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The Octofoil, January/February 1979

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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REVISIT THE ARDENNES

The skies of Belgium in winter are just as gray today as they were when the unsuspected and thoroughly planned Rommel Offensive broke over the dark woods of the Schene Eifel on the unsuspecting soldiers of the 10th Division. St. Vith had the countryside paved with attractive, solidly built new roads. Yet, even to this day, we know so long ago are impossible to reach and un

REUNION IN FRIENDSHIP

An enterprising Texas agent created a trip to this region under the title of a Reunion in Friendship which was to have had participants from both sides of the line in which two of the principals were to have been our own General Westmoreland, who was present with his charming wife Kitay and, from the other side, the commander of the Fifth Panzer Army General Baron Haus von Manstein who unfortunately passed on in late October. And we know how the German veterans take part in the process, in this case, I deplore that this was too good an opportunity, a personal one arranged to join the group in Luxembourg and to come home from Brussels. The areas of interest to the 10th Division were those many of the veterans who continued to live in the area so as to visit the Viicht-Hurtgen-Mausbach area and to drive car to have a more leisurely look at the terrain for myself.

MEMORY PLAYING FALSE TRICK

It might be well to point out that while roads and directions are well marked, memory has a way of playing false tricks and it is important that one not actually lost, when looking for some dimly recalled track or farm. Also the days at this time of year, Dec. 31st., are very short so that time for reverse is strictly limited. Never-the-less, with the help of 8 Stars to Victory and the volumes of the Office of the Chief of Military History on the Ardennes and the Siegfried Line it is quite easy to revisit any of the points of interest that an individual might want to find.

SIGNS OF WAR HAVE DISAPPEARED

In most places the signs of war have disappeared and in some cases roads have been widened "remarked" to such an extent that landmarks are not easily found, a case in point being the Gasthof of Peter Heinen in Mattenzech, near Maasbacht, which was the 11th Infantry CP from December 15, 1944 to January 2, 1945. The Gasthof is not easily seen in 1956 but could not be ascertained of today. Driving is easy although the evening rush hour is as frustrating in Leige as it is in curritiles and the absence of an observed speed limit on the limited access high ways creates some concern, also there are many large trucks coupled to four-wheel trailers that we do not see here. The Michein maps (1: 200,000 N.'s 2 & 4) are invaluable although some place names are hard to find and tracks on the map may be easily passed by on the ground. There are many blown up bunkers but only a few dynamite heads, the ones I saw being near Simmerman. The forests are being intensively logged over again, so much timber is being replaced by newly planted conifers.

Fort Lauderdale 34th Reunion Site.

The Galt Ocean Mile Hotel.

Fort Lauderdale Gift of the Sea

DINING DELIGHT

Dining is a delight. There's more than 200 gourmet restaurants with varied menus from Greek, Lebanese, Italian, Chinese and Japanese, plus a provision of fine French spots. Moreover priced. One can find small informal places where simple food is served and you can dine in beachside or, you can seek out the show places and dress in all your finery. Souvereign seekers can discover the special pleasure of window shopping in a tropical setting or in new enclosed malls, open every evening. Exclusive shops abound. Browse or buy - anything from antiques to modern fashions. There again, small novelty shops carrying unique gifts for friends.

Exciting Things to do every day... every night! Dance at a Down... see a Broadway play. In season, there's the Symphony, the Ballet and Art Museums all over town. At the other extreme, parks that offer lawn bowling, archery and shuffleboard facilities with organized contests.

GOLD COAST

Fort Lauderdale is located in the heart of the Gold Coast. Our International Airport services all parts of the USA with major airlines. Car rentals are at your command and local houses cover all areas of interest. Whether you seek the sand and sun... the water and fun... or simply come to enjoy our tropical weather and view, there's no finer spot than Ft. Lauderdale... One of America's favorite Vacation Capitals!

Members Only

The Association is grateful to the following members who remembered the Memorial Fund: Charles Maraldo, Ely H. Troeckler and Paul Mitchell. We salute you.

