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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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11-1-1979

## The Octofoil, November/December 1979

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Association Dues: \$5.00 per year — \$1.50 will be earmarked to pay for the Octofoil

Volume XXXIV Number 6

Nov-Dec 1979

## HUNDREDS RESPONDED

I think that it was the Christopher movement that used the slogan "A family that prays together, stays together." That slogan has been true for the past 35 years for the family of Reverend Edward T. Connors. The members of the family are men from all walks of life, all nationalities, and all faiths as part of his family stayed together. Like many families some members of his family scattered throughout the 50 states. Once a year a call went out. It was time to return home. Someone will not be around to answer the call. Those who do will be asked to attend the Holy Sacrifice of The Mass in the Immaculate Conception Church, the present home of Fr. Connors. Hundreds responded this year to his call.

This Ceremony plain and simple yet so beautiful is the corner stone of his faith. It is a time when all who are witnessing this Ceremony pray together for the souls of our departed members. Soon time will catch up to all of us. We may not be able to stay together as his family, but we can in our own way and at our own time continue our prayers.

## AT THEIR BEST

Again the parishoners of Immaculate were at their best. Meetings were many to make plans for such an enjoyable evening. Happy smiling faces on all of the workers showed that they wanted to do something for us. Thank you very much.

Parades are fascinating. Men like to march. None of the instructions given us at Bragg in 1941-42 were forgotten by the 300 or more men who marched a mile or more to the Church before the start of The Mass.

It is too early to consider what the family will do in 1980. Present facilities may not be available. If a meeting place with a buffet lunch is the desire of all, then a fee would have to be charged payable when reservations are made. This would be my way of keeping the family together.

My daughter is a teacher in the Waltham School System.

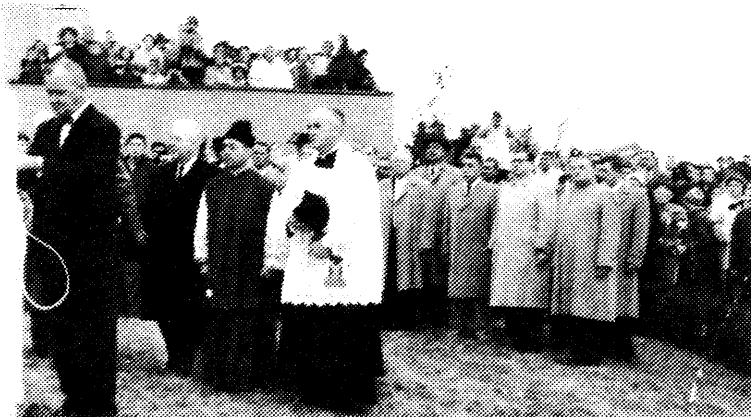
One day each week for two hours she attends a special class on writing, essay, letter, prose and poem. Part of her homework for this class is some type of writing which will be presented to other teachers in the class for their criticism and suggestions.

I am enclosing a copy of her topic which she read to the class one week ago. The teacher giving the class as well as the teachers taking the class were amazed that something like our Memorial Mass would be celebrated after all of these years.

Marie has attended many Masses including the one early this month. She knows all of the gang from Service 26FA as well as a few from other units.

As this is the work of a woman there may be some women amongst the readers of the OCTOFOIL as well as men who might like it.

Sincerely  
Joseph A. McKenzie



Tippie Plunkett sends this photo taken in Worcester on November 5, 1960 before the Memorial was constructed. At that time a Flag Pole was the site of the Memorial Services. The Late Glen Moore, President of the association for that year, is shown hoisting the flag. Behind him are (l-r) former Congressman Harold Donahue, Rev. Msgr. Anthony DeLaura and Father Connors.

## SAME TIME NEXT YEAR

They meet once a year, for a day each November, this year as for the past thirty five years. The names are the same, though each year may mean one or two fewer, the faces seem the same, though they are more lined and the hair is most likely sparser, grayer. The sentiments remain the same, although they become even stronger. The conversations change only as a man changes.

"Hey Mac, how's your boy now?"

"Put on a few pounds, Bill?"

"Sorry to hear about Louise, Ted. How are you making out now?"

"Hey old man, heard you gave up the rat race. How's the golf game?"

"Not like the old days, is it?"

They meet because of the old days. The common thread of each man's life had its start in Fort Bragg, N.C. in 1941. The war that followed that initiation became a network of memories and emotions, coloring the tapestry of each man's life.

They meet as men not highly decorated with medals or honors. Once discharged they took up the pieces of their life, nothing glamorous, survivors, home-town heroes.

Joe, a good conscientious soldier from Vermont drives an ambulance.

Pergi, a kid in 1941 has built some of Hartford.

Joe Mac, a former Boston salesman now a retired postal worker.

Rusty, A Connecticut country boy sells insurance in a small town.

## DEEPLY FELT

What hold them together is not for the observer to know or even for the men themselves to say. It is deeply felt and can only be shown. Is it akin to the love among brothers, or is it something unique, unknown in peace time among even the best of friends? It has been imbedded as was the scrapnel in the foxhole. It was absorbed as was the blood of G.I.'s which drenched the foreign soil. It pierced their souls as the air raid warning pierced their ears.

They meet not to recount exploits of the "Old Reliabilities." The campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, France and Germany are not romanticized into gloried field of battle. It would take a careful listener to detect a town name or a detail that was recorded in a newsreel. There was no glamour in their war.

## GREEN MAJOR

They meet to remember the dead, the dead of an honored and honorable war. Over 4581 men have been memorialized in a stone monument and immortalized in the minds and lives of the survivors. Led now, as then, not by a major general with stars gleaming but by a devoted and compassionate army chaplain, Father Edward Connors, affectionately called the Green Major, who knew his men, of all faiths, triumph and tragedy, in solitude and siege, in faith and fear, in peace and war. Although a central feature is a Memorial Mass for these dead, the participants, some 300 veterans and their families, are from all faiths, ecumenism in action since 1945. It is always a simple ceremony, some prayers, some quiet thoughts, some patriotic song, a lonely bugle resounding taps and its echo.

They meet and remember those who have died since the war.

Harold, the Army's best cook, was the owner of a meat and grocery store.

Lewis, a quiet country boy, worked for the Vermont Highway Dept.

## FEARING FINAL FAREWELL

They feel the tragic loss when one of the survivors will never again join them. And so, as the convening adjourns, they hesitate. One wants the company in a group photo, to show to the family back home. Another needs that address in Florida, in case they're in the area next February, while one more searches for a friend for another handshake, fearing a final farewell.

They meet and hear a few speeches, some reminiscent of their past, some testimonies of patriotism. They are moved only by one.

Father Connors, now leans on a podium, far different from the jeep hood that was his altar, invokes in a trembling voice, the traditional Irish blessing,

*May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sunshine warm upon your face  
May the rains fall soft upon your fields  
And, until we meet again  
same time next year  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

## GANG WILL INVADE WASHINGTON

Make Plans now for  
The 1980 Reunion  
Washington, D.C.

The Association will meet in Washington, D.C. next summer for the 35th reunion. There are so many things to do and sites to visit in the Nations Capital we could spend days and weeks to take in all the places in addition to the nearby cities such as Alexandria, Virginia.

Make plans now to attend as part of your vacation.

OLD TOWN — Suburban Alexandria, Va., its high-rise condominiums and fast-food joints sprawling within sight of the Washington Monument, at first seems no different from the other communities that have grown around Washington since World War II. But the port city actually claimed its place on the Potomac in 1749, long before its favorite son, George Washington, ever dreamed of founding the more famous Federal city across the river.

In the recent scramble for housing around the capital the long-neglected Old Town along the river has been reclaimed and the spirit of Alexandria's glory days as a Colonial port has been revived in a 200-block district of renovated townhouses and historic sites. The enclave combines the leisurely pace of a small Southern town with the charm of a tidy 18th-century European court. Refurbished red brick sidewalks lead visitors through quiet tree-lined streets that two of the country's generals walked as children: Alexandria was not only the home town of the apprentice surveyors who would become father of the country but also that of Robert E. Lee, patriarch of the Confederacy.

More than 2,000 buildings, ranging in style from stately Georgian to gingerbread Victorian, have been renovated by private owners in the last 30 years. Ordinarily you cannot go inside the red brick houses but it is a pleasure to wander the streets, comparing architectural styles and peeking through the brightly painted shutters to catch glimpses of chandeliers, Colonial highboys and canopy beds. Tucked in between the houses are small walled gardens with boxwood hedges and camelia bushes.

GETTING THERE — Just nine miles south of the District of Columbia, Alexandria is part of Washington's transportation system. From Washington National Airport it is a \$6 taxi ride to Old Town. Five Amtrak trains that pass through Washington from New York stop daily at Alexandria's Callahan Drive Station. From downtown Washington, catch the 11 bus for a 20-minute ride to the Bicentennial Center (rush hour \$1.15, regular fare 80 cents). If you are driving from Washington, the George Washington Parkway runs along the Potomac to Alexandria where it becomes Washington Stree.

Nearby is Ford's Theater, where children can see the place where President Lincoln was shot and, across the street, the house where he died. Older kids will like seeing money made at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, touring the FBI headquarters and Kennedy Center. Not far out are the National Zoo, home of the U.S.' only two giant pandas, Arlington Cemetery and Mount Vernon.

Many bus tours run in Washington and the new Metro subway is worth riding just to see it. For D.C. information, write Washington Convention and Visitors Association, 1129 20th St. NW, Washington D.C. 20036. For a list of hotels and special rates, write Hotel Association of Washington D.C., 910 17th St., NW, Washington D.C. 20006. Floridians can get free information, help and rest up at the state's own non-profit Florida House, located just behind the Capitol at the corner of Second and East Capitol Streets, mailing address PO Box 1643, Washington 20013.

HISTORIC SITES — Head first for the Bicentennial Center (201 South Washington, 9 to 5 daily, 703-750-6677) and see the exhibit on Washington and Lee. Then drop by Ramsay House, the headquarters of the Alexandria Tourist Council (221 King Street, 703-549-0205) for an orientation film (shown at 10:30 and 1:30), for free brochures on everything from restaurants to retail stores and especially for their discount ticket to the major attractions. If you are driving, do not leave without your free 72-hour parking pass.

Start your tour at Carlyle House (121 North Fairfax), an austere stone mansion built in 1752 by one of the city's wealthy founders. The owner complained that General Braddock and his entourage scarred the floors with their spurs and nicked his fine furniture with their scabbards when they used the house as headquarters during the French and Indian Wars but the house is in fine state today and furnished in period antiques.

## Tip Of The Hat

The Association is grateful to the following members who remembered the Memorial Fund.

Francis Russo  
Lawrence McLaughlin  
Frank Miele  
Esket Baxter  
Herbert Stern  
John Thornton  
Floyd Hennessey and Andy Sinare in memory of Doris Pitzer  
Mrs. Evelyn R. Berthram in memory of her husband Henry Berthram  
John Wilson  
William Spring

Anna Mukina in memory of her brother

We salute these people and a special thanks to Lawrence McLaughlin for his most generous donation to this fund.

## 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

President  
Robert J. DeSandy  
23430 Colonial Ct.  
St. Clairshore, Mi.  
  
