Taylor:"

How good of you to send me that Christmas card. It felt like an old handclasp from the soldier I miss so much in my present retired life. I can perfectly imagine from your message that you are now out of the army and taking up civil life again, with the greatest adventure in life behind you.

I do not know Taft (Calif) but I'm sure it is beautiful like the rest of California. You probably know that General Patton was a Californian, born in San Gabriel, and that Mt. Wilson was named for his grandfather.

With all good wishes,  
believe me, Most Sincerely  
Yours,

Beatrice Patton

CO. C. 47th

THEO YOUNGQUIST  
1764 Howard Avenue  
Maple Plain, Minn. 55359

Sorry you had to use "Red Ink" to wake me up. Would still like to go "East" but daughter and Grandson are in West. So---Still miss you all.

Enclosed dues \$5.00.

Best to Father C.---Hope to see him again.

9th Div. Mil. Pol.

JOE MOWERY  
R.F.D. No. 4 Box 310  
Forest City, N.C. 28043

Just a note to send in my dues and say hello. Hope this finds you and yours well and OK in every way. You, as usual, are doing a fine job. Keep up the good work.

The M.P.'s who read the Octofoil might like to know I spent 2 weeks in Winchester, England in late 76. Wellington House at the bottom of Cannon Street, where we lived is still there just like we left it in 1944. Nothing has changed much. The Wickham Arms on the corner is still going strong. However, the White Horse Bar's been torn down, a dwelling in there now. King Alfred is still guarding High Street. I walked the path we used to use in behind the Cathedral to Guild Hall to go on duty. Those memories. Dot and I stayed with friends on Wales Street. She was really impressed with everything. We saw a lot of England while there and plan a return visit soon.

Would like to hear from the gang any time.

Best wishes to all.

Hq. & Hq. Btry.  
9th Inf. Div. Arty

RALPH J. FULBRIGHT  
Rt. 3, Box 341  
Vale, N.C. 28168

Sending my dues for 1978. Enjoy reading the Octofoil. Hope to hear from more buddies. I heard from Author L. Crowe last year. Then we drove down to Marietta, Ga. for a weekend with him. It was really great. Regards to all.

CO. F. 60th

PHILIP BERMAN  
Box 41,  
1802 Nelson Avenue  
Ormond Beach, Fla. 32074

Just a few lines to thank you for sending me the "Red Ink" Octofoil. It reached me at my new address here. My wife and I moved here from New Castle, Pa. last Christmas of 1977, and I had completely forgotten that my dues ran out. I am enclosing \$5.00 dues for this year. The weather here is really perfect, completely unlike Pennsylvania, which was my prime reason for moving. I have a job here in plumbing and heating and air conditioning as an estimator and number 2 man in a mechanical contracting firm in Daytona Beach, which is next door to our town. My wife is in charge of all salads and cake baking for a dinner theatre club in Deland, Florida, 18 miles away.

So we are doing very well since coming here three months ago.

I was very, very sorry to hear about my old buddy Butswinkus leaving us last summer. He was a real 9th Division booster.

I am glad to see my friend Al Perna is now President of the Assn. I am sure he is doing a swell job so far. I received a Xmas card from him just before I moved.

I am sure that we will be unable to make the reunion in Philly and I am terribly disappointed. I wanted to see MacDougall, Perna, Ed Netta and others that I saw in Atlantic City in 72. But that's the way it goes. I will be thinking of all of you and drink a beer for me.

Dan, I would appreciate you forwarding me any other 9th Division men that are close by me in Daytona Beach area, so we might get together. Thanks!

15 Engrs.

ANTHONY MADONNA  
40 Orient Way  
Worcester, Ma. 01604

Please accept my check for five dollars for dues for the current year. Thank you. - Best to all.

60th A.T. Co.

MEL GILLIS  
2609 W. Southern Ave. Sp. 5  
Tempe, Arizona 85282

I certainly was overjoyed last year, that my wife surprised me, and subscribed to the Octofoil, after not receiving it for eleven years.

Moved to the Phoenix area, four years ago. Doctor's orders, as my wife has arthritis trouble of the spine. That's why we left Milwaukee. Our oldest daughter and family live out here too.

Our youngest daughter, married a career army man. He's stationed in Mon, Belgium. We're flying over there on May 19th. Haven't seen them since September, 1975.

Will see some of the places the 9th went thru south of there. Would like to visit the Remagen Bridge. Saw Gilbert Timberg's name in the Octofoil and that he lives near here. I've tried calling him, but his phone's been busy. Will try again.

Haven't been to a reunion since 1950 in Chicago. Had a Great time.

Best of luck to all 9th men and their families.