Family Fun

Family Fun can picnics at nearby parks, canoeing, bicycling, or just resting at the close of a day. There are shell banks and shells and sharks, keeping you in awe of many a nite. There's even a place where visitors young and old, can pet and feed the parrots.

Tip of The Hat

The Association is grateful to the following members who remembered the Memorial Fund: Charles Maraldo, Ely H. Troeckler and Paul Mitchell. We salute you.

DUES ARE DUE

July 26-28

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Apology

Our regrets for the misprinting of the 1970 Dues mailing and the lack of the October issue of the Tenth. Charlie is one of the old timers from E Company 47th Infantry and lives at 175 Tiffany Avenue, Staten Island, N.Y. Not only did we spurn his efforts towards the Mail Call but also in Tip of the Hat for his most generous donation. As a matter of fact we'll have to do a little more pruning before we put the paper together right smack on the front page. The headline for Harry Hermans presentation of Divisions Colors to the Cheurcshuren Museum we misprinted. Accomplished.
ARDENNES
Continued from Page 1
find no one to whom I could talk or to share the picture of their
town in the Division History. A few school children were in
evidence but it wasn't practical to get into a discussion with
tales of events which took place so many years ago. The Mon­
chau area has changed more than most as the village attracts
a lot of tourists and the economic level of the surrounding countryside is
high. I tried to get to Camp Verdun but it was military
terrain and there was an ex­
tensive Nato maneuver in progress, in the Vacht area also,
so things looked somewhat as they did in 1944-45 except that
there was no snow and no

TWO "OLD RELIABLES"

The bus in which I found myself was Charles MacDonald, author of COMPANY COM­
mander and formerly Co. of 1 Co.
23rd Inf., 2nd Div. and who is now in the Office of the Chief
of Military History, in this case as General and Mrs. West­
moreland so while Charles
covered the salient features we both "Old Reliables" had some
great time talking of who was who and where they were.
We also had a young British historian whose mother was a
Belgian from the vicinity of
Elenborn who is almost en­
cyclopaedic in his knowledge of the events and personalities of
the Ardennes Offensive. We
retraced the path of Kamp­
gruppe Peiper and heard again
the story of the 45 FA Omeg BN
and their subsequent massacre in
Meudon; we talked of Van der Heydte and his surrender in
Monchau; we stopped for brief services, at which General Westmoreland spoke, for the 106th Div. at their memorial in St. Vith and for the
7th Armored Div. in Viehslam and all in all had a memorable
exercise in nostalgia.

PETITONAL ENEMY

Is NO FOOL.

The final reunion dinner or banquet with a menu of Belgian
specialties was held in the new
Palais des Congress in Liege
and was very well done with representatives of the city, our
British Allies, the American Military Cemetery, a German
Historian who lives in Mon­
chau and about one hundred
tour participants. After toasts to the Belgian Royal Family
and the President of the United States and brief comments by
various dignitaries, General
Westmoreland gave the prin­
tical address in which he pointed out that our potential
enemy is so fool and respects only strength, that we must be
victorious in the first encounter
in contrast to Winston Chur­
chill's comment that the British have often lost every battle
even their last one and most
important that unless we can
win the first battle, and our
enemy knows we can win it, our
deterrent will not work.

BEAUTIFULLY

MAINTAINED

CEMETTERIES

It is not given to everyone to make such a pilgrimage as this
and the heart swings as one reviews the cresses in our beautiful
maintained cemeteries and salutes the memory of comrades now gone.
We can only be proud of the part the 9th Division played in what
we all were certain was a just
cause and which occupied an
important part of our younger
days.

Boardman F. Lockwood
(Addressing your orders to:)
West Hartford, Conn. 06107

REQUEST FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS

FOR 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
REUNION
GALT OCEAN MILLE HOTEL
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33328

JULY 25-29, 1979

RESERVATION CUT-OFF
DATE: JULY 15, 1979
1 PERSON $21.00
ARRIVAL DATE
2 PERSONS $20.00
DEPARTURE DATE
3RD & 4TH PERSONS AT $1.00 per person additional.
Children under 12 sharing with parents no charge. Maximum 4 persons per room. PLEASE ADD APPLICANT SALES TAX.
SPECIAL CONVENTION RATES APPLY 3 DAYS BEFORE & AFTER CONVENTION DATES.

