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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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## The Octofoil, January/February 1980

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 today for the Octofoil

Volume XXXV Number 1

Jan-Feb 1980

## 26th Field

Gentlemen:

May you have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The New Year has appeared in New England in a manner unknown to many of us. The skiers are furious. Through January this area has been blessed with spring like weather. Today the thermometer registered 52 degrees. The golfers have taken their tools out of the moth balls and are again tramping the fairways. Hard to believe but it is true.

Most of northern New England is our Vacation area. This area depends on snow, lots of it, at this time of the year. Although all areas have snow making machinery it is of little use during this type of weather. So few trails are open that it is too costly for the operators to keep the shop open while waiting for business.

### Mailman Was Busy

As like past years, the mailman was very busy leaving Christmas greetings at my door. It is nice to hear from over 35 of the old gang. They all say that they are in good health, most still working and enjoying it.

Why does a corn farmer from Iowa move to Farmers Branch, Texas? Farmers Branch drove me to my Rand McNally. It wasn't too hard to find. In bold print I found it about 20 miles west of Dallas. And who is in Dallas? None other but our battery bugler, Dick Hill. In case that you have forgotten, the corn farmer is Keson Nosek. Dick was given a direct order to make a phone call or make a visit. He made the call and a promise to make a visit and full report.

Early in November Pergie became a grandfather for the first time. Like all grandfathers he is in cloud nine especially when it is a boy.

Alexander Henry Wilconolski alias Punchy, alias Wilcop was so busy checking parking meters in the Windy City that he forgot to send his annual Christmas greeting. So he did the next best thing. He used American Tel and Tel New Years Eve at 10:00 p.m. to wish me a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Thank You

Cline, Cortese, Hurn, Turner and Kepple are just a few of the 35 men who took time during the busy season to send the welcome greeting. Thank You. Remember Washington, D.C. this summer. Think Worcester for November. Have a good year.

Sincerely yours  
Joseph A. McKenzie  
95 Washington Avenue  
Waltham 54, MA 02754  
26th F.A.

A year or more ago the VA declared that a man reaching the age of 65 was declared totally disabled and may be entitled to compensation. The only problem for eligibility was that they attached an income limitation. I think that we are all over the limit. Give it a try.

## Past President's Message

Recently I was going over the Florida reunion and I remembered how interested the Fayetteville Chapter was about erecting a Monument or a Marker at the old 9th Div. area at Fort Bragg.

This would identify our presence from 1941-1942 at Fort Bragg where we trained for overseas Duty.

I did appoint a Committee from the Fayetteville Chapter who were doing some research work on this project and who were the ones who brought this to our attention. I think we should follow through because it does deserve consideration.

The 1982 reunion is a sight that has not yet been spoken for, as far as I know. It would be an Anniversary of 40 years since we left Fort Bragg, and a good time to have another Reunion at Fort Bragg and a good year for a Dedication. I hope that all members who are interested will write to the Octofoil and let their views become known. If a reunion is possible, early consideration should be given to the Fayetteville Chapter because this would give them time to complete their plans.

Yours in Comradship  
Francis K. Maher  
14 Davenport Street  
Worcester, Mass. 01610

## Tip Of The Hat

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

John Wilson in memory of Jack Scully

Luther Roush

Joseph McClintock

Irv. Terchak

Andrew Seasock

Eugene DeRosa

Rev. Edward T. Connors

We salute you.



Headquarters for the 1980 Reunion will be the Shoreham-American Hotel-Motel Washington, D.C.

Washington Chapter working on program for a reunion that will be long remembered by those who attend 1980 reunion. Committee takes over great Shoreham-American Hotel-Motel for July 17-19 dates.

The 35th annual reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association will convene July 17-19 in Washington, D.C. The troops will be headquartered in the Shoreham-American Hotel located at 2500 Calvert Street, N.W. This will mark the third time the association has met at this beautiful location. Those who attended the other two reunions will attest to this and especially the gang that attended the first reunion that was held at this hotel.

There is so much to do and sights to visit in the Nation's Capital and for the troops that want to stay around the hotel there's a large swimming pool for a cooling dip with tennis courts for the young at heart. The Shoreham-American is one of the finest meeting and convention centers in Washington, D.C. This 7-acre resort-estate located in wooded Rock Creek Park, secluded from the bustle of the city, yet just blocks from Washington's pulse points of activity.

Write to your buddies and tell them that you will be there on July 17-18-19th and would like to see them at the reunion.

No one would argue that the nation's capital has ever been known for its rooty-tooty night life. The little dinner party behind closed doors that Washingtonians favor, and Official Entertaining — the kind of homegrown stuff that results in an endless round of White House gatherings, charity balls, embassy receptions and political cocktail parties — were pretty much the sum total of this city's nighttime activity until recently.

For a visitor the choices were slim. Perhaps a concert at Constitution Hall, a drink at the hotel bar or a play at one of the two legitimate theaters. For very special occasions, they could don their best suits and taffeta dresses and head for one of the two hotels that offered ballroom dancing for a Lawrence Welk kind of evening. And, of course, there were always the movies.

Washington at night still cannot match the glitter of New York, the naughtiness of Paris or the sophistication of London. But the scene has slowly changed and now visitors who want to go out on the town after dark no longer have to sit in a lonely hotel room and sulk.

Georgetown, with its charming 18th and 19th-Century homes, brick sidewalks and narrow, tree-lined streets, blossomed first. Its one square mile is peppered with bistros, cafes and restaurants (at last count there were more than 40) offering everything from French to Vietnamese, Mexican and Afghan cuisines. Its two main streets, Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, are thick with shops, jazz clubs, singles bars and supper clubs. For the 11,000 people who live there, it is a mixed blessing. On weekends cars and crowds clog the streets and pavements well past midnight. Fortunately it can all be visited on foot.

## 40 YEARS IN NEWSPAPERS

Bob Dunn a former member of the 47th Infantry and associate Editor of the Regimentals paper "The Raider" recently had this story written about him in the Gloucester County Times (New Jersey). Charles Troccoli another member of the 47th sends this news.

SWEDESBORO — Robert Dunn, owner, publisher and editor of the New Town Press here, gives his reason for being a newsman more than 40 years this way: "It's in the blood, I guess. It certainly wasn't for the money. If you wanted that, you could always end up driving a truck or something."

His involvement with newspapers began in the mid 1930s when, as a Woodbury High School student, he was one of the Westville correspondents for the Woodbury Times. He also provided school activities coverage for what was then the Camden Courier. Dunn was a member of the school's printing club because even then he had the idea of owning his own paper one day and figured the experience would turn out to be advantageous.

After high school, he worked a year as a copy boy for the Philadelphia Record, beginning in 1936, and then spent two more years as a rewrite man. The newsroom was a place he had trouble staying away from during his off-duty time (an occupational hazard), trying to refine the skills for the job. Dunn was rewarded by "being put out on the streets" as a police reporter "working on hospitals, accidents, fires, shootings, you name it."

That ended in July 1941 when he was drafted. His specialty in the Army was working as part of a mortar squad. But one day Dunn spotted an announcement asking for volunteers with newspaper experience to start a regimental newspaper. To duck out of seeing a training film for the umpteenth time, he went to the recreation hall to find out more. Since he was the only man present with any experience, he was immediately appointed as the newspaper's editor.



