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The Octofoil, July/August 1980

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Volume XXXV NUMBER 4

JULY-AUG 1980

Annual Mass and Memorial on Nov. 9th

KEEP GOING

The Annual Mass and Memorial Service will take place again this year. The gang practically implored me in Washington to keep our Annual Memorial Service going. As I told you, the Mass will be again at the Immaculate Conception Church and the date Sunday, November 9, at 10 a.m. Once again Franny Maher will take care of room reservations. Already, I believe, Franny has reserved 110 rooms at the Sheraton Lincoln Inn and a number of rooms at the Days Lodge which is very close to the Sheraton Inn. The dinner will be at the Sheraton at the usual time. However, I do not know what I can do for Saturday night. But I have reserved the large suit at the Sheraton and that will make a good CP. If I can do anything special for Saturday night, I shall let you know. — General Craig wrote to me and remarked that the "gang is delighted" that we shall have the Memorial Mass again. The people at the Immaculate Conception Church the priests, the organist and choir and people around the city are thrilled. So apparently this pilgrimage means a lot to others besides the men and families of the 9th.

NEVER THOUGHT

I never thought that I would be having this Memorial Mass and Service again - not that I did not want this - but since I would not have a parish, I thought that I would have to discontinue this Service.

HAPPY TO COOPERATE

But everyone is happy to cooperate. Since I do not have a secretary, the gang of the 9th in this area are anxious to help.

God bless,
Father Connors

Early Reservations

This year the date will be November 9th and I would urge all that plan to attend to make room reservations as early as possible.

Motel Will Not Take Phone Calls

We have a block of rooms at the Sheraton-Lincoln and to clear up any misunderstanding as to why they will not take phone calls. When you secure a block of rooms they want one person to be responsible for them, to keep an accurate account with the reservation clerk to avoid over booking that is why the rooms have been placed in my name. I will be pleased to make your reservation for you.

I will list the following places for rooms and please indicate your choice, most members favor the Sheraton-Lincoln. When that is filled let me know your second choice.

Sheraton - Lincoln

500 Lincoln St.

Single — \$39.00

Double — \$44.00

Days Inn

50 Oriol Drive

just a short distance from the Sheraton

Single — \$28.88

Double — \$36.88

Deposit Required

Holiday Inn

70 Southbridge St.

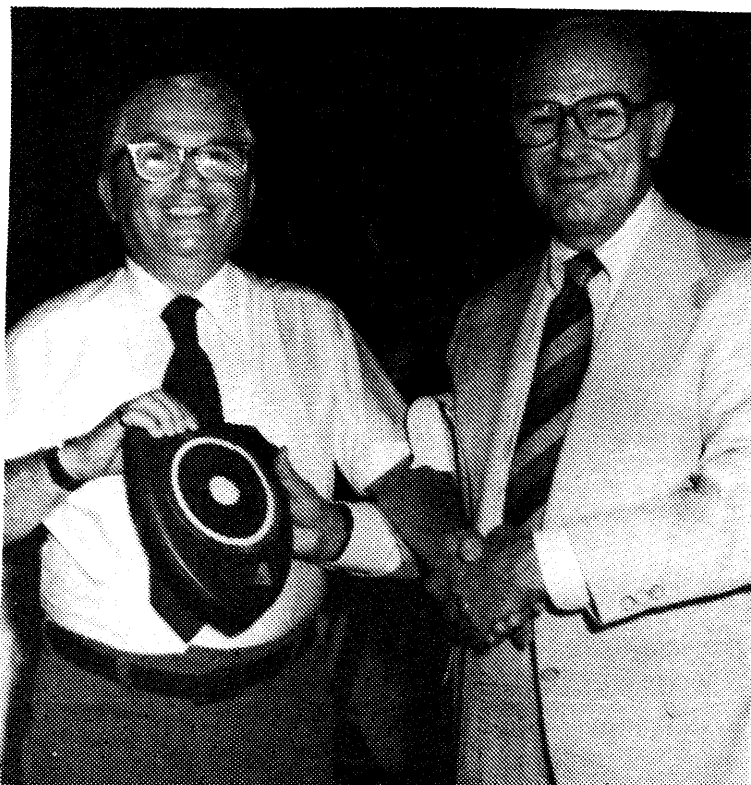
Single — \$36.00

Double — \$41.00

Once again please make your reservation early to:

Francis K. Maher
14 Davenport St.
Worcester, Mass 01610
Phone (617) 756-1803

CHANGE OF COMMAND



Newly elected president of the Association Bill Bongiorno presents plaque to Bob DeSandy out-going president.

Reunion, Enjoyable, Rewarding, Exciting

The 1980 Reunion has come to an end and is now a thing of the past. Like all our reunions there are pros and cons. However, from my viewpoint and most of the others from New England, it was enjoyable, rewarding and exciting.

November 9th

First of all our beloved Father Connors told us that there would be another Memorial Mass held at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester on Sunday, November 9th.

One of Our Own

Secondly, one of our own, Bill Bongiorno was elected President of the Association. We all feel that it was an excellent selection for we know how dedicated and hardworking Bill is. From all of us — Congratulations Bill.

Finest Sites

Last but certainly not at the bottom of the list, we are in full swing for the 1981 Reunion. We honestly feel that we have chosen one of the finest sites possible and we fully intend to use all the facilities of this great resort area.

Beautiful Cape Cod

Here in New England, we are indeed fortunate to have a group of hardworking members who share the same common thought — make this a reunion that will long be remembered and that will be run for the enjoyment of all who attend. So please remember the dates, June 25th, 26th and 27th. The place Dunfey's Resort Center in Hyannis on beautiful Cape Cod.

Proud and Thrilled

In closing, I want you to know how proud and thrilled I am to be Chairman of the '81 Reunion. What a great pleasure to have Herb Olsen as Co-Chairman and Tom Boyle as our Treasurer. As always, I will be looking forward to seeing the "Gang" in Worcester.

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

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund was enriched by the generosity of those attending the reunion. The sum of \$2381.00, the largest ever donated at a reunion was added to this most worthy fund. The Ladies Auxiliary made a donation of \$544.00.

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

Illinois Chapter
Michigan Chapter
New York Chapter
Dennis E. Cassidy
Thomas E. Shelton
Charles Koskie
Joseph M. Willis
Wilma F. Jones
William Spring
Sandy Burns
Louis Gershenow
Mrs. Jefferson Childs
Frank P. Juliano
Allied Airborne Assoc.

We salute you.

Matt Urban Receives Medal of Honor



President Jimmy Carter about to place the Medal of Honor around the neck of Matt Urban. Mrs. Jennie Urban, next to the President.

President Carter awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, to a World War II infantry officer whose heroic exploits went almost unnoticed because the Army lost his papers.

After Carter placed the medal around the neck of retired Army Lt. Col. Matt Urban, he embraced the soldier, then stepped back and wiped a tear from his eye.

The ceremony was held at a Washington hotel during the annual reunion of the 9th Infantry Division, the unit the 61-year-old Urban fought with in France 36 years ago.

Urban was wounded several times, "but he always kept coming back, and each time his presence brought something extra to his men when they needed it most," Carter said.

He "galvanized his men, and he led them to success while repeatedly risking his life to save others and to break his troops out of position when they were pinned down, sometimes in apparently hopeless circumstances by punishing enemy fire" the President said.

Presidential apology

The partially disabled ex-soldier, who lives in Holland, Mich., stood at attention. His eyes glistened as Carter, apologizing for the long delay, tied the coveted blue ribbon around his neck.

A sergeant in Urban's unit recommended his former commanding officer for the medal, but the Army lost the letter, and officials didn't find a copy until Urban heard about the sergeant's recommendation and inquired about it in 1978.

Urban's citation for gallantry "above and beyond the call of duty" reads like the synopsis of a John Wayne war movie.

In one of several events recounted, Urban, then a captain in command of a company, was in an English hospital when he heard that his unit had suffered severe losses in France.

He left his hospital bed, where he was recuperating from wounds received after the Normandy invasion in June 1944, and hitchhiked back to the front. There he found his unit pinned down by heavy fire.

After a lieutenant and sergeant were killed in an attempt to take over an abandoned American tank, the account says:

"Capt. Urban, though physically hampered by his leg wound and knowing quick action had to be taken, dashed through the scathing fire and mounted the tank.

"With enemy bullets ricocheting from the tank, Capt. Urban ordered the tank forward and, completely exposed to the enemy fire, manned the machine gun and placed devastating fire on the enemy. His actions, in the face of the enemy fire, galvanized the battalion into action, and they attacked and destroyed the enemy position."

Urban eventually was promoted to lieutenant colonel. He retired from the Army for medical reasons on Feb. 27, 1946.

President's Message:

I am extremely proud and consider myself fortunate to have been elected President of the Ninth Infantry Division Association for 1980-1981. It has been my pleasure to have been associated with such a great bunch of guys and gals over these many years.

Back on the home front: The New England Chapter recently had a luncheon with Father Connors and to our surprise and pleasure, he confirmed that there will be a Memorial Service on November 9th of this year in Worcester, Mass.

Please keep your eyes on the Octofoil for further announcements.

Good health to one and all

BILL BONGIORNO

THE OCTOFOIL

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

National Officers
President
William Bongiorno
3 Cedar Ridge Terrace
Beford, Mass. 01730

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

Michael Belmonte, 3rd V.P.
1161 So. Lombard Ave.
Oak Park, Ill. 60304

Harrison Daysh
Judge Advocate
4303 Carriage Court
Kinsington, Md. 20795

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

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

Board of Governors

1981
Michael Deresh
Pinellas Park, Fla.
William Bongiorno
Beford, Mass.

Robert DeSandy
St. Clairshores, Mi.
Elias Hopkins
Feasterville, Pa.
William Robey
Oxon Hill, Md.

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

1983
Emil Langer
Morris Plains, N.J.
Charles Tingley
St. Leonard, Md.
Edwin Wisniewski
Richmond, Mich.
Joseph Williams
Jacksonville, Fla.
Gordon Anderson
Des Plaines, Ill.

Board Member Emeritus

Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Ret.)

Honorary Member Emeritus

Rev. Edward Connors

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 by 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 4 JULY-AUG 1980

Publication No. 402320

Past President's Message

I wish to take this opportunity to thank each of you for making this one of the most memorable years of my life.

The officers and Board members have done an outstanding job throughout the year. It has been my privilege to have worked with them.