NAMES OF OTHER PERSONS IN YOUR RESERVATION:
NO. OF PERSONS
PHONE NUMBER

PLEASE INCLUDE ONE NIGHT'S DEPOSIT

We know that a lot of our members will not be able to attend the
reunion this summer but a great way to be remembered to your "old buddies" is to make sure your name appears in the Reunion
Journal, Rates start at $2.00 for a booster (includes your name
and unit) up to a full page for $30.00. Try to be in the Journal!

NORTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
John Quinn, Mgr. Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087
Enclosed please find remittance for

Name

Street Address

City

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
2YEARS MEMBERSHIP $ 2.00
Honorary Membership

Parents Auxiliary $ 2.00

Institutional Memorial Scholarship Fund

Voted Automobile License Dish $ 50.00

Combat Patch

Institutional History $ 50.00

50th Infantry History

Please give credit to the following Chaper:

Phillies-Delaware Valley $ 50.00
Greater New York

Washington, D.C.

New England

Ohio

Fayetteville-Fort Bragg, N.C.
Managing Editor

Michigan Doing

CHRISTMAS PARTY
The Christmas Party on December the 9th in Garden City, MI, was outstanding among the Chapter events. Our deep gratitude to the Committee of Don Lewis, Elinor Wagner, Bill Fox, and all those who responded to their efforts and contacted us so generously in putting this Party together. We are truly grateful for the help and all the hard work of all those involved. The party was filled with the Christmas spirit of those that never seem to be out of this world. We have decided to do something about it. Our thanks again, to all of you.

The party was the last time you wrote a letter to our President, Dick Rausek. We are wondering if you have something about it. Our thanks again, to all of you.

Back at the Party, Bill and Dolores Zimmerman weren't doing any dancing but they were enjoying the music very much. Paula was with them and once again we called on her to do the lucky tickets for both of the Baffles. Charlie Meadows and Vi Stockdale had donated some additional prizes while Fred Juczy was promoting the Regular Bowling Draw. The crowd responded generously with it's last chance tickets.

There were 396 tickets sold. Our gratitude to Nick Carno, Dan Roman and Harry Bunby who have returned their stubs in the deepest appreciation. The same to all of you who have taken the time to return your completed Questionnaires. Many kind words and we'll always cherish this. This also for all the beautiful Christmas cards that we received.

Recently, we received a nice note from Gerald Toftgan, originally from Port Huron and now residing in California. He inquired about Tom Saunders and Ernie Young and anyone who served in F Co. 68th. If you are one of them, be delighted to hear from you, at Space 177, 140, Anaheim Park, 11 N. Beach Blvd., Anaheim, California 92806.

We also heard from Augie & Ann Aversa who moved from Livonia to Farmington Hills and are now in Australia. Augie is on a new assignment with the Ford Motor Company and they are enjoying it very much. The people in Melbourne treat them very well and we are happy for them. There is a chance that we may meet them in August when they're expecting a home leave. In the meantime, our News-Notes are not only going from Coast to Coast but half way around the world.

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HEADING FOR HAWAII
We're rushing these Notes out today for 2nd day of February because tomorrow Rose and I along with some of our good neighbors and friends will be heading for Hawaii. We'll take a little side trip to Las Vegas on the way back and God willing we will return in time for the Meeting on the 30th at Bob and Flo Deluca's home.

Mr. John Bonkowski 1994 Hockey

Detroit, Michigan 48221

IT'S JUST A PICTURE OF CLOTH
That is all it is — just a piece of cloth. But when a little breeze comes along, it stars and comes to life and flutters and snaps in the wind. And then it makes its way across the sun- drenched expanse of the earth as though it were on a journey.

The stars of cloth are woven into the fabric of our lives, and with them we create our own destiny. It is this fabric that we wear, that we hold dear, that we cherish. It is this fabric that makes us who we are.

But what is the fabric of our lives? What are the threads that make it up? What are the patterns that we create with it? And how do we make sense of it all?