Bill Cannales supplied us with a photo taken in Worcester at last years Memorial Service showing men of the 26th F.A. Back row l-r: Joe McKenzie, Henry Fry, Milton Parrott, John Murray, Joe Albanese, Ed Nelson, Dan Quinn who got in the photo with his banner. Front row l-r — John Quinn, holding the banner with John is Daniel Mazeika, Louis "Red" Truscello, Quintino Pergiovanni, John Babbitt, Elmer Roscoe, Henry Cappella, and on one knee is Evangelos Pernokas.

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

(Continued on page 4)

THE OCTOFOIL

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

National Officers

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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.

Subscription Postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as of October 1, 1980.

Volume XXXV Number 1 Jan-Feb 1980

Publication No. 402820

Scholarship  
Deadline Nears —  
March 15th

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.

★★★★★★

Taps  
Sounded

SOLDIER, REST! THY  
WARFARE O'ER,  
DREAM OF BAT-  
TLEFIELDS NO MORE;  
SLEEP THE SLEEP THAT  
KNOWS NOT  
BREAKING,  
MORN OF TOIL, NOR  
NIGHT OF WAKING ...  
FOR AT DAWNING TO  
ASSAIL YE,  
HERE NO BUGLE  
SOUNDS REVEILLE.  
Sir Walter Scott

Once again it is our sad duty  
to announce the passing of  
several "Old Reliables".

Charles Roberts  
Co A 15th Engs

LeRoy Dreifus  
9th QM

Paul Mitchell  
Co K 60th Inf

Fred Bastian  
Div Hqs

James Brennan  
Med. Let 60th Inf

May they rest in peace.

On behalf of the members we  
extend our heartfelt sympathy  
to their loved ones.



Doc Seslowe at the Fort  
Lauderdale reunion. His demise  
was announced in the last issue  
of the Octofoil. Doc was an  
active member since the asso-  
ciation was started in 1945. We  
learned that Doc was preparing  
for his trip to Puerto Rico when  
he fell and broke his hip. Com-  
plication developed and within  
two weeks he passed away. He  
will be missed by all of us.

Dear Dan:

It is my sad duty to inform  
you and the members of the  
Association of the death of  
Charlie Roberts, A Company,  
15th Engineers on Tuesday,  
February 12th.

Charlie and his lovely wife,  
Betty, lived in King of Prussia,  
Pa. and have been the glue that  
has held the Association  
members together in this neck-  
of-the-woods. A more jovial,  
out-going person one cannot  
meet and his passing leaves a  
gap that cannot be filled.  
Charlie loved a party and  
hosted many of them in the back  
yard of his home at 147 Crooked  
Lane in King of Prussia, Pa. He  
and Betty made the European  
trip and have attended nearly  
all of the reunions and  
Memorial Masses over the  
years. We have all lost a friend.

Ernie Newhart  
A & B Company  
15th Engineers  
(75 West Ferry Street  
(New Hope, Pa. 18938)

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  
\$40.00 for double  
Suites available

Arrival Date.....Departure Date.....  
Arrival Date.....Departure Date.....

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

Half Page \$30.00

Quarter Page \$20.00

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

Dear Dan:

Saturday one of our 9th  
Division men was buried in  
North Andover — I was a  
concelebrant of the Funeral  
Mass — Fred Bastian was a fine  
and holy man — I do not know  
whether or not he attended the  
summer conventions — but was  
faithful to the Memorial Mass in  
the fall.

Franny Maher keeps in touch  
with me every week — like  
yourself, a dedicated 9th  
Division man. — In a few  
months old Connors will be  
mustered out of this parish —  
but I hope to keep busy in my  
work as a priest.

Every blessing to you and  
Marie — and along with all the  
9th Division people accept my  
thanks for your devotion to the  
Association — Hope that the  
summer convention will be  
successful — and I have every  
hope to be there.

Say a prayer for the old man.  
God bless.

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

I'm sorry to tell you that my  
brother-in-law Paul W. Mitchell  
died January 7 of this year.

Paul had been sick for 2 years  
with heart trouble and he  
passed away in his sleep in the  
early morning hours.

Richard G. Borntraeger  
2616 Wendell Avenue  
Louisville, Ky. 40205

To any of you men, out there.  
If you are receiving com-  
pensation for service connected  
injuries of 60 percent or more  
but less than 100 percent,  
retired from gainful em-  
ployment, just taking it easy,  
you should visit the VA and ask  
for an application to have  
your compensation increased to  
100 percent. You should have no  
problem. If you have at least a  
10 percent disability, retired,  
not working you should apply  
for the 100 percent. You may  
have a fight but it can be had.

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

Deadline for copy of the next issue of the Octofoil will  
be APRIL 20th

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 60¢) .....\$ .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. ☐

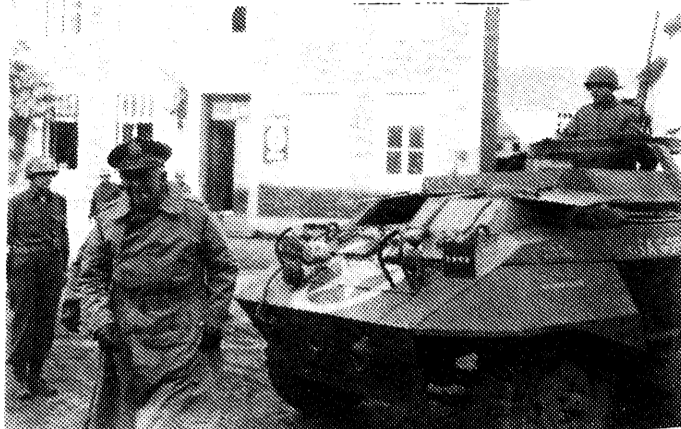
# Traveling down road of history

## THE FINAL THRUST

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

Part II — continued from  
Nov.-Dec. Issue.

This has been compiled and written by 2nd Lt. J. B. Mittelman A-DIVISION HISTORIAN as a member of the PRO under Capt. John J. Pullen.



Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall as he leaves Armoured car at Division CP Zwiefall, Germany (10-12-44)

The terrain chosen for the Ninth was particularly rough. It consisted of high, steep ground, and the hazardous Hurtgen Forest region . . . whose fortifications, draws, and trails spelled certain death to trespassers. Fanatical Germans took excellent advantage of the ground to exact a large toll upon invading troops.

The stamina and endurance of these men, as well as their march and firing line discipline is remarkable!

—Harold Denny  
(N.Y. Times)

## REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

To the veteran Ninth Infantry Division, ATTACK meant the regular order of business. As the morning of 6 October 1944 rose out of the east, a well-oiled fighting machine was preparing to spearhead the attack upon the Roer Dams.

Fighter-bomber support started at 0930, and was followed by the artillery battalions of the Ninth throwing everything in the book in an 1120 preparation. By 1130 hours the infantry was underway . . . assaulting fog-ridden fortifications in heavily-wooded hills . . . this, too, was the West-wall of the Reich!

During the night and early morning that followed, the 39th Infantry received heavy shelling and strong resistance from pillboxes. Considerable small arms and mortar fire slowed their advance. Mines and roadblocks made the bringing up of tanks and tank destroyers impossible; although they were urgently needed to press forward.

Under intense machine gun fire and over extensive mine-fields, the 60th's G-Devils battered forward. Mine clearing details swept out anti-personnel and anti-tank explosives, making a path over which both troops and tanks were able to advance and knock out fortifications.