I am especially pleased to have witnessed the presentation of the Medal of Honor to Matt Urban. Pleased too, that Father Connors celebrated his 35th memorial mass in honor of our departed. I am grateful for his willingness to continue by celebrating the 36th. Memorial Mass on Nov. 9th. this year.

Also, the establishment of the new chapter in Florida. Pleased for our increase in membership, but deeply saddened by the losses incurred through those whom have answered the final call.

Congratulations to the Washington D.C. chapter for a most successful Reunion.

In conclusion, I wish Bill Bongiorno the best as he embarks on his new duties as our National President.

Sincerely,
Robert J. DeSandy

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. ☐

Taps Sounded

With sadden heart it is our duty to announce the passing of these Old Reliabies:

Harold Jaffee
Med Det 47th Inf
Michael Hesch
Co B 47th Inf
Charles J. Zablow
Serv Bty 26th F.A.
John Price, Jr.
Co B 9th Med's
Bud Remer
60th FA
Leo Prusak
Co C 9th Med
Dan Pratt
Div Aaty
Murray Pekuly
Co L 60th Inf
Edgar Cobbler
Co A 9th Med Bn

May they rest in peace. On behalf of the membership we offer our sympathy to their loved ones.

+++

The Illinois Chapter announced the passing of one of their dear and devoted members, Bud Remer. Bud passed away on June 29th. He had been in and out of the hospital for over a year suffering with various laiments. Bud served in Headquarters Battery, 60th F.A. He had been the Chaplain for the Illinois Chapter for over 20 years. "We will all miss him dearly as he was a warm and loving person." As Bud said many times, "It's later than you think", little did he realize his time was here already. My family will miss him as he always took such a personal interest in their lives".

Sincerely
Mike Blemonte

Outstanding Awards

The out-going Board of Governors members were awarded a certificate in "appreciation and thanks for their devoted and successful activities in furthering the interests of the Association". This list included John Bonkowski, Dave Gelman, Sal Trapani, Paul Keller and deceased member Frank Ozart.

John "Al" Young received this award from the Michigan Chapter. Pat Morano, Art Stenzel, Joe McKenzie, Art Schmidt, and John Bonkowski also received this award for their efforts towards the Octofoil, the associations publication.

The Association salutes these members.

APPRECIATIVE

Dear Mr. Clouser

This is just a note to let you know how I've been doing, and to thank you and the Ninth Infantry for the scholarship I received while attending college. This past May, I graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. After much consideration, I accepted a job with Texas Instruments, here in Dallas, I am now the lead Engineer on the Auto Receiver Test Set in the HARM (High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile) Program. Though I can't go into specifics about my work, as you must realize through your experiences with the military and the government, I can tell you that it is an excellent job with many opportunities for advancement.

I would like to thank you and the Ninth Infantry Division Association for your support making this possible, and I would like to make my first donation to the scholarship fund.

MARJORIE L. WISNIEWSKI

The many friends of Harold Jaffee were shocked and saddened to learn of his death on July 16th. Harold was one of the "old timers" from our days at Fort Bragg. Originally with Company G, 47th Infantry he transferred to the Medical Detachment in 1942. Assigned to the 2nd Bn he made the landing at Safi in N. Africa and was with the outfit till the end in Germany.

Edith, his wife, tells of their plans to attend the reunion in Washington but an operation two weeks before left him in serious condition. A second operation within ten days was just too much.

This is to inform you of the death of my stepmother Geraldine B. Hulley, on March 4th at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. My father was Col. James P. Hulley retired chief of staff of the Ninth Infantry Division, who died in 1964.

Sincerely,
Althea Hulley Vogt
2420 Chetwood Circle, Apt. 104
Timonium, Md. 21093

Upon returning from the reunion, I learned of the death of Leo Prusak-Company C-9th Medics.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Prusak, 76 Oerst Ave., Kingston, N.Y. 12401.

Sincerely
John H. Lewis

★★★★★★

I regret to inform you of the loss of my husband Edgar Cobbler. He had a heart attack on March 4, 1980 which damaged 35 percent of his heart muscles. On March 15, he had another attack. Came home went back June 18, 1980 stayed twenty days. Came home on July 7th and returned to the hospital with another attack and passed away on July 13th.

He really wanted to come to the reunion and hoped he would be able to make it up to the last time he entered the hospital. But it was not to be. When God calls you home-you have to go. It's awfully hard to give him up. We have no children, I feel almost alone but I'll work it out somehow.

Lois E. Cobbler
PO Box 463
Ridgeway, Va. 24148

The many buddies of Mike Hesch (Rt 1, St. Cloud, Minnesota) a member of Company B, 47th Infantry will be sad to learn of his demise. He passed away at his home on March 21st. He was 67 years of age and died of cancer.

*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

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.

Reunion Hi-lites

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

Well "BECO" buddies the 35th Annual Reunion Of The 9th Inf. Div. Association is history! It was a reunion to be remembered by all of us who were there, and for some of us who had not seen each other for quite a number of years, and also to several of the buddies who were attending a reunion for the first time in 35 years! Ol' BECOS turnout was above and beyond expectation. Art Stenzel and myself wish to thank Joe and Stella Cichocki for arranging the use of their hotel suite so that we could have a "BECO" CP. (The Hotel could not provide us with a CP Area, they were completely filled.) A word of thanks also to buddy Eddie Sarnocinski for keeping the "larder" well stocked and seeing that everyone was kept in a happy frame of mind.

Best Representation

We feel safe in saying that we believe we had the best unit representation of any in the whole division. It's just impossible to describe the good feeling to be among the men with whom we shared so much - each of us were dependent upon the other in some manner. Our 'BECO' BUDDY GROUP is similar to that popular song: 'WE ARE FAMILY'. To hear Dennis Canedy say: "Where was I for the past 34 years!" And John Compagnone's remark: "It's just great! I hope to make as many of the reunions as I can from now on." (this was also his very first reunion.)

Delighted To Meet

We were delighted also to meet Orion C. Shockley, former C.O. of 'B' Co. (France, Belgium and Germany) He was very happy to be able to attend the reunion (his last one was in N.Y. in 1954) and meet with fellows he hadn't seen since his overseas years. Shockley lives in Seattle, Washington area and is doing quite well with his Alaska Cruise Boat Co. Ann and I are planning on a cruise to Alaska. However, we'll wait awhile so that Mt. St. Helens will stop "blowing her top" in that region!

Couldn't Stand Retirement

Ernie Crowder (our Mess SGT) couldn't stand retirement (he says) and now works 4-5 hours a day supervising - guess what? A Restaurant! In the Lake Royal Area of Bunn, North Carolina. However, Inez his wife, really enjoys retirement.

Light Fantastic

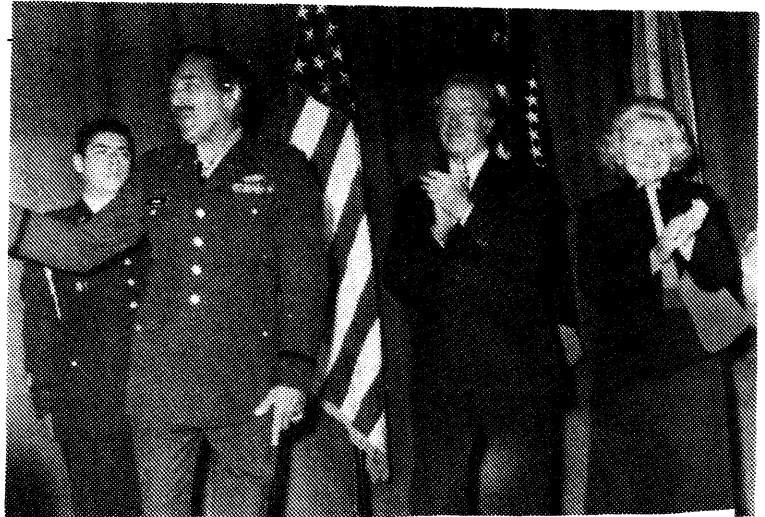
Joe and Rose Harvilla, Jack and Kathryn DiSanto, John and Kathy Compagnone, Ed and Helen Sarnocinski, Stan and Flo Adowski, Joe and Edith Podany, Joe and Stella Cichocki, Art and Grace Stenzel, and Ann and yours truly, kept in shape dancing to the tunes of the lovely dance band which brought back memories of years gone by. I am happy to report that we all had a great time 'tripping the light fantastic' right up to the last hour of the reunion.

Exceptional Reunion

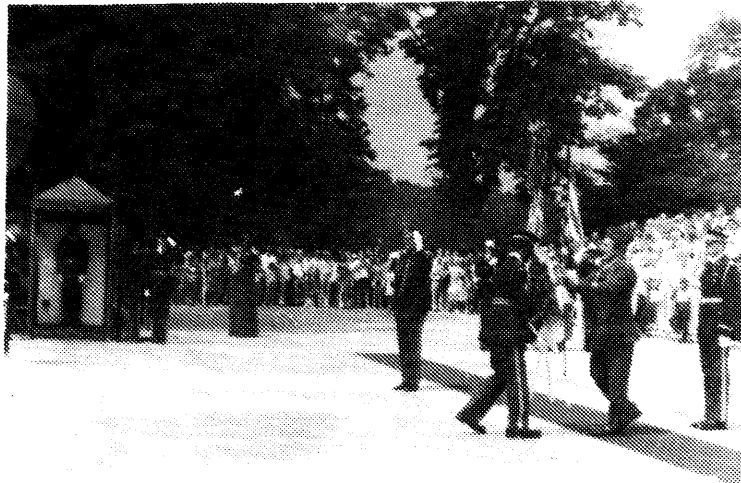
The Washington Chapter of our 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. is to be commended for making this reunion an exceptional one. It was particularly appropriate that the Association was able to meet in our Nation's Capital, and at the same time be in attendance during the actual presentation of the Congressional Medal Of Honor by President Carter to one of our own: Lt. Col. Matt Urban (now retired) of the 60th Inf. Reg't. Needless to say this was a most inspiring ceremony to witness. In addition, the Memorial Service at Arlington National Cemetery which followed was most impressive.



Matt Urban waves to his friends and comrades as President Jimmy Carter is about to place the Medal of Honor around his neck.



Matt Urban after receiving the Medal of Honor turns to wave to his old comrades and friends. President Carter and Urban's wife Jennie join the applause.



