The Octofoil, July/August 1979

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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Recommended Citation
Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, July/August 1979" (1979). The Octofoil. 229.
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The Michigan Chapter Annual Reunion

"AS WE SAW IT"

A fine turn-out of 49 represented the Michigan Chapter at the first National Reunion ever. They came from four different States and six different parishes of their own. There was no group transportation planned this year.

Gerry and Erma Teachout, originally from Port Huron, MI, now residing in Arlington, California made a long journey and did their best to get the "F" Co. 603 troop together at their C.P.

Jake and Val Gregurich from Novinger, Missouri decided to make that 300 mile round trip in their mobile home. They brought along their son, Frank and daughter-in-law, Di Dee and their three young grandchildren, Michael, Jake and Tracy. It was a vacation that they will long remember.

From Lafayette, Pennsylvania came Arthur and Mary Becker, good "D" Co. 606, friends of Mike and V. S. Ford. They had a great time together.

GREAT TURN-OUT

Paul and Cora Pyrek were enjoying an extended vacation at the Michigan Convention. They were impressed by the group and the great turn-out, so far away from home. While many of us were passing out of their lives they could have been somewhat larger. Ernie Young came by himself, because Elsie wasn't feeling too well. Other members who were Ponicky, the Andrews, Agaards, Bruner, Halligan, Fess, Winstead and John Youngs, just to mention a few. They all had good reasons and we're more than pleased to have them.

The other registrants who made the trip were John Taipal, Bill and Flo DeSandy, Elmer Wagner, Eugene and Irene Tepke, Dolores and Paul Zimmermann, Bille and Marilyn Martin, Thelma and Denny Obermiller, Bob and Mac Cole, Leonard and Lorry Delbet, Charles and Doris Williams, Evan and Mabel Thompson, and Matt, Jennie and Jennifer Urban. They all were happy to be there.

HIGHLIGHT OF REUNION

The highlight of every Reunion is the Memorial Service and this one was extra-ordinary. There was no parade, as it all took place at the pool site in the court area of our Convocation Headquarters. Tom Boyle was superb in conducting the Memorial Program. Father Gerald Rowan did the invocation. Prayers of every Faith were offered by Father Connors, Ralph Wilkin and John Clouser, who was called on to stand in for the ailing Rev. Speters, missing at this Reunion. Past President Makar and Dan Quinn also participated with General Edwin Hubble, as the Main Speaker. During the Communion Ceremony, a Member from each chapter was announced and escorted individually to a white cross bearing his Chapter's designation. After placing a wreath, he stepped back in a symbolic manner and presented arms. As a hymn was played softly in the background he was back to his place of honor.

Pres. Leonard Kowalski represented the Michigan Chapter during this Ceremony which was witnessed by a large number of Members and spectators in the area.

MEMBERS PITCHED IN

Besides doing some sightseeing, shopping, fishing, sunbathing, enjoying the beach, dining out, or plain relaxing, there was time to look after the Association's affairs. Members pitched in at the Registration Desk and the sheriff of the Reunion was more evident as the figures increased by the hour. It was also too help our Chapter's at the Michigan Annual Illinois Bi-Chapter Outing in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 13. A list of those who signed up was forwarded to William Andrews.

The Convention of Governors Meeting was held on Thursday, July 26. Chairmen of the five Reunion Committees have been appointed and plans for the Memorial Ceremony were revealed.

continued on page 2

Matt Urban receiving New York's Consipicuous Service Medal from Ben Murrell representing Governor Carey at the reunion.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) - World War II hero Matt Urban of Holland, Mich., says he thinks 35 years of waiting for the nation's highest military honor may soon be over.

Urban received the highest honor of a state when a representative of Gov. Hugh Carey presented him with New York's Conspicuous Service Medal at a reunion banquet of the 9th Division, Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. The reunion was to honor 4,939 soldiers in the outfit who were killed during World War II.

Urban added it to 20 other military awards, including six Purple Hearts for wounds suffered during campaigns in Tunisia, France and Belgium.

Urban, 36, said he has been assured by Pentagon officials that "chances are excellent" he will also receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"It's like a dream to me," he said. "It should have happened 35 years ago."