P.S. Still keep in touch with Lewis Williamson of North Carolina. Al Squire of Los Angeles, died in 1964. We visited his family in 1969. Talked with Gilbert Tinberg's wife and we're getting together, the four of us and talk over the great war.

CO. A. 15th Engr.

RAYMOND F. BERTHIAUME  
355 Ferry Street, Apt. 311  
New Haven, Conn. 06513

I am sending my dues for another three years and a little extra for the Scholarship fund, doing fine for an old codger hitting the 70 mark. The hearing in one ear giving a little trouble. Regards to all.

84 F.A.

DICK O'CONNOR  
9567 Bluford  
Whittier, Cal. 90605

We are just about finished with the terrible rains and mud slides out here. I imagine the snow in New York is about gone by now.

I'm starting my second year of retirement and I'm pretty busy doing a little work, plus some classes at the local college, plenty of golf also some cooking at home. Grace is still working at her old job, she has a few years to go before retirement. We go to Palm Springs to see the Bob Hope Golf plus the Dinah Shore women's tournament.

I would like to take one more trip to Worcester. I'll work on it.

Say Hi! to all the New York gang, sorry to hear about Dom Meile.

CO. B. 15th Engr.

BYRON A. ANGELL, JR.  
572 Smithfield Rd.  
No. Providence, R.I. 02904

Sorry to have seen red when my last Octofoil arrived. Enclosed please find check for dues. Hope to make Philly this year and meet some of the old Engr. gang from B Co. Things have been well here; hope this finds you and yours the same.

Co. B 60th

VIC O. GREEN  
17 Bacon Street  
LeRoy, N. Y. 14482

Here are my dues to the most wonderful men I have ever met, the 9th Infantry Division, Co. B. 60th Infantry.

I sent \$20.00 for a piece of the, Remegan Bridge!

Continued on Page 2.

Middle age is when you are grounded for several days after flying high the night before.

## MAIL CALL

## Hq 60th Field

Bud F Remer  
4935 N Hamilton Ave  
Chicago Illinois 60625  
Tel RA8 6394  
Chaplain Illinois Chapter

Dear Dan, Many times throughout the years I have promised myself a letter to you to help round out the wonderful job you do with our paper. Time is running short for me, I had my first nudge last Nov., ringing in the ears and dizzy spells (That bit) and spent a fruitless two weeks in the hospital. I think that nice metered note you published from Joseph Rappizini about the Third Battalion 60th Inf. dug up enough nostalgia to prod me write this note. My section in the 60th Field was attached to them for a couple of years.

I am still able to go to local functions like our exciting convention in July and the very successful Post Reunion the Michigan boys put on later in the fall, they sure go all out in the hospitality end of it. Then there was the Xmas party at retiring National President Chuch Koskie's house that has become the highlight of the Xmas season for all of us. Last but not least was the elegant dinner that John Clouser Et Al. arranged for us this month at the Red Star Inn, one of Chicago's finest places. After dinner everybody motored to my Legion Post for St. Patricks Day cocktails which helped make the nite successful for the Post.

On the distaff side I still have trouble getting over losing my pal Martha after losing my only Brother so recently. To make matters worse both of the Boys were transferred to Los Angeles moving our beloved grandchildren 2400 miles away which brings me to another reason for this note. On my way to sunny Mexico I went via California to see them.

This year marks my 25th year journeying to Mexico without a break, they called me the "Acapulco Kid" at work. During these many visits I picked up a lot of savvy about Acapulco and just about all of the large cities in Mexico. Now that the Air fares have been cut in half maybe some of our members will be planning to visit Mexico I thought that I might be able to answer any questions that they might have so as to make their trip more enjoyable and economical. If so let them write or call me and I will be glad to oblige. I am retired now and have lots of time. Dan, in closing I would like to mention about meeting my old buddy Mike Lassalandra walking down the coastal Blvd. in Acapulco. We lifted a few at the Marriot Happy Hour and a few more at my hotel across the street, Mike, a hq 60th Field Buddy had come all the way from Connecticut via the Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

This is all for now Dan keep up the good work.

## C Battery 60th FA

GEORGE J. FURBER  
11825 S. W. 107 Ave.  
Miami, Fl. 33176

Enclosed is check for \$13.00, three year membership. Hope to see you all in Philly.

Best regards to all and your families.

## Co M 39th

Charles L. Gill  
434 Old Trail Road  
Baltimore, Md. 21812

I trust at this writing that all of your family and yourself have been well during this long snowy winter. It will make us all appreciate spring more now that it looks to be around the corner.