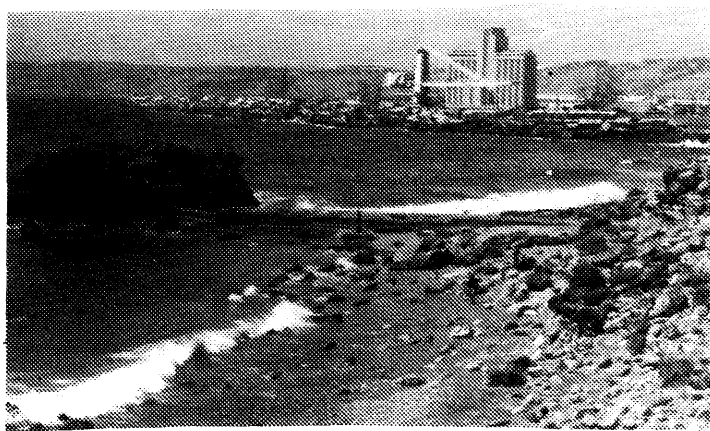
At the most impressive Memorial Services Matt Urban places the Division wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Members of the Michigan Chapter gather to congratulate Matt Urban a member of that chapter.



Members of Matt Urban's boxing team (60th Infantry), relatives and friends are shown after the presentation of the Medal of Honor to Matt.



Randy Bryant supplies us with pictures taken while he visited Safi, N. Africa. "The dock area from Tower of Portugese Fort. The wall of gravel and stone was not there in '42. Was added a few years ago to protect the street to the right."

This was a truly memorable sight for all of us who attended these services.

Hyannis in 81

To those "BECO" Buddies reading this column who were not able to attend this reunion, we do hope that you will be able to attend the forthcoming reunion in 1981 which will be held at Dunfeys in Hyannis, Mass. on beautiful Cape Cod. The dates are June 25, 26, and 27th, 1981.

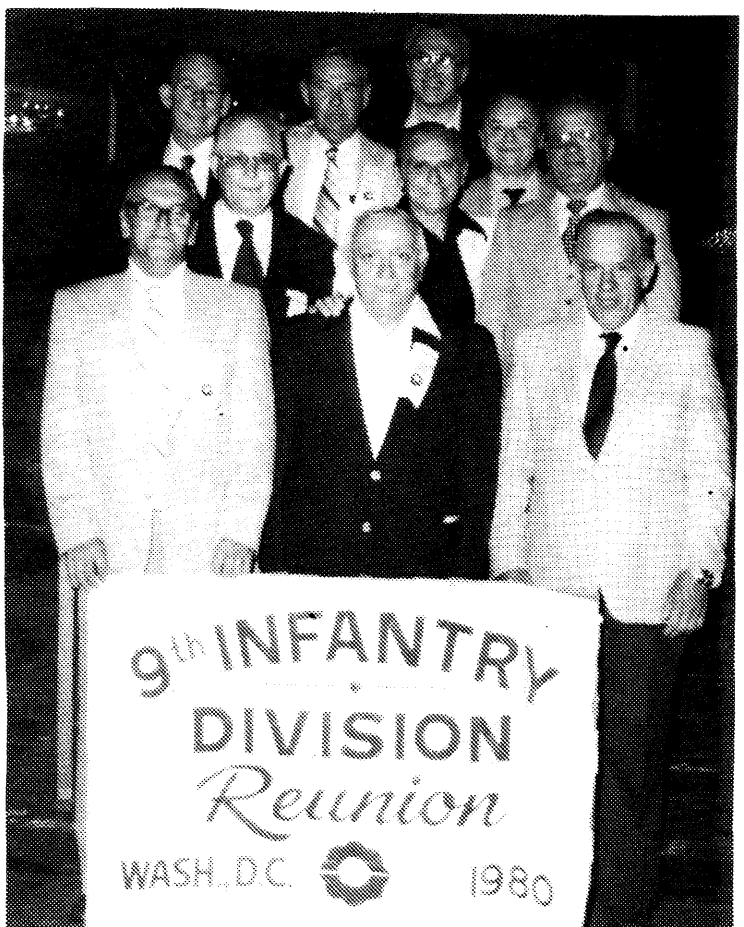
Our "BECO" BUDDY CLUB was in full swing at this reunion and we are aspiring to another great get-together next year at Hyannis, Mass. So-o-o Buddies Mark Your Calendars Now!

And let's plan for the 36th Annual Reunion of our beloved 9th Inf. Div. Association. We hope to attend Father Connor's Memorial Mass in Worcester, Mass. this coming November 9th. If all goes well we hope to reserve some 20 Rooms for our BECO Buddies; and their families. Further info on this will be published in the Octofoil. In closing Keep Well and Best Regards to all.

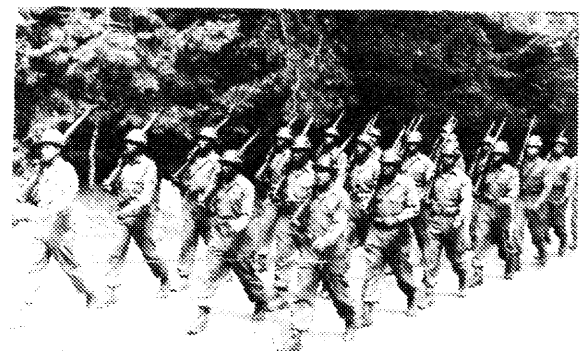
Pat J. Morano
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201

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

The pictures of the reunion were supplied by Walter Victor. He usually sends many more but this year "I was stopped when I was making the table pictures by one of the men from the Washington Chapter. I don't want the members to be mad at me for not taking their picture."



Some of the members of A-T Company 47th Infantry, and one of the most represented companies at the reunion, pause for his photo taken by Walt Victor. L-R front row: Edd Orr from Kittanning, Pa., Sal Salerno, Orange, N.J., George Poole, Middletown, Md. 2nd row Roger "Doc" Gartland' Watertown, N.Y. Henry Casata, Wallington, N.J., Jules Andradi Norwalk, Conn., 3rd row: Oliver Cater, Forestville, Md., Jack Einbinder, Alexandria, Va., Charles Bodnar, Bergenfield, N.J., and Charles "Chick" Wallrich, Flushing, N.Y. Missing from this photo was Howie Waldman who was busy setting up the "C.P." for the Saturday nite bash.



Ed Zeno sends this photo of the 5th Platoon Company G-39th Infantry. All Black troops that joined the Ninth in March of 1945.

Dates for 81 Reunion June 25-27

Business Transacted At Reunion

The Ninth Infantry Division Association — 136th Meeting Board of Governors

The 136th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held in Washington, D.C., on July 17, 1980, at the Shoreham Hotel. The meeting was called to order at 4:45 P.M. by President Robert DeSandy. Attending the meeting were Paul Keller, Sal Trapani, Elias Hopkins, Michael Deresh, William Bongiorno, Fred D'Amore, John Bonkowski, John Clouser and William Klauz. Also present were the treasurer Thomas Boyle, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, 1st Vice-President Vincent Guglielmino, Past Presidents Frank Wade, Fran Maher, Ronald Murphy, Herb Olsen and Emil Langer. Former board member Ralph Cerci and Ed Wisniewski.

President DeSandy asked the members to stand for a moment of silent prayer in memory of the departed men of the Ninth.

The secretary read the minutes of the 135th meeting that was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., on May 31, 1980 and upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Bill Bongiorno it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes as read and instruct the secretary to place copy of same on file.

Thomas Boyle the treasurer was called upon for his report and he gave a detailed report on the last quarter income and spending for the year. Upon a motion duly made by Fred D'Amore and seconded by Paul Keller it was voted to: Accept the Treasurers report.

Harrison Daysh, Co-chairman of the 1980 reunion briefed the members as to events and schedules of meetings that were changed.

Non-Chapter Sites

The committee on Non-Chapter Convention sites consisting of Walter O'Keeffe, John Clouser, Charles Koskie, Michael Deresh, Fred Josie and Herb Olsen will meet before the final Board meeting and report to the board of their recommendations for a site for 1982.

After a discussion on the amendment proposed by the D.C. Chapter members regarding membership of the organization and upon a motion duly made by Fred D'Amore and seconded by John Bonkowski it was voted to (majority for): That this issue of bringing in new members be not presented to the general membership because of insufficient time that was given in the notice of such change to the membership.

The following were appointed by President DeSandy to be chairmen of these committees: Finance William Bongiorno, By-laws John Clouser, Newspaper John Bonkowski, Miscellaneous Michael Deresh and Nominating William Klauz.

Replace Board Member

Upon a motion made by John Clouser and seconded by William Bongiorno it was voted to recess till 9:30 A.M. July 18th in order to have the D.C. Chapter replace a Board member who had resigned.

The 136th meeting of the National Board of Governors that had recessed till 9:30 A.M. on July 18th was called to order at 9:40 A.M. by President DeSandy. Attending were Elias Hopkins, Paul Keller, Fred D'Amore, William Bongiorno, John Clouser, William Klauz, Michael Deresh, John Bonkowski, and Sal Trapani. Also in attendance were 1st Vice President Vincent Guglielmino, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, treasurer Thomas Boyle, Past Presidents Ron Murphy and Herb Olsen.

John Clouser made a motion and it was seconded by Fred D'Amore to accept the resignation from the Board of Governors of Charles Jones of the D.C. Chapter. The Board voted to accept the resignation.

Sal Trapani placed the name of William Robey in nomination as a replacement for the unexpired term (one year) of Charles Jones. Upon a motion made by John Clouser and seconded by Elias Hopkins it was voted to: Close the nominations and instruct the secretary to cast one ballot for a unanimous vote.

Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Michael Belmonte it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 A.M.

The 35th Meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association —

The 35th meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place on July 18, 1980 at the Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D.C., at 2:40 P.M. There being a quorum of 174 members present the President, Robert DeSandy called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand for a moment of silent prayer in memory of our departed comrades.

The president had appointed committee chairman and members earlier in the morning to serve on the various committees.

The secretary, Daniel Quinn then read the minutes of the 34th meeting that took place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Upon a motion duly made by Martin Krasoetz and seconded by John Schiffren it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and to instruct the secretary to place same on file.

Without Sounding Repetitious

Thomas Boyle, the Treasurer, was called upon for his report and he gave a detailed account on the income and spendings of the association for the year. Again Boyle concluded his report by stating "Without sounding repetitious — In my opinion all bills of the association have been settled and paid and the Officers and Board members are to be congratulated for their efforts in managing the affairs of the association". President DeSandy thanked Tom for his report and upon a motion duly made by Bob Hughes and seconded by Henry Santos it was voted to: Accept the Treasurers report.