Urban brandished a sheaf of letters sent by his former soldiers to the Pentagon recommending him for highest military honors.

Earl Evans, now a Miami Beach liquor store owner, served as a sergeant under Urban in the brutal campaigns and first wrote a recommendation in 1946 that Urban receive the honor.

Evans didn't get a reply until earlier this year, when Army officials said his letter surfaced after apparently being lost in a man's bureau of bureaucracy.

Congressional Medal of Honor requests must be approved by Army officials, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress.

Army officials asked Evans for additional information, Lt. Col. Vernon R. Hall said the Pentagon was acting on the recommendation and expected that Urban would receive the award.

Evans said similar bureaucratic foul-ups have kept urban from receiving a Legion of Merit and a French Croix de Guerre.

"It's a very, very funny thing," Evans said. "It's almost as if they realized the other day..."

Urban said he would manage to reserve 100 rooms at the Holiday Inn located in the City of Worcester (remember? we used for years). He also has 15 rooms at the Days Inn which is located very near the Sheraton-Lincoln.

The Holiday Inn rates are $25.00 for double, extra persons $6.00. Cut off date of October 4th will manage to reserve 100 rooms at the Holiday Inn located in the City of Worcester (remember? we used for years). He also has 15 rooms at the Days Inn which is located very near the Sheraton-Lincoln.

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Evans urged the members to make their reservations early as the figures will not hold the rooms.

Remember the date, November 4th, and if you can not make it please let the center be with them in spirit and remember our departed in your prayers.

518H "SACRIFICE"

The Association thanks the National Association for providing the meeting rooms and the refreshments. We appreciate your cooperation and hard work.

We were very successful in the registration of the guests and will certainly increase the schedule of the registration and next reunion when we have a business meeting again. If National has use for a donation other than the vacation it would be to the days at the banquet.

We had a good time renewing acquaintances and getting to know new friends.

Sincerely,

Lily Kramko
Secretary-Treasurer
Ladies Auxiliary
161 United States Ave. E.
Gibbstown, N.J. 08026
THE OCTOFOIL

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Honorary Member

The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

The membership of the Ninth Infantry Division Association is open to all veterans of the 9th Infantry Division and to their immediate families. The annual membership fee is $5.00 per person. Additional members may be added to the membership at any time with the approval of the Board of Governors. All members are entitled to receive the Octofoil free of charge.

The Octofoil is published bi-monthly. The cost of mailing is approximately $1.00 per year. The Octofoil is printed in color and bound in a protective jacket.

The Octofoil is distributed by mail to all members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Members are encouraged to forward their change of address to the Octofoil as soon as possible so that they may continue to receive their copies of the publication.

THE OCTOFOIL

TO THE 4TH OF JULY

This is the Bicentennial of our ‘ Ole' Buddy' Art Stenzel for the nice columns which we have included in many of our Bicentennial packages with whom we have last contact. As art so aptly put it, ‘ there's juts gotta be a lotta BICOUS boys out there as we're only anxious to hear from ya an yer fellow comrades' happenings'. Wherefore art thou Romeus is still in hot pursuit of his dream and this month we are seeking out these bygones.

Jules ‘Fresnel' Stephan in Long Island, N.Y.
Ted C. Batton in New Jersey
Roland W. Phelps in Norwall, N.H.
Edie C. Weber in Kutztown, Pa.

P. A. 2.0 in Year and War

They came from Detroit and Pasadena, from Florida and St. Louis, from Richmond Hill and Middlesex, Wayne and St. Louis, Sillier Park and Hecksherfield, Rome and Elizabeth, Florida and Chicago, and San Jose and Seminole and North Hollywood.

For this 4th opportunity to honor each other, we accept their jobs of federal judge and counsel, land developer and corporation, major league ball player, and athlete, and anti-war worker and environmentalist. William Boring and the others.

These are the men of F Company, 67th Infantry, who descended on Fort Lauderdale in manne for the thirty-fourth annual reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division. They are the men that contributed to the everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational knowledge and activity. Our planet. Yosemite Falls and "El Tovar" can not be described - it has attended many of the reunions in the past, and his presence was added to the quality of the feelings of goodwill that pervades the meetings.

