

College of the Holy Cross

CrossWorks

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

5-1-1980

The Octofoil, May/June 1980

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil>



Part of the [Military and Veterans Studies Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, May/June 1980" (1980). *The Octofoil*. 234.
<https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/234>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the 9th Infantry Division Association at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Octofoil by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.

THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Volume XXXV Number 3

May-June 1980

Parish Honors Father Connors



Retires on 75th Birthday
There was a party at the Center on June 1st. The center of what you ask. Let us add the word Ecumenical to Center. Now do you know where you are? Of course you do. You have been there several times. It is better known as the Connors Coffee Shop.

Highlights of his Life
The Nurses Association of Worcester and the Ancient Order of Hibernians with an assist from the parishiners at Immaculate Conception sponsored the party. This party was for Fr. Connors. Highlights of his life happened in the month of June. He was born during the sixth month. This June will be his 75th. He was Ordained 49 years ago. It will be his 25th year at Immaculate. June 1980 will be his final month at Immaculate Conception Church.

Hundreds of Well Wishers
During the party hundreds of well-wishers visited the coffee shop to express their feelings to a great man who has been such a friend and confessor for so many years.

As with all parties there had to be food. There were enough sandwiches with all flavors of fillings, sweets of all shapes, sizes and fillings that would satisfy an army. Tea and coffee flowed freely.

Bishop Bernard Flanagan of the Diocese of Worcester, commented on his association with Fr. Connors since he succeeded Bishop Wright as head of the Diocese.

Center Now Bears His Name

A surprise of the day was the unveiling of a bronze plaque which will have a permanent home in the center. It will also mean a new name for the Center. From June 1, 1980 the

Center or Ecumenical Center will be known as the Reverend Edward T. Connors Center. A great way to remember a great man who honorably served his God and his Country.

Going to Taiwan

After he hangs up his spikes and his glove about June 25th Fr. Connors is planning a vacation for 3 weeks. If you made one thousand guesses as to where he is going or what he is going to do you would not come close. He is going to Taiwan.

Will Attend Reunion

The Reverend Father Connors who's missed but a few reunions will be in Washington for our 35th get together. Father Ed served with the Division in all its campaigns and has been a member of the Association since it was formed in 1945. "God and Country" could very well be Father Connors personal motto. His entire life has been devoted to serving his God and his country. Who will ever forget the night, some years ago at a reunion, when there were those who thought it fashionable to deprecate their country and he led the members in the Grand March around the Ball room with the band playing a melody of George M. Cohan's "It's a Grand Old Flag" etc., one of our members took the Flag from the Band stand and marched with Father Ed and before long the entire gang was on the dance floor marching around and around followed with the "Old Reliabilities" singing "God Bless America".

We'll never forget that night as long as we are on this earth. General Westmoreland was in Vietnam at the time and he would have been proud of the "old gang".

Many surprises in store for those attending Reunion.



The White House, Washington, D.C. — This striking building, modeled after an Irish castle, has been the home of every President but George Washington. The White House ranks among the top ten attractions in the nations capital.

35-year wait is nearly over for Matt Urban

Thirty-five years after Matt Urban's bravery saved "countless American lives" on a French battlefield, the Holland, Michigan man may be close to receiving the nation's highest military decoration.

Urban, 59, the city recreation director, was nominated in 1945 for the Medal of Honor, but the recommendation was misplaced. It was resubmitted several months ago.

President Carter should decide "within the next two weeks" on the nomination, according to Carter aide Pat Barrio.

The Army called Matty the first week of May and asked for his uniform size and asked him to make up a guest list of who he wanted to attend the ceremony.

Served with 60th Infantry

Matty was the C.O. of Company F and later Battalion Commander of the 2nd Bn 60th Infantry. He also at one time handled the boxing team of the 60th which was one of the best in the E.T.O.

Rooting for him

All his old buddies and friends are rooting for Matty that he will at long last receive the recognition he deserves.

Harrison Daysh Co-Chairman of the Washington reunion appeared before the Board of Governors at the Spring meeting held in Pittsburgh on May 31st and made an interesting and enthusiastic report to the members about the plans formulated so far by the D.C. Chapter that pertains to the 1980 Ninth Infantry Division Association Reunion. Many surprises are in store for the members who attend this, our 35th Reunion.

As this will be the last issue of the Octofoil before the 1980 reunion it will be the last reminder to send in your reservations to the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. A blank for this can be found in this issue.

The reunion will begin on Thursday July 17th and the registration desk will be opened all day for the three days of the reunion beginning at 9:00 A.M.

Welcoming Party

On Thursday evening July 17th will be an informal get-together of the troops. Refreshments will be on hand and music for those who like to dance.

Business and Pleasure

The business of the association will be conducted on Friday morning and the Ladies Auxiliary will also have a get together. Friday afternoon should be free for some sight seeing and Friday evening another reception with a great dance band for your dancing

pleasure. Howard Devron and his Orchestra will supply the music on Friday and Saturday evenings. The popularity of this orchestra in the Washington area necessitated the addition of more and more men to provide the same danceable music in the Devron style so that this music is now heard in many places on the same night in Washington, Richmond, Baltimore, Charlottesville, etc. The Howard Devron Orchestra plays for all dancers (and listeners) with the assurance that these musicians can feel the mood of any party and thereby produce the happiest, danceable music possible.

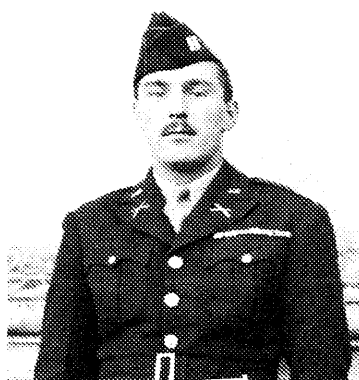
A floor show will be enjoyed by the members between dances.

Memorial Service

On Saturday morning all members and families will assemble outside the hotel where they will be bussed to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where the Memorial Service will be conducted for the departed men of the Ninth. After the placing of a wreath at the Tomb the members will adjoin to the Amphitheater where our Memorial Services will be held.

Banquet and Dance

Saturday evening the banquet and dance will be held at the Shoreham Hotel. This is an informal dress affair and after the dinner and talks the members will again enjoy the music of Howard Devron.



Matt Urban
England 1944

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

President
Robert J. DeSandy
23430 Colonial Ct.
St. Clairshore, Mi.

Vincent Guglielmino, 1st V.P.
114 Charles Street
Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

Elmer Wagner, 2nd V.P.
2833 Hotchkiss Road
Bay City, Mi. 48706

Charles Koskie, 3rd V.P.
4334 Hirschberg
Schiller Park, Ill. 60176

Harrison Daysh
Judge Advocate
4309 Carriage Court
Kinsington, Md. 20795

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Somerville, Ma. 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, N.J. 07087

Board of Governors

1980
John Bonkowski
Detroit, Mi.
Dave Gelman
Forest Hills, N.Y.
Salvatore Trapani
Rockville, Md.
Frank Ozart
Frankfort, Ill.

Paul Keller,
Columbus, Ohio

1981
Michael Deresh
Pinellas Park, Fla.
William Bongiorno
Bedford, Ma.
Robert DeSandy
St. Clairshores, Mi.
Elias Hopkins
Feasterville, Pa.
Charles Jones,
McLean, Va.

1982
John Clouser
Crystal River, Fla.
William Klauz
New York, N.Y.
Fred D'Amore
East Boston, Ma.
Martin Krasovetz
Gibbsboro, N.J.

Board Member Emeritus

Honorary Member Emeritus

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

The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are \$5.00 per year with \$1.50 of the \$5.00 earmarked for six issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J., of any change in address.

Published six times yearly, July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition. An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

Copy must be received on or before the 15th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th.
Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

Volume XXXV, Number 3

May-June 1980

Publication No. 402820

LADIES' AUXILIARY
of the
NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

I would like to become a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Enclosed is check or money order for 2.00 for 1980 dues. Please mail my membership card to-

Name

Street

City

State

While attached to the 9th Infantry Division (state relationship, whether the Ninth Division man was a husband, father, brother, son, etc.)

was with
give company, regiment, battery, attached unit, etc.)

Make checks or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail to
Mrs. Lillian Krasovetz
107 USA East
Gibbsboro, N.J. 08026

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find 1980 dues for:

Name Serial No.

Street Address

City Zone State

I was a member of:

Battery; Company; Regiment; 9th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

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

Please credit the following chapter:

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

135th Meeting of the

National Board of Governors

The 135th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., on May 31, 1980, at the Marriott Motel. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by President Robert DeSandy. Attending the meeting were John Clouser, Sal Trapani, Paul Keller, Martin Krasovetz, John Bonkowski and Elias Hopkins. Also present were Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, past president Walter O'Keefe and 2nd Vice-President Elmer Wagner.

Remembered

President DeSandy asked the members to stand for a moment of silent prayer in memory of the departed members of the Ninth and to remember past president Frank Ozart who passed away on April 10th.

The secretary read the minutes of the 134th meeting that was held in Worcester on November 3, 1979 and upon a motion duly made by Elias Hopkins and seconded by Marty Krasovetz it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and to instruct the secretary to have copy of same placed in file.

In the absence of Thomas Boyle, the Treasurer Harrison Daysh was called upon to read the report that Boyle had submitted on the last quarter on the income and spending of the Association. Several questions were asked and hopefully they will be answered at the next Board meeting. Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Paul Keller it was voted to: Accept the report as submitted.

D. C. Reunion

Harrison Daysh and Sal Trapani reported for the Washington, D.C. chapter on the progress of the reunion to be held this summer on July 17, 18, 19th. Charles Tingley and Harrison Daysh will be Co-Chairmen of the reunion. A large turnout is expected with many old timers writing to the secretary's office for information on the reunion. Over 125 men have inquired. These are men that did not belong to the association but have responded through a news release sent out by Elmer Wagner throughout the country in different newspapers. The secretary reported over 100 new members have been signed up this year largely through this publicity. Daysh reminded the membership to make their reservations as early as they can.

President DeSandy thanked Trapani and Daysh for their report.