Briefed on Reunion

Charles Tingley, Co-Chairman of the reunion briefed the members on the happenings of events. Tingley reported that 750 members and families and friends are expected at the banquet for Saturday night and reminded the members to make their reservation by bringing their dinner tickets to be marked. The presentation of the Medal of Honor to Matt Urban by President Jimmy Carter had caused changes in the original schedule of the program of the reunion. President DeSandy thanked Tingley for his report.

Scholarship Committee

John Clouser, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee addressed the membership. He explained that this committee is a permanent one consisting of Doctor David Heller, President of Loop College of Chicago and himself a retired High School Principal. The third member of this committee, Frank Ozart, passed away in April of this year. Clouser told the membership that the recipients are selected, according to their academic ability and financial needs. This year 17 students will benefit from the Scholarship

awards with ten renewals and seven new applicants sharing the awards. Since the scholarship program was started in 1961 the association has granted the sum of \$27,405.00 to students all whom are related to members of the Ninth Infantry Division.

New Applicants were:

Michael Belmonte, son of Michael Belmonte, A Bty 60th FA; Cathleen Ciluffo, daughter of James Ciluffo, Co C 47th Inf; Susan Laurito, daughter of Michael Laurito, Co H 60th Inf; Ann Pepper, daughter of Richard Pepper, Co 39th Inf; Martha Trainor, daughter of Edward Trainor (deceased) Co H-47; Lisa Trapani, daughter of Sal Trapani, Med Det. 39th Inf; Jane Yedank, daughter of Michael Yedank, A-T Co 47th Inf.

Renewals:

Luann Belmonte, daughter of Michael Belmonte, A Bty 60th FA; Ellen Bokina, daughter of Henry Bokina, Hq Bty 9th Div Arty; Roberta Cappella, daughter of Henry Cappella, B Bty 26th FA; David Di Folco, son of Louis Di Folco, 1st En. 47th Inf (Hq); Martin Feinberg, son of Irving Feinberg, Hq 2nd Bn 47th Inf; Terri Hertz, daughter of Stanley Hertz, Co G 60th Inf; Mitchell Kobren, son of Sidney Kobren, Co I 60th Inf; Nancy Stanick, daughter of Michael Stanick, Co D 47th Inf; Salvatore P. Trapani III, son of Sal Trapani, Med Det 39th Inf; Richard Wisniewski, son of Edwin Wisniewski, Serv Co 47th Inf.

At the Board meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pa., on May 31st the Board approved the committee recommendations for these awards. President DeSandy thanked Clouser and Dr. Heller for their efforts for all these years and upon a motion duly made by Paul Keller and seconded by Joseph Williams it was voted to: Accept the report of the Scholarship Committee.

Finance Committee

Bill Bongiorno, Chairman of the Finance Committee was asked for his report and he named these members who served on this committee: Herb Olson, Bill Henemuth, Vincent Guglielmino, George DeGennaro, Rodger Alsgaard, Bill Zimmerman and Art Mac Dougall. Thomas Boyle sat in on the meeting as an adviser. The committee submitted the following budget for the year 1980-81.

Anticipated Income:	
Dues	5000.00
Investments	2745.00
Reunion	500.00
Total	8245.00
Expenses	
Octofail	3600.00
Secretary Salary	600.00
Clerical Help	700.00
Utilities	800.00
Postage	1300.00
Supplies	310.00
Misc. Expense	200.00
Secretary Expense	350.00
Treasurer Expense	200.00
Editors Expense	400.00
Accountant	150.00
Dues Reminder	100.00
Board Meetings	400.00
Scholarship Comm.	
Expense	100.00
Floral Wreath	50.00
Reunion gratuities	100.00
F.I.C.A.	40.00
Total	9700.00

The Finance Committee recommends that the estimated deficit be made up by using the \$1000.00 that is now available in the General Fund and by borrowing \$500.00 from the Capital Fund.

Upon a motion duly made by Ron Murphy and seconded by Bob Hughes it was voted to: Accept the budget as submitted by the Finance Committee.

President DeSandy thanked Bill Bongiorno and his committee.

Newspaper Committee

John Bonkowski Chairman of the Newspaper Committee was called upon for his report and he named these members who served with him on the committee: Billie Martin, John Schriffen, William Robey, Tom Boyle, Bill Coen and Tom Saunders.

The committee reports the following:

1. The chairman named some of the recommendations from the past newspaper committees and was pleased about those that were put into effect. Especially the increased volume of the mail call space and deadline notices.
2. Still of concern is the lack of chapter column reports from the New England, Philadelphia-Delaware valley, Fayetteville-Fort Bragg, Washington, D.C. and newly formed Florida Chapters.
3. Another great concern is the forever rising cost of mailing and publishing. This committee recommends that the financial committee consider these facts of life and supports recommendations to appropriate sufficient funds to continue as in the past.
4. A reminder to all members — only black and white high gloss pictures are acceptable for best and most reasonable publishing purposes.
5. In conclusion — this committee can only find words of praise and gratitude for the great effort of our co-editors — Danny Quinn and Walter O'Keeffe. We pray that they will continue to serve this association in this capacity for many, many years to come.

Upon a motion duly made by Pat Marano and seconded by John Young it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Newspaper committee.

President DeSandy thanked John Bonkowski and his committee for their report.

Nominating Committee

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Bill Klauz named the following members who served on this committee: Fred D'Amore, Michael Belmonte, Sal Trapani, Floyd Hennessey, Paul Keller and Vincent Guglielmino.

The Committee recommends that the vacancies of five members leaving the Board of Governors be filled by the following members: Edwin Wisniewski — Michigan, Emil Langer — New York, Charles Tingley — Washington, D.C., Gordon Anderson — Illinois, Joseph Williams — Florida.

The president asked for nominations from the floor and upon a motion duly made by Frank Rankin and seconded by Elias Hopkins it was voted to: Close the nominations.

Upon a motion duly made by Frank Rankin and seconded by Art Stenzel it was voted to: Instruct the secretary to cast one ballot for a unanimous vote.

Klauz and his committee were thanked by President DeSandy.

By-Laws Committee

John Clouser, Chairman of the By-laws Committee named the following members who served with him on this committee: Charles Koskie, Pat DeColli, Adolph Wadalavage, Gene Reedy, Fran Maher and Harrison Daysh. George Brown sat in later joined by Dan Quinn and Robert DeSandy.

The meeting started with a review of pertinent procedural By-laws by the chairman. The chairman then asked members of the committee to present proposed changes.

Adolph Wadalavage presented the following questions for discussion:

1. Sect. 12A — Dues — There is a conflict between chapter practice and the provisions of the By-laws. The By-laws provide for dues by the fiscal year and some chapters are collecting by the calendar year. The committee decided we should keep the fiscal year as the dues year and the Board of Governors and National Secretary should set up our administrative procedure to bring all chapters' collection of dues in conformance with the By-laws-Fiscal year July 1 to June 30th.
2. Sect. 12C — Ladies Auxiliary — Wadalavage proposed change to clarify the relationship of the Auxiliary to the association. Auxiliary members attending general meetings of the association. It was the decision of the committee that no change should be made.

Francis Maher proposed changing the name of the association to the Ninth Infantry Division Association WW2. The committee by a vote of 5-to-1 decided to leave the name the way it is at present. They could not see where it would change anything.

Section 36 — Wadalavage proposed changing the wording to 1st Vice-President from Vice-president. The committee decided this should be an editorial change as earlier editions of the By-laws read 1st Vice-president.

Discussion was held on the procedural matter related to proposed change of membership qualifications. The committee was informed of the action of the Board of Governors not to place the item on the agenda of the general meeting as it was not in conformance with Section 6 of the By-laws on meeting notice. The committee by a vote of 5 to 1 confirmed the actions of the Board of Governors that the proposal should not be considered as it did not conform to Section 6 of the By-laws.

Upon a motion duly made by Carlos Esteva and seconded by Frank Rankin it was voted to: Accept the By-laws committee report.

President DeSandy thanked John Clouser and his committee.

Miscellaneous Committee

Michael Deresh Chairman of the Miscellaneous committee was called upon for his report. He named these members who served on this committee: Rev. Gerald Rowan, Charles Williams, Harry Wax, Ronald Murphy, Gordon Anderson, Edwin Wisniewski. The committee recommends the following:

1. That the format relating to the meeting schedules as stated in the Octofail not be changed without consulting the National Secretary. The time of the meetings for this convention was changed causing a bit of confusion.
2. That the convention Journal always list the officers and Board of Governors as was previous practice. This year it was deleted.
3. That a committee of the host chapter always be available to handle the room accommodation complaints — such as unclean rooms — no air conditioning etc.
4. Members who write to the Octofail are to be commended for their most interesting and informative letters. Some suggestions will be used as a guide by the Officers and Board members.

(Continued on next page)

Washington Reunion Largest in years

REFLECTIONS ON OUR REUNION

Washington, you did a good job! Well made plans for any kind of event can go astray. Your problems were minor. After the first few complaints you handled all additional problems with ease.

Weather is always a topic of conversation, but no one can do much about it. Most buildings have man made cooling systems. Streets and bus stops with their 103 degrees F were not as hot as the streets of Algiers, Kasserine, Bizerte, Oran or Sidi Bel Abbis. Common sense prevailed. There were no reports of any convention being affected by the heat.

Meeting People

Part of the enjoyment of attending a National Convention or a Memorial Mass is meeting people. People meeting people. Before long you might be talking to someone who knows someone you know.

While waiting for the award ceremony to start in the Regency Room a member of our association occupied the chair next to me. He introduced himself as Bill Ring, Trumbull, Conn and 34th FA. A conversation started. Before long I found out that Bill is a long time friend of Elmer Roscoe who served with me for over four years as a member of Service Battery 26FA. Elmer and his charming wife have missed only one Memorial Mass since 1945.

Short Exchanges

Another interesting conversation took place on the bus going to Arlington National Cemetery. This time my wife and I exchanged a few words with General Craig. These and other short exchanges added so much to our trip to Washington.

Bill Bongiorno, 3 Cedar Ridge Terrace, Bedford, Mass., from Service Battery 26FA is the new president of our Association. Joe McKenzie, Bill Andrews, and Alexander Wilcopolski were also from Service Battery 26FA. Tom Boyle and Calvin Daniels of "C" 26FA renewed acquaintances after 38 years. Donald Rollar from Message Center and Loren Doyle, driver for Col. Johnson met for the first time since 1945. John Clouser and Chesley Mischler Represented Hdqtrs, 26 FA. Ben Atkinson "A" Btry 26FA and 54-01 Pineland Road, Richmond, Virginia and Billie Martin also made the convention.