## BACK AND FORTH

The course of battle at Germeter swayed back and forth. During the night of 9 October, the enemy had infiltrated between the two left platoons of Company I and the remainder of the 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry. This cut off the platoons, killing, wounding, or capturing all but a few. To re-establish the push, it was necessary to clear out fanatical Nazis in house-to-house fighting.

In a magnificent maneuver, the 1st Battalion of the 60th changed its direction of advance and moved 2000 yards on the vital Germeter-Hurtgen road junction. Taking a total of more prisoners than they had men present for duty in their own battalion, Lt. Col. Chatfield's fighting outfit forced the Germans to issue one of their first retreat orders directed by the Wehrmacht inside of Germany.

This action was instrumental in stopping the flow of German supplies traveling towards Aachen.

Now fighting on his own soil, the enemy soldier was ordered, brow-beaten, and inspired by his leaders to hold on tenaciously and to counter-attack vigorously. The Roer Dams meant the key to the Rhineland. With terrain to their advantage, the Jerries held on, delaying the advance in the Germeter-Vossenack sector. Threatening to flood the dams . . . attacking lines of communications . . . this was the German answer to the Ninth's steam-roller.

German artillery shells ended in horrible tree-burst ricochets flaming into foxholes to unbuttoned turrets. Fire-breaks offering the only sizeable maneuver area, tanks and tank destroyers were canalized into terrific pre-arranged fires when they attempted to avoid wooded density. But, despite the fierceness of resistance, the main effort of the Ninth succeeded in reducing pillboxes in the now fluid line

## CHIEF OF STAFF

While this battle was in progress, General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, visited the battle-seasoned troops of the Ninth and their fighting general on Columbus Day — October 12.

Showers were arranged for the men of the 39th Infantry on 15 October. They enjoyed the doubly-odd sensation of also spending a very quiet day and night. Dry clothing felt good on the weather-beaten bodies of the resting AAA-O.

By the 16th the attack of the 9th Division to gain control of the Roer Dams had reached an impasse.

—Mission Accomplished  
(History VII Corps)

It was more quiet, now, in the grim, blooded sylvan battlefields of Hurtgen Forest. The Ninth improved positions, laid mines, and used fire to determine the location of the enemy. Patrolling continued, against the sporadic mortar and artillery fires of the Wehrmacht.

## CONGRESSIONAL

### MEDAL OF HONOR

As a member of the 899th TD Battalion, Staff Sergeant HERSCHEL BRILES, fighting near Scherpenseel, Germany, twice entered the hulls of burning tank destroyers to rescue trapped men. Briles later fired his machine gun into a horde of advancing Germans, killing several and capturing 55.

After over four months of continuous combat since Invasion, plans were formulated and orders issued for the relief of the Division, less the 47th Combat Team, and movement to an assembly area in the vicinity of Camp Elsenborn, Belgium.



A Mortar squad of Company D, 39th Infantry preparing to fire in the Hurtgen Forest in Germany. 1-r Lloyd Halloway, Fred String, George Pearson, Edward Lewis, Erich Martin and Harold Hale.

In a First Army re-shuffle, the 47th Combat Team and the 294th Engineer Combat Battalion were attached to the 3rd Armored Division. The remainder of the Ninth passed to control of the V Corps.

Relief, begun by elements of the 28th (Keystone State) Infantry Division on 25 October, was completed by the following evening.

The Ninth was now at Camp Elsenborn — Buzz Bomb Alley. While the majority of Robot Missiles were meant for Eupen and Liege, several fell short of their mark, landing in the Elsenborn area. But, it was rest for the tired doughs.

It was still the Army, however . . . for with the afternoons of bathing, recreation, Red Cross Clubmobiles, and nights of movies there were still mornings of training, rehabilitation, and maintenance. And — the usual exchange of battle experiences and indoctrination of reinforcements took place.

## MARCH NO MORE

Ceremonies for presentation of awards and decorations were held by the 39th and 60th Infantry and by Division Artillery and Special Troops. There were memories of valiant buddies who would march into battle no more; for, in an assault division, it's not a question of will you get it — but, how long before you will!

General Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, paid Major-General Craig a visit at the Division C.P., Butgenbach, Belgium, on 5 November. Even as Ike was alighting from his car into the mud that was Butgenbach's streets, the Ninth was moving out under V Corps orders to relieve the 4th Infantry Division of its sector on the right flank of the Corps front.

The relief was ordered completed by dark, 6 November. Experienced at moving by now, the Division completed the changeover by 1500 on the 5th. Immediately, defenses were organized, with patrols discovering snipers and boobytraps in front of the line.

Wherever there was a radio, wherever there was a courier, that's where inquisitive Joes gathered on the night of 8 November 1944 . . . for it was election day back in the States. Despite the first snowfall of the campaign, and the frostbitten hands of those on the line, of big interest to many at that moment was, "Who won?"

Meanwhile, the 47th Infantry was detached from the 3rd - Armored Division and attached to the 1st Infantry Division on 10 November. Preparations were made for the Raiders to launch an attack in the near future.

On 16 November, at 1245, the 47th moved out, with the ultimate objective of seizing Roer River Crossings north of Duren. In the days that followed, some of the bloodiest battles of the war took place in the regiment's sector.

Battered Gressenich was taken and cleared. The 47th Infantry chopped on through Hastenrath, Volkenrath, Nothenberg, and Wilhelmshohe. Perched upon tanks of the 3rd Armored Division, the Raiders rode into Hucheln. Against heavy resistance, they protected the left flank of the 1st Division.

Assault upon the fortified Frenzenberg castle began, with Company F mounting tanks of the 3rd Armored and riding into strong AT fire. With the coming of night, Company G cut off the escape of occupants in the southern positions of the castle after K Company had moved in that fortified section.

Continued next issue



Bob Dunn on the right is showing the Regimental newspaper to CWO H.T. O'Hara (now deceased) with J. Garrett in the background. (10-24-44 - Zweifall, Germany)

Continued from Page 1

Recounting of his career in a level monotone, Dunn sometimes apologized about being hazy on dates because "we're going back quite a few years." He would then cite an exact date anyway. Like Nov. 8 1942, when his outfit, the 9th Infantry Division, landed in the French Morocco.

His outfit spent 30 months overseas in all. Dunn recalls the invasion of Sicily and landing in Normandy on D-Day plus 6. He also remembered meeting another journalist in France, a man by the name of Ernie Pyle.

At the end of the war, Dunn was offered a position with the U.S. military paper, "Stars and Stripes." But he decided he had enough of the service and returned to the Record.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER INSTALLS OFFICERS FOR 1980

At our regular Chapter meeting on January 4, 1980 at the 69th Regiment Armory, Lexington Avenue and East 26th Street, New York City, we installed our officers for 1980. George Apar was the installing officer. Despite a snow storm which threatened to drop as much as a foot of snow, we had a good turn-out. Twenty seven members showed up.

Out-going President Alfred A. Orletti opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer for our departed comrades. After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by Chapter Secretary Arthur R. Schmidt and a financial report by Treasurer Irving Feinberg we got down to the business at hand, namely, the installation of officers.

### OFFICERS ELECTED

The following officers were elected: President, Herminio Suarez; 1st Vice President, John Morris; 2nd Vice President, Francis Duffy; Secretary, Arthur R. Schmidt; Treasurer, Irving Feinberg; Chaplain, George Apar; Sergeant-at-Arms, Alfred A. Orletti; Judge Advocate, Daniel Quinn; elected to the Chapter Board of Governors were Harry Wax, 39th Infantry Regiment; Emil Langer, 47th Infantry Regiment; James Hayes, 60th Infantry Regiment; Adolph Wadalavage, Special Troops; and James Haroutunian, Division Artillery. Remaining on the Board of Governors were Herminio Suarez, 39th Infantry Regiment; Alfred Munatore, 47th Infantry Regiment; John Morris, 60th Infantry Regiment; Arthur R. Schmidt, Special Troops; and Calvin Polivy, Division Artillery.