Seventeen Awards

John Clouser chairman of the Scholarship committee reported that seventeen applicants are recommended for awards. Ten renewals and seven new candidates have been approved by the scholarship committee. Clouser briefed the members as to how the recipients are judged according to their academic and financial needs. Upon a motion duly made by Elias Hopkins and seconded by Sal Trapani it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Scholarship Committee.

The recipients will be notified by this committee.

Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Marty Krasovetz it was voted to: Accept the applications of the Florida members to form their own Chapter, and to instruct the secretary to reimburse Joseph Williams the sum of \$25.00 for the postage etc., he used in his correspondence.

Non Chapter Reunions

Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Paul Keller it was voted to: That the Board of Governors dissolve the existing committee on non-chapter reunion sites and authorize the President to reconstitute the committee by making appointments according to the original plan of three year staggered terms and such committee be appointed after today's meeting and prior to the Board of Governors meeting on July 17, 1980, and the President appoint a chairman of the committee and instruct him to call a meeting of the committee prior to the July 17th Board meeting and the chairman report the results of the committee meeting to the Board at its July 17th meeting.

Elmer Wagner spoke to the members on the purchase of hats (golf type with peak) with the Ninth Division emblem on the hat. A full report on prices etc., will be given at the next meeting to be held on July 17th.

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion duly made by John Bonkowski and seconded by Sal Trapani it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

Tip Of The Hat

Remembering the Memorial Fund and their departed buddies we thank the following members and friends:

William Brown
Roland Pope
Roy Dougherty
John Vranesic
Charles Maraldo
Jack Safford
Maurice Lambert
Al Janoski
Flake D. Ford
Gordon Anderson
Dave Heller
John Schopper

We salute you.

First on the list of resolutions is that veterans and their families keep military and family records in a safe place for easy access in time of need; second, veterans should make sure that their GI insurance beneficiary listing is up-to-date; third, veterans or their dependents should notify the VA and the Post Office whenever they plan to move; and fourth, veterans and their families should make a habit of contacting a State Veteran Counselor for factual information on changing veterans' laws and benefits.

★★★★★★

Taps Sounded

*Soldier, Rest! Thy
Warfare O'er,
Dream of Battlefields
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

Added to the growing list of comrades that will no longer pass this way and with saddened heart we announce the following "Old Reliabilities":

Al Keistler
M.P.'s
Dave Gilbert
M.P.'s
Joseph Brady
M.P.'s
Domnick Spagnola
Med. Det. 47th Inf
Paul E. Wilburn
Serv C. 47th Inf
Irving Ferguson
Co B 60th Inf.

May they rest in peace.
We extend our heartfelt sympathy to their loved ones.
+++

Died April 7th after a short illness, Mrs. Leeta Huber, 1111 W. Henley Street, Olean, New York.

She was the widow of Harold Huber.

Harold Huber, a member of Service Battery, 26FA, died January 17, 1965.

On November 8, 1964, Mrs. Huber with her husband and three children attended our 20th Memorial Mass. Two months later Harold died.

On November 7, 1965, Mrs. Huber and her children were again in Worcester to attend a Memorial Mass only this time without her husband. She felt as though she had to do it. It was a great display of courage. It was also a great sign of devotion to her family and her husband.

1974 was the last time Mrs. Huber was in Worcester. At that time she had her daughter Christine, two sons, Philip and Mark, and Eileen Leavey, her future daughter in law with her for the Memorial Mass.



Billie J. Martin sends this photo of the "gals" who kept the Reunion Registration desk moving smoothly. (l-r) Marie Quinn, the Secretaries secretary, Donna Davis and Donna Thomas of the Convention Bureau and Mae Phillips wife of Joe Phillips.

Michigan Happenings

Due to the deadline for the next issue of Octofoil on June 20th the news from the Michigan Chapter is limited for this time as our last meeting was already reported on in the current issue and our next meeting will be our Annual Picnic to be held at the Kensington Metropolitan Park on June 22nd 1980.

Memorial Service Held

We did hold our annual Memorial Service on Sunday May 18th at Christ Church Detroit, Michigan at 2:00 P.M. preceded by a noon brunch at the "Down Under" Restaurant in the Hart Plaza which was attended by 38 members wives and guests. At the service opening remarks were made by President Rodger Allsgard followed by a Prayer Offering by Chaplain Floyd Hennessey after which Everett Tapp introduced our main speaker Rev. Robert Armstrong, Pastor Warrendale Comm. Church Dearborn Hgts, Michigan. Following the message by Rev. Armstrong, Secy. Fred Josey then made the Golden Roll Call with the Absent Replies made by Don Lewis, Adjutant. This was followed by Taps with a moment of silence and then the group singing of "America the Beautiful". Bob DeSandy chapter member and the National President made a few announcements and the closing remarks. We were very pleased to have with us the wives of two of our deceased members, Betty Rumenapp and Barbara Meadows with son Don at the Service.

At this gathering the Chapter was presented with a Guest Registration Book by Diane Williams, daughter of Charles and Doris Williams to record the members and guests names and to be used at our future meetings to keep a permanent record of those in attendance.

Bus Reservations

The Bus Reservations are coming in gradually for the trip to the Nat'l Reunion Wash. D.C. in July. Also 50- 50 Raffle Tickets and the Guys and Gals page for the Reunion Journal are coming in.

Final Note

As a final note, Secretary Josey asks all Michigan Chapter members who are on the Chapter mailing list who are delinquent in their dues to send him, your 1980 dues as soon as possible and also those who are Michigan Members and not on the Chapter mailing list please let him know your name and address so that you can be put on this list in case you are not receiving the Chapter Meeting Notices which are sent out every other month.

Hope to see you all at the Reunion July 17, 18, 19.

Thought for the day--No One knows what he can do until he tries.

Sincerely,

Fred M. Josey, Secy.
8162 Green Valley Dr.
Grand Blanc, Mich. 48439
313-694-6108

A man rushed excitedly into the tavern and shouted: "A lady just fainted outside! Does anybody have a shot of whisky?"

The bartender instantly filled a glass and handed it to the man and said: "On the house".

The stranger grabbed the glass, downed its contents and handed it back to the bartender. "Thanks," he said, "I always get sick when I see someone faint."



Members of the New York Chapter are shown at Memorial Service held at National Cemetery in Pinelawn, Long Island, N.Y. Several hundred former members of the Division are buried here and the members remembered them with visits to their grave sites. Not to be forgotten were members, who passed away since the War and are buried at Pinelawn, John Rizzo and Dom Miele graves were decorated.



After the ceremony at Pinelawn National Cemetery the New Yorkers traveled to Beth Page Park where an old fashion "cook out" was held. Henry Dietrich and Frank Fazio are shown keeping busy with some help from the "Ladies" with Jake Laskau supervising the detail. (Frank Duffy supplied us with the Photos)

President's Message

We are about to convene in our nation's capital at the great and beautiful Shoreham Hotel for our thirty fifth National Reunion. The committee has assured us that they are putting together a program we shall long remember. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have attended past reunions at this facility will attest that it lend itself a wonderful atmosphere in which to meet. The D.C. Chapter has always been an excellent host and has a reputation for their outstanding programs.

We as an association are most fortunate to have so many dedicated members. It is through their ability and esprit de corps that has enabled us thirty five annual reunions as well as the thirty five memorial masses. I am certain we are the envy of many other associations.

I extend a sincere wish that you attend. Have a pleasant stay and renew old friendships. I am confident this will be a memorable reunion for all.

Sincerely,
Robert DeSandy

THE 1980 REUNION WASHINGTON D. C.

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

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

July 17-20th

Reservation Cut-Off
Date — July 1

Room Rates

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

Name of other Persons in your Reservation

Make reservations directly with the Hotel.

Parking rates are \$3.00 per day.

PLEASE INCLUDE ONE NIGHT'S DEPOSIT

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

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

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

SEX! SEX! SEX! — and now that we have the undivided attention of all you "sex to sexy" Sexagenarian "Beco" Romeo's — we will carry-on the business at hand.

First — Did you get the following "Beco" appeal through the mail to attend the Washington, D.C. Re-union?

Sgt. Blub-Blub: A.S.N. 01254567. O.K. Soldier, — this is an order to "be there"! — Where? — At the Washington, D.C. Re-union of the 9th. Infantry Division Association at the Shoreham-Americana Hotel — July 17, 18, and 19th, 1980.

Engaged the Services

We could say we engaged the services of such fabulous, pulchritudinous, vivacious, voluptuous, — er' would you believe "sexy" talented ladies as Mitzie Gaynor, "Charo" Ann-Margret and Dolly Parton, but comes the 17th, 18th, and 19th, Mitzie will be dancing with the abandonment of a Dervish at Lake Tahoe, the "hootchie-coochie Charo" will be wiggling and waggling in Las Vegas, dear Annie will be singing sensuously as she cools a bottle of the bubbly in my van parked over yonder in Rock Creek Park and Dolly said she has "two big things" to take care of — yo'all!

— In addition we learned the "Lemon Queen" is too old — to travel! General Patton shall be with us in "spirit" only, and a man named Carter won't leave the Rose Garden!

Time Tested Friendships

— But don't despair — this we can promise you — opportunity to re-new time-tested friendships — review old times and happenings and revive and stimulate new interests to sustain that "esprit de corps" of our "B" Co. 47th. Infantry — unique in its camaraderie and outstanding in our glorified 9th. Infantry Division! — Editor's note: + "You're telling us!"

These Reasons

— If you didn't, more than likely these are the reasons — 1. Pat and I don't have your address, Guy! 2. You're not reading the fine print or getting the point of our "Beco" column in this "Octofoil" which stresses "communications" — y'know, Able, Baker, Charley, Dog, stuff!

Missing this Re-union was a tremendous loss on your part — Just for openers — Seeing the svelte, sensual Joe Podany disco-ing and raising a Saturday Night "fever" with the "mod" with the "bod" that has done more for black-lace lingerie than MacDonald has for the "burger"!

— catching "Jacques" DiSanto cheek to cheeking with y'know who I mean, that show-biz ding-a-ling, then "cooling it" with "triple-sex on the rocks; in the seclusion of the "Chez Voulez Vous" — Washington's answer to the Parisian "east bank".