Besides Bongiorno, Boyle and McKenzie other New Englanders present were Mrs. Katherine Byrne, widow of Red Byrne of Div. Arty. Ronnie Murphy, Fred D'Amore, Tony Madonna and Francis Maher were part of the Engineer Battalion, also Herb Olsen, Julius Iannotti and Rev. Edward T. Connors. I thought Father Connors looked a little tired after his long trip from Taiwan. If I missed anyone from New England I am sorry and will try not to do it again.

While in Washington I called Paul Fribush in Baltimore. Paul is now part owner of the store that has been his livelihood since his school days. Paul has two sons and three grand children. Both Mollie and Paul are enjoying good health.

Since 1953 I have been trying to locate Pete Harris. Jim Boyle and Harry Fry could not come up with an address. During my search someone sent to me an address of a Pete Harris in Silver Spring, Maryland. I wrote to the address shortly before I left for Washington. Pete Harris Jr. called me at the Shoreham. We had a pleasant chat but his news was not good. Our Pete died of cancer a little over three years ago.

Harold Wallace does much traveling. One year he travels to California to see his son and his family. The next year it is back to the place of his birth to see his daughter and her family. This year he traveled to the north country where he and his wife enjoyed a vacation with her mother. While in Michigan Harold made a side trip to see Bill Andrews. Next year it will be back to California.

Protocol in Action

We were privileged to see protocol in action. The Regency Room was something you had to see to appreciate. It was a room large enough to seat 1,000 or more people. Drapes, lights and accessories were luxurious and costly. Every seat had an unobstructed view of the speakers' platform. The honor guard seemed as though they were fixtures because of their immaculate uniforms and their eye catching posture.

Sincere Welcome

President Jimmy Carter, with Guest of Honor, Matt Urban and Secretary of the Army, Clifford L. Alexander, Jr. arrived and received a warm and sincere welcome. After Secretary Alexander read the citation the President made the presentation of the Medal of Honor to Matt Urban. President Carter's remarks were brief and very thankful that the Army had many good soldiers like Matt Urban.

Thank You Mr. President

Thank you Mr. President for the honor of your presence to present the highest honor this Country can give to a member of its armed forces. What made the presentation more thrilling was that it happened before over 500 members of the Ninth Infantry Division of World War II fame, some of whom served with Matt Urban.

November 9, 1980 is the day that you have a date in Worcester.

Joe McKenzie
Service Battery
26FA Bn

Co. B 47th Inf.
PAT MRANO
2208 Lincoln Wy E
Chambersburg, Penn.
17201

Enclosed is copy for next issue of the Octofoil. Also enclosed are 2 letters from "BECO" buddies for the "Mail Call Column".

We had a very good Reunion, didn't we? Hope you and Marie are in good health. Ann is OK but I've been laid up for a week with a very bad back. It's been something that's been bothering me periodically for years. The doctors have diagnosed it as lumbago, arthritis or "old men's" rheumatism! So, I'll have to live with it, Dan.

Take care of yourself. Regards and best wishes to all the family. Hope to see you in Worcester.

OUTSTATE GATHERING MICHIGAN-ILLINOIS CHAPTERS

The Michigan-Illinois Chapter is hosting a Midwest Fall Gathering on October 17 & 18, 1980 in Angola, Indiana. Reservations have been made at the Holiday Inn in Angola which is easily accessible from the Indiana and Ohio Tollways and convenient to Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. Reservations have been automatically made for those who signed up at the reunion in Washington. Those who did not sign up and wish to join us may do so by contacting the Holiday Inn direct in Angola and mention the Michigan-Illinois Chapter gathering. The address is Holiday Inn, Jct. I-69 & Indiana Tollway, Angola, Indiana 46703, Phone 219-665-9471.

The two chapters will host a hospitality room on Friday and Saturday nights which will be open for all to attend. A buffet dinner will be served on Saturday night for a nominal cost.

We have had three successful gatherings and are looking forward to another beautiful get together. There is a golf course nearby so bring along your clubs.

Michigan Happenings

The Michigan Chapter held their regular meeting and picnic on June 22, 1980 at Kensington Metropolitan Park. Don Lewis went out early and secured our usual bivouac area in the park and put up the signs showing the way. There were several other members who also showed up early to enjoy a breakfast out with their wives. The weather man was kind to us as we had a most beautiful day. From early morning on there were a total of seventy three members, wives and guests who signed the Chapter Register and I am sure that there were a few more who forgot to sign. We held a short meeting in the afternoon to finalize the Charter Bus trip plans for the coming Reunion and make committee assignments for the members to serve on the following committees at the National Reunion as follows: Newspaper--Everett Tapp and Billie Martin, By Laws--Gene Reedy and Al Young, Finance--Rodger Alsgaard and Bill Zimmerman, Nominating--Floyd Hennessey and Don Lewis and Miscellaneous--Tom Saunders and Charlie Williams.

Life Member Bill Phelps and his wife Lydia of Titusville, Florida were able to attend this year as they are spending the summer months back here in Michigan.

The winner of the 50-50 Raffle was Jean Thomas of Saginaw, Mich., on a ticket sold by Rodger Alsgaard and this was worth \$261.50 to her.

Congratulations

By now that the Reunion is over and the Congressional Medal of Honor presented to Matt Urban, we of the Michigan Chapter are proud and honored that he is a member of this Chapter and has achieved this long awaited honor. Congratulations Matt from all of us.

Thought for the day--Criticism comes easier than Craftsmanship.

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

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

DISAPPOINTMENTS

The reunion in Washington had its highlights and bad points. Our biggest disappointment was in not having all of our members in the same hotel. Although the Sheraton was very gracious to accommodate us and the rooms were beautiful, it was not the same since we were in two different hotels. We certainly had our share of walking to get to the Shorham for all the festivities.

The Gheres, Koskies and Belmontes were delayed in arriving in Washington due to the bad storm on Thursday. Our plan was delayed two hours. After that delay and then being told that the rooms reserved for us were without air-conditioning, we were all ready to turn around and come back home. Fortunately, we liked our rooms at the Sheraton and after settling down and getting a bite to eat, we joined all of the crowd at the beer party which was a big disappointment. The beer was hot and the tables and chairs were poorly organized but the company was great.

The rest of the Illinois Chapter members who drove in or also flew had difficulties in obtaining their rooms. Among Illinois members present were the Andersons, Clarks, Clousers, Faynors, Gheres, Hennemuths, Koskies and the Belmontes. We also renewed acquaintances with Al Seboc, Alex Wilcop and Joe Lipka.

SIGHT SEEING

Friday some of the gang went shopping or sight seeing. The weather was so hot, no one but the Faynors stayed out long. The Faynors along with their sons and new daughter-in-law went on an all day trip and were totally exhausted when they returned. They did get to see quite a bit. Peggy Hennemuth and Marion Anderson toured the city experiencing a subway ride. Irma Koskie and Ann Belmonted visited the Immaculate Conception National Shrine.

HIGHLIGHT OF REUNION

The highlight of the reunion was the ceremony when President Carter presented the Medal of Honor to Matt Urban. We were all lucky to be a part of that service and our congratulations go to Matt who was so patient in waiting for his medal and wanting to share this happy occasion with the members of the Ninth.

We were impressed with the services held at the Arlington National Cemetery. Our only regret was that the weather was so hot, it made it a little uncomfortable to stand in the hot sun during the services. All things considered, a good time was had by all and we are looking forward to next years reunion in Cape Cod.

CONGRATUALIONS

Our congratulations go to Gordon Anderson on being elected as a Board Member at the reunion. Our best wishes to you Gordon -- we know you will do a good job.

The Belmontes are grateful to the Scholarship Committee for granting scholarships to their two children. Luann will be entering her second year at Illinois State University and Mike will be attending the University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus this fall as a freshman. Our sincere appreciation for this generosity in aiding our children to attend college.

WELL LOVED MEMBER

As some of you may have heard at the reunion, the Illinois Chapter has lost another one of their dearest and well loved members. Bud Remer passed away on June 29th after a long period of illness. Bud had donated his body to science and therefore there was no wake but his sister held a memorial service for him on July 5th. Dave Heller delivered the eulogy along with a minister of Bud's faith. A donation in the amount of \$100.00 was presented to the Scholarship fund in Bud's memory. Contributions were made by the Koskies, Gheres, Faynors, Clousers, Clarks, Hennemuths, Andersons, Lipka, Bish, Greccos, Paulis and Belmontes.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathies are also extended to John Clouser on the loss of his mother on July 1st. John's Mother had been a resident in the Moose Lodge Nursing Home in Florida for many years. She will be missed dearly by John and Helen.

We heard from Bob and Beryl Pappas and they tell us they have sold their home in Moline. They have bought a Mobil Home and plan to locate in New Port Richie, Florida. Good luck in your new venture and don't forget to look up the Clousers in Florida.

OUTSTATE GATHERING

On October 18th, the Michigan-Illinois Chapters will hold their annual outstate gathering in Angola, Indiana. All are invited and anyone wishing to join us, should contact the Holiday Inn in Angola and make reservations mentioning the Michigan-Illinois gathering of the 9th. Rates will be \$35.10 for a double and \$27.00 for a single. Reservations will automatically be made for those who signed the book at Washington. We are all looking forward to our get-together again in October.

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

A veteran who renounces his compensation benefits is not denied the right to file a claim for reinstatement.

Renouncement of rights will not preclude any veteran from filing a new application for compensation; however, a new application will be considered as an original claim and no payments will be made before the new application is received by the Veterans Administration.

"In far too many instances," "veterans forswear their compensation benefits without fully realizing the potential consequences." "Often a seemingly minor disability will worsen and the veteran will find it infinitely more difficult to substantiate his entitlement to compensation than if he had retained his original rating."

Compensation is payable to veterans who suffer from a disability of 10 percent or more which is service-connected. It is designed to compensate veterans for impairment of earning capacity.

Securing an upgrading of compensation benefits is contingent upon establishing a relationship between the veteran's current physical condition and the wounds of injuries he received in service.

mail call

Continued

(From preceding page)

5. Hereafter each chapter shall select its members to serve on various committees prior to the convention. These names should be sent to the National Secretary and published in the Octofoil before the annual reunion. This should include Alternates delegates.

6. Room registration at hotels should be in one hotel. In the past three years our group have been split up into different hotels. In the future a large enough hotel should be acquired to handle volume of members attending conventions. This situation has existed in Atlantic City, Fort Lauderdale, and Washington, D.C.