### ERUDITE SELF

George Apar was his usual erudite self in making the installations. Upon dismissing the out-going officers he asked each one to stand and then thanked them individually for the work they did for the Chapter. Each out-going officer was given a round of applause. Upon installing the in-coming officers he again asked each one to stand and then expounded on their ability to handle the job to which they were elected. Each in-coming officer was given a round of applause. George is a master at ad libbing, and he did quite a bit of ad libbing when referring to his own re-election as Chaplain, but for the main part he was sincere in making the installations. George pointed out that it is the practice of the Chapter to elect a new man for President each year, and we were fortunate in being able to draw upon a reservoir of men well qualified to handle the job. George again called for more use of the Chapter Board of Governors.

### THANKED MEMBERSHIP

Upon being dismissed out going President Orletti thanked Frank Fazio, Bill Klauz and everyone who worked to make the Christmas Party and the 50-50 Club Raffle a success - right down to people who helped in the clean-up detail, bar workers, food handlers and ticket sellers. He also thanked John Parisi for the fine job he does at each meeting in setting up the refreshments table. He promised to give the in-coming President Suarez all the help he can. President Suarez in accepting the gavel from George thanked the membership for electing him, and promised to try to live up to the good job done by the out-going administration. Arthur Schmidt

69 20 69th Street  
Glendale NY 11385  
Secretary

## To "B" (47th) or not to "B".

Greetings! Good buddies, and my belated best wishes for 1980. The Christmas period brought fond greetings from many of our "Beco" buddies — among them Jack and Kay DiSanto across the lake from the Winter Olympics in Burlington, Vt. Joe and Eleanor Taubner up in Bergenfield, N.J. suggesting a "Beco" reunion at their home in the near future. Joe and Fran Gil in nearby Middle Village. Stan and Florence Adowski in cold Buffalo, N.Y. Nick and Olga Palega down in Queens Village, N.Y., my hometown for some 38 years. George and Jane Bentley down near Stone Mt. in Conyers, Ga. Steve and Kay DeLura of Westbury, N.Y. Steve was an A-47th man prior to going into the Air Corps, where he became a bomber pilot. — always good to hear from old friends, particularly at Christmas time. Pat and Ann telephoned as they thought we were Florida bound.

### REMEMBERING TIME

— Yes, the holidays are "remembering" time and some of these "Beco" men came to mind — Bob Herman, Larry Krogbin, Danny Forte, Joe Pasciewicz, Bob Taylor, Orion Shockley, Frank Crepezzi, Ed Stillwell, Mike Hesch, Les Campen, Harold Love, Steve Lelak, Bill Lovejoy, Charlie Kolb, Luke Savage — just to name a few — if you're reading this, Guys, it's proof we remember — how's about returning the courtesy and drop us a line — Remember, as Pat and I originally stated, this is your column, we need and want you to contribute to it!!!

### DRIFT BACK

— Being in the "memory lane mood let's drift back to the "happenings" between 1941 and 1945 — REMEMBER???

— Those 10 minute "breaks" as we hike "to and fro" over the Bragg reservation, in which you caught 8 minutes sleep??

— Those "inspector General" full field inspections?? — and you find you're short 1 tent peg???

— Arriving back at the barracks after a "big night" in town and the "elation" of seeing your name on the bulletin board for Sunday K.P. — 4:30 A.M.??

— The shrill whistle over the intercom followed by "now hear this — man the brooms — cleans sweep-down — fore and aft "on our cruise" to Safi, French Morocco???

— Those enterprising Arab kids who "hawked" Peanuts! Peanuts! best G.D. peanuts in Safi! as they peddled their wares in false-bottomed bags??

— Selling that \$2.00 muslin mattress cover to an Ay-rab for \$10.00 and same Ay-rab selling you those silver and gold cord slippers of dubious value for \$20.00 or more??

— Hey! Joe, — steak — look! pretty girl — she my seester! er' honest, she wasn't his sister.

— The "evacuation" from the "ten-wheelers" after 50 minutes of bouncing and jouncing to "do" what comes natural!

— Traveling "40 and 8" style through the Atlas Mts. to Oran with some 24 sweet-smelling guys and "1" can!! — and some clown slides the door shut???

— England, where all the "lovelies" were either a Joan or a Betty and most male specie were "Tony's" or — overseas??

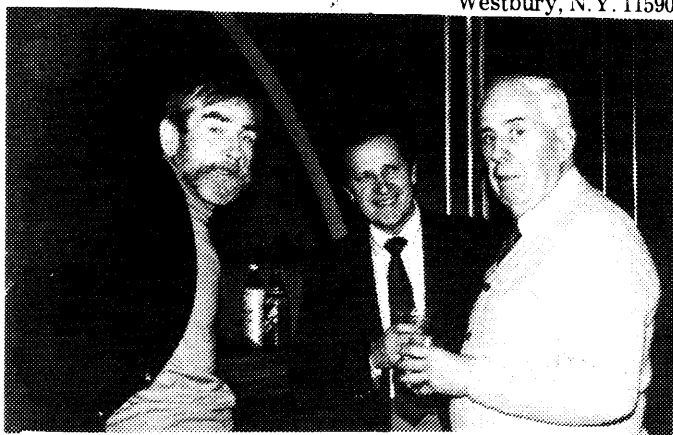
— Sitting in a British cinema watching a news-reel on British naval action in the China Sea, when the "lovely" next to you nudges you and passively remarks "me 'usband is down there — 'ave some sweets — Dearie! AaHhh! And with at 'AH" may I add there are more "rememberers" to recall — as Pat mentioned let's not forget that "Esprit de Corp" of "Beco" and remember that the Re-union date in Washington, D.C. is July 17th, 18th, and 19th.

### PLANS FELL THROUGH

Commenting on Pat's referral to our Florida move it, unfortunately, didn't happen as planned as the sale of our house fell through — thus we remain in limbo with our 45 cartons and limited furnishings on standby. At this point in time we might be enjoying a Clearwater winter at our Cove Cay "condo" overlooking Old Tampa Bay — Well, as Orphan Annie sings in the B'way show "Annie" — "Tomorrow, Tomorrow, it's only a day away" — and, hopefully, so are our hopes for Florida.

— In closing, yo'all have a happy Easter holiday.

Art Stenzel  
179 Salem Road  
Westbury, N.Y. 11590



Shown at the New Yorkers Christmas party l-r Walter O'Keefe, John Margolise and Eddie Egan.



Showing his Christmas suit (a Feinberg special) is Charlie LiBretto, Nick Palega smiles while Al Munatore looks over the material.

We know that a lot of our members will not be able to attend the reunion this summer but a great way to be remembered to your "old buddies" is to make sure your name appears in the Reunion Journal. Rates start at \$2.00 for a booster (includes your name and unit) up to a full page for \$50.00. Try to be in the Journal.

## ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

January and February have been quiet months for the Illinois Chapter. We have been fortunate in having good weather this year so no gripes about not being able to get anywhere whenever we wanted.