— and then enhancing the pool scene, our "Sarno, the Significant" flexing his manliness to the "ooh's and ah's" of those well-endowed Play-boy "bunnies" as he "toyed" with their room keys!

Go on Punishing

— Gad!! I can't go on punishing you with all the other goodies — but there is a lesson to be learned — remember! This could have been you — so eat your heart out and the next time when "Beco" says "be there" — BE THERE!!!

"Beco" mail call brought a most interesting letter from Orion Shockley, now engaged, along with two associates, in the business of the leasing of

passenger and charter fishing boats to operators of these services — namely, to, between and surrounding Alaska.

Letter 2, buddy Jack DiSanto announced decision to retire after 39 years with our Government, thus "thank God it's Friday" will now become "thank God!! — it's the First!!!"

The "Mail Call" column notes items written by Joe Harevilla and Dennis Canedy — Joe left us after being wounded near Cherbourg, France. Dennis joined us "up the road a'piece" in Belgium — leaving us to sweep mines with the MP platoon as the war drew to a close.

All four buddies hope to be with us in Washington, D.C. — it will be great seeing them again!

Have a good summer season 'n keep in touch, huh?

Pat will be giving you a complete update on the Washington D.C. Re-union in the next issue of the "Octofoil"

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

Pat J. Morano
2208 Lincoln Way, East
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201

47th Inf.

RANDALL BRYANT
15640 SW 85th Avenue
Miami, Fl. 33157

Enclosed my check for 1980 dues.

We won't be making the convention in Washington this year for we are making a "pilgrimage" to Morocco and to Safi where the 47th landed back in 1942. I've been talking to my wife about it for so many years I have to show her, a pleasure for my memories of the landing will remain forever.

Will make some pictures and plan on sending the best to you for use if you want. Also will write and try to compare present day Safi with that of 38 years ago.

My latest article about the 9th is in the current issue of the American Legion Magazine for those old 9th members who are interested. It's about the submarine training we underwent back in June 1942.

39th Reg. Hdq. G Co.
DONALD ROGERS
801 W. Forrest Hill
Peoria, Illinois 61604

Just a line I had open heart surgery last year and just got home from hospital — with gall-bladder. Would like to hear from some of the boys in I & R, 39th Reg. Hdq. or G Co.

My old buddy, Ralph Egley died last year. Called him Pop.

Hq. 84 F.A.
BILL SATRYB
27 Nye Street
Rockville, Connecticut 06066

Enclosed is my membership application and check for dues, decals, license discs (2) and combat route map.

It is unbelievable to have been out of touch all these years with all of the fine people with whom I had served. Hopefully membership in the Association will result in making contact again with some of the old buddies.

M Co. 47th Inf.
JOHN DeSEPIO
532 Main
Bound Brook, N.J. 08805

Just a few lines to you and the 9th Division that I John DeSepio of M. Co. 47th will be in the Manhattan V.A. Hospital, 408-1st Ave. at 24th St., for open heart surgery some time around June 2nd. If any of M. Co. 47th are around would like them to stop in, so I'll have someone to talk to.

mail call

Continued

Co. A. 15 Engr.
WALTER MILLSTINE
3826 - 19th Ave. N.
St. Petersburg, Fla.
April 24, 1980
Dear Dan:

Enclosed are my dues and an enclosure you may find interesting.

I noticed in the correspondence sent to you from Father Connors, he asked you to say a prayer for the old man. I didn't think you could do much good, so I wrote to the head man in the Vatican, on September 11, 1979, as follows:

Dear Pope John Paul II,

I am about to undergo heart surgery. I am not a Catholic, but I would like to know if you would do me and thousands of other ex-G.I.'s a favor when you visit Boston, Massachusetts next month.

A Priest, Father Edward Connors, the only Priest I know who runs a Coffee Shop in the basement of a church, and holds Mass once a year for the 4,581 soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division killed in action during World War II. For the past 30 odd years, thousands of ex-soldiers and their families of all faiths throughout the U.S.A. have made a pilgrimage to his church, the Immaculate Conception Church, Grove Street, Worcester, Mass. 01605, a city near Boston. They come, not only to have coffee and share the Mass, but to show love and respect for this giant Irish Priest.

This man is almost a legend, another "soldier saint" to his men. Father Connors is one of the Division's outstanding heroes. During the war, without personal transportation facilities, he hitch-hiked in the midst of battle, bumming rides on jeeps and trucks. On a flat rock or jeep, he said daily Mass and usually three on Sunday.

At Bizerte, in the Tunisian campaign, enemy shells fell in a service battery, exploding two ammunition trailers. Father Connors ran to the scene and in the midst of a flaming inferno, dragged out the wounded, returning several times while shells fell exploding to see that no men were left. For this heroism, he was awarded the Silver Star.

He is not only admired by us, but some of the greatest Generals he served under. He is a personal friend of General William Westmoreland and General Craig. Each could and would tell a story of the heroics of Father Connors.

He is retiring this year and the Conner's Coffee Shop will be open and closed for the last time on November 4, 1979 after years of operation.

If it is at all possible while you are in Boston, could you personally Bless this saintly man, who not only watched over us during the war, but has continued to do so these past many years.
P.S. Hope to see you in Washington.

March 20, 1980

Dear Mr. Millstine,

His Holiness Pope John Paul II has received your letter and he has directed me to reply in his name.

His Holiness wishes you to know that he will pray for you and the priest whom you recommended to his prayers.

Sincerely yours,
Msgr. G.B. Re
Assessor

B Co. 9th Medics
PETER RADICHIO
1128 Ocean Pk. Blvd.
Santa Monica, Calif. 90405

My vacation fell at the same time as the New York Chapter picnic and memorial services of the men we lost in combat. This was my first appearance. I must say it was great and I felt very good about it, as when I lived so close I couldn't make it for one thing or another. My wife and I were very happy to be with you and your lovely wives.

I spent the weekend with Vito Splendorio and his wife Vinnie and Joe Todarello and his wife Lucy, had Liz and I for Sunday dinner. I must say my wife and I enjoyed being with them as they were most gracious. Thank you Splendorios and the Todarellos. Just beautiful.

At the picnic I met the Quinns, Sypiewskis, Fazios and many more of my friends. I enjoyed being with you all. My wife and I want to thank you all for the lovely picnic.

We left Long Island Monday for New England States. My wife and I were never there before but it was beautiful. We enjoyed it all. We stayed at a friend's in Framingham, Mass. We had one day left so we went for a ride to visit Father Connors in Worcester. His wit hasn't changed. He still thinks he's the dirtiest basketball player around. Ha! Ha! Father Connors looks great and if I remember correctly we will see him in D.C.

Liz and I are planning to be at the convention. Matter of fact we just sent our deposit for the hotel. I do hope to see all of my people from B Company 9th Medics plus A, C & D Companies as I do know many from those companies. Also, I'd like to see the guys from the 39th Medics, Ben Murrell and his lovely wife, Major Roller, my C.O., a great guy and a great human being.

Let's backtrack to the picnic again. I spoke to many people there and they asked me to push for a convention in California. Well you guys around the East Coast, particularly seem to be the ones that don't want to leave your backyards. This is my final plea for the people who want a convention in California. We are leaving this world fast, too fast, let's take our loved ones to the West Coast and see what we have to offer. I'll mention a few — Universal Studio — Disneyland — Knotts Berry Farm — The Old Brooklyn Dodgers with Vince Scully broadcasting the games yet also Chaney Ravine Dodger Ball Park, the most beautiful in both leagues. The ocean, the beautiful Pacific Malibu and its slides on the Coast — Home of the Stars in Beverly Hills — and the Famous Olivera St. the area of Mexican shops and many other areas can be seen. We do have smog and there's no charge for that. I'd like to stress this paragraph to the board in charge. Let's leave our nest for a change and look for new areas where we can meet people that can't go to the East Coast. I'm very strong for a complete change. Not New York, Ca. or Mass. Let's fan out. Come on gang get behind your chapter for a big push to the West Coast. We do have 9th Division people in California and I assure you they are ready to work and do a damn good job for the guys and gals in the 9th Division.

I will close now hoping my friend Frank Fazio won't get angry at me because I wanted him to listen to my letter. I wish you all good health and do take care. God bless.

P.S. See you in D.C.

Co. M. 39th Inf.
MAURICE E. LAMBERT
2503 Diamond Hill Road
Woonsocket, R.I. 02895

It's been quite a while since I wrote to you but my thoughts were often with you and the Boys. Hope everything is fine and that you are still in good health. As for me, I've been sidelined by a major Coronary. In fact, I've been given my Disability Pension. But things are looking up and if I do what I am told, I'll be alright.

First of all, I would like you to know how I enjoy the Octofoil. Especially while I was confined. Knowing what the Boys are up to is terrific.

Then I would like to know if it is possible for me to get another lifetime membership card. Mine is pretty dilapidated and I am very proud of it.

I would also like to know the price of the Cap that the Ninth Division has adopted and also where it is possible to purchase it.

You will also find a check enclosed for fifty dollars (\$50.00). This is for the Scholarship Fund.

Oh yes, a few issues back there was a member from my Regiment, the 39th, asking about the book about our Division. It is called "The Eight Stars To Victory" and it was copywrited by the 9th Division Assoc.

My best regards to all the Members and please remember me at the Convention, especially to the Guys of the 39th Regiment Co. M.

Hq. Co. 47th Inf.
HORACE CLARY JR.
2742 Riviera Court
Decatur, Ga. 3003

Many, many thanks to you for your quick reply to my inquiries concerning the 9th Div. Association and the annual meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. I am trying to be just as quick with my application to join the association and to secure the other commodities as listed on the application form.

I am going to try my best to get to the convention as I have never attended a national convention. As I mentioned I did belong to the Southern Association of the 9th Division, which was organized by Gen. George Smythe, former 47th commander, when he was chief of staff at 3rd Army Hq. at Ft. McPherson, Ga. We had one convention which was held in Birmingham. When Gen. Smythe left, the association folded up.