Upon a motion duly made by Emil Langer and seconded by Dick O'Connor it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Miscellaneous committee. President DeSandy thanked Deresh and his committee for their report.

Monument at Bragg

William Martin of Rockingham, North Carolina, a member of the committee for a monument at Fort Bragg briefed the members on costs and location of such a monument. The President appointed these members to serve with Bill on this committee: George Brown, Frank Smith and Boardman Lockwood. This committee will report their findings to the Board off Governors. It is the wish of the members to have this monument ready for dedication at the 1982 reunion to be held in Fayetteville-Fort Bragg area.

Necessary Notification

Sal Trapani opened a discussion that the By-laws as proposed by the D.C. Chapter be amended to open the books to all those who ever wore the Octofoil. After much discussion and upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Pat Morano it was voted to: Reject this amendment as the Board of Governors at their meeting recommended that this proposal be not acted upon as it lacked the necessary notification to the membership.

Upon a motion duly made by Michael Deresh and seconded by Joseph Williams it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 5:05 P.M.

The Ninth Infantry Division Association — 137th Meeting Board of Governors

The 137th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held on July 18, 1980, in the Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D.C. The meeting was called to order by President DeSandy at 5:30 P.M. Attending the meeting were Michael Deresh, William Bongiorno, Elias Hopkins, William Robey, John Clouser, William Klauz, Fred D'Amore, Martin Krasovetz, Joseph Williams, Edwin Wisniewski, Charles Tingley, Francis Maher, and Gordon Anderson. Also present were Past Presidents Walter O'Keeffe, John Bonkowski and Paul Keller, Treasurer Thomas Boyle.

Upon a motion duly made by Charles Tingley and seconded by Elias Hopkins it was voted to: Omit the reading of the minutes of the 136th meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Joseph Williams and seconded by Michael Deresh it was voted to: Omit the treasurers report.

Election

Election of Officers was held with the following elected to serve:

President — William Bongiorno
1st Vice Pres. — Vincent Guglielmino
2nd Vice-Pres. — Elmer Wagner
3rd Vice-Pres. — Michael Belmonte
Judge Advocate — Harrison Daysh
Secretary — Daniel Quinn
Treasurer — Thomas Boyle

Thankful

Robert DeSandy the out-going president turned the meeting over to newly elect William Bongiorno. Bob thanked the members for their cooperation during his term of office and wished Bill Bongiorno all the best for the coming year. Bongiorno thanked DeSandy for his efforts on behalf of the association and again thanked the Board members for the honor bestowed upon him by electing him President of the association.

Walter O'Keeffe chairman of the committee for reunion sites of non-chapter years (every other year) recommended the Fayetteville-Fort Bragg area for 1982 with the possibility of dedicating a monument at Fort Bragg in memory of the men of the Ninth.

Fayetteville in 82

Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Marty Krasovetz it was voted to: Select Fayetteville-Fort Bragg for the site for 1982.

Charles Tingley submitted for the record that the amendment of the By-laws as submitted by the Washington, D.C. Chapter will again be placed before the membership for the 1981 reunion, regarding the admitting of membership other than those who served in WW2.

Upon a motion duly made by Michael Deresh and seconded by Bill Klauz it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 6:05 P.M.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary managed to hold their meeting at the reunion and elect new officers for the coming year. Phyllis Perna was again chosen to lead the "gals" as President Iris Canales as her "side kick" and Vice-President, Lily Krasovetz will keep the books and monies together as Secretary-Treasurer. Irene Tapp will handle the spiritual needs as Chaplain and Connie Richards will take of their Publicity.

Largest Ever Collected

The women donated \$544.00 to the Memorial Fund which probably accounts for this year's donations at the Reunion to be the largest ever collected at a reunion some \$2,300.00 They are especially grateful to Terri Lee, daughter of Hugh Lee, 39th Infantry of Summit, N.J. who donated the hand woven "Queen Anne's Lace Shawl", to Iris Canales for her donation of a pollyanna's along with Ronnie Lee and Ethel Thompson. To Carol Lipka and Phyllis Perna who started the "favorite recipe" sharing project. (we know it won't be S.O.S.)

Wonderful Photographs

The gals were also grateful to waiter Victor for the wonderful photographs. (The editors wish he would have sent a photo of the Ladies at their meeting)

With all the mix-ups because of the changes of meeting schedules the "gals" managed to have 33 members present for their meeting.

60th Inf.
LES RONAY
P.O. Box 387
Tarzana, CA 91356
Dan:

Typing so that you wouldn't have problems with my writing, and you can catch all my errors. Anyway, it was nice to attend the Washington affair and able to see many old faces, sorry that many more of the original gang did not make it, I'm sure timing had a lot to do with it.

Being present at the presentation was most enjoyable. It's one in a life time affair and experienced a great thrill, I'm sure everyone did and can say there wasn't many dry eyes during the presentation. I was very happy for Matt.

Dan have to give the devil it's due, after thinking of the affair and the complications that arose for the Washington chapter after the printing I feel that they did do a good job in juggling time in respect to the presentation. Of course the hotel wasn't much help, we apparently weren't a big enough convention for them and they just tolerated us at their convenience.

Its been quite some time since I attended an association business meeting, and it seems to be the same with the exception this year the main topic an important issue was not presented in a proper manner. I believe that our Board of Governors should pursue the issue and for the 81 convention, proper out-put be made with the membership having the right to vote on the issue even by PROXY.

I will at this time express my opinion, I do not feel that our membership roll re-restricted as it is. At the time the Association was formed it was done without the thought of any further combat involvement and I feel that the time specified was for the preservation and comradeship of the combat experience we all shared. I further feel that those who served after us shared all the hazards as we had if not more and that they are proud of the wearing of the Octofoil as we are.

I do not feel that in opening our membership would turn our association into a social organization, I believe they have as much in common as we have and should be invited into our association.

I do not object your expressing my feeling to the Board of Governors and anyone who has an opinion should do so for the Boards guidance in the matter for its recommendation to the membership.

Hope to be in the New Jersey area in early October, per chance we can meet for a few drinks.

FRED M. JOSEY, Secy.
Michigan Chapter
8162 Green Valley Drive
Grand Blanc, Mich. 48439

I would like to give credit for the \$300.00 donation to the Scholarship Fund that we made as to the \$200.00 of it coming from the Michigan Chapter and the additional \$100.00 from the following donors: Calvin Daniels, Bill Zimmermann, Elmer Wagner, Fred Josey, Harry Bushey, Augie Aversa and Eddie Krause

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

I noticed in the last Octofoil that some of the West Coast 9th men would like to see a National Convention out West. Why not you fellows from East Coast come out West once, you don't know what the Rocky Mountains look like from a train window, or if driving, stop and have a fresh trout dinner. Then from a pool of a mountain stream, see the great ranches of Montana, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma. The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River in Northern Arizona a mile deep and the Grand Sequora Forest, the Canyon and the Sequora Forest are two of the seven wonders of the world. Also see the Fruit Orchards. Citrus as well as Apple and cherries from Montana and Utah all the way into the California San Joaquin Valley and the miles of irrigation canals. Take a cruise of Harbor San Diego. In Los Angeles you can see the Movie Studios or stop at Las Vegas, Nevada. You have no idea what you are missing. It's not fair for us Westerners to do 3000 miles East Coast all the time. Why can't you travel West if we travel East. Think it over. Even if we had it half way across, say, Denver, Omaha, Kansas City or Fort Worth, Texas, it would make it easier on all of us. You'll get the surprise of your lives if you come West. By passenger train is a wonderful way to come, special rates and you have diner services and sleeper on the trains like the High Level Southwest Limited. Chicago to Los Angeles, Am-track has special family plan as well as excursion rates and their Chair Cars have reclining seats if you can't afford the sleeper cars.

Best wishes to all you 9th men. Hope all of our 9th family will be at the next Reunion.

Co. B 47th Inf.
W. E. LOVEJOY, JR.
P.O. Box 13128
Tucson, Ariz. 85732
Dear Pat:

I am sorry for the delay in answering your convention announcement of May 29th. I had hoped to figure a way to be in Washington at that time, however, a Court case is going to keep me occupied.

I sure would like to get with you guys again, but guess I will have to wait until later in the year in New York, and get with some of the fellows in the area.

Has Art Stenzel moved to Florida yet? If so, I would like to get his new address, and if he is still waiting to move, I have the old address.

I know you guys will have a great time — be sure and have a drink for me — I definitely want to stay in touch.

You sent me a membership application for the 9th Infantry Association. I am a life member in the association and read each issue of the "Octofoil" with great interest, because there is generally something concerning somebody I am familiar with.

Best wishes to you guys again, I only wish I could be with you.

Committee formed to consider the feasibility and costs of an informative and decorative marker to be placed at Fort Bragg.

Minutes: Committee on arrangements for a Marker at Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Appoint Committee

Pursuant to their appointment by President DeSandy at the Annual Meeting of the 9th Infantry Division Association a Committee composed of:

George Brown 47th Inf.
R D 1, Box 142
Freehold, NY 12431
(516) 534-7109
B.F. (Woody) Lockwood 47th Inf.
240 Trumbull St.
Hartford, CT 06103
(203) 278-7760
Bill Martin 60th Inf.
1028 Beaunit Ave.
Rockingham, NC
(919) 895-2952
Frank M. Smith 47th Inf.
P.O. Box 1075
Southern Pines, NC 29387
(919) 692-7141

Informative And Decorative met at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Sat. July 19, 1980 to consider the feasibility and costs of an informative and decorative marker to be emplaced at Fort Bragg, N.C. to indicate that the 9th Infantry Division, and subsequent attached units, was activated at that Post on August 1, 1940 and trained there for overseas combat duty until it departed on October 23, 1942 to participate in the invasion of North Africa.

Exchange Ideas

After a general discussion to exchange ideas and to organize their thoughts the members agreed on a division of efforts as follows:

Bill Martin and Frank Smith will make contact and establish liaison with Fort Bragg.
George Brown will look into the subject of design, material, and costs.
Woody Lockwood will be the recorder for the Committee and inform the membership of progress.

Donations Be Solicited

It was suggested, and unanimously approved, that donations be solicited even at this early stage in the proceedings with the assurance that any unexpended funds will be turned over to the Scholarship Committee for their general purposes. At present we have no idea of our financial requirements but it is our intention to secure as many as three different designs and costs to consider.