I picked up the most recent Octofoil which arrived and wasn't quite sure the red I was seeing, was the effects of St. Pat's Day or that it was the time of year to pay the annual dues. This time, however, I decided to upset your bookkeeping by sending along amount for 3 years. This I elected to do heretofore on an annual basis, rather than the life time selection and of course over the long pull the association benefits.

My wife and I have 4 children, 3 grown and the final one is now 15, whom you have met earlier in her life. Her name is Stacey. We named her after an ole army buddy, Stacy Prough, Co. L. 39th.

For the 1st time in my life I stood up to be counted concerning the recent death of one Mr. O'Hare, who in recent life headed up the American society of Atheists and was honored by being buried in Arlington National cemetery. This I suppose will mean that his wife Madalyn Murry O'Hare, formerly of Baltimore, and the lady responsible for having prayer stricken from public schools, will also be placed beside him. I trust that this letter will be placed in the next issue of the Octofoil. I have contacted at this writing my Congressman, Clarence Long and am awaiting an answer from same.

I have visited Padre Kines from time to time and he and his sister have visited in our home. Father is now retired but still daily says Masses at St. Joseph Monastery which is in Baltimore City.

My health at this writing seems to have improved considerably, however, I did have a set back having suffered a heart attack 30 Jan '77. I was fortunate that God has given me a good warning. I must say that I plan to go strictly by the book from here on in.

May I ask God to bless the former W.W. II members of the 9th. Infantry Division and to lead us one by one into eternity. I thank Him often for having allowed me to serve in the greatest outfit to come through the great war.

With kindest regards to all who shall read these words, I am.

## 84th F.A.

SAM ROBINSON  
Nahant Towers, Apt. No. 7  
Nahant Street  
Lynn, Mass. 01902

Being an avid reader of newspapers, my eye caught this newsbrief in the Wall St. Journal last week concerning "Westy"

Am moving to a new complex in Lynn, Mass., a mile away from my present Swamscott address, so please send me all mail to address above (as of March 1st). Hope you have a good year.

Worcester Memorial November 5, 1978.

## Co. F. 47th

R.S. HOFFMAN  
R.D. No. 2 Box 47  
Waterloo, N.Y. 13165

Here's my check for this year's dues. Late as usual.

I hope that I can make this year's reunion in Philly. Have been slowly recovering from a heart attack for the last three years and couldn't do any traveling or much else, but, with a little luck, I may make it this year.

I enjoyed Hoppy Hopkins' letter. It is nice to read about some of the people you know.

## E. Co. 47th Inf.

JOHN P. HYNES  
P.O. Box 183

Bronx, New York 10455

I am sorry I am late with the dues. Been waiting for this issue of the Octofoil I got today to send the dues after filling out the form.

Misplaced and threw out the last Octofoil so had no membership application for renewal.

To-day is the 13th of March and I was captured at the last pass El Guettar pass, Tunisia, North Africa on the 28th of March, 1943. It is the day I left the 9th Division E. Co. 47th when all the company officers and all the company men of E. Co. 47th and the Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Gershnaw and General Eisenhower. Aide Lt. Campbell were surrounded and captured and from there to Sfax and a locked box car to Tunis where we were flown in a JU 52 to Italy outside of Naples was the POW camp and I sent a cable through the Vatican to my folks and everyone was asked to send a cable to let our families know we were O.K. So my folks got the cable first, then the missing in action from the American Government and months later from Germany through Switzerland that I was POW.

So, I was a guest of Herr Hitler for 26 months.

Hope everyone is just fine and sure would like to make Philly reunion and will. God bless the 9th Assn. and all keep well P.S. I was originally with I Co. 47th and went to O.C.S. Fort Benning and didn't make it. Was sent back to E. Co. 47th as they were getting ready for the Invasion of North Africa. Of course, I got to the Solomon Islands in Maryland and sneaked home to New York to see my folks and was never missed, and got back to the Solomon Islands. I don't remember if we got a pass or not, it is a long time.

## Co. M. 60th

COLE GRONSETH  
Box 200, Rte. No. 1  
Suttons Bay, Mich. 49682

Enclosed are dues for three years. Also, I send my sincere appreciation for your continuing effort on behalf of the association.

During the past year I made a trip west which allowed me to stop at Fort Lewis. Based on my observation, I'd suggest that if we are depending on today's Army for defense that we'd better head for the hills. It seemed to be run by civilian contract people.

Also, at the museum it would be difficult to determine the 9th played any part in WW II. Perhaps it is as it should be.

A high spot on the trip was a visit with Orville Stangl of Java, South Dakota. Orv was with both "M" and "I" Cos. of the 60th. We swapped lies and his were the equal of mine.

Deadline for the next issue of the Octofoil will be June 20th. All copy or material should be sent to the Editors before this date.