Thanks again for your outstanding help and cooperation. P.S. A Happy Coincidence just occurred. The Octofoil that you sent me had a story about Bob Dunn, formerly of the 47th PR Staff. Bob, Marty Roach, and myself served on that staff from about Sept., 1941, until the conclusion of the campaign in Sicily. I'll have to writke Bob.

Co. E. 47th Inf.
NORMAN C. JOHNSON
619 Dawson St.
Kane, Pa. 16735

Enclosed please find \$13.00 for three years dues in Ninth Division Association. It appears to be the closest point to my home town Kane.

Incidentally, thank you for enclosing a copy of the Octofoil in your reply to me, especially when I opened it to see a picture of a buddy I used to pal around while in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. That man in the Jan-Feb. copy is Robert Dunn who I haven't seen since 1945.

I hope to attend this years reunion if my application is approved. Until then, thank you so much.

C.O. 47th. Medical Detachment
DONALD R. ROBERTS,
P.O. Box 1394,
Elkins, W. Va.

Each spring near April Fools Day an organization called the Lonesome Polecats meets up in the high country of West Virginia. They call their campout "the rampage"! It is highlighted by eating ramps, telling stories, fishing, hiking and playing cards.

Ramps are a mountain delicacy which will take some explaining to lowlanders and others who are not fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to savor their very special appeal.

Ramps are one of the first shoots that come up in the spring forest floor. They might be likened to onions or leeks or garlic but they are much much stronger. Ramps are believed by mountain folk to purify the blood and revitalize the individual. The scent might be called objectionable so everybody eats ramps and the scent lingers for days, and as long as you keep eating ramps you don't mind it and you can't smell the others.

There are ramp festivals all the way from Pennsylvania to Georgia in the Appalachians.

This last year Larry Spears, one of the Polecats, was telling of his experiences while serving as pilot early on in the North African invasion. He was attached to the 60th. Troop carrier group and he and his crew were sent on a secret mission. They were ordered to fly to an airfield in Algeria, where much to their surprise they picked up General George Patton and were ordered to fly Old Blood and Guts to his new command near Rabat Morocco. As General Patton approached his destination at about 1500 feet he asked Larry to circle around so he could see his new army. On landing the general shook hands with the crew and gave instructions to his aids to take good care of the airmen.

Larry's reminiscence reminded me of our 47th. Combat team landing in Safi Morocco on D-Day.

The 47th. combat team landed in Safi on D-Day and within a dozen or so hours had secured that beachhead. General, then Colonel Edwin Randle commanded the 47th. Infantry. He earned for his gallant leadership the command of military district No. 5. I, as regimental surgeon was given the dubious honor of being the surgeon of Military District No. 5. The administration, the reports, the daily sick call occupied the battalion surgeons time and sanitary inspections of all bivouac areas.

The navy was generous in sharing supplies for the first few days then they sailed off with our worst casualties.

We were directed to apply to the suregon of the Western Task Force for any supplies we might need. The daily grind of aid stations, and the demands of a hospital that was created out of a Jewish intermediate school in Safi used up our remaining supplies in a hurry. We were shortest in staples — gauze—bandages all the carlyle chests were picked near clean.

The supply sgt. and myself drove up the coast road to try to locate the supply base — about 130 miles to Casablanca. We went to the Task Force Surgeon's Office which was located in the shell building in a modern skyscraper in the heart of Casablanca. Like a green country boy going to the city I'll admit I was somewhat awed by the high ranking officers and spit and polish. They were

vague about where supplies might be obtained. They said they were in the process of being unloaded and perhaps if we went to the dock area we might find the items we most urgently needed. The task force surgeon was in conference and couldn't be disturbed.

We went to the waterfront and located the medical warehouse which was piled to the ceiling with cases of all the things we needed. When we spoke to the master sergeant in charge he said, "sorry, the inspector generals office has condemned this building and nothing can be opened until it is moved to a suitable location."

This particular warehouse had previously been filled with dates and the ceiling was covered with a blanket of the largest black fruit flies I have ever seen.

We returned to the headquarters building to see if some other supplies could be obtained but when they heard what the sanitary inspectors had said they were even less helpful.

In desperation we drove back to the date warehouse and just as we pulled up a jeep driven by a medical chicken colonel and accompanied by two more medical chicken colonels screeched to a halt. The colonels rushed into the medical supply warehouse, grabbed crowbars and began prying open crates and loading their jeep.

They were gone in five minutes. We wandered into the date warehouse to find the master sgt. in charge sitting disconsolately on a partly emptied crate.

The fruit flies were buzzing like a hive of bees. He said, "you fellers might as well get what you need too!"

It was 3 weeks later before our supply sgt. found out what had happened that day.

General Patton was present when one of his aides cut his hand opening a C ration can. It bled profusely. When it turned out that there was no aid station or medical supplies readily available at the headquarters, Old Blood and Guts made a trip to the surgeons office and demanded that they install an aid station immediately. This is what those three medical chicken colonels did.

Co. B 15th Engr. Bn.
CHARLIE HOFFMANN
91-43 - 81st Street
Woodhaven, L.I., N.Y., 11421

I'm sorry for not writing until now, since I told you that last time we met I would write soon.

I haven't written anymore stories about the war since I wrote about "Schevenhutte." One day I'll get to write some more but for now here is something I'm sure all the 9th guys will appreciate.

This item was printed in the American Traveler paper (vintage way back, as the pages are all falling apart). "The First Division doesn't have to tell the world what a great fighting outfit it is, its record speaks for itself. Like other great divisions, the Ninth Infantry of its own First Army, Gen. Patton's Fourth Armored Div., the Fiftieth Northumfriar Division of the British Army and the original German Ninetieth Light Infantry Division of the Africa Koyos." "It states that the First Division always got along well with the Ninth Division," and "when there was a tough job to do you could always find the First and the Ninth Division side by side."

Sorry I can't make it to the reunion this year but have made four over the years.

Say hello to all the gang for me.

mail call

Continued

Co. A 47th Inf.
JOHN F. POLHEMUS
1093 Indian Hill Road
Toms River, New Jersey 08753
Thank you for the Octofoil. Didn't realize you published this paper and would like to receive it in the future as a way of keeping in touch with the 9th Division news.
Enclosed is check for dues and decals, etc.

I am sorry I wasn't able to attend Reunion in July. I am a M.S. patient and although still working am having increasing difficulty in walking and getting around. Certainly would like to make it.

Keep up the good work. Thanking you again.

1st Bn. Med. 60th Inf.
R.M. HUMMEL, M.D.
2411 Lommel Lane
Marion, Indiana 46952

Although I am color blind, I can see that red ink too well. Enclosed is the money due for Mrs. and me for 1980.

We enjoy very good health for senior citizens. I continue to practice medicine and gripe about the government and taxes.

Very best wishes to you and everyone. One of these days I hope to see you all at a convention.

Co. E. 47th Inf.
CHARLES V. MARALDO, SR.
171 Bryson Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10302

Sorry to hear about Frank Ozart. He was a good friend.

Also sorry I will not be able to make the Reunion this year. Hope to see you all in November.

Enclosed in my yearly donation to the Memorial Fund.

F. Co. 47th & 2nd Bn. Hdqs.

JACK W. SAFFORD
120 Forum Drive
Whiteland, Indiana 46184

Sorry about the dues, had it on my mind the other day but didn't get around to complete.

Will not be able to make the convention again this year. Have been post Commander of V.F.W. Post 6978 here in town and spend a lot of time at that winding up the second year. Got us a new building this past year and has been plenty to do since I retired a year ago.

P.S. Have a 9 year old son. Huh!

Co. L. 60th Inf.
MIKE PATTI
9942 Kings Canyon Drive
Huntington Beach, Ca. 92646

Enclosed is \$'s and app. on Louis Horowitz. He is one of my guys in the 60th. We are going to meet in Washington. I have made reservations at the hotel for us. Thank you. Hope to see you and many friends I haven't seen in many, many years. Really looking forward for July 17.

9th Med. Bn
JOE MEDEA
942 Laurel Avenue
River Edge, New Jersey 07661

I was happy to hear from you and thanks for that copy of Octofoil. I was planning to attend the reunion in Washington this year and hoping I would meet some of my buddies from the 9th Med. Bn. but my son is getting married on July 19th — so maybe next year. I am enclosing dues for three years to keep in touch and hope I can get in touch with some of the medics soon.

Co. F 60th Inf.
FLAKE D. FORD
R. 2 Box 10
Ashland, Miss. 38603

Thanks Dan for sending me Octofoil and the membership application. I am sending a donation to Scholarship fund, my 3 year membership, map and history. Hope to see you in Washington, D.C. Would like to hear from my old buddies.

Thanks again.

Co. A 39th Inf.
PERCY HOUGH
26668 Wolverine
Madison Hts. Mich. 48071

Would like to hear from one and all who were in the Weapons Platoon of Co. A 39th Inf. during 1940 through 1943, and have not been in contact with any of the old gang. Hope to see someone at the July reunion in Washington, D.C.

Co. M 47th
WILTON TAYLOR
Stop 6
Lost Hills, Ca. 93249

I had a nice surprise about the article I wrote about the "Long Hike to Port Lyaytey from Safi" Dec. 1942. Dick O'Connor of 84th F.A. wrote me from (9567 Bluford, Whittier, Ca. 90605) which is near L.A. Said the 84th F.A. was with us on the Long Hike and he remembered it well and hopes to drop in if he is up this way. Our home is always open to all 9th men. Years ago we had Paul Plunkett stay overnight, as well as, visits from Walter O'Keefe and Lloyd Wafford of 15th Engr. Co.B. worked with me here at Mobil Oil, as well as, Blacki Waldron of Co. E. 60th who was captured by Germans in France also worked here for Mobil Oil, now in Alaska. His brother Art just retired from Mobil Oil, Prod. Dept. of Lost Hills. Also, L.T. Cormen of G. Co.47th of Fairfax, Mo. visited me last year. Do you know of Charlie Reyberger Co. M. 47th cook's address? He lived in New York or New Jersey.

Best wishes to the Winklemens on their trip to Basingstoke, would like to see Bob, haven't seen him since Winchester, England, May 1944. Best Wishes to all Ninth men. May God bless you one and all.