Vincent Guglielmino, 1st V.P.  
114 Charles Street  
Floral Park, N.Y. 11001  
  
Elmer Wagner, 2nd V.P.  
2833 Hotchkiss Road  
Bay City, Mi. 48706  
  
Charles Koskie, 3rd V.P.  
4334 Hirschberg  
Schiller Park, Ill. 60176  
  
Harrison Daysh  
Judge Advocate  
4303 Carriage Court  
Kinsington, Md. 20795  
  
Thomas Boyle, Treasurer  
39 Hall Avenue  
Somerville, Ma. 02144  
  
Daniel Quinn, Secretary  
412 Gregory Avenue  
Weehawken, N.J. 07087

## Board of Governors

1980  
John Bonkowski  
Detroit, Mi.  
Dave Gelman  
Forest Hills, N.Y.  
Salvatore Trapani  
Rockville, Md.  
Frank Ozart  
Frankfort, Ill.  
Paul Keller  
Columbus, Ohio  
  
1981  
Michael Deresh  
Pinellas Park, Fla.  
William Bongiorno  
Bedford, Ma.  
Robert DeSandy  
St. Clairshores, Mi.  
Elias Hopkins  
Easterville, Pa.  
Charles Jones  
McLean, Va.  
  
1982  
John Clouser  
Crystal River, Fla.  
William Klauz  
New York, N.Y.  
Fred D'Amore  
East Boston, Ma.  
Martin Krasovetz  
Gibbsboro, N.J.

## Board Member Emeritus

Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Ret.)  
Rev. Edward Connors, Worcester, Ma.

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 \$5.00 per year with \$1.50 of the \$5.00 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 yearly, 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 our 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 15th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th.  
Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

Volume XXXIV Number 6

Nov-Dec 1979

Publication No. 402820

### THE MEMORIAL FUND OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Scholarship Information

The Memorial Fund of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was established by the members of the association to commemorate the memory of their comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice in battle. As a part of this fund the association established a scholarship program. Scholarships are awarded each year to relatives of men who served in The Ninth Infantry Division. Each scholarship is for one year.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A person who wishes to apply for a scholarship must be related to a man who served with The Ninth Infantry Division. Children of former members of the division will be given first consideration, but children of men killed in combat given first preference. Applicants who are not children of former members of the division will not be considered unless no child of a former member qualifies.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The following procedures must be followed by those wishing to apply for the scholarships:

1. Send a letter of application, written in expository form, to the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following: name, address, age, and sex of the applicant; name, address, and occupation of the applicant's parents or guardians; the name and address of the secondary school the applicant is attending or has attended and graduated; the name and address of the college the applicant expects to attend; the vocational goal of the applicant; and the name of and degree of relationship to a former member of the division. The unit and dates of service in the division of the former member must be included.
2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include at least the first seven semesters of the applicant's record.
3. The applicant must have a counselor or principal of the high school, he or she is attending write a letter of recommendation to the chairman of the scholarship committee.
4. The applicant must take the PSAT which is given every October. The applicant must see that the results of the PSAT are sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee. These results may be included with the high school transcript or sent to the chairman from the College Entrance Examination Board. The SAT of the CEEB may be submitted in lieu of the PSAT.
5. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.
6. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.
7. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee after the applications have been considered.
8. Recipients of the scholarships may apply for renewal of the scholarship each year. A copy of the student's college grades, a financial statement, and a letter requesting renewal of the scholarship should be sent to the chairman by March 15.
9. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, P.O. Box 807 Crystal River, FL 32629.

## 134th MEETING NATIONAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The 134th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held in Worcester, Massachusetts on November 3, 1979. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 P.M. by Vice-President Vincent Guglielmino in the absence of President Robert DeSandy. Attending the meeting were Martin Krasovetz, Elias Hopkins, Dave Gelman, John Bonkowski, John Clouser, Fred D'Amore, Sal Trapani, Bill Bongiorno. Also attending were Past Presidents Fran Maher and Ron Murphy, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, Treasurer Thomas Boyle and Michigan member Len Kowlaski.

Vice-President Guglielmino asked the members to stand for a moment of silent prayer in memory of the departed members of the Ninth.

Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Martin Krasovetz it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes by the secretary and to have copy of same placed in file.

Thomas Boyle, the treasurer, gave a quarterly report on the spending and income of the Association. Upon a motion duly made by Fred D'Amore and seconded by Elias Hopkins it was voted to: Accept the treasurer's report.

The secretary then gave a detailed report on the 1979 reunion and concluded his report by announcing a profit of \$2084.00 had been realized from the reunion.

Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Dave Gelman it was voted to: Accept the reunion report and commend those responsible for conducting the reunion for a "job well done".

Sal Trapani was called upon for a report on the 1980 reunion to be held in Washington, D.C. on July 17, 18, 19, 1980. Trapani briefed the members on events to take place. Vice-President Guglielmino thanked Trapani for his report.

Members of each Chapter briefed the Board as to what will take place for their Chapters for the coming year with Christmas parties being held by Michigan on December 8th, New Yorkers will hold their party on December 9th with Philly-Delaware Valley and Illinois Chapters doing likewise.

A discussion was held on the changing the month of the Reunion in order to obtain reasonable rates at hotels, etc., and the New England Chapter through their spokesman Thomas Boyle asked that the 1981 Reunion be held in June. Upon a motion duly made by Sal Trapani and seconded by Dave Gelman it was voted to: Grant the New England Chapter permission to change the month of the Reunion to June so they can come up with a good package for room rates and location to hold the 1981 Reunion.

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion duly made by John Bankowski and seconded by Bill Bongiorno it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully  
submitted,  
DANIEL QUINN  
National Secretary

**D.C. REUNION**  
**JULY 17, 18, 19,**  
**1980**

REQUEST FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS  
FOR 9th Infantry Division Association  
Washington, D.C. Reunion

Shoreham Americana Hotel & Motor Inn  
Connecticut Avenue at Calvert Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008 Tel 202-234-0700

July 17-20th

Reservation Cut-Off  
Date — July 1

## Room Rates

\$35.00 for single      Arrival Date.....Departure Date.....  
\$40.00 for double      Arrival Date.....Departure Date.....  
Suites available

Name of other Persons in your Reservation

Make reservations directly with the Hotel.

Parking rates are \$3.00 per day.

PLEASE INCLUDE ONE NIGHT'S DEPOSIT

REQUEST FOR SPACE  
IN SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Page \$50.00      Quarter Page \$20.00  
Half Page \$30.00      Eighth Page \$10.00

Boosters \$2.00 (includes name and unit)

Make checks payable to the Washington, D.C. Reunion and send all checks, money orders and copy to:

Salvatore Trapani  
4733 Wyaconda Road  
Rockville, Md. 20835

Deadline for Reunion Journal — July 1st

## Taps Sounded

Joining their comrades who have answered their last roll call we add the names of these buddies:

Dr. Hyman Seslowe  
Co D 9th Med Bn

Henry Handelman  
Co B-15th Eng.

We regret also to announce the passing of Doris Pitzer wife of Thomas Pitzer and Mrs. LeRoy F. Dreifus.

May they rest in peace. To their loved ones we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

\*\*\*  
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 1980 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

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find 1980 dues for:

Name ..... Serial No. ....  
Street Address .....  
City ..... Zone ..... State .....

I was a member of:

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

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year ..... \$5.00 ☐  
Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund ..... ☐  
THREE-YEAR MEMBER ..... \$13.00 ☐  
Life Membership ..... \$50.00 ☐  
Octofoil Automobile License Disc. .... \$ .50 ☐  
Decals ..... \$ .50 ☐  
Ladies' Auxiliary Member ..... \$ 2.00 ☐  
Combat Route Map ..... \$ .50 ☐  
60th Infantry History (plus postage) ..... \$ .50 ☐

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Please credit the following chapter:

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



# TO "B" (47th) OR NOT TO "B"

To "B" (47th) Or Not to "B": Here we are at the end of another year! To all our "BECO" buddies and their families we wish them a Most Happy Christmas and for the coming New Year 1980, sincerest best wishes for good health, happiness and prosperity.

## WARM SUNNY CLIMATE

As we write this column, our other "BECO" man Art Stenzel and his lovely wife Grace are probably in Florida. They too, have opted for the warm sunny climate that so many of our buddies and friends have turned to in recent years. Art and Grace, we wish you both the best of everything in your new home. (More about Art's move in our next "BECO" column).

## EMOTIONS DEEP SET

Ann and I attended Fr. Connors Annual Memorial Mass in Worcester on Sunday, November 4th. This was his 35th year for the Worcester Memorial Mass and a most solemn and impressive one it was indeed. Our emotions, as always were deep-set. Although we have attended most of the previous masses, this one, to us, stands out as most memorable. To those of you reading this column who unfortunately could not attend this Mass, we are indebted to Mr. Ron Murphy and the New England buddies of the 9th Division for recording the entire Mass. According to Ron, cassettes of the entire service in 2 parts may be purchased (no tapes) by writing him at the following address: Mr. Ron Murphy, 44 Strawberry Lane, Scituate, Ma. 02066.

## "OUT OF THIS WORLD"

The Saturday Night Get-Together at Fr. Connors' Shop was a gay, festive affair. The food prepared and served by the parishioners of Fr. Connors' Immaculate Conception Church was simply "out of this world". The calories expended were aided somewhat in dancing to the tunes of our good old days. The Gay 30's and Early 40's. A great time was had by all also in singing along with the good Father making for a grand glorious time. (Some of the children were also seen joining in).

## FITTING TRIBUTE

The Sunday Banquet at the Sheraton - Lincoln was attended by over 600 people. This indeed was a fitting tribute to Fr. Connors and to all our not-to-be forgotten 4,581 comrades who died in combat with the 9th Division. While in Worcester we stayed at the Days Inn Lodge. The lodgings there were excellent and a pleasant surprise. We were joined by "BECO" buddy Joe Cichicki and his lovely wife Stella who also lodged there. Later on we were to meet and become quite friendly with Carlos Esteva of Co. G, 39th Inf. and his charming wife Teresa, who came all the way from Puerto Rico to attend Fr. Connors Memorial Mass. All of us enjoyed the weekend immensely. We managed to get in some shopping in Worcester's beautiful downtown mall. By the way, judging by all the 9th Division people at the mall, the Chamber of Commerce would probably like to see us come back again next year! Do you hear that Fr. Connors?

## ANXIOUS TO HEAR FROM

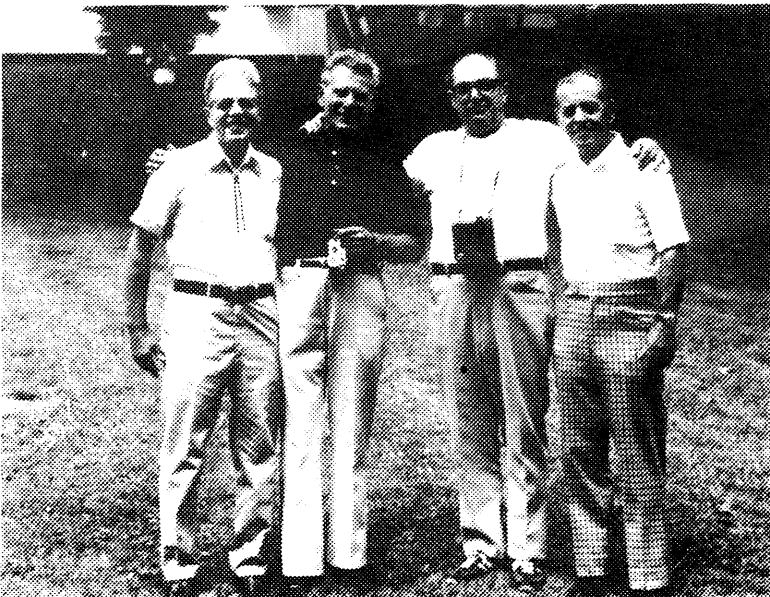
In our previous BECA columns, Art and I published the names of many BECO boys out there that we were anxious to hear from. However, our "Mail-Calls" have been sparse indeed. Our Buddy Club CP of BECO was always the happiest and most successful of all our reunion groups. We haven't given up hope. Although the "Esprite Corps" of Ol' Co. B. is ailing badly, Art and I are still standing-by and awaiting "Mail Call" from those of you out there who care to join us. We have another great reunion coming up next year in Washington D.C. on July 17, 18, 19, 1980 at the Shoreham Hotel. So, "fellers" how about making plans for another great "BECO" BUDDY CLUB CP? Let's show'em all that we are still "The tops" just as we were known in the early days of our Chapter's get-togethers.

## WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS

Ann and I had as our guests this past summer our BECO buddy Ed Sarnocinski and his lovely wife Helen. We took them on a personal tour of our lovely Cumberland Valley. Areas visited was the Gettysburg Battlefield which is near our home, rustic Caledonia State Park for a wonderful dinner at the "Pine Tree Inn" noted for their famous "Shipwreck" succulent seafood dinner and an entertaining evening at our famous "Totem Pole" Playhouse where we enjoyed a wonderful play "Broadway" starring Kevin Tigh (Star of T.V.'s Emergency). T.V. Star Jean Stapleton who plays Edith, in Archie Bunker, performs at the Totem Pole each year at least 3 or 4 times, with her producer husband Bill Putch. They are well liked and "real" down to earth people by all who know them in our area. Ann and I wish all our friends of the 9th a most happy and glorious Christmas and to all a Very Happy New Year! P.S. In view of Art Stenzel's move to Florida, we were unable to obtain his new address for this column. Editors note: The secretary's office tells us that Art is still living in New York - did not move as of yet.

PAT J. MORANO  
2208 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201

The Editors and staff wish all our members and their loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.



Shown here at their reunion in Barryville, N.Y. last summer are members of Company M, 39th Infantry. (l-r) Jim Shaw, Art Clark, Tony Carmeci and Nick Asperger.

## NEWS BRIEF ON 26ers

Again it is my pleasure to send a news brief to all ex 26ers as well as those in other units who might have been a part of the 39CT.

The old boys are getting along in years. But the years have not caught up to them when it comes to marching. Their desire to see some of the old gang brings to them a new spark of life. Most of all they wanted to remember in the peace and quiet in Immaculate Conception Church, those men left behind on the beaches of Casablanca, Oran and Algiers to the fields beyond Kothen and Dessau.

## ACCOMPANIED BY WIVES

This reporter met most of these men through his and their attendance at our Memorial Mass. Many married men among us were accompanied by their wives. Harry and Dorothy Fry of Munhall, Penn. are possibly the newest couple to attend this Mass. Dorothy, more than Harry, is amazed at the reception, hospitality, acceptance into the gang, that they received during their short stay in Worcester.

## "A" BTRY

From "A" Btry came Bob Warner, Ed. Nelson, John Babbitt and Milt Parrott. Bob is an avid golfer. During his first year of retirement Bob took many golf lessons, practiced 7 days a week and received additional lessons from a pro when things were not going just right. Today this senior citizen is a low 80 golfer. Every year Ed Nelson takes a trip to Lancaster, Penn. to see John Paccino. Milt Parrott retired to be what he thought would be a soft life at 12 Longfellow Drive, Centerville on Cape Cod. But what happened? He enlarged a cranberry bog in his back yard. When his neighbors knew he could handle tools they found enough small jobs to keep him busy. Three grand children do not give him much free time either. John Babbitt is like Henry Capella. Both look the picture of health testifying that personal fortitude and the miracle of today's medicine have produced wonderful results.

## "B" BTRY

Mazeika, Capella, and Pernokas represented "B" Btry. Dan has gained a few pounds since last seen about one year ago. If any of you fellows out there remember Henry send him a card at Priscilla Road, White House Beach, Mass. The legs of Gil Pernokas, so badly damaged while with the Air OP are beginning to give him trouble so much so that he has to resort to the use of a cane.

John Clouser and Gerry Leone are the only men I remember seeing from Hdqtrs. John retired from teaching school and the State of Illinois and is now living in Florida.

## "C" BTRY

"C" Btry members were Jim Hennelly who is OK after a short hospital stay. Also in attendance were Tom Boyle, Jim Oliver, Carl Amodio, Connie Matulius, Mike Sciarrappa, a recent retiree and Henry McKenzie of Air OP whom I believe was in Worcester for the first time.

Jim McColgan and Ed Finklestein stopped by to see Fr. Connors on one of their frequent trips to New England. Carlo Macri retired from the Post Office. Blitz is still with the PO. From Last reports John Bowden is still driving a bus for the Philly transit system. Loren Doyle who drove for Col. Johnson retired from his railroad job. Calvin Daniels, 47354 Burton Drive Utica, Michigan, a member of C Btry, 26FA in Tent City then in the barracks through 1941 until he was transferred to Cannon Co. 39 Inf would like to hear from anyone who might remember him.

## GOOD REPRESENTATION

Service Battery 26FA again had a good representation. John Quinn, Harry Fry, John Murray, and myself are all retired and enjoying it very much. Red Truscello owns five taxi cabs. Pergi tried working for 6 months after his former employer decided to liquidate his business. He didn't like it, so he will take the winter off and hope to collect. Joe Albanese is saying January 1980 is the time for him to retire. Bill Bongiorno is working part time in a gift shop owned by his sister. Elmer Roscoe is the only one with a full time job with no thought of retiring.

## KEEP ALIVE THE FRIENDSHIPS

I try to do my best to keep alive the friendships we all had when we served together. As it happens to everyone, our friends move and for some unknown reason they forget to send a change of address. It happened to me.

One in particular moved from Pittsburgh. Several leads proved to be wrong. A letter in the OCTOFOIL signed by Tom Kennedy with a Pittsburgh address was another source but brought no results. Saturday night in the Coffee Shop I was talking with Harry Fry and Mike Bish of Pittsburgh when I got a tap on the shoulder. Turning a man said "Are you McKenzie"? "Yes," I replied. "I am Tom Kennedy from Pittsburgh." Then he introduced his friend to me whom I think was born on the same street and in the same neighborhood as Pope John II. I can neither pronounce nor spell his name. Tom apologized for not being able to find my friend and I appreciate his efforts very much. Then I introduced him to Harry and Mike. Tom was surprised to find someone so close to home. While the five of us were talking another 26 man arrived. Tom took one look at him then said to me, "Is that Albanese?" "Yes," I said. Then I asked Joe if he knew this man while pointing to Tom. Joe took one step backward, looked, then said Yes; 709 Ord.

## GREAT MEMORIES

Some people have great memories. Tom, making his first trip to Worcester remembered a name and a physical appearance of a man he had not seen since April 1945. Joe remembered all but a name.

I am sure that Tom will never forget his first trip to Worcester. He will never forget his first Memorial Mass and will always wonder why he missed the first 34.

JOE M. MCKENZIE  
95 Washington Avenue  
Waltham, Mass., 02154

## BUSINESS AND FEAST

Outgoing president Al Perna, called the meeting to order and had a hard job doing it. John Sabato was our host, and Shirley put on such a feast that the fellows didn't hear Al banging his gavel. We finally got down to business. We would like to extend a well done for those hard working men who made the Florida convention successful. Our members enjoyed it very much.

## NEW OFFICERS

We thank Pat DiColli for his representing our Chapter as a member of the Board, and we know his replacement, Marty Krasovetz will also be an asset to our Association. We held elections and our new President will be Paul Lisa, Vice-President: Red McDougall, Secretary: Dick Wilson, Treasurer: John Sabato. Our new president has just retired and plans to put all his effort in making our Chapter number 1.

## NICE HAPPY GUY

Any member wishing to attend our meetings, write or call our Board members. Their names and addresses are in the Octofoil. Sabto wanted to know who were senior citizens at our meeting. We had ten members over sixty, nine under sixty, and one old, old, but very nice happy guy. Elias (Hoppy) Hopkins. Hoppy is also a member of the board of Governors. After a few toasts to his health and to ours, and a few more to all the gang going to Worcester, the meeting was over and back to Goodies we went. Our special thanks to John and Shirley Sabato for their wonderful hospitality.

Charles P. Troccoli  
1106 Chestnut Ave.  
Woodbury Heights  
New Jersey 08097

## JOHN BONKOWSKI

19941 Hickory  
Detroit, Mi. 48205

Along with own Christmas wishes, I'm enclosing the last of the membership cards and the final dues check.

The Christmas Party last Saturday was another fine Chapter success. Chairman, Chuck and Hostess Charlotte Fox did a great job and all 70 present had a wonderful time.

We took time to hold the elections with the following results:

President Rodger Alsgaard  
1st V.P. Charles Williams  
2nd V.P. Billie Martin  
Adjutant Don Lewis  
Treasurer Elmer Wagner  
Secretary Fred Josey  
Chaplain Floyd Hennessey  
Historian Floyd Hennessey

A final word of thanks for all that you have done through the years.

Many veterans and the survivors of veterans seeking benefits are unaware of the "reasonable doubt" policy applied to the adjudication of certain claims.

"Far too often claimants are afraid that they will be suspected of attempted fraud if they cannot present clear and concise evidence to document entitlement to a specific benefit."

After careful consideration of all procurable data, a reasonable doubt arises regarding service origin, the degree of the claimed disability, or any other point, such doubt will be resolved in favor of the claimant. Reasonable doubt is one which exists by reason of the fact that the evidence does not satisfactorily prove or disprove the claim, yet is not beyond the range of probability.

# Traveling down road of history

**THE FINAL THRUST**  
The Story of the  
Ninth Infantry Division  
In Germany  
13 September 1944  
to 9 May 1945

When the smoke of battle cleared before the victorious American Army in Europe, evidently few "outsiders" had ever heard of the Ninth Infantry Division. Only during the Cherbourg Campaign had the Ninth been released from censorship. Yet, in eight campaigns; three invasions; almost three years of combat; the Infantrymen of the "Neglected Ninth" fought on — sans publicity, without credit for a major role in the defeat of the German Wehrmacht.

## CLOSELY CENSORED

Its movements closely censored, and its regimental combat teams frequently attached to other divisions and corps; unheralded and seemingly forgotten, the Ninth United States Infantry Division stood toe-to-toe and slugged it out with the best Hitler had to offer. North Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium and Germany rang to echoes of retreating hordes before the advancing Ninth.

The first four years of the Division's brilliant history were briefly narrated in a booklet issued during the attack on the Siegfried Line, 1944: "Hitler's Nemesis, The Ninth Infantry Division." Published prior to the end of combat, it filled a contemporary need for reminding the old-timers of past trials and hard-fought victories. Too, it presented to new reinforcements the tradition of a glorious past to be upheld and advanced.

Today, in ever increasing numbers, the Ninth is finding new faces in its midst. The veteran doughfoot has earned his right to peace and contentment in the States. To you, who have recently entered the Ninth, therefore, we offer a challenge in the past history of a fighting American team. And — to you old-timers whose efforts, have, literally, "written this history", we humbly dedicate YOUR STORY — conceived in battle and written in the blood of your comrades.

The Ninth division fought in North Africa and Sicily, was one of the divisions which forced the St. Lo. break-through in Normandy and was the first Infantry division into Belgium.

