11-1-1979

The Octofoil, November/December 1979

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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HUNDREDS RESPONDED

I think that it was the Christographer movement that meant all that "a Virgin that prays together, stays together."

The new Mass which is to be offered for the Octofoil near the start of The Mass may be a mile or more to the Church but the instructions given us at Bragg in 1941-42 were forgotten by the 300 members some of the gang from Service 26F A as well as the class for their criticism and suggestions which will be available.

Tippie Plunkett sends this photo taken in Worcester on one of the mornings of the Memorial was constructed. At that time a Flag Pole was the site of the Memorial Services. The late Glen Shure, President of the association for that year, is shown holding the flag. The flag bearers that year were Congressmen Harold Donahue, Rev. Mgr. Anthony DeLauro and Father Pitzer M.J. of the Immaculate Conception Church, the present home of Fr. Pitzer who has 20+ years in the Navy and Canadian militia, went to the top of the hill and gave up the rat race. How's the air up there?

This ceremony plain and simple yet to be held at the same time when all who are witnessing this ceremony pray together for the souls of our departed loved ones it is a time that will catch up to all of us. We may not be together for the souls of our family but we can join in our own way and at our own time conect to each other.

SOME TIME NEXT YEAR

The time is near now, for a day each November, this ceremony will be held at the same place in the same way. 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 sparse, grayer. The sentiments are the same and the ceremonies change only as much as they can.

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

"Put on a few pounds, Bill!"

"Sorry we're 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 to start in Fort Bragg, N.C. in 1941. The era was a time of strife, when a nation became a network of memories and emotions, coloring the tapestry of each man's life. There is nothing unique, unknown in life and feelings which will be highly decorated with media honors. Once discharged they took up the pursuits of life, nothing glamorous, survivors, homesteader. Joe, a good consciencious soldier said, "Never driven an ambulance."

"Pig" is a forklift built in 1941 has built of Harvard. Joe Mac, a former Boston salesman is retired veteran petal worker. Rusty, A Connecticut county boy sells insurance in a small town.

DEEPLY FEEL THE Grief when one of the survivors will never again join them. And so, to the convener and adjutants, they hesistate. One wants the company in a group photo, to show to the family home back. 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 those from the past, some testimonies of the past, they are moved only by the Memory of their friend.

Father Connors, now leans on a pood but very different from the pood hood that was his altar, in the same terrifying voice, the Irish tradition 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. Amen.

Nearby is Ford's Theater, where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. It is the place where President Lincoln ticked off the street, the house where he died. Older kids will like seeing money and coins at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, tourng the building and realizing its vastness.

Many bus tours run in Washington, and the new Metroway subway is worth riding just to see the Metro Convention Center, the sixth-largest in the U.S. only two giant palaces, Arlington Cemetery and Mount Vernon.

The Association is grateful to the following members who remembered the Memorial:

Francis Russo
Frank D'Antonio
Frank Miele
Esket Baxter
John Thorton
Frank DiVincenzo and Andy SINNER in memory of his father Henry Bertram

HISTORICAL SITES - Head first north on M-14 and turn left on M-14A to Washington D.C. (5 miles)

There drop by Rainbow House, the headquarters of the Alexandria Towson Coalition (221 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314) for a tour of orientation and free brochures on everything from restaurants to the White House. For their discount ticket to park on the street, drivers do not leave without having $2.75 parking permit. Store open 10 Monday to Friday, 10-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday.

Stay at the National Harbor Inn (021 South Washington, 9 to 5) 

You can enter the Metro Convention Center and take in all the places in addition to the places that they do not have in your state today and furnish all in period antiques.

Tip Of The Hat

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The Octofoil

Volume XXXIV Number 8

November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September-October, November-December, January 1980

120th Meeting National Board of Governors

The 120th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held in Worcester, Massachusetts on November 7, 1979. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. by Vice-President Vincent J. Guglielmino in the absence of President Robert DeSandy. Attending the meeting were Martin Krasovetz, Elias Hopkins, Dave Gelman, John Boedewijk, John Closer; Fred O'Donovan, Sal Trapani, Bill Bongiorno. Also attending were Past Presidents From Mohr and Ron Murphy, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, Treasurer Thomas Boyle and Michigan member Jim Westfall.