Suggestions

Membership comments, suggestions and contributions are earnestly solicited; the former to any committeeman and the latter to Secretary Dan Quinn who will establish a "Marker Fund".

Boardman F. Lockwood
240 Trumbull Street
Hartford, Connecticut
06103

(Continued on next page)

Have you noticed how everybody seems to be running these days? Either you're a jogger trying to keep your figure or a citizen trying to keep your wallet.

Dates for 81 Reunion June 25-27

mail call

Continued

34th F.A.
ORLANDO "MICKEY"
BRUNO
2359 Otis Avenue
Deltona, Fla. 32725

I'm frustrated and lost. I'm trying to find a Henry Gordon who served with me in the 34th F.A. Bn. ever since the 9th Division was reactivated in around 1940. I was drafted in February 1941 and sent to Ft. Bragg, N.C. and met a great bunch of buddies. Now, I'd like to know their whereabouts. I'm also looking for Kermit Moore also from the 34th Field who came from Alabama.

If finding these guys is possible, then it's worthwhile belonging to the Octofoil as a paid member.

I enjoyed the National Convention last June in Ft. Lauderdale and hope to be in D.C. at the next one.

My telephone number is 1-904-789-2486. And I'd like to hear from some of the boys of the 34th F.A.

60th A.T. Co.
LEON GRIGSBY
Star Route, Box 235
Omaha, Ark. 72662

Hello, well, I am retired. I have a few cows. Spent most of my time in Alaska on White Alice Stations. Thank you for letting me know about my dues. Regards to all.

Co. C. 39th Inf.
CHARLES BILELLO
8941 E. 25th Street
Tucson, Ariz. 05710

We have relocated and are now living in Tucson, Ariz. I am semi-retired, but it is a new way of life here. I enjoy working with people and helping them. I keep myself busy and that is keeping me in A-1 health condition. I've graduated from a truck driver to an insurance agent. I don't hear from any one of Co. C. but if any of my buddies should come to Tucson, I will be glad to take off to show them around. My phone number is 602-885-7895. The best time to call is midnight Arizona time. Or drop a line. Best of Health to all.

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

Here is an answer to the Landing incident of the Troopship John Erickson at Liverpool, England on our trip from Sicily, November, 1943. It's from G. Remaley, Box 437 - A.R.D.1. Natrona Hgts., Pa. 15065, who was with Anti-Tank Co. 47th Inf.

Here is his letter:
"Hi Wil": I was on that troopship too with Anti-Tank Co. 47th we scraped bottom and sprung a leak, when you or us got into Liverpool Harbor. We were taking in water and everyone ran to Portside, which made the ship lean, and they made us go to the other side to even the ship level before we got off the ship. Hope to see you in Washington.

MRS. GEORGE W. SMYTHE
6200 Oregon Ave. NW No. 278
Washington, D.C. 20015

I must tell you of my appreciation for the weekend at the reunion — especially Saturday morning, noon and night. Major John Alley and his wife took good care of me. It was thrilling — we had good write-ups in the Washington papers. It is always good to review a little — my husband George was with the 47th Infantry in Europe, my son in Viet Nam — "I'm just an also ran".

Hq. 47th Inf.
RANDY BRYANT
15640 S.W. 85th Ave.
Miami, Fla. 33157

The Reunion this year must have been great and I am so sorry not to have been there. The program was outstanding. However as I wrote you my wife and I went to Morocco instead and had not recovered by the time of the convention.

Those of the 47th who have returned to Safi will understand when I saw it is almost unrecognizable. It is now a city of over 25,000 and an industrial center. Sardines are no longer kings, they have diversified. Just south of the city is an entirely new town, an industrial park with many types of factories. I was completely confused when I went to the dock area for it had been built up so much, with tall storage silos and tall buildings. The tiny phosphate office building where our first C.P. was is smothered and seems very tiny.

When we arrived back in November 1942, you either spoke French or Berber, now most of the inhabitants have some English. Morocco is much, much cleaner, and appears prosperous, the people healthy, well fed and dressed. They are extremely friendly, cooperative and courteous. My wife adored them, they were so nice to her.

We didn't stay in Safi but in Marrakech at the famous Mamounia Hotel where Churchill spent most of his winters until he died. It is a luxurious place, also in price. Still French operated but with French or Arabic food in one of several restaurants. Gen Randle and several of us paid a courtesy visit to the well known Pasha of Marrakech, El Glaoui. His palace is now a V.I.P. palace for state visitors only, much as Blair House in Washington. Marrakech is now a very large city, my driver told me it is approaching 500,000 in population. I doubt that but it has grown enormously. It is quite a tourist city and has every right to that title. But back to Safi.

The country between the two cities has also changed. Instead of almost arid, desert land, it has become quite an agricultural producing area and green farm after farm is to be seen on the way. The donkeys and camels are still there.

Enclosed are a few photos of Safi. I had heard from someone else who had visited that the Marhaba Hotel, 47th C.P. for several weeks is no longer there. That is a mistake. It has not changed a bit except in name. It is now known as the Hotel de l'Atlantide. but on entering you step on a rubber mat that still says "MARHABA." It is well kept and looked newly painted. The only interior change was the addition of an American type bar just off the lobby. There was a good view of the city from the dining room back in '42 but now the trees and shrubbery have grown so high there is no view at all.

My wife and I have followed the 47th from the Seine River all the way to it's last C.P. in Germany; this time it's initial landing in Morocco. Next we plan on Tunisia, Sicily and Normandy, not necessarily in that order. The 47th means a lot to me for I joined the regiment when it was first organized in Aug. 1940 and I was on the order in 1946 when the 9th Div. was inactivated, serving through the entire 8 campaigns.

We made many pictures of Safi and Morocco but the ones I've enclosed cover the most vital views of our landing.

Standing on Point de la Tour, I wondered how the Cole and the Bernandou really made it to the beach. The French must have been on our side for we did not surprise them, Roosevelt took care of that. I well remember being on our troopship late on November 7 and looking at the lights of Safi — they all went out when the President told them we were landing. However it was a Saturday night and many parties were going on, particularly those involving the Foreign Legion. We missed the Legion and the Goums. I was told the Goums are still in existence but they failed to show. Moroccan soldiers in almost French uniforms are very much in evidence. Another change — the Pashas are not now using the native dress but a type of gray-green uniform — not nearly as colorful. We saw the Pasha of Marrakech many times in the Mamounia — how different he is from El Glaoui.

If anyone is interested and has any questions I'll be happy to try to answer them, also send photos.

Co. B 9th Med Bn
JOHN F. LAUBACH
155 W. 12th Street
Bloomsburg, Pa. 17815

It is with deep regret, that I am writing you this letter, a dear friend of mine, and of the 9th Medic's CoB passed away July 3, 1980. John Price Jr., of Jackson, North Carolina, he was with the 9th Medical Battalion. John is survived by his wife Effie, son John III and wife and a daughter Mary Lewis and husband, along with a grandson.

We were friends in the service, being stationed together throughout the war, at our reunion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 62, we renewed old friendship and met John's family, since that time we have become very close friends, and have visited with them for the last 20 yrs.

John became ill on Sunday Evening, while working in his garden at Otam Prison in Jackson, North Carolina, where John was in charge of all the Maintenance on the Prison, and lived with his family right there, thinking retiring in a year or so.

Last year John and his wife and myself and wife attended the reunion at Fort Lauderdale, Florida and had a real good time, in fact after the reunion we journeyed on to the Florida Keys.

John was admitted to the Ranoke Rapids Hospital on Monday to the intensive care unit, and passed away on Thursday morning at 3:00 AM, the world has lost a good father, husband and I have lost a good army buddy, and a friend. Friends like John can never be replaced, he will be missed by many.

If anyone would like to write to John's widow, they may do so at the following address RD No. 1, Box 34, Jackson North Carolina 27845.



Due to lack of space the Story "Final Thrust" was omitted from this issue. It will be continued in Sept-Oct issue.

Allied Airborne Association
FRANK P. JULIANO
117 Milton Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10306
Tel. No. 212-979-1950

On July 10, 1944, I was trapped in a German position in a town called Graignes-St. Jean de-Daye ... How did I get there ... well it wasn't easy, but on June 6th, 1944 I parachuted into Normandy and landed in the swamp near a town called Tribehou ... which was quite away from a place called St. Come du Monte. which was where I was supposed to land.

The next morning a group of about 160 men held a town called Craignes they were from both the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division for 6 days before we were over-run ... most men escaped thru the swamps in boats aided by the French ... a few of us fighting and retreating from our outpost were left behind ... myself another man from my company ... were aided by the French, even though, the Germans killed and executed the town's 2 priests and 12 men, whom some were wounded and left in a church.

Finally the French were told to leave the area ... we were right in the middle of a German position, one house was their C.P. ... thank God they never saw us ... Our plan was to join the fire-fight when it got close to us.

On July 10, early in the morning the Germans were still around ... I was laying down when I hear some-one shout "hey Bill" ... we were hiding in small building, which really was the town baking oven, which was not being used ... after making sure they were Americans ... I jumped down from the oven, and yelled "I'm American ... don't shoot" and they didn't and we were captured by the 9th Infantry Division ... Thank the Good Lord ... That night, believe it or not ... we were aboard an LST heading for England.

I have been back to Graignes 3 times to express my thanks to those who helped us ... I could not find them ... but I have given to their Church every once in awhile ... when I visit there, they raise the American Flag over the French Flag as a tribute to us ... they think very highly of the 9th Division who freed that area from the Germans ... and as my small token to thank the 9th Division for the debt I owe to them, please accept this check for \$25 for your memorial fund.

If I can be of service please call on me, I'm president of the Allied Airborne Association.

39th & 47th Inf.
HARRY C. HERMAN
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

This is a letter Harry wrote to movie critic Judith Martin:
Judith Martin
Dramatic Critic
The Washington Post
Washington, D.C.
Dear Ms. Martin,

While in Washington at the 36th reunion of the 9th Division, U.S. Army, a sister Division to the 1st, I came across your review of "The Big Red One" in the July 18th issue of the Washington Post.

I thought about your review during the presentation by the President, of the Congressional Medal of Honor to one of our members, and, later, when we presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

First, let me say that we fought side by side with the 1st Division, North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, France and Germany so I feel qualified to say that The Big Red One was one of

the finest fighting divisions ever to represent its county in combat.

In reviewing your review I will start at the beginning.

1. The Headline "What's Big, Red and Dull? "Big Red One". Comments: I do not know how you can consider an epic — which cost this Division to be replaced over seven times — Dull. Unless you have become so sophisticated that simple honesty has left you — or unless you have forgotten what it is to lose a loved one. For one to term this living history "Dull" deserves only the deepest contempt one could give to a sub-human smartalack.