—Minneapolis Star Journal

## Destruction

### German 7th Army

Following the almost complete destruction of the German 7th Army in the Falaise Gap, the American 1st Army was in a race against time, aimed at catching the Siegfried Line off balance. If this could be done before the Westwall was completely manned, then entry into German's heartland would be an accomplished fact.

Under Wehrmacht strategy, the 7th German Army had been assigned the task of retreating to the fixed fortifications in front of VII Corps. The Ninth Infantry Division crossed into Belgium, near Momignies, and pursued the enemy so rapidly that he became further disorganized. Cut piecemeal, the Germans mustered only a fraction of their planned strength in the path of the onrushing Ninth.

## "WE HAVE NOT WAITED IN VAIN"

Invaluable aid was given by Belgian Macquis and civilians, who proved to be excellent allies. The appreciation felt by liberated young everywhere was expressed in the sign which greeted advancing Ninth Infantrymen . . . "WE HAVE NOT WAITED IN VAIN".

As the Germans continued to withdraw and destroy equipment, they employed scattered delaying units. Infantry, tanks, mortars and artillery aided in slowing the Ninth's operations. Main routes, river crossings, and road centers were under heavy fire — designed to cover the withdrawal of enemy elements over the Meuse. On the Meuse River, a natural barrier, German remnants were regrouped to prevent crossing by American infantry.

The Ninth swung eastward to probe crossings over the Meuse River in the vicinity of Dinant. Normally, an operation of this type requires a great deal of preparation and time. There was but little time — for the need of the moment was speed . . . speed to destroy the Germans before they could man the Siegfried. Against the sheer cliffs rising out of the Meuse, the historic attack began.

"The division's successful crossing of the Meuse in the vicinity of Dinant, in face of strong opposition, was one of the most difficult tasks of this war. Using assault boats and rafts, the initial crossings were made at night. Despite heavy losses, the division established a secure bridgehead, which it held against spirited German counterattacks, then completed its crossing and routed the enemy which fled to the east".

—Major (now Lt.) General J. Lawton Collins, Commanding VII Corps.



When the Ninth entered the town of Dinant, Belgium, they were greeted by the sign "We have not waited in vain", put up by the grateful citizens of the town.

## Limping Withdrawal

The enemy limply withdrew from Dinant toward Liege in a northeasterly direction. Doughs of the Ninth punched on, with excellent flank partners in the 3rd Armored and 4th Cavalry Group. The 47th Combat Team moved south of Liege with the 3rd Armored Division; while the 39th Infantry sent two battalions south in support of the 4th Cavalry, which was meeting stiff opposition near Malmedy.

By 12 September 44, the enemy was withdrawing so rapidly that contact was lost in the regions of Liege, Verviers, before Aachen and the Siegfried Line. The German High Command had ordered a general reforming on the Westwall.

On the heels of the "goose-stepping sons of the Fatherland", patrols of the 47th and 60th Regiments reconnoitered the German border. Then, with

its characteristic follow through, the Ninth shifted into high, gained momentum, and attacked!

## FIRST TO BREACH THE SIEGFRIED

A brief European itinerary of this crack infantry division follows:

... Sept. 13 — Troops moved into Germany south of Roetgen.

... Sept. 14 — Infantry regiment breached Siegfried Line, advancing through first and second-line defenses.

—Stars and Stripes

As the cold haze of early morning rose out of the German Frontier, the Ninth moved upon the area Eupen-Roetgen, in line with an all-out VII Corps attack to the east and northeast.

Jerry had changed his delaying tactics to a larger scale attempt at halting the advancing Ninth. Using mines, demolitions, tanks, and small bodies of infantrymen, he tried to gain precious time for bringing more reinforcements into the Siegfried.

In a two-pronged attack, infiltrating infantry of the Ninth met sporadic fire peppering the wooded areas southeast of Eupen. Artillery fire fell on Owifat, and heavy caliber fire interdicted the Umbourg-Eupen highway.

Fighting men of the AAA-O 39th Infantry surged forward to clear the Eupen-Monschau road. With the 60th Combat Team, they were starting a drive leading into treacherous Hurtgen Forest.

When night fell over the battle-scarred earth, the 47th Raiders had written their names once more in World War II history — as they descended upon Roetgen, first German town of the war to be captured.



John McChesney, Jr. sends this photo of Matt Urban 2nd BN-60th Infantry Commander receiving Medical attention after being wounded in the fighting in France. This picture was taken by Russell Nelson.

Despite difficulties of operation, our advance continued. The Division now had the mission of penetrating the defenses of the Siegfried Line and seizure of road centers in the vicinity of Duren.

Pushing steadily forward and overcoming local opposition, Raiders drove into the Siegfried Line — the first Infantry to breach the Westwall. Next night, in music-halls of England, radio broadcasts of America, and on the streets of Allied cities was whistled the tune, We're Gonna Hang Our Washing On the Siegfried Line! But, the 47th Infantry wasn't stopping to do any washing — not just yet!

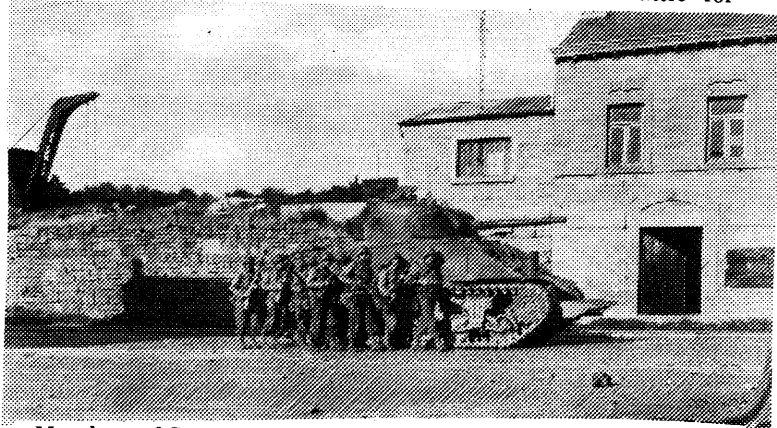
In the Elsenborn area, a special task force, under Brig. Gen. Buchanan, Asst. Division Commander, captured Camp Elsenborn on 14 September. This area later figured prominently in Division operations, both as a rest center and a command Post.

## Major General LOUIS A. CRAIG

Fighting leader of a fighting team . . . 20 August 44 till V-E Day.

While fighting was in progress in Ureiborn, Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig, commanding the Ninth Division started into the town. Accompanied in his jeep by his aide, Capt. Bill Yarbrough, Craig was about 1,000 yards from the town. The old Jerry practice of sniping was once more in full sway. Suddenly, Craig spotted what looked like a German uniform off to the right of the road. He stopped the jeep, dismounted, drew his pistol, and marched out six German soldiers with their hands upraised. He turned them over to the MPs and continued on his way.

—Stars and Stripes



Members of Company I 60th Infantry are shown as they advance into the town of Sprimont, Belgium under the protection of the side of a heavy tank.

## Mission of Penetrating

On the Siegfried, the enemy withdrew his patrols as he manned the pillboxes and other permanent installations of the line. Given the mission of penetrating these defenses, the 39th Infantry executed a wide flanking movement into the vicinity of Lammersdorf. The Nazis met the maneuver with machine gun, mortar, and high velocity artillery fire.

Widening their breach, the 47th drove approximately five kilometers inside the first position of the Siegfried Line, capturing 400 prisoners. Then, continuing to clear out enemy resistance between Zweifall and Vicht, Raiders pocketed 175 more Westwall defenders and penetrated the second position of the Siegfried.

Wehrmacht reinforcements poured into the Westwall. Although the majority of them had little combat experience, they were supported by artillery and permanent fortifications. Anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons ringed their fortified zone.

Against this additional resistance, the 39th Combat Team's I Company, supported by 155 mm self-propelled guns, broke through the Draxon's Teeth obstacles, and reduced 12 pillboxes with infantry and assault-gun action. It was slow, steady progress, requiring coordination and guts.

## Siegfried Line Over-run

By 17 September, the second position of the Siegfried Line had been over-run between Mausbach and Zweifall, by the leaders, while the first position of Hofen had been penetrated in the Go-Devil zone. Logically, it seemed as though the enemy would attempt to restore the line.

Anti-tank obstacles and mine fields temporarily delayed the advance of 18 September. With a new fanaticism, born of fear and kindled by high ranking Nazis, enemy harassing patrols and heavy artillery fire attempted to drive the attacking Ninth Division from the sacred Fatherland.

Blood flowed down the hills and ravines of Mausbach, Monschau, Alzen, Hofen, Zweifall, and Gressenich, as ownership see-sawed back and forth between the battle for-

tunes of American and German infantry and heavy firepower. By nightfall, the 60th Combat Team had captured and fully organized Alzen against counter-attack. Approaching enemy fortifications from the rear, the Go-Devils brought heavy fire on all points of resistance, capturing 154 prisoners.

continued on page 7

—Mission Accomplished (History VII Corps)



# CHAPTER NEWS

## NEW YORK CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Sunday, December 9, 1979, the Chapter held its' Annual Party at the 69th Regiment Armory, East 26th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City. The party was held in the Mural Room.

The writer was asked to arrive at 12:30 P.M. so that he could be available to sell 50-50 Club Raffle Tickets. I arrived about 12:45 P.M., but already some of the members were hard at work setting up tables and the bar. Members were advised to arrive with their guests about 1:00 P.M.

## APOLOGIZE BEFORE HAND

Every year I am reprimanded because I failed to mention the name of someone who worked at the party. Maybe it was because I had too much liquid refreshment. Anyway, if I forget to mention any one's name, I hope I will be forgiven. The Chapter wants to thank everyone who worked to help to make both the Christmas Party and the 50-50 Club Raffle the great success that they were. A special round of applause is due Frank Fazio and Bill Klauz committee for the hard work they did in organizing the Christmas Party. Many thanks to the members and guests who donated Christmas presents. Also, thanks to William O'Shea and others who donated cash. Finally, thanks to the membership for the fine support given our 50-50 Club Raffle. Coupled with an additional raffle for the Christmas presents we ended up with a profit. This money is used to help cover our operating expenses for the year, including the Chapter donation to the National Scholarship Fund in the name of our Jack Scully Scholarship Fund. Thanks to the ladies in the name of our Jack Scully Scholarship Fund. Thanks to the ladies who went around selling raffle tickets. And, we must not forget the clean-up detail.

## MANY GIFTS

Members and their guests started arriving about 1:00 P.M. We had over 100 people present, a sumptuous hot and cold buffet. There was music for dancing, and drinks galore were on the house. About 30 Christmas presents were donated. These were raffled off. I should mention that the first prize, a shawl, was donated by Marge Orletti, the wife of our Chapter President. Winners of the 50-50 Club Raffle Prizes were as follows: Joseph Reeder, 1st Prize; Charles Libretto, 2nd Prize; Helen Smith, 3rd Prize; Stan Mrozinski, 4th Prize; Nicholas Androvich, 5th Prize; Consolation Prizes were won by the following: Vincent D'Addona, Bill Klauz, who donated his prize back to the Chapter; John Saquella, Joseph Reeder, Jr., Harry Wax, Joseph Kearns, who donated his prize back to the Chapter, Irving Feinberg, Mrs. Margot Goldstein, Frances Miller, Joseph T. Tantum, Emil Langer, and Mr. John Dolak. Except for "hangers-on" the party started breaking up about 6:30 P.M.

## KEPT SUPPLIED

Assisting me with selling raffle books and tickets were my friend, Eddie Dietrich, Dave Gelman and others. I have Dave Gelman to thank for keeping me and Charlie supplied with drinks and food. Dave was also instrumental in helping me to keep track of the expenses and receipts.