Vice-President Guglielmino asked the members to stand for a moment of silence in memory of the departed members of the Ninth. Upon a motion duly made by John Closer 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 O'Donovan 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 $3584.00 had been realized from the reunion.

Upon a motion duly made by John Closer and seconded by Dave Gelman it was voted to:

Accept the treasurer’s 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 Yorks will hold their party on December 9th with Philly-Delaware Valley and Hilmon Chapter 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 Boedewijk and seconded by Bill Bongiorno it was voted to:

Adjourn the meeting at 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Quinn, National Secretary

D.C. Reunion

July 17, 18, 19, 1980

REQUEST FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS

FOR 9h Infantry Division Association

September 9

9th Infantry Division Association, Inc.

383 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

July 17-19th

Reservation Cut Off Date — July 1

Room Rates $36.00 for single

Arrival Date — Departure Date

$46.00 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 $25.00

Quarter Page $20.00

Half Page $35.00

Eighth Page $10.00

Boosters: $2.00 (includes name and unit)

Make checks payable to the 9th Infantry Division Reunion and send to:

Salvatore Trapani

4722 Wyoming Road

Rockville, Md. 20852

Deadline for Reunion Journal: July 1st

Taps

Sounded

We regret to announce the passing of Doris Pitts wife of Thomas Pitts and Mrs. LeRoy F. Dreden. May they rest in peace. To their loved ones we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

*** Ladies Auxiliary Members

OF

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

I would like to become a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Enclosed in check or money order for $2.00 for one year. Please mail my membership card to:

Name

City

State

** Ladies Auxiliary Membership Application

Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Association,

43 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

Enclosed please find $100.00 dues for:

Name

Street Address

City

State

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Enclosed please find $100.00 dues for:

Name

Street Address

City

State

Battery (Company) 

10th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year

$10.00

Associate Membership Scholarship Fund

$3.00

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Hands of the Memorial Foundation of Crystal River, Florida

$50.00

Life Membership

$200.00

Veterans of the Ninth

$500.00

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TO "B" OR NOT TO "B")

TO "B" (47th) OR Not to "B")...Here we are at the end of another BECO Reunion and another year of BECO buddies and their families. Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our BECO folks. May you all have a most blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

NEWSPAPER DUTY

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 "BECO" world.

The old boys are getting along fine, but the memories are not caught up to when they come to marching. Their desire to see some of the old gang brings them to a new mark of life. Most of all they want to remember in the peace and quiet in Immaculate Conception Church, those who left us. We loved them on the beaches of Dessau.

One in particular moved from his home, rustic Caledonia State Park, to the OCTOFOIL signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. It is the OCTOFOIL signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. The OCTOFOIL is signed by Tom Kennedy from Chambersburg, Pa. 17201. 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Traveling down road of history

THE FINAL THRUST
The Story of the Ninth Infantry Division

In Germany
13 September 1944 to V-E Day

When the smoke of battle cleared, we were told, the American Army in Europe, observing the German Army had never seen before, had heard of the Ninth Infantry Division. Only during the D-Day invasion had the Ninth been released from censorship. Yet, in right-wing, anti-American, three armies: invasion, the Ist Infantrymen of the "selectored Ninth" fought on sams publicly, without credit for a major role in the defeat of the German Wehrmacht.

CLOSELY CENSORED

Evening the air closely censored, its regimental and its company teams frequently attached to other divisions and censorship, it seems, were effectively and seemingly forgotten, the Ninth United States Infantry Division stood toe-to-toe and slugged it out with the best Hitler had to offer in Germany: in France, Belgium, and Germany. Its task was to bridge the gap before the advancing Ninth.

The first four days of the Division's battlefront were briefly narrated in a broadcast issued directly from the Siegfried Line. 1314th Lieut. J. W. DesHarnais, The Ninth Division is published prior to the end of combat, it filed a comment that would remain in the mind of the soldier reminding the old-timers of past trials and hard battles. Too, it presented now, reformation, a fresh start, an glorious past to be upheld and advanced.