Everyone has survived the holidays and are back in the swing of normal things. The Koskie's ran into a little problem just before the holidays. Their car collided with another and while the car was badly damaged, Chuck and Irma came out with minor casualties. They are both fine and are presently on a trip to the southeast visiting John and Helen Clouser as well as many other friends and relatives along the way. No definite plans have been made as to when they will return.

### Leaving For England

The Winkleman's will be leaving for England soon for three weeks and will enjoy visiting old stamping grounds in Basingstoke and Winchester. They will also visit Georgia's relatives. They deserve this nice long rest after being on the Cerebral Palsy telethon for eight hours.

The Clarks are busy making 9th Division Octofoil hook rugs. Anyone interested in purchasing one should contact the Clarks, c/o The Illinois Chapter, for details. Paul will be taking his 83 year old mother to visit another son in Ft. Meyers, Florida. Have a nice trip.

### Wish Speedy Recovery

Our prayers and good wishes are still with Bud Remer. He has run into a lot of complications and has not been feeling too well. Our thoughts are with you, Bud, and we wish you a speedy recovery.

Just a reminder from the treasurer to the Illinois Members. There are a few who are delinquent in payment and Chuck is looking forward to receiving your dues at the Illinois Chapter.

### Making Plans

The Illinois Members are looking forward to July and making plans for attending the reunion in Washington. We are also looking ahead to our out-state mini reunion with the Michigan Chapter in October.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Belmonte  
1161 South Lombard  
Oak Park, Il. 60304

As World War II veterans near retirement age, they should check out the qualifying credits for Social Security benefits.

A serviceman who was on active duty in the armed forces of the United States during World War II (September 15, 1940 through July 28, 1947) or the post World War II period (July 25, 1947 through December 31, 1956) may be eligible for Social Security wage credits for \$160 for each month of his active duty.

A factual estimate of credits for Social Security benefits should be the prime concern of all veterans contemplating retirement.

Amount of credit needed ranges from a minimum of a year and a half to a maximum of 10. In 1979, top credit was computed at seven years, which could be earned at any time since 1936 for retirement and survivors benefits.

Monthly Social Security benefits are payable to a veteran's dependents if he earned enough work credits under the program. A lump sum payment of \$255 also is made upon the veteran's death.

## Michigan Doings

The Michigan Chapter held their final meeting of the year the Annual Xmas Party and election of Officers for 1980 at the V.F.W. Post No. 393 Hall in Detroit on Dec. 8, 1979. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Leonard Kowalski at 8:35 P.M. followed by the Opening Prayer by Chaplain Floyd Hennessey and a moment of silent prayer in memory of the departed members of the Ninth.

### In-Coming Officers

The following officers were elected for the coming year. President Rodger Alsgaard, 1st. V.P. Charlie Williams, 2nd. V.P. Billie Martin, Adjutant Don Lewis, Treasurer Elmer Wagner, Secretary Fred Josey, Chaplain & Historian Floyd Hennessey. Pres. Len presented the Newly elected Pres. Rodger with the Gavel and congratulated him and all the In-Coming Officers. Best wishes were expressed for a successful new year. The Out-Going Officers were given a round of applause. There being no other business the meeting adjourned at approx. 9:10 P.M. and the members rejoined their wives and guests for the dancing and social time together in the Main Hall which went on till about 1:30 A.M.

### So Ably Planned

Prior to the meeting the members and guests enjoyed a buffet dinner and bar which our Hosts Chuck and Charlotte Fox so ably planned for the affair and also the beautiful decorations. The dinner and party was attended by a total of 71 members and guests. Our regular bottle drawing was won by Leora Hennessey and the Christmas Cheer Raffle of a case of V.O. was won by Gerrie Hatton and the 1/2 case of V.O. by Joe Rappazini. There were several other prizes donated by Stretch's Pub won by Barb Meadows, a Bottle donated by Charlie Meadows and won by Florence DeSandy, a Wreath donated by Vi Stockford and won by Irene Tapp, a Snap-shot Album donated by Rose Bonkowski and won by Debbie Reedy, a Xmas Calendar donated by Rose Bonkowski and won by Gene Reedy and a beautiful hand made wall hanging donated by Sally Kowalski and won by Fred Josey.

Our newly elected Nat'l Pres. Bob DeSandy and wife Flo were unable to be with us for the buffet as Bob had another Xmas Dinner Party to attend given by his Boss but did find the time to join us later in the evening and close out the party with the Chapter.

### Special Meeting

A special meeting was set up for the 26th of Jan. 1980 to be held for the purpose of transferring the Chapters Treasurer Accounts and Secretary information to the new incoming officers for the coming year and for the newly-elected Pres. Rodger Alsgaard to tentatively plan the schedule of coming events for the year. This meeting was attended by the outgoing and incoming officers as planned and altho many of the coming events were discussed none were acted upon as to the dates or details of the schedule. More on these as they take place.

Thought for the day — The reason for doing the right thing today is tomorrow.

Sincerely,  
Fred M. Josey Secy.  
8162 Green Valley Dr.  
Grand Blanc, Mi. 48439  
313-696-6108

## mail call

Continued from page 6

Co I 60th Inf  
Sammie R. Goodwin  
803 McAnn  
San Angelo, Tex. 76903

We plan to make our flight reservation prior to February 14 and the new fare increase. Also plan to get confirmed room reservations as soon as possible; we plan to stay 7-10 days as there is so much to see and are both avid historians.

The Lord willing and Sammie's health permitting he does so hope to make this reunion, his very first.

In October last year we were on our way to Savannah, Ga. to see Albert Hodge and had to turn back at Shiloh, Tenn. due to family illness. Regards to all.

9th Recon.  
John Bonkowski  
19941 Hickory  
Detroit, Mich. 48205

Received a note from Matty Urban along with his Christmas card. The latest exciting news is that CW Hansen has been in close communication with Matt. The review has passed thru the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Army. Two more to go — signatures from the Secretary of Defense and President Carter. It looks very, very good.

CW Hansen also informed Matt that he will receive four more medals that he didn't know about, but are on his Army records.

Legion of Merit  
Bronze Star (in addition to 2)  
Purple Heart (total of 7)

The French Croix de Guerre with Silver Gilt Star — an individual award to be presented by the French Ambassador.

The New Year should be off to a good start for Matt and we wish him our best. However, we can't help being concerned about the fuel situation. If the cost of gasoline keeps on going up, it's going to affect our conventions and chapter functions. That would be a shame since more people are retiring and would have more time for traveling.

Closing now, with our usual best wishes.

Hq. Sp. Tr.  
Roger Schaeffer  
1664 Sunset Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44301

I see that it's dues time again — and I'd rather not see that red ink on my Octofoil — so, am enclosing dues for three years.

It's just great to note that Matt Urban finally got the recognition due him. Couldn't have happened to a finer man. Speaking of fine men, my brother-in-law retired from the military and living in Arizona, played golf with a former ninth officer (also retired — same situation), and in the course of their conversations he found that the former ninth man knew me. He's Leonard E. Reynolds, formerly 47th Inf. served with me in Div. Hq. as a regimental liaison officer. His address is: Major L.E. Reynolds, 4223 W. Carol, Phoenix, Arizona 85021. So if Shasberger, Bernie Zeitlin, Trammel Sli or any others who knew Leonard care to correspond with him, I'm sure he'd welcome a letter.

My situation hasn't changed — still retired from school teaching but very busy with music jobs — dance band, concert band and orchestra, conducting, and private instruction on woodwinds. Bee and I hope to make it to Washington in July but can't promise anything this early. Have to "sweat out" the situation.