## MANY HELPING HANDS

Working hard at the bar were Al Orletti, Vinny Guglielmino, Francis Smiles, Tony Failla, and others. Once when I went to the bar to get a beer, Smiles refused to serve me. He claimed that I should be sober to collect the receipts. Vinny Guglielmino finally agreed to give me a beer for me and my friend, Charlie.

Working at the buffet tables were John Parisi, Frank Fazio, Al Orletti, and others. I always use the phrase "and others". This way I can't fail to exclude anyone.

Vita Fazio and the other ladies were hard at work selling raffle tickets.

Vincent Guglielmino, Bill Klauz, Frank Smiles, Eddie Dietrich, myself, and others served on the clean-up detail.

Frank Fazio and I worked on the drawing for prizes.

## MISSING

We missed seeing "doc" Hyman Seslowe, who passed away recently. Also missing were Irving Feinberg and his wife. His wife, Edith, was ill, and a Get-Well Card was passed around for signatures. However, everyone was happy to see and talk to Eddie Egan. George Bako, now living in San Diego, California is recuperating from a serious operation.

I was at an advantageous spot. I could greet and chat with the members and their guests as they entered the hall. It seemed that I would never stop greeting the guests of Vincent D'Addona, and they each bought a book of 50-50 Raffle Tickets. Also, I could button-hole the members for dues, and I was able to sell some of my 9th Infantry Division Insignia and Shoulder Patches.

The high point of the affair was the Parade of the American flag through the hall and bar area ending with everyone singing God Bless America. Al Orletti led the procession with Joe Kearns as Drum Major.

## DONATIONS

Adolph Wadalavage should be thanked for the platters of cheese tid-bits he brought in for the bar. Also, Paul Giarraputo should be thanked for the bottle of Scotch Whiskey he donated. Carlos Esteva of the 39th Infantry Regiment and now living in Puerto Rico was responsible for a donation of an assortment of bottles of whiskey.

Arthur R. Schmidt  
Chapter Secretary  
69-20 69th Street  
Glendale, New York 11385  
HY7-3993-Area Code 212

MR. & MRS. MIKE BELMONTE  
1161 South Lombard  
Oak Park, Illinois 60304

Attached is a copy of the Illinois Chapter News for the next issue of the Octofoil. Keep up the good work.

Mike and I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

## ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Our mini-outstate meeting was a huge success. Among the members of the Illinois Chapter who attended were the Koskies, Winkelmans, Clarks, Bud Remer, Frank Ozart, the Clausers, Belmontes and the Paulis (guests of the Illinois Chapter). We were sorry that more of our members were unable to attend. The Michigan Chapter is again to be complimented for their great hospitality. As usual they outdid themselves and we are sincerely grateful for all their efforts. Our thanks also to all the members who participated in a raffle of the hook rug donated by the Paul Clarks. We

were happy the Foxes were the winners. It appears as if the Clarks are going into the business of making Octofoil hook rugs inasmuch as they showed up with another one at the Christmas party and gave it to Bud Remer as a token of appreciation for all he has done.

## PARTY AT KOSKIES

At our November meeting, plans were made for the Christmas party. It is to be held at the home of the Koskies who graciously offered the use of their home again. After all the plans were made, a raffle was held of two bottles of cheer donated by Gordon Anderson. One was won by the Winkelmans and the other by the Belmontes. Between the raffle at Grand Rapids and the meeting raffle, the Illinois treasury was sweetened a little.

## THERE IN SPIRIT

A report was given on the trip to Worcester made by Paul Clark. Even though he and the Clousers were the only representatives of the Illinois Chapter, we were all there in spirit to help celebrate the Memorial Services with Fr. Connors.

## WEATHER COOPERATED

Our Christmas party on December 8th at the home of Chuck and Irma Koskie was a great success. The weather even cooperated and no one had any trouble driving. John and Helen Clouser were the first to arrive, Friday to be exact. They drove in from Michigan and were house guests of the Koskies. The others started arriving around 8:00 P.M. bringing all sorts of goodies to eat and drink.

## ADDED TO FESTIVITIES

We were happy to see Kay and Larry Ghene make it. Kay is doing pretty good after her unfortunate accident this past summer. Marian and Gordon Anderson added to the festivities as did Georgie and Bob Winkelman. We were also happy to see the Hellers and the Fajorns after a long absence. The Clarks were also there with their daughter Mary. Frank Ozart and Bud Remer were there along with the Paulis and the Belmontes. We missed having the Hennemuths and Pawlicks join us this year. Lucky Peggy and Bill Hennemuth were vacationing in Florida. We heard from the Pappas' who were also in Florida looking for John and Helen Clouser who were in Illinois.

## MUCH FOOD AND FUN

Needless to say there was much food and fun at the party and a good time was had by all. Our feather game was played and won by the two hot air members, Jerry Fajnor and Jo Pauli. This was followed by our white elephant game and the prizes were just out of this world and that is where they should have stayed. Our grab bag gifts were of a humorous nature this year. This proved to be quite interesting and some unprintable items were received.

## WITH YOU BUD

Bud Remer's surgery has again been postponed. He is scheduled to go to the hospital this month for further consultation and tests. Our prayers and thoughts are with you, Uncle Bud.

John Clouser gave us a report at the party about our reunion for next year. The Shoreham Americana Hotel in Washington D.C. has been selected for the site. It has been redecorated and is waiting for the Ninth to have its reunion in July. (17, 18, 19th)

## The Michigan Chapter

The Michigan and Illinois Chapters got together for the third time and it was a great success. The Spring-like weather and the pleasant friendly atmosphere on the week-end of October 19 & 20th will always be remembered. It was an experience of friendship at its best.

Our Chairman, Bill Andrews and Lucile did an outstanding job in making all the arrangements and hosting this Special Event. Added attraction were the three pretty hostesses, Sue Andrews, Sue Berg and Becky Reed, who did the details in the CP and Banquet Rooms. Our sincere thanks.

## GREAT WEEK - END

Hosts, Bill & Lucile Andrews greeted the early arrivals on Friday. It was the beginning of a great week-end. Pres. Bob & Flo DeSandy and Chuck & Charlotte Fox brought John Al Young with them from the V.A. Hospital in Allen Park. This arrangement saved Jane many miles of driving from Lewiston and it was appreciated. Pres. Leonard Kowalski and Calvin Daniels gave a helping hand with the unloading and unpacking. The other early-comers were; Floyd & Leora Hennessey, Ernie & Elsie Young, Robert & Georgina Winkelman, Bill & Dolores Zimmerman and Elmer Wagner.

The C.P. was a lively place the following day when the rest of the crowd showed up. It was great to have those that were able to come from the Illinois Chapter. New York was represented when Henry & Evelyn Golobiecki, good friends of Bob & Mac Cole made that journey from Buffalo, N.Y. There was plenty of refreshments and snacks on hand. Everyone enjoyed Chuck & Doris Williams' smoked salmon, braunschwiager & coffee. Once again, what about the three pleasant smiling hostesses, Sue, Becky & Sue?

The Michigan Chapter "Guys" held a brief Meeting in Calvin & Dorothy's room, next to the C.P. It had been decided that there would not be a Chapter Bus to Worcester, due to the late date and small response. On the agenda was also the Continuation of Nominations for the 1980 Chapter Elections. There were no additional names to the previous list and the nominee for President, Rodger Alsgaard pleaded for more candidates. The Election will take place at the next Session in December.

A Cocktail Hour at 6:30 PM was followed by a Buffet Dinner which everyone enjoyed. Elmer Wagner M.C'd the Program that evening. Our Chaplain, Floyd Hennessey offered the Opening Prayer. National Pres. Bob DeSandy, Illinois Pres. Mike Belmonte and Michigan Pres. Leonard Kowalski, each had a few well chosen words to convey to a wonderful Group.

## WAITING TO HEAR GOOD WORD

Although a bit late, Matt Urban joined us as promised earlier on the phone. It was an extremely busy day for him. There was a Dedication of a new foot-ball stadium, a Homecoming game for Hope College and the Celebrations that followed a great victory. He managed to break away from all of these festivities to spend the rest of the evening with us. We're still waiting to hear the good word about The Congressional Medal that is so long over due.

The Program ended with a closing Prayer by Illinois Chapter Chaplain, Bud Remer, as everyone held their hands in a large circle around the room.

The scene moved back to the C.P. where friendly talk carried into the late hours. Those that planned to be with us but couldn't make it, were in our thoughts. It was kind of them to let us know.

We've gained a New Member, that week-end. Oliver Smith paid his 3 yr. dues and we're delighted to have him and Margaret in the Chapter. There were other New-comers who are considering joining us and we'd be happy to have them. (We welcome Bob McKibbin back who moved to New Jersey.)

## MEMORIAL AT WORCESTER

Although there was no Chapter Bus to Worcester as we were hoping, our Chapter can be proud of the fine turn-out at the Memorial Services.

National President, Bob & Florence DeSandy regretfully missed the Memorial due to his mother's grave condition after suffering another heart attack. Plans have been changed for Bob & Flo, Leonard & Sally Kowalski, Rose & I to make that pilgrimage together. It just wasn't meant to be, but we are hoping and praying that his mother will recover as she did prior to the Convention. Pres. Bob DeSandy's intended words at the Memorial were hand delivered and read by Father Connors and Franny Maher.

Traveling with Chapter Pres. Len & Sally Kowalski was a pleasant trip. We met John & Thelma Obermiller along with Bill Zimmerman at an overnight rest stop in Richfield Springs, N.Y.- Enjoyed a fine breakfast at the out-skirts of Albany. We admired Thelma's courage and dedication, having her leg in a cast and on crutches. Reminded us of another occasion, not too many years ago, when she picked up John at The Cleveland Heart Clinic and drove non stop to Worcester for the Memorial.

Jerry & Erma Teachout stopped at her mother's home in Port Huron, Mi. on the way from the West Coast. The week-end went much too fast and we did not get to spend enough time together. And it's not often that we see Jim & Louise Rushlow, but this was the second time in a couple of weeks.

Pleasantly surprised to see Earl & Valerie Ike in Worcester, whom we have not seen since the Chapter Picnic at Fred & Jane Josey's place last June. It also was nice having John & Denny Vander Meiden with us, again. They made their first Chapter Meeting last month in Grand Rapids, Mi.

Floyd & Leora won a bottle at the Special Drawing but before they could uncork it, the bottom fell out. Oh well, all was not lost as they enjoyed a great week-end and a chance to spend some time with their good friends, Trevor & Mae Jones, from Connecticut. It was our pleasure having them seated with the Michigan Group at the Banquet.

At Connors Coffee Shop and at the Banquet, a large Octofoil was displayed with the caption, "This Is It, Fellas". Somehow, most of us don't believe that we have seen the last of the Memorials in Worcester. However, those very same words apply right here, as I'm coming to the end of my final Notes. It was great sharing the News with you, through the years. With the coming Elections we will have a new Secretary. All I ask, grant him and all the newly elected Officers, the same wonderful cooperation that made this Chapter what it is. Thanks to all of you for all the memories.

Sincerely,

John Bonkowski  
19941 Hickory  
Detroit, Mich. 48205

# mail call

*Continued*

**1st Bn. 39th**  
FRANCIS J. RUSSO  
395 Lafayette Avenue  
Cliffside Park, N.J. 07010

Enclosed is my check for Fifty dollars, Ten dollars for two ticket books, and Forty dollars — anyplace you can use it best. You fellows are doing a fine job for the Association. I really enjoy receiving the Octofoil every month. Keep up the good work. Maybe some day I too can become an active member. You're a great bunch. Good health and best wishes to all you guys from the 1st Battalion 39th Infantry. Best regards.