Co. F. 60th Inf.
JOSEPH T. SKERTICH
415 E. 7th Street
Staunton, Illinois 62088

We are sorry that we will not make the Reunion in Washington because I am going to attend the Ex-Prisoner of War Reunion in Las Vegas.

I am glad to read that Matt Urban received the Medal of Honor. He really did deserve it. I was one of his Platoon Sergeant's from Africa all the way to Belgium where I was captured.

Give my regards to the men of F. Co. who are attending the Reunion which I seen in the Octofoil. We also want to say "HELLO" to Ivan and Ethel Thompson who we met at the other reunions.

Co. C 39th
RUDOLPH D'AMATO
83A Dante Avenue
Hicksville, New York 11801

Sending three years dues. The Octofoil has given me sad-happy moments. I have seen one of my buddies in the paper — Eddie Egan. Recently, the War Department, has sent me the Bronze Star after 36 years.

Co. D 60th Inf.
EUGENE F. CARNEY
110 Alice Street
Wheeling, W. Va. 26003

Thank you for sending the information on the 9th Infantry Division Association. We enjoyed the paper and will look forward to receiving it - enclosed is a check for 3 year membership, and I checked all the other items to send me. I see you marked out the one "Eight Stars to Victory" a pictorial history of the 9th Div. in action. Is there any possible way I could get a copy of this to buy or borrow?

Do you have the names of people in W. Va. who are members of the 9th Div. or some in the Ohio area of Columbusset. We are not sure we will attend the reunion but hope to or will get a space in the reunion journal.

60th Inf.
MICHAEL DERESH
9212-40th Way North
Pinellas Park, Florida 33565

Just a few lines to let you know that all is well down here in Florida. I am anxiously looking forward to seeing all of the gang at our convention in Washington, D.C.

I am enclosing a newspaper clipping about General Westmoreland that I cut out of our local paper — The St. Petersburg Times. I thought you would find it interesting.

I also received a call from George Bako about a month ago, who was elated that his recovery from his operation was complete. I expect to call him in the very near future and thereby return his call. He expect to go to D.C. and vicinity a bit earlier since Paul has a sister in Virginia.

As for myself, I am extremely busy, swimming, bike riding, on various committees here — in other words, I'm retired and enjoying myself.

Give my very best to the boys the next time you see them.

Keep up the good work, till I see you in D.C.

A.T. 39th Inf.
HY SASNOWITZ
Box 1
Swan Lake, New York 12783

I am enclosing \$2.00 as a booster. I have been postmaster at Swan Lake, N.Y. since WWII ended, but retired 4 years ago due to a bad case of arthritis and cannot travel or do much of anything. I was with the original 9th at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and went to North Africa with them, came back to the states in 1943 after being injured there. I was with Cannon Co. of the 39th and later was transferred to Div. Hdqs. 9th Div. If any of the boys remember me, I would like to hear from them. Regards to all.

Co. L. 60th Inf.
ROBERT DAVIS
184 Academy Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702

Enclosed check for our dues. Hope to see the gang in Washington, D.C.

Ed Co. B - 47th Inf.
ED SARNOCINSKI
2705 Price Street
Chester, Pa. 19013

Three months of strike at B.P Oil Refinery sort of backlogged a number of things at home.

Sorry about being so late.

Hope to see you in Washington.

60th Inf.
JOSEPH POTTS
Rd. No. 3 H.W. 236
Newfield, N.J. 08344

I have changed my address again. I sure enjoy the Octofoil. You boys do a good job with the paper.

Best of luck.

Co. E. 39th Inf.
WILLIE (SNUFFY) SMITH
7848 Maynard, Canoga Park
California 91304

I hope this letter finds you and yours in the best of health. We in sunny California (like fun, we have had more rain here than we know what to do with) are all fine. At present we are a bit crowded as my oldest daughter and her family of 3 has moved in with us from Texas as my son-in-law has to (with a Ph.D. out of Penn State in History) find himself another vocation after teaching history on a university level 10 years. We get on each other's nerves once in a while but on the whole we work out things.

It only seems like a week ago that I was in Ft. Lauderdale, but I think as we get older time passes faster, as July approaches I know I must try to do two things. Visit my mother in New York and try to make the convention.

The inflation over the past year really has hit everybody, and the rates of the hotel in Washington are quite higher than last year's Florida's off-season rates. Since I am going alone as my wife will be at the height of her work, (she is a travel agent) and could not make the trip, I was wondering if you know of any other men who would wish to share a room. To be truthful, if this was possible I would attend the convention all three nights instead of two. If this is possible just inform me by letter, and let me know who my pup tent partner is. I will send him a check so he can reserve our room. Either way I'll see you in July. P.S. Excuse the lined paper, but P.S. 28 and DeWitt Clinton H.S. in New York only used lined paper.

Hq 3rd Bn 60th Inf.
ROY L. BECK
330 Best Drive
Athens, Georgia 30606

With apology to Roy-the Editors misspelled his name in the Jan-Feb. issue of the Octofoil. Roy is 100 percent disabled and would like to hear from his old buddies from the 60th Infantry. Come on fellas drop Roy a line.

Co.C.899th T.D.
ALFRED P. EVANS
Laurel Heights Hosp.
Shelton, Conn. 06484

Dear Dan:
Thank you for your patient persistence, I really do appreciate your efforts to keep me in the fold. With this check, you shouldn't have to worry about my delinquency for another three years by which time I shall probably have retired from my job here at Laurel Heights, (No, Dan... I'm not a patient here ...I'm enjoying very good health thus far) and from the 76th Division (TNG) of the USAR where I still click my heels as Chief Legal Clerk, in the JAG Section.

The OCTOFOIL is, as always, welcome news and when I receive it, I can't wait to get off by myself to read it cover-to-cover without interruption. Reading the OCTOFOIL brings back warm memories of people and places; some of the names escape me after all these years but the faces are etched in my memory.

My best wishes for you and for all members of The Notorious Ninth.

Sincerely,
Al Evans

JULIUS E. CLARK, JR.

Box 146
Camden, SC 29020
Tel 803 432-9336

Dear Fellow Anti-Tanker,

This is a reminder to attend the 9th Inf Div Association Convention which will be held 17-20 July. The location this year is Washington, D.C., the place, the Shoreham Americana Hotel.

Our Company had a great turn out in Philly in 1978 and at Fort Lauderdale last year. Howard "Red" Waldman has done an outstanding job of promoting our attendance at these affairs and has been recognized for his leadership by the Association. Only "F" Company of the 47th has exceeded our attendance, they really have a turn out, hospitality suite and the whole nine yards. Why can't we whip 'em?

Hope to see you in Washington. Bring your wife or girlfriend.

60th. Inf.
WILLIAM H. BROWN
2003 W. 42 St.
Pine Bluff, Ark. 71601

Sorry I let the last publication of the Octofoil be addressed in red. Enclosed check for 3 years membership.

It was great to hear about the good things happening to Matt Urban. He is deserving of all good things that come his way.

A.T. Co. 47th Inf.
ROGER GARTLAND
255 Charles Street
Watertown, N.Y.

Was it 35 years ago that a great event took place in Europe? Well, here I am again behind in my dues. During the winter months I didn't receive the "Octofoil" and renewal of my membership just slipped by. We returned from Florida May 3rd. It was an enjoyable winter for both of us.

We are making preliminary plans for the get together in Washinton, D. C.

C Co 15th Engrs.
VERNON G. BELL
R. 1 Box 131
Presque Isle, Maine 04769

Enclosed find check for three years membership in the 9th Div. Association. Sorry to be late with this but just got back from Florida (we have been spending our winters there the last four years now), and didn't realize it had run out until I saw the red ink on the Octofoil.

I really enjoy receiving the Octofoil and especially the mail call section. Glad others write more often than I do. Received a nice letter from Ron Murphy at Christmas.

I'm still running my construction business during the summer months but getting there where I would like to sell out and retire completely. Thanks for the great job you guys are doing on our paper.

47th Inf. G Co. & Service Co.
ALLEN KELLEY
P.O. Box 135
Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 48013

Enjoy reading the Octofoil. Like to hear from anyone who served with above companies after February, 1945. Have been wondering if roster lists for above companies are available.

Good luck to all.

HQ. 47th NF
RANDY BRYANT COL. RET'D
15640 S.W. '85 Ave.
Miami, Fla. 33157

A pilgrimage to Safi to show my wife where the 47th Inf. Regt. landed on November 8, 1942.

Brings back a lot of memories.

D.C. REUNION JULY 17, 18, 19

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 III-Continued from Jan-Feb 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.

SNACK SHACK SNAFU

Men of the 47th Infantry Company G had a working agreement with the Germans opposing them, and everybody was happy until the Jerries - double-crossed the doggies. Between the lines there was a house with a cellar full of cheese and beer. American patrols drew their rations during the daytime and the Jerries at night. Since there was enough to go around, neither side fired on the other until the Germans showered the Yanks with mortar-fire one day. The Americans, furious with the display of poor sportsmanship, rearranged the furniture and that night, the house, cheese, beer and Jerries went up in smoke.

Captain Walter Kraft was the Commanding Officer.

Combat teams of the newly arrived 99th Infantry Division began relieving the Ninth around November 10th. By the 14th, the last unit was relieved and proceeded to Camp Elsenborn vicinity by way of Bullingen, Butgenbach, and Elsenborn.

For the remainder of November, the Division went into Corps Reserve ... with emphasis on training in new tactical methods, the latest weapons, issuance of better clothing, and evenings of recreation.

The weather was becoming increasingly miserable; roads became slippery and the value of overshoes increased to foot-soaked GI's.

Rest areas of the units were issuing many items, but the novel regiment was the 39th. First Lieutenant Bernie Scoop Zeitlin, of the AAA-O, had his own secret weapon - a Finish Steam Bath. After the showers, Scoop had fresh clothing waiting for the refreshed doughs. To top it off, the long awaited beer arrived, and the men had ICE COLD BEER - drunk-up to the tune of chattering teeth.