Take care and keep up the good work.

Co. L, 60th Inf.  
Michael A. Patti  
9942 Kings Canyon Dr.  
Huntington Beach, Calif. 92646

I am enclosing membership application and dues for 1980, combat route map and 60th Infantry history.

I was not familiar with the association until some one in Southern California had informed me. I was in L Company, 60th Infantry and was one of the original members in Fort Bragg. I was in the African campaigns. I was originally from the Brooklyn, New York area and have lived in Southern California for over twenty years.

If any of my old buddies should happen to remember me, I would appreciate hearing from them. I am going to make every effort to attend the 1980 convention in Washington, D.C.

Hq. 3rd Bn. 60th  
Roy L. Zeck  
330 Best Drive  
Athens, Georgia 30606

I am enclosing 1 year membership plus 60th Inf. History. Sure would like for you to put my name and company in paper to see if I can hear from anyone that was in my company. I am 100 per cent totally disabled veteran for life. I can't travel but I like to get mail.

Co. M 47th  
Wilton Taylor  
Stop 6  
Lost Hills, Ca. 93249

Dear Dan and all the 9th men wherever you are, best of Christmas wishes and a healthy Happy New Year. Do you 47th men remember 37 years ago we were hiking to Port Lyautey from Safi spending Christmas in the Cork Forest? 3rd Battalion mail came when we were in the Cactus Patch (prickly pear thicket) North of Port Lyautey. Then, the Bn. fires and singing all night Christmas in the Cork Forest. All made the hike in good health and a few pounds lighter, not one man lost his appetite. Ha! Best wishes to all of you who made that hike it was a very rich experience seeing the country by foot.

I had a nice Christmas letter from Fred K. Veno, 713 Plainfield Avenue, Joliet, Ill. 60435 who was our 709th Ord. Enemy Ammo clean up detail in the hills of Sicily 1943. Seems like yesterday we met lots of natives and attended a square dance as well as singing in the Mountain towns South of the coast, a 5 week patrol, very interesting. An ambulance and medics, 2½ ton truck and a jeep. Lt. Veno, Hdqs. 47th Inf., in command and an interpreter for meetings with mayors of towns to find where enemy had been. Hope all you 709th detail men who were in that detail will write to the Octofoil and tell your address and what you are doing today. I have just retired after 33 years Production Dept. Mobil Oil Co., and may move up to High Desert near Lancaster, California or go back to Missouri. We are packing to move, will keep you posted as to our whereabouts.

God Bless you, 9th men wherever you are one and all. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

15th Engrs.  
Maurice N. Tougas  
111 Aetna St.  
Central Falls, R.I. 02863

It is time to pay my dues for 1980. Enclosed is a check for \$5.00.

May I wish you and all the members a happy healthy and prosperous New Year.

## DUES ARE DUE

Cannon Co. 39th Inf.  
Calvin Daniels  
47354 Burton Drive  
Utica, Mich. 48087

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive and kicking. Our chapter had our Christmas Party 8th Dec. and we all had a very good time. With plenty to eat and drink and dancing and all, it was a very good party with a good turn out.

I think you have been doing a wonderful job and I know the Octofoil is well circulated.

I had a letter from an old friend I knew back in 1940. Harold Wallace from Ser. Bty. 26 F.A.M. He saw my name and ad in Octofoil. I think it's wonderful. He lives in Bellair, Tex. now. I had completely forgotten him, boy, I sure was glad to hear from him.

Again, I want to thank you for the wonderful job you've done over the years.

I hope you and your family have a joyous Holiday and good New Year.

P.S. When I get to Tennessee this following week I'm gonna have an ad put in the paper calling for all the old 9th boys to join our association. I hope you'll be busy with a lot of new members. I had foot surgery last week, nothing serious, just a paid vacation, only had spin removed.

Co. B 47th Inf.  
George W. Bentley, Jr.  
P.O. Box 206  
Conyers, Ga. 30207

I think it is time to pay my dues. Here is my check for three years. Regards to all.

Co. K 47th Inf.  
John A. Mrugala  
Rd. 1 Box 11  
Barnesboro, Penn. 15714

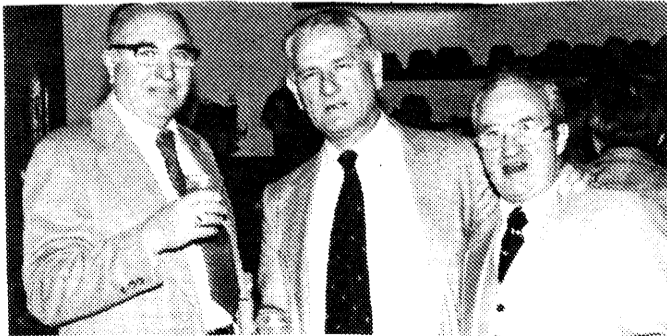
I received my Octofoil and I clipped out the reservation for the Shoreham Hotel in D.C. I mailed in my check for my room for my wife and I. So you old combat members of Co. K 47th Inf. during W.W. II be there. We are going to have a grand time. I am looking forward to this. You know Dan, it just perks up the old spirit.

I will be driving down to D.C. It is only one hundred and sixty miles from my home A lot closer than Philly.

I just pray to God that all goes well and we can be together. The news these days is not too good. Will we ever learn from past mistakes. We have been warned for forty some years not to trust the Russians. They were never our allies by choice. It is too bad Hitler did not kick the tar out of them or that we did not leave Patton go on and drive the Red Army back to Moscow. Also MacArthur wanted to win in Korea but Truman had other ideas after all he instituted the no win war policy. Our week leaders just turned away from the truth and now we are backed in a corner. I only hope it is not too late.

Red Thompson, Herman Seibel, Bill Canales, Joe Kellecky and the others of King Blue of the 47th see you all in D.C.

God bless you all, keep you well and you all are in my daily prayers even our departed buddies.



Emil Langer, Louis Almassy and Al Seeley look like they are going to break out in song while waiting for Santa to arrive for the New Yorkers party.

Div. Hq. Co.  
John Brandi  
400 Buckeye Street  
Tiltonsville, Oh. 43963

Enclosed are my dues for a three year membership. As usual we had a good time at the reunion at Fort Lauderdale. Meeting our old friends and making new ones. Regards to all and hoping to make the D.C. reunion.

P.S. I always wonder why a buddy of ours by the name Eddie Goldstein of Div. Hq. Co. never attends a reunion?

Div. Hdq. 1st Bn. 39th Inf.  
Dick Haynes  
3916 Lake St. George Drive  
Palm Harbor, Florida 33563

Just a note to advise that I have decided to take an early retirement and enjoy a little of life. My new address is listed above.

Hope to spend most of the time fishing, boating, swimming and just soaking up the sun.

60th F.A.  
David A. Elway  
4221 Elrancho Dr.  
Allison Park, Penn. 15101

Here is my check for the next three years dues. I don't want to be late again, or forget them. I enjoy the Octofoil and want to continue to receive it. My very best wishes to all the men and for the continued success of the Association.

Co. B. 15th Eng.  
Arthur R. Schmidt  
69-20 69th Street  
Glendale, New York 11385  
HY7-3993 - Area Code 212

Dear Danny:

I purchased a supply of insignia of the various units of the 9th Infantry Division when I visited the present home of the Division in Fort Lewis, Washington last August, 1979.