**47th Inf.**  
GEORGE BROWN  
R.D. 1 - Box 100  
Freehold, N.Y. 12431

On our return from Fort Lauderdale we visited Fort Benning, Ga. and the National Infantry Museum. Of note were the two division monuments on display in front of the museum.

The enclosed literature and the photos are self-explanatory. Thought they would be of interest since the Association plans a monument at Bragg.

The cost of the 4th Division monument ran about \$2000.00 for the marble work. The erection and placement was without charge by Benning Engineers.

Thought I'd send this material along before Worcester so you had a chance to look it over in case the monument was discussed at the Board Meeting. The New York gang would probably be interested, especially Bill Klauz.

Who crossed the Siegfried first? The 47th claims it did. Now the 4th Division claims they did. The 3rd Armored claims they did. But, it was the 39th when it was attached to the 3rd Armored.

Anyway, we can always claim the First Across the Rhine.

See you in Worcester.

**ANNA MUKINA**  
Rd. No. 2  
Edinboro, Pa. 16412

Please remove my mother, Mrs. Albert Mukina, from your mailing list. Mother is 85 and until recently has enjoyed receiving the Octofoil.

The enclosed check for \$25.00 will, I hope, pay some of the postage for all these years.

Again many thanks for mailing the Octofoil and I pray that God will be good to your membership.

**A.T. 47th**  
GEORGE REMALEY  
Box 437 - A Rd. 1  
Natrona Hgts., Pa. 15065

Just a line to tell you I am fed up with the way our Veterans are being shortchanged by those phony Veterans in Washington.

I wrote a letter to Richard S. Schweiker and told him the veterans should be honored and that Carter needs the veterans and will always have veterans. I hope he is remembering how he short-changed them.

I also told him every veteran at sixty years of age should get a pension of \$100.00 a month even if he has a million or not he is still a veteran.

P.S. Their making heros of everyone except the veterans who deserve to be remembered.

**Co. I. 39th Inf.**  
J.C. DAWSON  
P.O. Box 622  
Decatur, Texas 76234

Here I am again. I've been looking over the pictures of the reunion hi-lites in the July-August Octofoil and I would like to ask Mickey Bruno if he was a Medic for I Company. And if he was the same Bruno that got wounded in his hands. If he is, I would sure like to hear from him.

After my last letter, I got a phone call from Eugene Albright, New Jersey. I wrote him and he never answered. He was supposed to go to the Reunion.

Well, I'll close. Hope to hear from Bruno, and will be looking for the next issue of the Octofoil. I enjoy reading it so much.

**Cannon Co. 60th Reg.**  
OSCAR RICHARDS

467 Sharon Drive  
Wayne, Pa. 19087

Enclosed please find two photos, taken during my recent trip to Drubrovnik, Yugoslavia with the Ford (Motorcraft) Co. Wallace and Madeline Bunn from Gloversville, N.Y. are in the picture with us. Wally is a former member of L. Co. of the 60th Regiment and I am a former member of Cannon Co. 60th Regiment. Wally works as service parts manager of the Jones Motor Co. (Ford) in N.Y. (Gloversville). I do printing for Al's Auto store in Dunellen, N.Y. which gave me the opportunity of meeting a former member of the 9th on the trip - sponsored by Ford Motor Co., the service department of Ford. I am sorry I did not attend the Memorial Mass at Father Connors' Church this year. I was Chairman of the Local D.A.V. Banquet in Morristown, Pa. on that evening, November 3, 1979. Give my (our) Wally and myself, regards to all the men of the 9th Inf. Following is a little bit of info in reference to our trip to Dubrovnik. The scenery is much better than the food. Dubrovnik — the fascinating city of Dubrovnik is nestled at the foot of Mt. Srdj, a promontory overlooking the Riviera of the Dalmatian Coast. It's medieval squares, lanes, monasteries, palaces and museums, the narrow cobbled streets lined with houses, green shuttered against the sun and offset by their coral tiled roofs, are completely enclosed by the mighty walls. The history of Dubrovnik lends itself to the ages. The Byzantine, Greek, and Italian cultures have intermingled to give Dubrovnik a uniqueness found nowhere else in the world. The smiling faces of the happy people make visitors want to get to know them, as the Yugoslavian people are among the friendliest in the world.

**MRS. HENRY C. BERTRAM**  
(Evelyn)  
95 Central Park Terrace  
Franklin, Ma. 02038

I received the magazine and was so pleased (you took my address in Worcester). In the Mail Call there was a letter from a George Waldron who was in my husband's battalion, 376 A.A.A.

I am enclosing my dues and donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of my husband Henry C. Bertram.

**Co. G. 39th Inf.**  
RICHARD SCHAFER  
108 Barley Drive  
Stephen City, Va. 22655

I am not sure when my dues are due so I will pay my membership now. At the present time I live about eight miles south of Winchester, Va. So, I see one of the men who was in Co. G. 39th. He lives in Winchester and has a clothing store in Winchester. It is Jim Keller. Jim and I have had several nice visits also, we have lunch together once in awhile.

When I got to Winchester I usually drop in and say hello to Jim. I was down at Mount Jackson, Va. to have some dental work done and I got to see Norman Funkhouser. It was sure good to see Norman. He is the manager of a restaurant at one of the motels in Mt. Jackson. It had been thirty years since I had seen Norman. Well Dan, I would like to hear from Joe Saukon or Budstuck or anyone who was in Co. G. 39th. I know it has been a long time since I was in the 9th. Well, I guess I will close for this time. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and it will be here before long. So long for now.

**Co. B. 47th Inf.**  
MR. & MRS. PAT J. MORANO  
2208 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, PA. 17201

Enclosed is our copy for the coming Octofoil. Many thanks for the kind words in your note to me in sending the Life Membership Card. We had a good time seeing all the gang once again, Worcester. We sure hope that we will be returning for these services again. There's only one Fr. Connors! Thanks Dan also for the decals and the Reunion Journal.

Ann and I wish you and Marie and the family a Very Merry Christmas and a Most Prosperous New Year. Keep well Dan!!!

**Co. F. 47th**  
EDWARD J. HOPKINS  
110 Hollywood Avenue  
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

Enclosed is a piece about Doc Copleman that was in today's New Brunswick Daily Home News.

I see Doc at the Rutgers games as he is team physician, as well as a highly regarded physician here in Central Jersey.

I received a note from Bill Buemi last week. His lovely wife, Mickey, had been ill preventing both of them from attending the festivities in Fort Lauderdale. They both had been looking forward to making the reunion.

That same night I called Stan and Gloria Putt to inquire why they weren't in Florida this past July. Since they had been on an extended vacation in the Sunshine State in April, they decided to spend that week at the Jersey Shore. We of F Company missed their company, and I was relieved to learn that their absence was not due to an illness or some such mishap.

Regards to all.

**MRS. PAUL S. PLUNKETT**  
286 Zimpfer Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43206

Thanks so much for sending me the beautiful program book and the Octofoil. I miss being with you all but my health does not permit me to travel so far, but my heart is always with you all.

Regards to all and Happy Holidays. P.S. I thought you would like to have this picture, taken in Worcester, when Glen Moore was president.

**Co. F. 47th Regt.**  
JOSEPH AYLES  
16 Old Sawmill Road  
Trumbull, Conn. 06611

Small world, my wife and I have been spending the first week of November in Miami Beach for the last three years, this year I met Ken Kalin at the Thunderbird, he is the Reservation Manager, a ninth man from June of 1941 small world.

In the October issue of Octofoil FCO-60th had a group photo. Back in late November 1944 CO. F. 47th had a photo taken similar to that, ours was taken in Eschweiler anyone having a copy who would care to have copies made would be thanked and reimbursed. I was with F Co. from October 1944 to April 1945, got hit and came back in late June. We were stationed in Dachau and I would like to hear from anyone that remembers that time period.

Enclosed are dues for three more years.

**F. Co. 47th Inf.**  
RODGER E. ALSGAARD  
Pres. Michigan Chapter  
2834 Wynes Street  
Saginaw, Mi. 48602

Just a few lines to advise that I was duly elected President, of the Michigan Chapter of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, at a meeting held December 8th at the Alger-Hoffman Post 393 VFW Detroit, Michigan.

I look forward to a good year and trust that all Chapters and the Association have the same.

If not before, I will look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C.

May the New Year find us enjoying peace and prosperity.

**39th Inf.**  
ROGER VUILLEUMIER  
68 Hartsdale Ave.  
Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530

I was very much interested to read in Al Orletti's letter that Art Schmidt had visited the 9th Division out at Fort Lewis Wash. Didn't realize that they were still activated. I remember after the war they came back to Ft. Reilly, Kansas. Always wondered why they didn't go back to Ft. Bragg. I joined the 9th in the Spring of 1941, 39th Reg. and left there in October, 1944. A few years ago in February, on the way to Florida, going by Fayetteville, my wife and I went over to Ft. Bragg. I found the old 9th Division area and rode all around. It was like a "ghost town". That's why I wondered why the 9th didn't come back there? Remember after we went overseas the 82nd Airborne moved in, after the war they came back to Bragg and I saw where they have their gun area, out by Chicken Road.

The 9th is a great Division and I am proud to have been a member of it. Don't get down to any meetings, as I work late, out here in Westchester but like to support the Association all I can. Don't know anybody that was with the 9th, out here.

Keep up the good work.  
All the very best.

**47th Inf.**  
PAULA BAKO  
5275 Monroe Ave. Apt. 7  
San Diego, Ca. 92115

George is coming along fine. So far they have not found any trace of cancer and that is a good sign. He is still going through tests and they take 2 x-rays everyday as his lungs are not clearing the way they want them to. He is in good spirits. Send everyone our regards and God Bless you all. Tell his friends to drop him a line.

**39th Inf. Co. M.**  
ANTHONY CARMECI  
Old Minisink Road  
Barryville, N.Y. 12719

Writing this after a pleasant and unbelievable weekend. Pleasant because everything was so well coordinated and the weather turned great, and unbelievable the way those parishoners go all out for their Pastor and the Ninth Division men. I couldn't help but marvel at the efficiency and positive attitude of those people. It was truly an unforgettable experience. My only disappointment as with the conventions and N.Y. socials I attended was the lack of 39th Inf. men and especially Co. M.

It was a good feeling to see Benny Murrel again as well as others I met. Of course, my C.P. partners (Art and Helen Clark) helped make this a memorable affair as well as being our hosts at their home for two evenings.

We are looking forward to another company reunion in the future hoping that all who attended could bring another company member so as to bolster our affair.

I must add Dan, that you looked great as usual and for sure haven't lost your gift for the spoken word.

I would also like to comment on the memorial service which I feel was done in great taste and I'm sure that those who left us could, with us, be proud of those moments.

I am enclosing photo taken this past August at my place in Barryville, N.Y. All Co. M. 39th men L to R Jimmy Shaw, Art Clark, myself and Nick Asperger.

P.S. That Father Connors is the greatest.

**39th Inf.**  
N. ANDROVICH  
68 Greenwood Dr.  
N. Babylon, N.Y. 11703

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the best of health and the good things in life. Me, it seems that it gets harder and harder to attend our functions. I do try to keep in touch and see how the boys are doing. My regards to all. May we enjoy the rest of our days. Take care.