POSTHUMOUS MEDAL OF HONOR

Private First Class CARL V. SHERIDAN was killed in action on 26 November 1944, when his company assaulted Frenzenberg Castle near Weisweiler, Germany. The only entrance to the castle was a barricaded oaken door, across a 20-foot moat and over a drawbridge. Sheridan dashed across a courtyard through a hail of fire and began firing his bazooka at the door from behind a waist-high wall around the moat. Having only one round remaining, and knowing it - must count, he rushed opposite the door from his protected position and fired at point-blank range. Then, drawing his pistol, he started to lead the attack through the demolished entrance, but was struck and instantly killed.

Against fanatical resistance and in miserable weather, the 47th Combat Team had accomplished its mission exceptionally well. The 2nd Battalion received an Oak Leaf Cluster to its Distinguished Unit badge. The 1st Battalion was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for its bloody battles in the hills of Nothberg, Germany. And, for once, the Medics got a little credit for their unceasing efforts! The 47th Medical Detachment received a Distinguished Unit Citation.

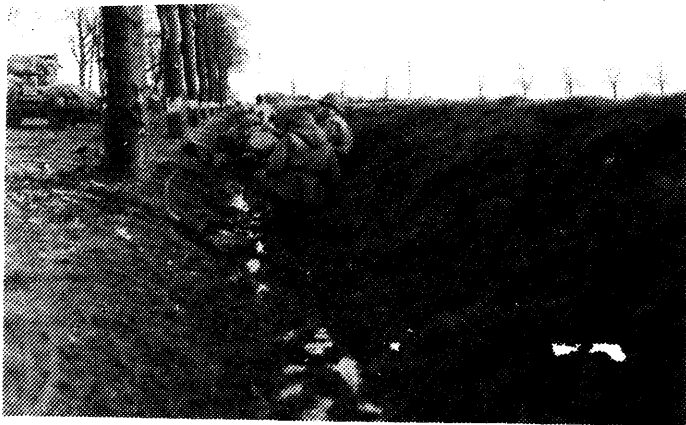
When the Raiders arrived at Camp Elsenborn, 30 November, to rejoin the Division, letters of commendation from two generals awaited them ... and the following clipping from the Stars and Stripes:

"IF HE COULD ONLY COOK!"

The 9th Division's 47th Infantry boasts a "fighting first cook" in T-4 Clarence Ed Combs, of Middletown, Ohio. A tiger tank drew up in front of his kitchen, so Combs discarded his meat-cleaver for a bazooka. After blowing in the side of the tank, he polished off the crew. "What a man," sigh members of the company. "If he could only cook!"

On the first day of December, a V Corps directive moved the 60th Combat Team, reinforced with tanks and TDs, to the Lammersdorf-Mutzenich area to deepen the defense of the Corps Sector. The Go-Devils dug in, sited guns, and registered mortars and artillery. Lines of communication were laid.

The Ninth received orders on 4 December which moved the Division to the vicinity of Eschweiler to relieve the 1st Infantry Division in the Hurtgen Forest - and continue the attack to the east. The break was over!



12-10-44 Men of the 1st Bn. 60th Infantry lie in a roadside ditch awaiting orders to advance on the town of Obergeich, Germany.

EAST TO THE ROER

One of the enemy's highest ranking officers was particularly impressed by the Ninth American Division ... The Ninth continued to hammer day and night without giving the defenders a rest ... the Ninth reminded him of the best German divisions when they were battering forward in Russia.

—Don Whitehead—AP

Northward movement of the Ninth to relieve its old friend and partner, the 1st Infantry Division, began at 0800 on 5 December. Command Post of the Division moved to Bergrath, Germany. By nightfall, 7 December, the Ninth was positioned in an area west of Konzendorf, Echtz, Schlich, and Merode.

Doughs dug-in on the muddy line: Volkenrath-Werth-Hamich-Langerwehe-Luchem. It was the third anniversary of Pearl Harbor, and as defenses were improved that night, some doggies turned thoughts to the days of peace, and wondered how much longer the war would last.

There wasn't much time for wondering about home, however - for this was the Hurtgen. The Ninth Infantry Division was back with the VII Corps and ATTACK was in the air.

The mission of the Division was to attack to the east in conjunction with 3rd Armored Division, to seize and hold initially the towns of KONZENDORF, ECHTZ, SCHLICH, AND MERODE. It was estimated that the enemy's resistance to our advance would be strong. His defence consisted of centers of resistance formed by built-up communities in the sector and dug-in positions between these communities. The enemy line, which at some points was only 75 yards from our own, was held by the Fifth Parachute Regiment in the southern sector, with two battalions in line and one in reserve. The 9th Parachute Regiment was in reserve position in the MERKEN-ECHTZ area. Enemy artillery was expected to be heavy and for the most part observed.

—Ninth Division Report of Operations

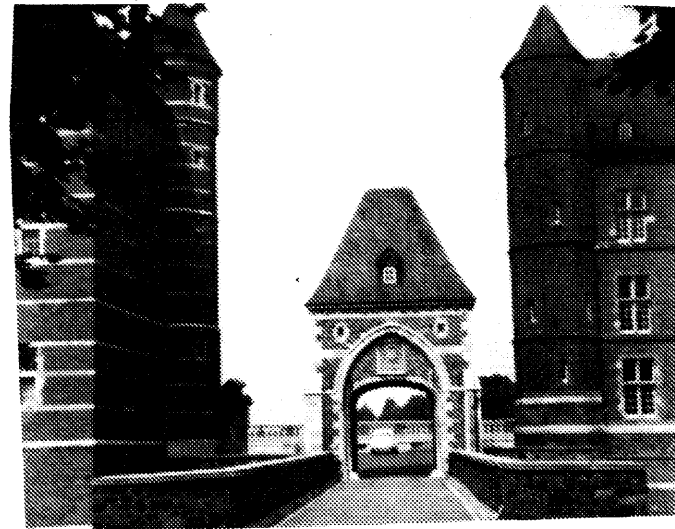
ALL-OUT OBJECTIVE

Final objective of the Corps was seizure of the Roer River. On December 10th an all-out attack opened towards the Roer and Duren.

Initially, the 60th Combat Team (composed of the 60th Infantry, 1st Bn., 47th Infantry, and elements of 899th TDs, 746th Tank Bn., 15th Engineers and the 87th Chemical Bn.) was to attack east with CCR of the 3rd Armored Division and seize the towns of Obergeich, Geich, and Rothhaus and to hold the town of Konzendorf. Following the seizure of Echtz by CCR, the 60th was to relieve the armor and prepare to meet enemy counter-attacks from any direction.



Merode Castle, Germany when captured by the members of the 39th Infantry.



Merode Castle 1973 in a photo supplied by Scotty Hirst.

Mopping up of Echtz, seizure of Konzendorf by the 60th Combat Team, and attack against Mariaweyer and Derichsweiler were aided by Task Force Kane of the 3rd Armored Division.

SHATTERED RELICS

Merode was attacked and taken by the 39th Infantry. When the infantry and artillery had finished with famed Merode Castle, it was only a shell of its former stateliness. Shattered relics of past glory lay beneath masses of stone, and the ancient towers bade farewell to finer days. Jeeps rolled out of the misty day, through the crest-topped gate and dodged wreckage, as they found parking places in the courtyard.

Restlessly, the 39th moved out to take Schlich and D'Horn. The swift 4th Cavalry Squadron attacked to the east, giving the 39th a great deal of cover on their flank. Weather was wet and cold, roads were bad, and the Germans were bringing out their new King Tiger Tank.

It was 14 December and the Ninth was surging forward, despite rough terrain, hidden anti-personnel explosives and weather that congealed the marrow.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (Posthumous—)

Private EUGENE A. FONTES, of the 60th Medics, was killed in action near Duren, Germany. Seeing a sergeant seriously wounded by shell fragments, he crossed a fire-swept field to render aid. Hearing sounds of an approaching shell, he shielded the wounded man with his own body. The shell landed nearby, killing Fontes, but he had prevented further injuries to his wounded patient.

Securing the west bank of the Roer River was the next order of business. The 60th and 39th Regiments were ordered to seize all ground west of the river within their zones of action.

In the area from Kufferath and Birgel north to Duren there were still isolated pockets, but north of Duren the Ninth Division had completely liquidated one pocket in a factory near Mariaweyer, west of Duren.

—AP

The Ninth was now on the Roer, straining at the leash to cross and head into the Rhineland. A 60th Infantry patrol was sent across the river and returned from reconnaissance, on 16 December, with information on crossing sites and the condition of the river on the opposite bank.

As the 39th Infantry was clearing out the last vestiges of enemy in its sector in heavy fighting, the Division was planning a crossing ... when, to the south, Germany made a great gamble!

BATTLE

OF THE BULGE

The Ninth Infantry Division - comprising veterans who whipped the Germans in Tunisia and Sicily - never yielded an inch.

—Hal Boyle—AP

... American people can be grateful there were such veteran divisions as the ... 9th Infantry Division ... waiting to meet that massed assault.

—Don Whitehead—AP

The great German winter counter-offensive, designed to cut off the American 1st and 9th Armies and the British and Canadians, was under way by 18 December 1944. Had von Rundstedt broken through at Monschau, Liege and Aachen would have fallen and the Allied Armies to the north of the bulge would have been threatened with destruction.

OLD STANDBY

—DIVISIONS—

Raiders of the Ninth Infantry were already committed in the Monschau sector, having been attached to the V Corps. The old standby divisions of the VII Corps; 1st, Ninth, and 3rd Armored, were dispatched to the south, in aid of V Corps, with the Ninth relieving elements of the 2nd and 99th Infantry Divisions.

When the notification to move south came, the Division was probing and clearing the Roer for possible crossings in the Duren area. Only bombing and strafing of the German Air Force had given indication of the enemy's breakthrough in the Ardennes.

As the Ninth moved to its new positions, the 60th Combat Team was ordered attached to the 104th Infantry Division. The 60th held the Roer west of Duren during its 24 hour attachment to the Timberwolves.

Famed Remagen Bridge Becomes Peace Memorial

General Craig forwards this news item he received from his former aide-William Yarbrough. A newspaper clipping from the Arkansas Gazette dated March 8, 1980.