BEST FIRST SGT

The Committee Meetings Chairman, John Chosser announced the Awards for this year. Two of those Scholarships were given to Margaret Winstawiski, daughter of Ed and Marge Winstawiski, and Don Davis, son of Nell and John Davis, Maine. The Annual Scholarship Banquet was held at The Continental in Kutztown, Pa. The Banquet committee, under the chairmanship of Edwin Wagner, was well served. Otto Meadows has attended many of the reunions in the past, and his presence was added to the quality of the feelings of goodwill that pervades the meetings.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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Presenting Colors as Taps is sounded at Memorial Service.

Mr. and Mrs. William Arnold, Bill Muldoon, Mr. and Mrs. Tom McGinley, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cane (just about can see the top of his head) and Mr. and Mrs. Chessle Minchler and the lovely young lady on the end of the table is Molly, the daughter of the McGinley's.

Mr. and Mrs. Elias (Hoppie) Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. Marty Bergman, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Peruzzi and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Green are shown after the banquet waiting for the band to strike up the music.

Mr. and Mrs. William Arnold, Bill Muldoon, Mr. and Mrs. Tom McGinley, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cane (just about can see the top of his head) and Mr. and Mrs. Chessle Minchler and the lovely young lady on the end of the table is Molly, the daughter of the McGinley's.

The Ladies Auxiliary leaders for the coming year, Irene Tapp, president, Ruth Victor, spiritual guide and secretary-treasurer, Lilly Krasovetz, are shown with floral wreath for the Memorial Service.

Company F 47th members are shown (I-r) Ed Hoppie Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Giarraputo, seated next to the Giarraputo's is Frank Smith, Larry Ghere, Frank Gonzol, Harry Wax (a 39th man) standing behind Frank Smith, Felton Jones, Earl Wilkie and Jim Burke (another 39th man and first reunion for Jim).

The Ninth Medics at table 27 , from the front, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Toddavito, Mr. and Mrs. Vito Splendorio, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. John Laubach and Mr. and Mrs. John Price.

Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Bruno, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rongsorto, Mr. and Mrs. Fred DeAmore and Mr. and Mrs. Herb Olson take time out from chow to make this happy group photo.

The Ladies Auxiliary were very much present at the Memorial Services which many members believed to be one of the most impressive services ever held by the association.

Mr. and Mrs. William Arnold, Bill Muldoon, Mr. and Mrs. Tom McGinley, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cane (just about can see the top of his head) and Mr. and Mrs. Chessle Minchler and the lovely young lady on the end of the table is Molly, the daughter of the McGinley's.
Howard A. Farrens

He served with the 47th Infantry from January 1941 to June 1945 and was severely injured in Africa and Italy, was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in Tunisia. In England he served as the regimental artist and painted the murals and the cartoons adorning the walls of the Red Cross club in Winchester and the interior of the Winchester barracks. The 1977 Nov-Dec issue of the Octofoil contained copies of two cartoons that George had done for the 47th Regimental Battalion of Christmas 1944.

PROUD OF DIVISION

George was proud of his division and the men who served their country wearing its patch. He mentioned when the convention was held in Philadelphia several years ago that his forefathers had served their country in every war back to 1860 and that one of his ancestors, Jacob Morlison, was buried in Christ Church Cemetery and Archb St. Philadelphia, having served in the Revolutionary War. He never missed an opportunity of having a good time despite his illness which prevented him from seeing the country as an artist. He had worked for Disney and for others in N.Y., Las Vegas and Reno for a short period. He made friends easily with people of all classes and ranks in and out of the Army and I am sure he will do the same in the hereafter.

It is with deep regret that I must pass on the sad news, the death of my husband, Harold, on June 14th of a heart attack. He served with the 6th Infantry, Company M, helping form the company at Fort Bragg. In 1946, he served in Western Africa, Sicily, the Normandy Invasion, into Belgium and was discharged in April 1946.

He always looked forward to receiving the Octofoil and was very grateful for it. As an old Company buddy of Super Coy, 3rd Infantry, Bay Gedde, was one of the pall bearers.