I have sold most of the insignia, but I still have some left from the 60th Infantry Regiment, the 34th Field Artillery, the 9th Signal Corps, and the 9th Military Police Platoon. I also have some 9th Infantry Division Octofoil Lapel Pins and 9th Infantry Division Shoulder Patches. I am selling all items at my cost plus a small charge for return postage. The prices are as follows: 60th Infantry Regiment — \$2.90 for a set of two; 34th Field Artillery — \$2.55 for a set of two; 9th Signal Corps — \$2.85 for a set of two; and 9th Military Police — \$2.75. The 9th Infantry Division Lapel Pins go for \$2.05 and the 9th Infantry Division Shoulder Patches go for \$1.30. With each order there is a 28 cent charge for return postage. Members should contact me to determine availability of the above items.

Co. F 47th  
Earl Wilkey  
402 Calhoun Ave.  
Rome, Ga. 30161

Enclosed you will find a money order for my dues for three years. Hope to see you all in D.C. in July. Best regards.

Nothing makes it harder to find a good hiding place than having children.

## The great British ruin lives on

Frank (Red) Smiles supplied us with this story on the Grange, Hampshire-home of the 47th Infantry Headquarters during our stay in England. We remember seeing Jimmy Cagney's show that he put on for the troops in the main ballroom of this neo-classical house.

THE GREATEST house of its sort in Europe is to be preserved by the Department of the Environment. It is a courageous decision in a time of stringency.

Admittedly it is a roofless ruin and dangerous, but it is the Grange, the greatest neo-classical house in Europe, to be compared with the Madeleine in Paris and the Admiralty in Leningrad. It will cost the nation F500,000.

## Quite different

It is quite different from the usual great houses of England. No sprawl of Gothic courtyards, no enfolding wings proclaim the magnificence of its owners. It is a great classical temple, as startling in its way as the Parthenon itself. At one end it has a huge classical portico, two pillars deep. It stretches back with lordly pillasters down its massive flanks.

It all stands in an English Arcadia standing above a steep and overgrown bank with a lake at the bottom and a view over rich Hampshire parkland and arable fields.

Standing discreetly on one side is the conservatory or orangery which has a delicate Ionic portico and all around is the rubble of old wings and out-buildings. But that great shape lording it over the countryside remains literally one of the most unforgettable and surprising things in England.

## Built in 1670

There was a fine house here built in 1670. This was designed by the gentleman architect, William Samwell. It was apparently a most ingenious building with a noble staircase. In 1786, the place passed to the banker Drummonds who used it as a hunting box. Then in 1804 it was bought by Henry Baring. His neighbour at Stratton Park, Sir Francis Baring, was building a splendid portico and he clearly intended to out-do him and he did.

He got as his architect William Wilkins, who did the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square and he built this temple, at once scholarly, dramatic and romantic as a proper house for an English gentleman. High on its bluff, now wild with weeds and shrubs, it really is startling in the great Greek manner.

Other architects made additions. Charles Cockerell, the architect of the Ashmolean Museum and Taylorian Institute in Oxford built the conservatory which is now to be reroofed. This was commanded by another Baring — this is Baring country — the first Lord Ashburton.

In 1934 it was bought by Lewis Wallach, a millionaire industrialist, to house his pictures. He offered these to the nation but the Office of Works said no thank you.

## Army moved in

The Army moved in during the war. Mr. Wallach lived on in a Victorian wing. His pictures had to be seen by candlelight. He became paralyzed and dislusioned and died at 92. The Grange, unlivd in for 20 years, began to die.

The Barings bought it again in 1964 — most of it was uninhabitable. In 1972 the demolition of its splendid interior began and John Baring suggested it be left 'a romantic ruin.'

## MAIL CALL

Co. L. 60th Inf.  
Edwin E. Brewer  
714 N. Walnut St.  
Maryville, No. 64468

Enclosed is a check for 1980 dues — musn't let the address label be in red ink.

Hoping this finds you and yours in good health and that the New Year will bring you all that you hope for.

Have been retired now for almost 6 years and everything is going well for us in Northwest Missouri.

P.S. I have every dues card starting with 1946 — yes, everyone, I'm a saver.

The other day I ran across a picture taken at the 1st Reunion in New York at the Hotel New Yorker in 1946. This is the one in the main room (remember we had so many there we had some in an adjoining room?) Anyway, this long picture has the main table in it and I'm at table No. 3 (right in the middle of the picture) — my gosh! 33 years ago — just reminiscing.

One more item — I am the Commander of V.F.W. Post No. 442 here in Maryville — 188 members strong.

Co. B. 39th Inf.  
Irv Terchak  
2559 S. 90th St.  
West Allis, Wis. 53227

It's the time of the year to renew my membership and to enclose my annual contribution to the memorial fund. Also to extend my best wishes to all of my buddies in Co. B 39th Inf. A special greeting to Adolph Schmitter, Frank Russo and of course, the fabulous "Hawk". I do hope that I'll be able to attend the annual Co. "B" reunion this year. Hope I'll be notified as to place and date. Am leaving for San Diego in a few days to escape the winter weather here in Wisconsin.

Best wishes for a healthy New Year to all of the 9th Division.

Hq. 3rd Bn. 47th  
Charles Titus  
6119 Laurence St.  
Phila., Pa. 19120

Enclosed dues for 80. Good luck and health to you and all men that served in the 9th.

9th Sig. Co.  
Mando A. Cocchi  
50 Melville St.  
Springfield, Mo. 01104

Hoping you had a happy and good Christmas and a good New Year. Am sending check for three years. Before I forget it's due. Weather here has been good, warm for this part of the year.

Am retired and got my fingers crossed, hate to go back to the hospital. Hope everything is going fine for you and yours. Will try to make next reunion.

Co. B 39th Inf.  
Andrew Seasock  
4270 Paces Fry Rd. N.W.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30339

Cleaning out my wallet I find that my dues are due. So, I'm enclosing dues for three years, also need two decals. The balance to the scholarship fund. Hope to see you in D.C.

My best to you and yours this New Year.

Co. A 60th and Div. Hq.  
Eugene DeRosa  
Box 193  
West Land Lake, N.Y. 12196

Enclosing dues for 1980 and donation to Memorial Fund.

Special thanks to you Dan for your dedication to the Octofoil.

Co. L 39th Inf.  
James R. Deaton  
Route 1, Box 180  
Amity, Ark. 71921

I want to hear from anyone and all that served with Co. L 39th Inf. I served in Africa, got wounded April 4, 1943, France June 21, 1944, Germany, Sept. 15, 1944 and was sent back to the States and haven't been heard from for 35 years.

KandHq. Co. 60th Inf.  
Joseph Rappazini  
24001 Serhmen  
Oak Park, Mich. 48237

My best wishes to you and all those who strive so loyally in perpetuating the name and fame of the Ninth. I'm sure that the intensity and devotion you exemplify is "rubbing off" on all of us who so eagerly await each issue of "The Octofoil". As always it awakens recall.

## Remembrances

Each year repeats the silent march of thoughts and memories

That fill with pride the valiant hearts of men who gave their all

When they saw the awesome need to heed their country's call.

Each day recalls those comrades

Who fought with close intent To overcome the enemy —

The scourge of freedom's choice —

that was slowly strangling Man's well-deserved rights —

Gifts that are his destiny.