**Div. Hqs.**  
WILLIAM B. CARDOZA, SR.  
17 Jones Terrace No. 3  
Stoughton, Mass. 02072

My wife Sally and I had a real nice time at the Memorial Services in Worcester, Mass.

The food really was super and plenty. The Sunday's Mass also was wonderful.

I enjoyed getting in line with the troops. A wonderful turnout. Will try to attend the convention in D.C. God willing.

Wishing everybody in the Association a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**36th Div.**  
BEN E. CURTIS  
PO Box 98-322 South Main  
Ducanville, Tx. 75116

I am writing as a member of the 36th Division, doing research on the Military Divisions that captured high ranking personalities of Hitler's Germany.

I understand the 9th Infantry Division captured General Karl Wilhelm and General Von Schlieberg. I would appreciate any information, names, newsletters who may be familiar with the above captures.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

**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.**

**D.C. REUNION**  
**JULY 17, 18, 19,**



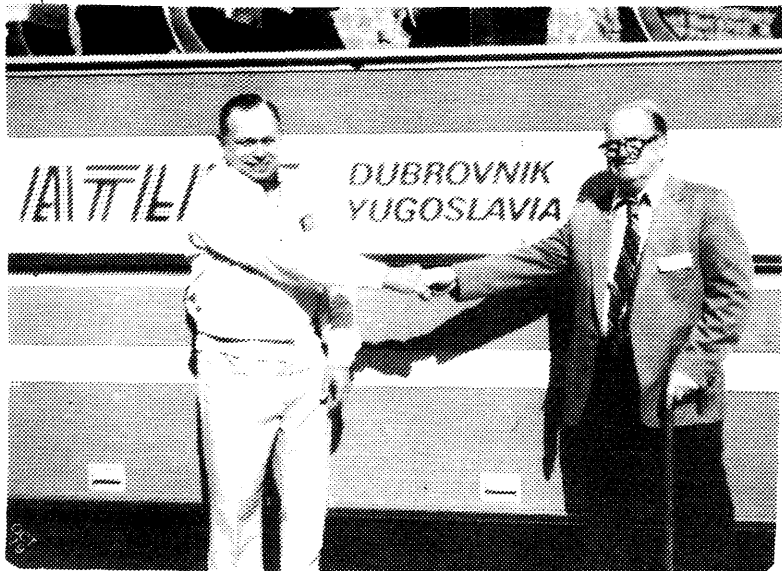




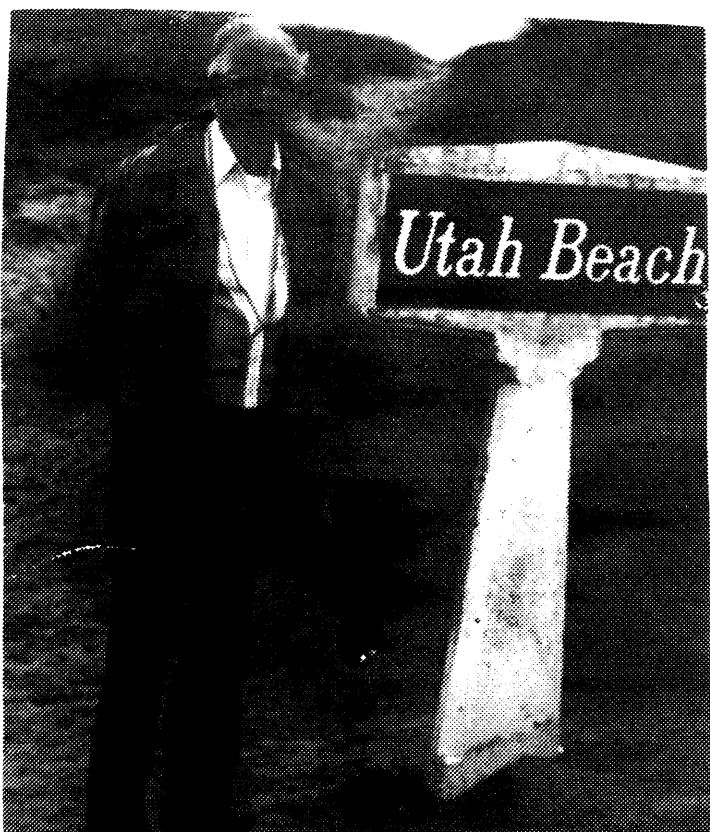
Members of the 15th Engineers at the Florida reunion - (l-r seated) Mrs. Verna Soprano, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Santos, Jim Tomasso, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Newhart. Standing - Tony Soprano, Steve Dobrino, Mr. and Mrs. George Bundza.



Milton Hacker sends this picture of General and Mrs. Edwin Randle chatting with former Raiders Herman Seibel and Evan (Red) Thompson of Company K at the Banquet in Lauderdale.



Oscar Richards (60th Can Co) and Wally Bunn (co L-60th) are shown about to board a bus on their tour of Yugoslavia.



Ken Yennie is pictured on Utah Beach last year when he revisited the Normandy countryside. Ken was with Company F 47th Infantry.

#### FOLLOWS OWN ADVICE

Dr. Hyman Copleman former Surgeon of the 47th Infantry, now living in New Brunswick, New Jersey recently underwent a quadruple bypass on his heart. Eddie Hopkins of Company F 47th sent the following story from his local newspaper.

#### QUADRUPLE BYPASS:

When Dr. Hyman Copleman, New Brunswick physician, sent Rutgers football coach Frank Burns to St. Luke's Hospital in Houston, Texas, a year ago for a heart bypass operation, he never dreamed he would be undergoing the same type of surgery himself.

The doctor returned last week from the famous Dr. Denton Cooley hospital with a quadruple bypass that he has been assured is a complete success.

Copleman says, "It is an amazing place, as is the response from cardiac patients from all over the world who have been beating a path to St. Luke's Hospital since 1954."

The doctor laments the fact that prior to 1974, millions of people with heart disabilities never had a chance of survival. A medical practitioner for more than 40 years, Copleman is in a position to appreciate the value of the bypass technique.

Now, as one of the hundreds of New Brunswick area patients of Dr. Cooley, Copleman personally knows the joy of extended life.

After surgery, Copleman accepted Cooley's invitation to observe the bypass procedure from close-up. He was greatly impressed.

It was not until he returned home that Copleman realized how concerned his own patients and friends were about his progress.

"Literally, I've been swamped with get-well cards and telephone messages from people who learned that I had taken time out from practice to let someone else tinker with my heart. I'll never be able to catch up with the mail, but I want to assure everyone that it is great to be well again. I am humbly grateful for the feelings they have expressed."

As for Rutgers football, with which he has been identified as team physician dating back 40 years, Copleman says: "I'll have to write this season off, but I hope to get an early start on the basketball campaign."

An unexpected pleasure awaited the doctor when he checked into St. Luke's Hospital. Assigned to him for anesthesia preparation for the surgery was the chief of Cooley's staff, Dr. Arthur Keats.

It marked the first meeting in many years for Keats and Copleman, who spent their boyhood together in New Brunswick's Third Ward neighborhood.

## D.C. REUNION JULY 17, 18, 19, 1980

When we are young,  
we are slavishly employed in  
procuring something whereby we  
may live comfortably when  
we grow old; and when we are  
old, we perceive it is  
too late to live as we proposed.  
ALEXANDER POPE



The townpeople of Schevenhutte, Germany are shown leaving their homes which were shelled by the Germans in an attempt to dislodge the strong foothold gained by the 47th Infantry.

#### Continued

#### First Allied Unit

Relentlessly driving forward, the 39th reduced 11 more pillboxes after a day of bitter fighting. As the 39th moved forward, the 47th Infantry became the first Allied unit to pierce completely the Siegfried Line when it cut through the maze of enemy fortifications at Schevenhutte. This action aided greatly in the capture of Stolberg and Aachen, as it cleared the southern approaches to these German strongholds.

Plans of 19 September called for regrouping the 39th and 60th Combat Teams, and retention of the 47th Infantry in its positions defending the right flank of the Corps — from the north, northwest, and northeast. The Monschau-Konzen area, on the Division southern flank, was held by the newly organized Task Force Tinscher.

In the battle-scarred town of Roetgen, Archbishop Francis J. Spellman gave Communion to men of the Ninth Infantry Division on 20 September. It was the first church service held for American troops in Germany.

Defense of the Siegfried line stiffened. The enemy brought up every available reinforcement and attempted to regain his lost positions. Despite his willed resistance, despite his bitter contesting of each fortified position, the Ninth Division Line was strengthened and inched forward. Pillboxes continued to be reduced — prisoners continued to be captured.

#### Welcome Planes

Welcome, indeed, were the planes which flew over the 39th Infantry on 22 September 1944, for they were on their way to bomb enemy installations at Bickerath. The AAA-O men had pushed forward, destroying fortifications in the Rollesbroich, Lammersdorf, Paustenbach area, but so strong became enemy resistance that an air mission was called.

On the northeast flank, German infantry launched the strongest counter-attack of the breach against the 3rd Battalion of the 47th Infantry. Using intense fire power, and threatening to flank and destroy the line of communications, enemy units over-ran a portion of the Blue Battalion area.

Artillery and infantry reinforcements rushed on the line. The Raiders furiously counter-attacked, driving back the Jerry push. Surveys showed that enemy casualties had been high. In the town of Schevenhutte, alone, 135 Germans of the 48th Inf. Regt. died for their fuhrer!

German artillery continued to shell Schevenhutte, in an effort to dislodge American troops. Midst falling rubble that was once a town, both the 47th Infantry and the church across the street from Cafe von Bernhard Stiel stood defiant against the rain of death.

#### Tenaciously Defended

Pillboxes continued to be tenaciously defended, both from within the fortifications themselves, and from field positions thrown up in their vicinity. Growth of all sorts covered the concrete, which bore witness to the fact that these emplacements had been little used during the German Era of Domination. But, this natural camouflage aided the defense of the line, in coordination with roadblocks — covered by machine gun and artillery fire.

So well defended was one pillbox that it required artillery, anti-tank rockets, 24 pounds of dynamite, 18 Teller mines, and 400 pounds of TNT to force its 38 occupants to surrender . . . and this only after 12 hours of incessant pounding.

The end of September was characterized by rough fighting and an effort on the part of the enemy to contest bitterly and counter-attack each pillbox objective taken by the Ninth Division. He used a stubborn pillbox-by-pillbox defense, supported by high velocity fire from tanks and self-propelled weapons.

Division coordination was effected with the bombers of the AAF in clearing a route of attack toward Bickerath. Heavy artillery and mortar fire pounded the fortifications in front of the onrushing 39th, while the 60th Combat Team made a diversionary attack. As usual, the Germans countered, but the AAA-O repulsed their effort.

#### SALUTE

Throughout the attack on the Siegfried, the 15TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION performed a magnificent job in the destruction of pillboxes. With dyanmite strapped to their backs, the Engineers were in the thick of the fight. Using flame-throwers, the 15th forced early surrender of emplacements — thus saving the lives of many infantrymen.

Over mine fields, where every other step might mean certain death, the 15th lost its men clearing the way for others. Sometimes this one battalion lost as many men, daily, as an entire regiment of infantry did. Although not authorized the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Engineers know that their buddies with the crossed rifles felt mighty happy to have them as fighting partners!

As the advance against the Siegfried became more difficult, supplies began to catch up with VII Corps. Through careful planning, a sufficient amount of gasoline, food and ammunition piled up — for a large scale attack. Something was in the air!