REMAGEN, West Germany (AP) — Flags of the United States and West Germany fluttered atop the blackened towers of the old railway bridge at Remagen Friday, part of a memorial to peace at the town where American soldiers established the first Allied bridgehead across the Rhine River during World War II.

Units of the United States Ninth Armored Division cap-

tured the vital supply link March 7, 1945, as German engineers were trying to blow it up. Allied commanders sent thousands of troops and tons of equipment across the damaged bridge before it collapsed 10 days later.

Friday, 35 years later to the day of its capture, a museum housed in the towers and financed by the sale of stones from the structure was dedicated as "a memorial to peace" and a delegation of Belgian war veterans placed a wreath to those who died in fighting around the bridge.

The railroad bridge was originally built to carry German military supplies to the Western front in World War I.

THE FINAL THRUST The Story of the Ninth Infantry Division

continued

Holding the line Konzern-Hofen-Kalterherberg, the 39th and 47th Infantry were temporarily attached to the V Corps. The 746th Tank Battalion, the 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and the 84th and 196th FA Battalions aided in defense of this area. This line was the vital hinge in the stopping of the drive towards Liege and Antwerp.

The Raiders, holding at Monschau, were responsible for stopping the enemy drive to cut off the 1st and 3rd Armies and Eupen-Liege roadnets.

"TAKING IT"

The Ninth Infantry, commanded by Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig, Raleigh, N.C., was thrown into the line in the Monschau area when the German offensive began. When the 99th was "taking it" hardest, the Ninth moved in to relieve that division around Elsenborn.

—John McDermott—UP

Credit for a military feat of legerdemain at Monschau belongs to the 47th's commander, Brig. Gen. George W. Smythe (then Colonel). With communications cut off, Col. Smythe in a few hours organized what was essentially a complete new division from American units caught and smashed in the break through. Then he used it to stop in its tracks the enemy assault, thus saving the vital communications center of Eupen in Belgium which Von Rundstedt had fixed as the convergence point for his assault on Liege and making possible the retention of the communications system already established by the 1st and 3rd Armies in Northeastern Belgium and Western Germany ... Through the winter forest Col. Smythe set out in a jeep with only a driver and radio operator. Stopped at the outskirts of Eupen, he was warned that he would not get a mile beyond the town before he would be killed or captured ... Soon he ran into roads with American troops and guns retreating into Eupen. Col. Smythe speedily organized these retreating troops around the nucleus of his own regiment and was given unqualified command of all the troops in the area ... The defense was a tactical masterpiece, military experts say. The enemy paratroopers were mopped up in groups in the forest ... Heavy artillery barrages from Col. Smythe's hastily organized division prevented the Germans from re-launching the attack.

Thus the probable main objective of the breakthrough was defeated.

—Thomas R. Henry
(Washington, D.C. Star)
GREAT GAMBLE

Field Marshal Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt's great gamble to smash the Allied invasion Armies failed for two reasons:

1. His panzer and infantry divisions were never able to swing north and capture Liege.
2. Von Rundstedt underestimated Lt. Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley's fighting men.

—Don Whitehead—AP

For the remainder of December and most of January, the Ninth Division had the able support of the 38th Cavalry Squadron; A Company, 47th Armd. Infantry Battalion; 3rd Battalion, 395th Infantry, and the 99th Reconnaissance Troop. Cavalymen of the 38th proved particularly adept in fooling the enemy regarding their strength.

Part of enemy strategy was to drop paratroopers dressed in G.I. clothing; use of captured American equipment, clothing, and dog-tags to infiltrate lines; and soldiers dressed as civilians. Small groups of paratroopers were rounded up by I company of the 47th, which was searching the town of Monschau for traces of the enemy. In all, 80 Germans were taken prisoner.

Against further enemy infiltration, the Ninth strengthened defenses with roadblocks, minefields, wire obstacles, and trip flares. Up and down the line infiltrations were reported and repulsed. One 500 yard gap in the 39th sector was reduced by a spirited attack.

On 22 December, the 99th Recon Troop received an attack against its position on the high ground east of Kalterherberg. One platoon was over-run and another surrounded. Elements of E Company, 47th Infantry, reinforced the troop and both of its platoons were able to eventually withdraw.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

On the high ground southeast of Kalterherberg, Technical Sergeant PETER J. DALESSONDRO, E Company, 39th Infantry, displayed "Extraordinary Heroism" in repulsing an enemy counter-attack of 450 upon his "green" platoon. He then saved three comrades from death; and, alone, faced an overwhelming enemy attack, throwing grenades, and was last heard calling for mortar upon his own position. Captured, Dalessondro was released at the end of the war and received the nation's highest award from President Truman.

Continued next issue



In snow covered terrain near Monschau, Germany, Engineers of B Company 15th Engineers Bn. are placing anti-mines before defensive positions taken up by rifle troops of the Division.



Was this the start of the reunions? Members of the 47th Infantry are snapped by signal corp photographer around captured Nazi motor bike in Vittelschoss, Germany. All are from Michigan - L-R Standing Kenneth E. Newland, Central Lake, James Kennedy, Raual Oak, John F.A. Obermiller, Bay City, John F. Kuntz, Detroit, and Elmer W. Demers, Flint. L-R Front Edward J. Musial, Memphis and Orville T. Kirby, Alma, Michigan. The photo is dated March 24, 1945.

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.

Theatrical Town

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Used to be that the grand spectacle of Washington was in the hands of the weather forecasters and the Japanese. One waited all year for the blooming of the cherry blossoms which, for Washington, had to stand for Mardi Gras, the Carnival of Nice and the Fasnacht of Basel.

Scene has changed

But all that has changed since Washington has become a theatrical town, a sort of federal Great White Way. One can't really say it all began with the Kennedy Center which opened, at least partially with Leonard Bernstein's "Mass" on Sept. 8, 1971. A famous forerunner, of course, was Ford's Theater, one of Washington's most popular playhouses over 100 years ago.

But Washington's theatrical renaissance began to stir in the '50s and '60s, when the Eisenhower administration first sought a national culture center. After the assassination at Dallas the project was renamed the John F. Kennedy Center in January 1964, and many nations as well as industrial corporations, foundations and numbers of individuals were moved to take part.

Kennedy Center is not just a theater, it is rather like New York's Lincoln Center under one roof. The Eisenhower Theater, which has been playing Tennessee Williams' newest creation seats 1,120 who nightly wait for the red and black woolen curtain to go up, a gift as it happens of Canada.

A veteran who purchases a home under the GI Bill and sells it is still eligible for another GI loan if he meets certain conditions.

A veteran may qualify for restoration of loan guaranty entitlement if the Veterans Administration has been relieved of liability on the previous loan. The VA is relieved of liability when the loan is paid in full and the property has been disposed of. Eligibility may also be restored when another veteran agrees to substitute his entitlement for that of the original buyer.

A GI loan offers the veteran maximum protection based on the following points:

1. A long amortization (repayment) period.
 2. A sound appraisal to determine reasonable market value of the property.
 3. A determination that the property meets accepted standards of good construction.
- Veterans who are considering selling a home financed by a GI mortgage or veterans planning to purchase a home for the first time are urged to seek professional counseling.

D.C. REUNION JULY 17, 18, 19

Best way to learn Speed Reading is to spend a winter on a farm with outdoor plumbing.

+++

"You can't live with 'em and you can't live without 'em, as far as I'm concerned, refers to dentures.

+++

"They say that millions of germs can live on a dollar bill. They're lucky. With me it doesn't even buy lunch".

MAIL CALL

15th Engs
RON MURPHY
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, Mass. 02066

Sorry that once again I've been lax in sending my dues. Assure you that it was an oversight on my part. In order to stay out of the red, I'm enclosing a check for three years dues.

Everything here in New England is going well. Last week at the Howard Johnson Motel in Newton, we had a most enjoyable meeting. It was conducted by our new President Herb Olsen.

The 1981 reunion will definitely be held at Dunfeys in Hyannis on Beautiful Cape Cod. The dates are June 25, 26, and 27th.

All of us are saddened by the news that Frank Ozart passed away. He will be greatly missed by all of us as he gave so much of himself to the association. To his family and the Illinois Chapter we extend our deepest sympathy.

Anxiously looking forward to the reunion in Washington as it is a wonderful city to visit and I'm sure they will have a wonderful turnout.

Hope this note finds you, Marie and the rest of the family in good health.

Take care and as always it will be a pleasure to see you again.

376 A.A.A.
GEORGE WALDRON
3801 Soquel Drive
Soquel, California 95073

Got two more lost sheep out of the VFW mag. I sent them both letters and your address. (1) Eddie Terrebonne, 566 Westwood Drive, Marrero, La. 70072 — 60th Inf., (2) Vogie Lonn, Gen. Del. Ripon, Cal. 95366 — 60th Inf. Co. I.

I still haven't found a soul from the Bty. D 376 AAA. I did find two guys but they both died in 1971 and 1972 and their widows had thrown out all their correspondence. Another dead end street. That list you gave me from 1947 of the 376th didn't produce a single guy from the 376 Bty. D. I was just reading the account in the Octofoil about the Siefried line where we were stopped on the road to Swiefall.

Our 4 guns, 40 millimeter AA poured over 4000 rounds in them, pillboxes, and gun emplacements. We put some of the rounds in the gun slots because the shells didn't explode on the outside rock and cement. We fired point blank from about 800 yards, and we were all deaf for two weeks. The day the Bulge started Dec. 16 we were at the Ruhr River at Duren which was a big Kraut communications center. We had dug in our guns (cannons) on the South side of the Ruhr and were suppose to fire point blank at 12 tiger royals (84 ton) tanks dug in on the other bank of the river. We would have been murdered to the man by them big tanks. If you remember we lost all our tanks at Eschweiler and Weisweiler in that big tank battle a month before. So we pulled out at night of the 16th without the Krauts ever knowing we were there. Too bad I can't get a history of the 376 for you to publish but then I would be the only guy reading it.

P.S. This make 8 guys I found for the 9th.