Today, in ever increasing numbers, the Ninth is finding new faith in its former order. The veteran doughboy has earned his right to peace and contentment in the States. To you, to whom we haven't yet entered the Ninth, therefore, we offer a challenge in the path of a fighting American team. And to you old-timers whose efforts, hopes, and dreams have made "World History" we humbly dedicate this book, a record of the battle in written in the blood of your comrades.

The Ninth Division fought in North Africa and Sicily, was one of the divisions which fought 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 north of France, the American 1st Army was in a race with time, against competing objectives, against the Siegfried Line - an attempt to reach the historic attack in the north of France, to capture the Siegfried Line before the advancing Ninth.

As the Germans continued to withdraw and destroy equipment, they employed scattered delays,泛滥, tanks, mortars and artillery in slowing the Ninth's operations.

Main routes, river crossings, and road centers were under heavy fire - an attempt to control 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. With the Ninth moving forward, news of the crossing was given as an order of the day. Artillery, tanks, and small bodies of infantrymen, tried to hold and to delay the Ninth as long as possible.

As this cold hour of early morning dawned over the German Frontier, the Ninth moved upon the area Elsen-Hoefgen, in line with an allied VII Corps attack to the east and northeast. Jerry had changed his delaying tactics to a smaller scale attempt at halting the advancing Ninth. Using mines, demoralized troops, and small bodies of infantrymen, he tried to give precious time for bringing more reinforcements into the Siegfried Line.

In a limited, once-and-done attack, infiltrating infantry of the Ninth was met with spirited German efforts to retake the wooded area southeast of Elsen. Artillery fire fell on Ovird, and heavy caliber fire interdicted the Umpken-Eibenbusch road.

While fighting was in progress, the Ninth Division started into a sweeping advance. -Louis A. Craig, 1314th Lieut. General J. Lawton Collins, Commanding 1st Corp

When night fell over the town of Dinant, Belgium, they were greeted by the sign "We have not waited in vain". -1314th Lieut. J. W. DesHarnais, The Ninth Division

Not Waiting in Vain

Tumors of American and German infantry and heavy firepower by nightfall, the Ninth Division had captured and fully organized. After; Allies attacked counterattack. Approaching enemy fortifications poured into the Wehrmacht. Although the majority of them had little combat experience, they were supported by artillery and permanent fortifications. Anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons rang their fortified zone.

Against this additional resistance, the 39th Combat Command of the 9th Division, supported by 150mm self-propelled guns, broke through the Dusseldorff's Teeth obstacles and reduced 1200 pions with infantry and mobile gun artillery. It was slow, steady progress, requiring considerable fortification.

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 the word: We're Gonna Hang 'em High Washing the Siegfried Line! But, the German Army wasn't stopping to do any washing - not just yet.

In the Eisenhosen area, a special task force, under Brig. Gen. Buchanan, the 39th Division Command, captured 150 men on 14 September. This area later figured prominently in Division operations, both as a rest center and a command Post.

Lous A. Craig, Commanding officer of the fighting team - 28 August 44 till V-E Day

While fighting was in progress, the Ninth Division started into a sweeping advance. -Louis A. Craig, Commanding officer of the fighting team - 28 August 44 till V-E Day

When the Ninth entered the town of Dinant, Belgium, they were greeted by the sign "We have not waited to be captured". -1314th Lieut. J. W. DesHarnais, The Ninth Division

LOUIS A. CRAIG

Feather leading officer of a fighting team - 28 August 44 till V-E Day

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NEWS

Biltmore gained a New Member.

APOLLOGIZE BEFORE HAND.

PRLY... She must have forgotten to mention anyone's name... and the 50-50 Club Raffle the committee for the hard work... liquid refreshment. Anyway, if I too much water... the name of our Jack Scully... to the members and guests who... I... who worked at the party. Maybe... shawl, was donated by Marge Schmidt... of bottles of whiskey. Arthur Schmid...

CHANGING THE SUBJECT.

MISSING.

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ILLINOIS MEMORIAL.