Serv. 60th Inf.  
Paul Drummond  
122 Pier D. NLYH  
Naples, Fla. 33942

Certainly enjoyed last two reunions in Philadelphia and Fort Lauderdale. Moved to Florida in October — just what I needed. Send my regards to N.W. Engly, Al Hodge, Mike Deresh, Chuck Duling, Frankie Ferrise and J.G. Bombeacer. I hope to see them all, God willing, in Washington, D.C. in July and also visit N.Y. for visit to grandchildren. Enclosed dues for 1980.

9th Med. Bn.  
Ed W. Machowski  
5931 N.W. Circle Ave.  
Chicago, Ill. 60631

Picked up the Octofoil and was a bit disturbed by what I saw. My good friend Doc Seslowe — Dr. Copleman, etc. My how time flies and one begins to wonder what it's all about.

Dan, at the same time my dues for the year enclosed and the very best to you and yours and all the 9th.

84th F. A.  
Harold N. Frederick  
16 West End Avenue  
Freeport, N.Y. 11520

Would like to hear from some of my old buddies in the 84th Field Artillery also some of the ones who were in Forward Switchboard section. Hope to be able to attend some of our meetings as I have been hospitalized on and off the last few years.

Thanking you in advance and give my regards to all who served in the Best Division in the U.S. Army. I remain one of your old buddies.

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

Can. Co. 47th Inf.  
Bill Coen  
1140 Overlook Drive  
Washington, Pa. 15301

I'm going through my wallet, I find I owe for my dues for the Association. So am enclosing for 3 years.

We are making plans already for Washington D.C. and hope to be in contact with Ray Weddel, my old supply Sgt., who lives about 50 miles out of D.C. He has never made a reunion although I did collect dues for him at Philly reunion.

Dora and I are about ready to leave these parts for a few months but will return in the Spring. So I'll get all the Octofoils when I return.

Say hello to all my friends in New York and about the country. Keep up the good work. See you in D.C. God permitting.

G. Co. 47th Inf. and Div. Hqs.  
Martin Gill  
2401 Pennington Road  
Trenton, N.J. 08638

Getting the New Year off to a good start by sending along membership dues for one year on behalf of Michael Santos, 122 Austin Avenue, Trenton, N.J. 08629. Mike was initially assigned to "A" Company, 60th Infantry Regiment, and later transferred to the Ninth Division M.P.'s.

I met Mike last Saturday evening at a party at which "Big Joe" Perella and his wife were guests. Joe, also originally from the 60th, transferred to the Adjutant General's Section, Division Headquarters after the Sicilian Campaign was over. He was recently honored as the "Man of the Year" in his hometown of Vineland, New Jersey. It was the first time I had seen him since what I remember as either the 46' or 47' Ninth Division Reunion in New York at which he had his own hospitality suite with several gallon size liquor bottles on swivel pour stands in the middle of the living room floor. He is still the same hospitable Joe and continues working as a liquor salesman.

Best wishes to you, Marie, your family and all of the Ninth Division gang for a most healthy and happy New Year.

Co. E 39th Inf.  
Emil J. Merolla  
2307 Oak Park Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Enclosed find 3 year membership plus \$.50 for combat route. I remember being wounded on December 10, 1944 somewhere in Germany, on our way to Cologne — then to Berlin. Like details before and after December 10.

Div. Hq.  
Major John M. Alley  
4701 Kenmore Avenue, 1317-E  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Enclosed is my check for 1980 dues.

Sorry to have missed you in Florida but will see you in D.C. this year. I suppose.

Hq.  
John T. Weber  
46 Bromfield St.  
Quincy, Mass 02170

Enclosed please find my dues.

I am up to my knees in wood shavings. I've taken up wood-carving and have turned out a few figurines, get a little better with time. My wife is urging me to try carving a 9th Division dog face. Sounds like a good idea. The newspaper is always so welcome, we still have the same sentimental attachment for the good old 9th.

JOHN J. CLOUSER  
PO BX 807  
CRYSTAL RIVER, FL. 32629

## THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087.

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## IS YOUR OCTOFOIL

## ADDRESSED WITH

## TELL-TALE RED INK?

Once again it is that time of the year when we remind you to check your membership card for "it is now dues time". If you have not already done so, please remit your dues at once in order to save your association time and expense of mailing out dues notices and reminders. Like every thing else the cost of mail is "going up" but if we all pitch in we can help defray this expense.

A limited budget keeps us from mailing the Octofoil to those who fall in the delinquent class. Send in your dues to the Secretary's office, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

## DUES ARE DUE

2nd Bn 47th Inf.  
Co's E-G

James Leopold  
45 Barnard Lane  
Highland Park, Ill. 60035

Just a short note to tell you that the Leopolds have moved from 200 Lakewood Place, Highland Park to 45 Barnard Lane in the same suburb.

We made this move this fall and I want to be sure you change your records so we continue receiving the Octofoil after the post office discontinues forwarding.

There is not a great deal to report, we continue to function in the same old way, although Father Time continues his inevitable chase.

We are leaving for Florida this week, for the balance of the winter, look forward to seeing you in the East sometime this summer.

Co. G 60th Inf.  
R. M. A. Hirst  
6200 Wiesbaden  
Gustav-Freytag-Str. 6  
Fed. Rep. of Germany

Again the 9th will be represented at Remagen at the 35th anniversary of the capture of the bridge by the 9th Armoured and the crossing by the 9th Infantry Division — yes, Dan, I'll be there with another invitation of the Mayor, Hans Peter Kuerten!

At that time I'll be able to see the first view of the museum which is being built by the city of Remagen. One of the towers unfinished — by the time of the event, the Mayor hopes to have the lighting installed, a number of the historical mementoes framed and hung. The event has not been finalized to date but Hans-Peter trusts with the assistance of the Army guys in Heidelberg, he'll have the ceremony up to snuff for that day.

Might I again add, Dan, that any of our guys who want a memento of the bridge, a stone encased in plastic with a personally authenticated word from the Mayor, can either send his request straight to Burgermeister Hans-Peter Kuerten, Alte Fuhrweg 39, D-5480 REMAGEN Federal Republic of Germany or to me — either way with the necessary twenty dollar payment — which covers all — stone, postage, and certificate.

And, Dan, after the event this year, as usual, I'll send you a total report and a couple of photographs. Best to the Division.

39th Inf.

Daniel Douvanis  
2025 Eaton Ave.  
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

Dear Dan,

Sorry you were not able to attend our "Company B 27th Annual Reunion here in Bethlehem." It was very well attended and two "Honors" were bestowed on the group by the Mayors of Allentown & Bethlehem. This double honor came about inasmuch as the functions took place in both cities and the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge is on the boundary of both also. Our Company received Proclamations from both mayors on two different days at two of the functions. Mayor Frank Fischl of Allentown is a military man himself and all of us enjoyed his visit at our Friday night buffet at the Lodge.

Once again I must congratulate you and all those whose efforts are behind the publishing of the Octofoil for you are all doing a wonderful job for the Association and I join the many that are grateful for your work. I can't tell you how much I look forward to receiving my copy and reading all the news and letters published. Keep up the good work. You all deserve a "special medal" for keeping the news of the "BEST Infantry Division of WWII" in print.

Gratefully your buddy from the "39th".

Co. G. 47th  
George Bako  
5275 Monroe Avenue, Apt. 7  
San Diego, Ca. 92115

Thanks for the kind words. We are happy here and in good health. My recent siege turned out well. The tumor was benign. I trust that you and yours are in good health also. I hope to be in Washington, D.C. next July and I am looking forward to seeing you.

(Continued on page 5)

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**