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

## Publication No.

402820

## G. Co. 60th

ROLAND E. POPE  
Box 24622  
Seattle, Wash. 98124

Please find enclosed check for \$12.00 for 4 Octofoil Car Discs and \$10.00 for the Memorial Fund.

I am making plans to attend the '78 reunion, will travel by camper van, so should see lots of scenes and area between here and Philly.

## 15 Engrs.

MAURICE N. TOUGAS  
111 Aetsa Street  
Central Falls, R.I.

Enclosed are my dues for 1978.

Wishing you and the Association a Happy and Prosperous year.

## 39th Inf. 3rd Bn.

NEWELL COLE  
1850 W. Orangethorpe  
Space 63  
Fullerton, Ca. 92633

Hope I'm not late with my dues. Sure enjoy the Octofoil, keep it coming.

Wife and I travel a great deal in our Mini Motor Home, but always are in a different area during reunion time, Maine, in July and August.

But, maybe I can make one soon - seems we are all getting along in age - losing so many buddies.

Hope this finds you and yours in good health - and "God willing" to continue so.

## Co. A. 39th

WILLIAM MORRISON  
104 Grapefruit Drive  
Jasmine Lakes  
Port Richey, Fla. 33568

Sorry I am late - dues and donation enclosed.

Retiring and moving to Florida - caused a state of confusion and became neglectful.

Dan, I am now 68 years old but it only seems like yesterday we were moving in on Aachen, Bom, Bad Goesburg, Kassel, etc. - 34 years - where did the time go?

Retirement is beautiful! I joined Magnolia Valley CC and play golf 3 or 4 days a week.

Have 5 grandchildren - 3 of whom are coming to visit us for Easter week.

Frankly, at this time of my life that combat time all seems like a bad dream. I remember Lt. Bill Addis so well - so young - too damn young to die.

My wife and I love it down here - so nice and warm - no snow!

Dan, good luck and take care of yourself.

## Co. M. 60th

R.J. MAC DONALD  
P.O. Box 371  
Delta Junction, Ak. 99737

Enclosed find my dues for 1978, also wonder why ole (Buck) Curtis Buchanon hasn't been writing to mail call, lately. also regards to Charlie Roehwenger and George Brum, all old buddies. I was last at a reunion in Atlanta sure hope to make one again soon. Still in Alaska, plan to stay awhile yet, hunting and fishing is still great here

## 26th F.A. Service

MANNY EFFRON  
1809 Brickell Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33129

Enclose check for dues of 1 year, moved to Florida in July, 1977. I always pay dues when I go to Memorial services in Worcester, Mass. My wife and I started for the trip to Mass. but got as far as Phila. and could not continue on as my wife Lillian became sick and the doctors advised us not to go and we remained over in Phila. until we could make it back to Fla. I have never missed the Memorial services in Worcester. Will be at the reunion in Phila. July.

## 17th Co. D

RONALD FRANK  
RD. No. 1, Box 122-D  
Leechburg, La. 15656

Enclosed find dues for 1978. Hope all is well with you.

## Div. Band

R. R. MC KIBBIN  
9659 W. Parkway  
Det., Mich. 48230

Sorry about my delay. I was transferred out here 1 1/2 years ago and am still in the process of getting settled. Things are going quite well and hope to be able to make more get-togethers with the Mich. Chapter. Please note my change of address as I have now bought a home.

## Co. I 47th Inf.

LEON K. KRIKORIAN  
602 W. 188 St.  
New York City, N. Y. 10040

Enclosed check for \$13.00 - my dues for three years.

The Octofoil brings me the pleasure and enjoyment I cannot afford to miss; ever.

Keep up the wonderful work you are doing.

Hope to see you at the convention in July.

God bless you all.

## Co. F. 47th

Francis Smith  
P.O. Box 1075  
Southern Pines, N.C. 28387

Thanks for your note and copy of the Octafoil of Several months ago. Even though I am very late in responding, I want you to know how much I enjoyed it and I am grateful for your thoughtfulness in sending it.

Enclosed is my check for membership in the Association. Dan Adams (Anti-Tank Co) and I (with wives) plan to come to the reunion in July. We are looking forward to it with gusto.

The reunion with Ed Hopkins in Southern Pines this past summer - and then the follow-up in South Georgia - was indeed a big event for me; one that I'll not forget. Since then I have had several letters from Ed. Hopkins; he writes well and his letters are always interesting with as much enthusiasm as Ed has in his personality. Like so many other fine people I never really got to know when we were all youngsters in "F" Company.

Best regards to all.

Continued on Page 5

When was the last time you wrote a letter to our Mail Call Column?