Continued next issue

The fool wanders, the  
wise man travels.  
THOMAS FULLER



## MAIL CALL

REV. EDWARD T. CONNORS  
Immaculate Conception Rectory  
353 Grove Street  
Worcester, Mass. 01605

Dear Dan,

Thank you for all the great things you do for the 9th Infantry Division Association - and also thanks to your lovely wife, Marie. I am especially grateful for the plaque presented to me at the dinner last Sunday.

Again, we had a great crowd and wonderful spirit. I am grateful to the gang for coming year after year to our Memorial Service and get-together. Even though I shall have no place to bring the troops next fall, I intend to be with you and the gang in Washington.

Thanks for everything. God bless.

15 Engrs.  
RONALD MURPHY  
44 Strawberry Lane  
Scituate, Ma. 02066  
Father Connors' 35th Memorial Mass was certainly a wonderful and inspiring weekend. We owe so much thanks and gratitude to the dedicated servant of God. What an honor and privilege it is for all of us to be listed as part of his family.

Somehow, it just wouldn't be fitting and proper to let such a beautiful remembrance of our beloved dead come to an end. I know for certain something will be worked out for next November. I realize the format of the weekend will have to change for there is no way that we can ever hope to match the generosity and kindness of the parishoners of the Immaculate Conception Church.

I know we can't say too much about the 1981 Reunion until the 1980th becomes a thing of the past. However, I did want to inform you that the dates of June 27th, 28th and 29th were secured at Dunfey's in Hyannis. Looking forward with great anticipation in working as part of the group that will make this reunion an experience long to be remembered.

Wishing you, Marie and the family a very, happy Thanksgiving.

Service Co. 60th Inf.  
PAUL DRUMMOND  
122 Pier D  
Naples Land Yacht Harbor  
2801 Plam Street  
Naples, Florida 33942

I certainly enjoyed the 34th Fort Lauderdale Reunion. Have also enjoyed the 33rd at Philadelphia. Am looking forward to the one in Washington in 1980.

Effective October 15, 1979 I am moving and would like the Octofoil and membership card sent to the above address.

Hope to see Mike Deresh in Pinellas Park on my way South.

D. Co. 60th  
JAMES CANADA  
P.O. Box 434  
Shannon, Ga. 30178

Here are my dues for 1980 would have sent them earlier but it slipped my mind. I have been pretty busy this summer. I worked in my woodwork shop pretty regular, after my hand got well. I see some of my old buddies from D. Co. 60th letters in the Octofoil and enjoy reading them very much. I read the Octofoil from front to back every one I get. Keep up the good work.

1st Bn. 60th Inf.  
RALTON M. SPEERS  
5 Patricia Avenue  
Albany, N.Y. 12203

Enclosed please find dues for Ralton Speers. Could you also send us the address of Capt. Alfred Vianni. He was with Ralton overseas during the war. He now lives in Galveston, Texas. He called here this Fall after having read about his stroke in the Octofoil. So he must be getting the Octofoil and be a member. We would appreciate it. Would like to write to him. Thanks.

P.S. Ralton is home now and improving. Cannot go back to work until Spring. We were sorry to miss all the 9th activities this year. Hopefully will see you in D.C. in 1980. Have a nice holiday.

Co. A 15th Engrs.  
EDWARD RICKERT  
4912 W. 156th Street  
Oak Forest, Ill. 60452

Well Dan it's that time of the year again, to send you my dues.

I am enjoying my retirement after 38½ years with the railroad as signal construction foreman. And the wife and I are enjoying our home in a new neighborhood.

So far I heard from three of my old buddies from Co. A. 15th Engrs. Howard Homer from Pennsauken, N.J., Earl Hanna, Richmond, Texas and Augie Rintalo, Butte, Montana. I expect to hear from quite a few more.

Best wishes to all.

60th Inf  
REV. W.A. TUDOR  
10834 Zion Rd. N.W.  
Thornville, Ohio 43076

I found your name in the D.A.V. Magazine and thought I'd drop you a line. I was with the 60th Reg. 1st Bn. Co. D from Ft. Bragg, N.C. We landed in Port Lyautey, North Africa November 8, 1942. I went all the way through Africa was wounded at Kasserine pass and rehabilitated at Connastee, Oran, North Africa, then was assigned to 813th Sig. Service Co. for the duration of the war. What regiment were you with? According to the D.A.V. Magazine I see the 9th Div. is having a reunion. I'd very much like to be there if it is possible. So please send me the details. I am a member and Chaplain in Chapter 86 New Lexington, Ohio. I also am an Ordained Minister but am now on permanent and total disability. Sure would like to hear from some of the ex G.I.'s that were in the 9th. Write, tell me about yourself. It's been a long time since that landing in North Africa, hasn't it? Well, here's hoping for the best to you and yours. May God bless you and yours. From one that was in the best infantry division in W.W. II.

47th Inf.  
HAROLD V. SCHRAMM  
497 Boulevard  
New Milford, New Jersey 07646  
Enclosed is check for 1980 dues. Please forward card. Good health and good luck, regards to all.

RUTH VICTOR

East Point, Ga.

Chaplain-Ladies Auxiliary

Thank you so much for a great reunion. You and those who planned many months ahead worked so hard and seem to receive so little praise.

By special request from several ladies desiring copies of a little poem that I closed our meeting with, I'd like to ask you to please print this in the next Octofoil. I'll write this on a separate page; and on behalf of all our ladies and also my family — Thank you again.

"It's Up to You"

Have you made someone happy, or made someone sad, What have you done with the day that you had?

God gave it to you to do just as you would, Did you do what was wicked or do what was good?

Did you hand out a smile, or just give a frown, Did you lift someone up, — or push someone down? Did you lighten some load, or just progress empede, Did you look for a rose, or just gather a weed?

What did you do with your beautiful day, God gave it to you, Did you throw it away?

BETTY RIZZO RACCOMBALI  
11201 S.W. 55St. Box 17  
Lake Haven Est. A-13  
Miramar, Fla. 33025

Thanks very much for keeping me posted on the 9th's doings. Enclosed find books and check.

We won't be up for Christmas this year, as we're going on a cruise including New Year's Eve.

Give my love to all the gang. Tell Vita Fazio I said to stay home once in awhile, I've tried to call her but never get her home.

Happy holiday to all, see you in May.

Keep the mail coming.

Co. B. 15th Engrs.  
JOHN MUTCHKO  
78 Summit Ave.

Waldwick, N.J. 07433

Here it is after Thanksgiving and Christmas is just around the corner. Enclosed is check covering the chances and my next three year membership. Regards and have a very Happy Holiday to you and all the members of the 9th Division. P.S. I really enjoy reading the Octofoil, sorry I don't have any news to report.

JAY P. ROLLER, MC.  
14 Green Wing Teal Road  
Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928

Regret deeply that I was unable to attend the meeting this summer as I had a previous commitment for that date. I was thinking of you even though I was unable to be present in person.

Enclosed are the dues for the next three years. P.S. I thoroughly enjoy my retirement.

Service Co. 39th Inf.  
RAYMOND MURRAY  
113 Noel Drive  
Centereach, N.Y. 11720

I recently moved from 89-13-201st Street, Hollis, N.Y. to 113 Noel Drive, Centereach, N.Y. 11720.

Please change my address so I will receive any future correspondence. Thank you. P.S. Please see that my Octofoil is sent here also. Thank you.

John J. Clouser  
PO Box 807  
Crystal River, Fl 32629

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087.

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15th Engr. Bn.  
A.T. FOREST  
Apt. 14 H  
50 Glenbrook Road  
Sound View Towers  
Stamford, Conn. 06902

Will be relocating to Salt Lake City in the Spring, having established my office there in early December. Decided to shelve planned early retirement in Florida for a new career as Senior Vice-President — Mining Operations for Thomi Steel Corp. and will concentrate on coal, copper and gold with related railroading.

With best regards.

JOHN THORNTON  
P.O. Box 3782  
Mose Mart Sta.  
Chicago, Ill. 60654

Well here it is that time of the year again, where does the time go? Do hope this Holiday card finds you in good health, and that things are going real good for you. I am doing pretty good for an Ole Goat of 71 plus, getting nasty and mean, but that's 2B expected when one gets my age!

Glad that the Florida Convention was a good one. I thought I may get down that way, as I have relatives and friends all over the State, but I didn't.

Sure hope that the coming year will bring a permanent world peace to all nations and peoples. I guess this is impossible? I think Carter and most of the past Presidents have done the best they can, considering National and World conditions the way they have been or are. I know I wouldn't want the job, even if I was a first class politician.

Must sign off for now, so keep real well, hope you and yours, as well as all the members of the 9th and their families have a real nice HOLIDAY SEASON.

D Co 9th Med.

HERB STERN  
12427 Oldgan Drive  
Houston, Texas 77027

Enclosed my 1980 dues. Also donation toward Scholarship Fund. Please also mail decals. Sorry I could not make Florida Reunion — Hope to see you in Washington in 1980.

My best wishes to you and all my buddies for the New Year and the coming Holidays.

47th Inf.  
GEORGE BERDAY  
100 N.E. 6th Ave. Lot 286  
Homestead, Florida 33030

I must be getting old. The Reunion was 60 miles away and I forgot all about it until the day after it was over.

There sure are a lot of the old ninth living in Florida now. I got a letter from Joe Williams about a Chapter in Florida. I hope it works. Sending in dues for another year.

D.C. REUNION  
JULY 17, 18, 19,  
1980

Co. E. 47th  
MILTON A. HACKER  
809 S.E. 5th Court  
Deerfield Beach, Fla. 33441

Well now that the reunion was such a great success, I and my wife Betty really enjoyed the fellowship of our comrades of the past.

The Memorial Service was so impressive, it gave me goose-flesh as each spoke of those passed on. The fellowship in the C-P of "F" Co. 47th impressed, especially when I saw Capt. Smith and Marty Berman.

We enjoyed the fish-fry also the great dinner on Saturday night, that was some get-together. The meal was fantastic.

All I can say, now, write me soon.

9th Q.M.  
LE ROY F. DREIFUS  
1531 Meadow Dale Drive  
Clearwater, Fla. 33516

Enclosed please find check for next three years, giving credit to Washington, D.C. Chapter. I wrote you a letter explaining that my wife had passed away this past June and I was in a retirement home hoping you would print this in your paper. No such luck. Then I get Christmas cards with Mr. & Mrs. which could have been avoided especially since my eyes are so bad.

60th Inf  
JOHN M. MCCHESENEY, JR.  
P.O. Box 356  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Dear Dan:  
I did not expect that my letter would be in the Octofoil so soon, but I do appreciate your putting it in there, but there are a couple of things to which I would like to call your attention. One is the fact that you listed my address at the top of the letter as "Waynesboro, Pa.". This should have been Waynesboro, Virginia 22980. However, I noted that it did give the correct address of my office as Waynesboro, Virginia.

I have written to Matt Urban and received a lengthy personal letter from him in which he outlined his many activities and thanked me for my interest in seeing that he received this much deserved Congressional Medal of Honor.

In the meantime I have received a call from the Pentagon asking me for information, which I gladly gave them. I also went back in my old Army mementos and found a picture, which was taken by Russell Nelson, a man in my company, of Matt Urbanowitch being worked on by the First Aid at a place which I do not recall. However, I do know that I am in the picture and can identify myself in it. I am enclosing a copy of this picture to you, along with the details which Russell put on the back of it when he sent it to me. So you see I have actual proof of my being present at one of the times Matt was wounded.

I do hope that the Ninth Division Association will do all in its power to assist Matt in acquiring this distinct honor.

Continued on Page 6

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE Feb. 20th.

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