Chaplain - 39th Inf.
REV. ROBERT J. CURTIS
222 Laine, Apt. 7
Monterey, CA 93940

Still baby sitting my dying sister ... nearly a year now in Ave Maria Convalescent Hospital here in Monterey. I go over twice a day ... so will not be able to make the reunion. Would like to be there.

Can remember 2 AM 6th of June 44 ... B17s buzzed where I was sleeping ... on their way across the channel ... one of the gang said ... this is it ... they are going for the invasion. Sure enough ... Guess each of us have their own memories.

I try to have Mass twice each week for all of our dead. Was at St. Mere Eglise the morning they started the cemetery ... did not take long before they were over run with business.

Does anyone have a copy of the Ninth Division History that I could read and return? Mine is long gone with all the moving I did in the Army. Would like to see one again. I have plenty of time for reading.

How does it look for the Memorial Mass next Fall? Last I heard from Fr. Connors ... he told of probable retirement.

Hope all of you are well and happy.

Best wishes.

Co. A 47th Inf
ROY P. DOUGHERTY
804 Central Ave
Southampton, Pa. 18966

Sorry it took me so long to get back to you. Last July I decided to retire. By Sept. I was climbing walls so I bought out Hampton Realty Company just to keep myself occupied. I am a licensed real estate broker and a member of the realty board. Now I find I have no time for myself. Guess I should have kept climbing walls.

Last June 6th 'D' day passed so quietly. I saw no mention of it in the papers, on TV, or on the radio. It's always amazing to me how easily people can forget.

Dan, please find enclosed my check for another three years and something left over for the scholarship fund. My best to you and to all the ex 9th men. Especially the men of Co. A, of the 47th.

Cannon Co. 47th Inf.
WILLIAM T. ARNOLD
Rt. 12, Box 726
Fayetteville, N.C. 28306

I was saddened to hear about Dr. Seslowe passing away. I had a very nice talk with him by telephone just before Christmas. He told me he was going in the hospital soon after Christmas. I will miss him very much as I am sure all his comrades will.

Dan, I hope you can help me locate two members. One is Henry C. Hardin of Basset, Va. The other is Otis W. Osborn of Hisplant, Ky. If anyone has any information on these two guys would you please let me know. Would sure love to hear from them. Will see you all in D.C.

60th Inf. A.T.
RAYMOND PORTER
50 West Street
Leominster, Mass. 01453

Just a line to let you know I feel well and this note finds you in good health. I have moved and I'm sending you my new address as of June 1st.

Ed "Hoppy" Hopkins
110 Hollywood Ave.
Metuchen, N.J. 08840
Co. F 47th Inf.

It is time to get my annual call to F Company 47th Infantry men into the Octofoil. I will soon be making reservations for a suite at the Hotel Shoreham in Washington. I hope that this will see the best turnout of F Company men since we've been establishing these CP's at our national conventions. I haven't been in touch with too many of our former comrades since the Ft. Lauderdale reunion, but I have heard from Frank Smith and he promised to make every effort to be in Washington come July. I can truthfully say that he enjoyed immensely meeting with his "boys" at the Gault Ocean Mile Motel last summer. The years had sure been kind to him. Otto Geyer looked great also. I attribute their youthful appearance to the excellent care we gave them during the early forties. I had a long phone conversation with Tony Repetti just last week. He is still in the restaurant-motor inn business in Belmar, N.J. Tony no longer works the long hours he used to, now that he has two capable sons handling things. He, too, will make every effort to get to Washington in July. Every once in a while Smig Tokarchek gives me a ring from his mountain domain in Heckschersville, Pa. The most recent was at four in the morning when he "just couldn't sleep and wanted to talk to his old buddy." I'm sure he'll be with us in Washington. Wilma Jones tells me that Felton has undergone some pretty heavy surgery this past winter. I trust he is well recovered by now and that we will see him in July. We all know how important he has been to every F Company function, maneuver, operation, etc. since 1940.

For the past month or so I've been incapacitated with a crushed disc type condition to the point where I can hardly drink. I've been out of work two weeks, and it appears that I'll be out another two weeks before I'll be able to return to the salt mines. Aside from that I've been in reasonably good health and spirits.

I get a phone call from Frank Gonzol every now and then. He lives only about twenty minutes from me, but he seems to spend a great deal of time in Florida -- and frankly, I don't blame him.

I am certainly looking forward to seeing all the regular gang at the reunion this summer, but wouldn't it be great to see some new faces appear at our CP? I'd love to see Bill Larson (I understand he was at Father Connors' mass in November), Pop Zucker, Tony Zuck, Milt Zucker, Moe Esformes, Frank Gilsenan, Sidney Glick, Harry Metta, Lou Slatnick, Warren Lane, and a few hundred more! If any of you men have the address of any of these good men, why don't you drop them a note telling them about the annual reunion, our CP, and the good times we have reminiscing and toasting --- especially the toasting.

So, once again I am asking you to send me a contribution so we can conduct and set up a CP worthy of F Company men. Send your checks to me at the above address.

All the best.

Co. B 9th Med. Bn.
JOHN PRICE, JR.
Rt. 1 Box 34
Jackson, N.C. 27845

So sorry I can't make the reunion this year. Regards to all.

Div. Hqs. and 1st Bn 47th Inf
DEAN VANDERHOEF
Texas Creek, Colo. 81250

Can't make it to the reunion. Very sorry. Do enjoy the Octofoil with its well remembered names. Enclosed find membership. Regards to all.

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

Publication No.
402820

F Co. 60 Inf.
CLIFFORD M. PAINTER
240 Hawthorne Road,
Washington, PA 15301

Thanks for your prompt reply to my request for information relative to the Association and the upcoming 35th Reunion. While I have not been active as a member of the Association I have always been proud of the unit and over the years have had memories recalled whenever I have seen the red, white, and blue octofoil on the TV or in the papers.

I am planning to attend the reunion and have enclosed the completed membership application with this letter. I did attend two reunions, one in New York and one in Pittsburgh. I don't know how many of the 'old gang' will be there, but I'm sure there will be some that I know.

I enjoyed reading the copy of the Octofoil you sent. Perhaps there might be room in a future issue to include part of this letter and by that means reach some of the men I served with and knew well. I was with the Ninth, 60th Inf. F Co. from September 3rd, 1944 to April 17th, 1945 when I was wounded and evacuated. I served as Platoon Leader, 1st Platoon, Company Exec O, and finally Company Cmdr. I was wounded in the Hartz Mountains and evacuated to a hospital near Nordhausen. From there I was flown to England and spent about a month in the 216th General Hospital near Warminster, returning to the states in June 1945. I remained in a patient status until September when I was assigned to Camp Robinson, Arkansas. From there I was assigned to Washington, D.C., War Department General Staff and served there until November 1946 when I requested and received separation.

Thanks again for your prompt reply. I hope I have enclosed the correct amount for the membership and the items ordered. Looking forward to seeing you in July.

Co. F 60th Inf.
WALLACE MALONE
33035 Ledge Hill Dr.
Solon, Ohio 44139

Sorry but I will not be able to attend Washington reunion, however, a check for \$7.00 to cover \$2.00 for the booster and \$5.00 to cover dues is enclosed.

Appreciate your taking the time to contact me about this reunion and certainly hope it is a great success.

9th Recon.
JOSEPH B. GILLIGAN
57 Spruce Avenue
Bethpage, L.I., N.Y. 11714

I was an original of the 9th Division - Spec. Troops at Ft. Bragg from New York City. I was with Sig. Co. through Sicily and before it was over transferred to 9th Recon. and stayed with Recon. to Berlin.

With best regards, till I hear again from you.

Div. Hqs. and 1st Bn 47th Inf
DEAN VANDERHOEF
Texas Creek, Colo. 81250

Can't make it to the reunion. Very sorry. Do enjoy the Octofoil with its well remembered names. Enclosed find membership. Regards to all.

A-T Co. 47th Inf.
HOWARD "RED" WALDMAN
26 Newman Street
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

In regard to our telephone conversation concerning our upcoming 9th Inf. Div. Association 35th Annual Reunion, I wish further to inform you that at Fort Lauderdale last year the former members of Anti-Tank Company 47th Inf., again formed a reunion committee. Since getting The master roster list (1940 to 1945) from your files, a second time I must add the committee has been busy researching those copies to enable us to find the current addresses of all of our former comrades and friends. That same roster contains more than 600 names and addresses from 35 to 40 years old. In that task, we will be pleased if this year, we will be able to contact 50 or so of our buddies to add to our current address list and of course, have those who are able, to attend our reunion, with-in a reunion. During 1978 - 79, with the help of many Anti-Tankers, I have been able to assemble a current address list numbering some 70 to 75 of our former comrades in arms. The committee has sent out reminders from that list to all who have attended our past two reunions and in addition, invitations to the others who perhaps have never attended a reunion of the 9th INF. DIV. We are hopeful because of the affirmative replies received to date and perhaps also because of the state of the world at present and the effect that has on us "World War II G.I.'s" — We this year in our Nations Capital will have a great gathering of "The Troops".

The following are members of this years A-T Co. reunion committee, Julius Andrasi, Charles Bodnar, Oliver Carter, Edel Clark, Edward Orr, George Poole, George Remaley — and my-self.

Dan enclosed are two of the many types of letters our committee is sending out to our friends and comrades. And many thanks again for all the great help you have given me to make this mission possible.

84th F.A.
WILLIAM C. MAUSER
2789 Florida Mango Rd. No. 318
Lake Worth, FL. 33461

No Octofoil since November-December, 1979 issue. We moved. Would you please forward missing copies and make note of address change.

We are still planning to catch the 35th in D.C. in July and are communicating with all the ex-84th Field Artillery men we are in touch with. "Let's get those bubbles leveled and give em a real barrage of fire". Until then, Good Lord bless you and yours for dedication over these many years to the 9th Infantry Division.

P.S. Father Connors has another birthday June 21st, I believe.

Can. Co. 47th Inf.
BOB BELL
9136 Hutton Drive
Sun City, Arizona 85351

Just a note to give you my new address and to send my dues for the next three years. I enjoyed the Octofoil very much. Keep up the good work.

(Please turn to Page 4)