It was the beginning of the fall semester. We were happy to see the... inasmuch as they showed up with another one at the Chapter 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 allowed the use of their home after all. Each of the plans were made a raffle was held of two bottles of cheese donated by Gordon Anderson. One was won by the members of the Belmontes. Between theaffle at Grand Rapids and the meeting, the raffle ticket, the Illinois lottery was sold to one present.

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MANY GIFTS.

We missed seeing "doc" Hyland, Seelos, who passed away recently. There were... coat with his wife provide... of eggs, America. Al Ottel led the procession and worked at the drawing for prizes.

MEETING.

But it was because I had too much liquid refreshment. Anyway, if I forget to mention anyone's name... and the 50-50 Club Raffle the committee for the hard work... liquid refreshment. Anyway, if I... who worked at the party. Maybe... shawl, was donated by Marge Schmidt... of bottles of whiskey. Arthur Schmid...

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...and the Octofoil. I miss being with you all but my health does it...
**FOLLOW UP ADVISE:**

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

**QUADRUPLE BYPASS:**

When Dr. Hyman Coplenman, 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. Danon Cooley hospital with a quadruple bypass that he has been assured is a complete success.

Copleman says, “It’s an amazing place, as is the response from cardiac patients from all over the world who have been having 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 permits only the joy of extended life.

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

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

“I literally have 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 look after 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 that people have expressed.”

As for Rutgers football, with which he has been identified as team physician dating back 40 years, Coplenman says: “I’ll have to write this season off, but I want to make up for the losses by expressing the feelings that are prevalent.”

**Welcome to Pillboxes!**

The 47th Infantry and the church across their home which were shelled by the Germans in an effort to dislodge the strong foothold gained by the 47th Infantry.

**First Allied Unit**

Bleakly driving forward, the 39th Infantry and 15th Combat Teams, and retention of the 47th Infantry in its positions defending the right flank of the Corps — from the north, northeast, and northwest — the Monschau-Koettell area, on the Division southern flank, was held by the newly organized Task Force Tucher.

In the battle-scarred town of Boetgen, Air Corps, Francis J. Spelman gave Commission to one 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 its lost positions. Despite his skillful resistance, however, his bitter contesting of each fortified position, the Ninth Division Line was strengthened and inched forward. Planes continued to be reduced — prisoners continued to be captured.

**Utah Beach**

Oscar Richards (4th Can Co) and Wally Bunn (Co L-46th) are shown about to board a bus on their tour of Yugoslavia.

**D.C. REUNION**

**JULY 17, 18, 19, 1980**

When we are young, we are slavery employed in pursuing 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 FLEET**
Dear Dan,

Thank you again.

Meadow Dale Drive
47th
01605

I am grateful for the plaque last Sunday. I am grateful to the gang for coming and wonderful spirit. I am year after year to our Memorial REV. EDWARD T. CONNORS intend to be with you and the gang in Washington. I know we can’t say too much I know for certain something will change for there is no way that generosity and kindness of the parishioners of the Immaculate Conception Church. 1980th becomes a thing of the past. I know we can’t say too much we know that it did give the correct number of times the word “9th” was in the letter. 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. Some would like to hear from some of the ex G.I’s that were in the 9th. I write to tell you about myself. It’s been a long time since that landing in Normandy, hasn’t it? Well, here’s hoping it’s 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.

Best wishes to all.

JULY 17, 18, 19, 1980

D.C. REUNION

THE OCTOFOIL

RE: EDWARD T. CONNORS
Immaculate Conception Church
550 Grove Street
Worcester, Mass. 01605

Dear Dan,

Thank you for all the great things you do for the 9th Inf. Division Association and for all your love of our country. I am especially grateful that you asked me to present to you at the dinner last Sunday. Again, we had a great crowd and wonderful spirit. I am grateful to the gang for coming for our Memorial Service and to get together. Even though we shall no place to bring you back to New York, I intend to be with you and the gang for the winter.

Thanks for everything. God bless.

JAMES CANADA

12 Engs.
MORAL MURPHY
41 Strawberry Lane
Ronald Murphy Engrs.

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