Many people believe that the fabric of our lives is made up of the things we do, the people we love, the places we visit. Others believe that it is made up of the memories we have, the lessons we learn, the experiences we go through. Still others believe that it is made up of the dreams we have, the journeys we take, the challenges we face.

But no matter what we believe, the fabric of our lives is something that we create, something that we shape, something that we nurture. It is our own unique journey, our own unique story, our own unique experience.

So let us take a moment to reflect on the fabric of our lives. Let us take a moment to appreciate all that it is and all that it has the potential to be. Let us take a moment to be grateful for all that we have, all that we are, and all that we can be.
This is an article written by the late Ernie Pyle in 1943. It appeared in the Infantry Journal of that year. Please note that this page's content seems to be a mix of text and images.}

**ARTICLES FROM INFANTRY JOURNAL**

by ERNIE PYLE

MIDWAY

This war is not likely to see more accurate reporting than the daily columns Ernie Pyle has been sending back from Tunisia. The friendly but keen-eyed observation that has marked his war-watching is the States in the past few years is to be found in everything he has written about the war.

Back a few weeks ago, when the against the Tunis Nazis was just gaining momentum, Pyle wrote a number of pieces about the Ground Forces and how they operated. What he said showed that he was right up where he could see it. And he had a good hard fight is told."

INFANTRY IN COMBAT

Here is one of his reports on infantry in combat.

"We're now with an Infantry outfit that has battled uncecingly for four days and nights.

"This northern warfare has been in the mountains. You don't ride much anymore. It is walking and climbing and crawling country. The mountains aren't big but they are treacherous. They are easy to get lost in and to be taken at a disadvantage."

"The Germans lie on the back slope of one hill, one slope of every ridge, deep dig fox holes. In front of these the fields and pastures are hideous with thousands of hidden mines. The forward slopes are left open, unambushed, and if the Americans try to rush these slopes they would be murdered by an inferno of machine-gun crossfire plus mortar and grenades.

PULVERIZING THE ENEMY

"In their eyes, as they pass is an expression of being here as though they had been here doing this for years. By magnificent shelling they do shells back slopes. By means of shells they focus their fire and smoke and the artillery has really been sen­

"All along the length of this ridge, as our units pass, it is the same. The men. Four for days and nights they have fought hard, eaten little, washed none, and slept little. All their minds must have been sleepless and miserable."

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NEW YORK CHAPTER
ELIZABETH M. SCHMIDT
On November 4th. 1978 the New York Chapter held its nominations for officers for 1979. As per usual procedure a nominating committee was selected by lot. On the nominating committee were the following: Alfred Orletti, Al Seely, George Beles, Vincent Guglielmino and Chairman William Lougher. The nominating committee came up with the following slate of officers: Alfred Orletti; 1st Vice President - James Hayes; 2nd Vice President - Al Seely; Secretary - Arthur R. Schmidt; Chaplain - Captain - George Apar; and Sergeant-at-Arms - George Buiho. The following members were nominated from the Board of Governors: John Parus. 36th Infantry Regiment; Nicholas Palega. 1st Infantry Regiment; Hyman Singowske. Special Troops. Unusual Fine Job
On January 5, 1979 we had Installation and the Board of Governors. Apar was the installing officer. He did his usual fine job. First, he recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Each officer was asked to stand and was given a round of applause. Then he installed the other members starting with the members on the Board of Governors. Arthur R. Schmidt, President; Edward Robin. 60th Infantry Regiment; and Hyman Singowske. Special Troops.

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The Octofoil

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the recent letter published in the Octofoil regarding the upcoming reunion. As a long-time member of the organization, I have always enjoyed attending these events and catching up with old friends.

I wanted to express my disappointment in the tone of the letter. It seems to imply that the current leadership is not interested in the well-being of the members or in making the reunion a success. I disagree with this assessment. I have spoken with several of the officers and they have assured me that they are working hard to plan a memorable event.

I encourage all members to attend the reunion and to contribute to the success of the event. Let's come together as a group and enjoy each other's company.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]