Mary Jo McBenen, Realtor of Guy Mims Realty, Century 21, announced the addition of Emil "D. "De" Donato of Rainbow Lakes Estates as a member of the Century 21 team. Emil DeDonato brings to Guy Mims Realty twenty years of marketing, advertising and sales experience. He was born and raised in New Jersey and was active in the advertising industry in N.Y. and DeDonato held such positions as producer, account executive and assistant to the President of his own advertising agency.

DeDonato served with the Ninth Infantry Division during World War II from 1941 to 1945. He fought throughout Sicily, Italy, Belgium, France and Germany. He received the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Cluster and numerous other medals during the Ninth Infantry's eight campaigns.

Mr. and Mrs. De Donato have two grown sons, John III and Seth, and three grandchildren, one of whom is Matty Urbanowitch, who changed his name to Matt Urban after he married Shirley. But at any rate, I am more than the back row, standing beside the lieutenant whose name I cannot recall, but I can pick out Evans in the center of the picture flanked on one side by Sebeck and on the other side by Albert, with Matt Urban being on the far left.

One of those things that Charles has been a little lax during the past year in planning his social and activities. It was just one of those things that he just had not time to explain. A get-together was the whole idea of it and time and place were arranged.

Bill Benldinhar, a Cedar Ridge Telephone employee of more than thirty years, was something about it. He reserved a table for the call to someone for attention.

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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The 132nd meeting of the National Infantry Association was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on May 18, 1979. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. There being a quorum of 10 members present, Robert D. DeSandy, President, Francis批发市场 came of the club and asked the members to stand, said a few words for the benefit of the departed men of the Ninth. Earlier in the meeting at 10:15, President D. M. Wisniewski asked the members to stand for a moment of silence in memory of the departed men of the Ninth.

The Secretary read the minutes of the 131st meeting that was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., on May 19, 1979. Upon a motion made by John Bonkowski, Chairman of the Committee to prepare the minutes, the minutes were accepted and ordered placed on file.

President Thomas W. Cleaver, Chairman of the Committee to prepare the minutes, was called upon to report on the 34th reunion. The President thanked him for his report and upon a motion duly made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Charles Koskie it was voted to accept the Secretary's report.

The Secretary, Daniel Quinn, opened the meeting with a report on the minutes of the 13th meeting that took place in Chicago in April. Upon a motion made by Vincent Guglielmino, President, the minutes were accepted and ordered placed on file.

The President then appointed the following committees:

- The Committee on Nominations, consisting of the following members: Dan Bongiorno, Pat DeCilli, Robert DeCangi, and Henry Berg, 47th Inf.
- The Committee on Scholarship, consisting of the following members: Fred Bongiorno, Michael Deresh, and Sal Trapani. Also in attendance was Robert DeSandy, Chairman of the Committee, who introduced the following members: Fred Bongiorno, Michael Deresh, and Sal Trapani.
- The Committee on Education, consisting of the following members: Fred Bongiorno, Michael Deresh, and Sal Trapani. Also in attendance was Robert DeSandy, Chairman of the Committee, who introduced the following members: Fred Bongiorno, Michael Deresh, and Sal Trapani.

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- The Committee on Education, consisting of the following members: Fred Bongiorno, Michael Deresh, and Sal Trapani. Also in attendance was Robert DeSandy, Chairman of the Committee, who introduced the following members: Fred Bongiorno, Michael Deresh, and Sal Trapani.

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Dear Dan,

Worcester, Mass. 01605
August 31, 1979

I am writing this note to the Octofoil Call Column to thank all those who remembered Ralph in their prayers and with many cards and letters. Ralph suffered a stroke on July 20, 1979. He is still hospitalized at Ellis Hospital, North Street, Albany, N.Y. 12206 and is undergoing treatment. Coming along very nicely.

We had planned to attend the reunion at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Best wishes to you and Marie, and to all in the association.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ralph (Agnes) Spers

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BETTY ZWEIL
1605 Hoist Rd.
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Dan: I hope all the old boys and old buddies from Co A and Hq. Btry. C 26th F.A. enjoyed the convention but healthwise we are very disappointed.

It was an enormous undertaking. I got to see our old gang - now in touch with Billings, Montana.

I am enclosing a check for $15.00 this year and $10.00 for second year membership for the Octofoil. As you know I can't change my plans so far as the Octofoil is concerned. Please be advised of my new address.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wm. Andrews