2. "The essence of War remains the same" Comment: Every war is different; it is sometimes wrong; sometimes right; it is sometimes evil and sometimes noble — or have you bothered to read history. Read the "Rise and Fall of the Third Reich", read the "Longest Day", read "Roosevelt and Churchill", Read "Mein Kampf" and "Count Ciano's Diary".

3. "Repetitive Action" — even shooting at and being shot can be boring. Comment: Have you ever tried it?

4. "A Cooks Tour of the European Theatre, North Africa, Sicily, Belgium, Germany, Czechoslovakia — without getting hurt. Comment: "Cooks Tour" — Beneath Comment. "Without getting hurt" — The record shows one out of seven lasted. No one learns courage — cowards and hero's do their job and try to survive while doing it — in case you ever are called on to do something that calls for personal sacrifice with no reward.

5. "Samuel Fuller", "movies not war are his reality" Comment: Samuel Fuller unknown to me, won the Silver Stat "for gallantry in action & — that's more than you will ever do no matter how many words you think of.

But these are only details that demonstrate how uninformed you are.

What is of more concern is that you as an American (Assumption) enjoying the good-life, eating, sleeping and pleasures all in comfort, do not realize this was all bought and paid for by the GI's you ridicule! How conceited, how stupid.

But your paper "The Washington Post, the Great Protector of Freedom of the Press, how do you see yourself in sponsoring this kind of trash — or have you, too, forgotten that every time those presses roll with your expose's that this, too, was paid for by these same GI's.

Next time you write about a War — go out to Arlington and take a look — at least you will have a chance to be near the real thing — which neither you nor your Post demonstrated in the review of the "Big Red One".

After all these years, and in spite of recognizing only a few names, I still enjoy reading the Octofoil. Please accept the small contribution enclosed.

Do you have the current address of Dewey Wheeler? He was my husband's driver in the Ordnance company, and came from North Carolina. I have never seen his name in the Octofoil, so perhaps he is not a member.

Carolyn W. Childs
Editors note: The secretary's office supplied Mrs. Childs with Dewey's address although it was an old one — back in 1945.

MAIL CALL

DORIS TEPPER

Sister to Chaplain Tepper
1626 N. Poinsettia Pl.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90046

Peter Radichio hit it right on the head when he made his appeal to have the next convention in L.A.

Remember "Go West Young Man"? Well . . .

P.S. Would I love to see Father Connors again!!

P.P.S. Tell Eugene Carney of W. Va. that I have a copy of "Eight Stars to Victory". When he gets to L.A. I'll bring it to him.

D Co. 47th Inf.
EMERSON H. GROSS
7515 Miller Drive
East Allen Twp.
Bath, Pa. 18014

I would like to say "Thanks to you Dan, and to Sal Tropani" and all the people who take the time and responsibility to hold the 9th Division Association together. I and my wife did certainly enjoy the 35th Reunion at the Shoreham in Washington D.C. I have met Lt. Col. Matt Urban, I talked to him and had a picture taken with him, he is quite a man, my kind of man. I also wrote to him in "Holland, Mich." I have met Capt. Lockwood my Company Exec and Donato Dan Iaconbucci, who was a machinegunner in the 47th Inf. D. Co. I was in the 81 Mortars in D. Co. I also had a picture taken with General Westmoreland, and a picture taken with my Division Commander "General Craig". It was quite a surprise for me to see him after 35 years and to see he is in fine health. I also had the pleasure to talk and walk with the General's wife "Mrs. Craig", a fine lady. I also want to say Thanks to Father Connors, for his time. I also met an old reliable from Hershey, Pa., Aldon F. Arnold. I plan to visit him at his home. If anyone in the association would have a Division book to sell or loan I sure would appreciate hearing from someone. I also would like to hear from any of the old D. Co. 47th, 1st Bn. men. If there are any 9th Division men who claim disability from combat and don't belong to the Disabled American Veterans Organization, please join as there are many benefits.

Thanks again, Dan. I hope to see you again in Massachusetts. If I am around yet by next year. Good health to all the 47th Raiders and the Old Reliabilities.

Thank you very much.

Co. F 47th Inf.
FRANK GONZOL
29 Dayton Avenue
Middlesex, N.J. 08846

Thank you very kindly for any new life membership card. It should last as long as the last one did.

Saw Nick Russick after we got home. He is doing fine since he retired.

Had a good time in Washington, D.C. but glad to get back home to the good air conditioning. Which is maintained by me.

Dan, you and Marie stay healthy, the Outfit needs you. Again thanks much.

Co. L 39th

V.A. LARSON
No. 2 Via Ripa
Sea Bright, N.J. 07760

Was with the Company throughout winter of 44 and 45. Was hit last time on 27 Feb. 45 when we crossed the Roer, Gill and Rollo were killed that morning also.

Would like to hear from anyone who remembers me, also would like to know the whereabouts of Gronskey, Pop King, Start, Black or anyone of that period. If they are still around.

An interesting side note for years, I wondered if there was a Ninth Division Organization. Finally, about two years ago, I read in the D.A.V. Magazine a notice of a reunion, contact Dan Quinn, which I did, came to find out he has a summer residence 1 block away from me for almost 30 years, and I hadn't met him. It's a small world.

Co. F 60th Inf.
JERRY TEACHOUT
311 N. Beach
Anaheim, Cal. 92801

Was spending a few days with Major Johnson, my C.O., following the Reunion, when he received the Octofoil. Noted a picture captioned, "10 Dec., 1944, First Bn. in ditches outside Obergieck." To set the record straight: F. Co. 2nd Bn., 60th was in support of an armoured infantry unit (a Bn. of tanks at Obergieck on 10 Dec., 1944). On failure of the armor to take the objective, F. Co., 60th drove through the then engaged units at about 1500 or 1938 hrs. reducing and clearing Obergieck by dark. F. Co., 60th was recommended for a Presidential Unit Citation for this action.

There were no ditches along the roads leading into Obergieck.

Best regards.

Div. Hq
W.B. CARDOZA, SR.
17 Jones Terrace No. 3
Stoughton, Mass. 02072

Received letter from the D.C. Chapter inviting me to the convention. It is a real nice letter and invitation. I really appreciated it very much. Needless to say we just came home from Denton, Md. We visited my son who lives there. Spent the whole month of June.

So guess I won't attend the convention this year. I will be going to Worcester Annual Mass come Veteran's Day.

Will try and see Frannie Maher too. Do have a good time. Remember me to everybody.

CN. CO., 47th Inf.
LEE H. BEVILLE, Minister
Baylake United Methodist Church
Shore and Treasure Island Drives
P.O. Box 5654

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455
I am trying to locate Lynn E. Cochran 01298828, who is now a Colonel or General. He was with the 3rd Bn, 47th Inf. W.W.II when I was attached to his company.

If you have his address, I shall appreciate it if you will send it to me.

Company "I" 60th Inf.
ALBERT M. HODGE
5818 White Bluff Rd.
Savannah, Ga. 31405

Mabel and I really did enjoy the Reunion in Washington. It was nice for Matt Urban to receive the Honors which he so rightly deserved for the individual heroic achievements even though it was so late. He was indeed blessed by Almighty God to have survived such ordeals. Many of our fellow comrades were not quite so fortunate.

One of my very best friends of Company "I", Platoon Sgt. Sammie R. Goodwin was able to attend for the first time accompanied by his lovely wife, Betty, and a friend Margorie Shelton. They reside in San Angelo, Texas. Seeing Sammie after so long a period really made this one of the happiest. Last year another fellow Texan Bob Carpenter of Houston was at the Ft. Lauderdale reunion for the first time along with his Dear Wife, Freddie, and that was the highlight of that reunion however; they could not attend this one because of the illness of Freddie. Let us all remember Her in our prayers.

I would like to mention that 1st Sgt. James M. Miller of Round Hill, Ky., and Sammie R. Goodwin of San Angelo, Tx., Platoon Sgt. along with the writer followed through on the previously submitted recommendation for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross by offering sworn Affidavits affirming the Heroic Action by the Subject, S-Sgt. Edward M. Withers by his Platoon Leader, 1st Lt. Donald Ross who like Sgt. Withers suffered a similar fate of being a KIA victim. To our absolute dismay the Army Decorations Board saw fit to make a decision of lowering the Citation to that of an award of the Silver Star posthumously on or about 3 September 1969.

In our group besides Sammie, Betty & Margorie were — J. William & Helen Engle, John & Helen Kocay, J. Graff & Pattie Bomberger, Paul & Louise Drummond, Chas. (Quincy) & Sue Duling, Joseph & Mary Cappoli, and my Dear Wife Mabel. I think it would be safe to say that J. William Engle, and John Kocay have been the most steadfast attendants. We were hoping that Bernard H. Smith from W. Va., would have made it, but oftentimes circumstances beyond our control preclude us from fulfilling our wishes.

The business meeting was carried out in an orderly fashion. Out-going Pres. Robert J. DeSandy did a superb job. Dan I must also commend You for your dedication to duty as National Secretary. Keep up the good work.

At this point in time we are not sure whether we will be able to attend next years (1981) reunion. Remember us to Your Better-Half, and tell her to try and keep You on the right track as she has no nobly done thus far.

In conclusion may God richly bless You, Your Entire Family including all of the OLD RELIABLES, and FAMILIES with the best of health.

I felt unwanted as a kid. Mama would wrap my lunches in roadmaps.

THE OCTOFOIL

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Publication No.

402830

Hq. Co. 15th Engrs.
TOM BEERS & BILL BERRY
26 Kensico Knolls,
White Plains, N.Y. 10603

Dear Dan:

Per your request, here is an account of our experience with the Honor Guard at the Arlington Cemetery during the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Matt Urban.

If the ceremony would have been on time, we would have been ok. As it was, it went off 30 minutes early, so we were late. We had left Baltimore in plenty of time, but went to the wrong cemetery first; The George Washington Masonic Memorial had an impressive tower and we headed for that — typical SNAFU.

So we backtracked and sidetracked to the Arlington Cemetery and asked the young lady who was guarding the gate, "How about the 9th Division?" She told us that the buses had just left but she would pass us in, with the car, and we should go to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

When we got there, that smart-looking platoon of young soldiers, the President's Honor Guard, were standing in the shade. We spoke to them and they told us "Too bad-too late". The Sergeant in charge then said "If you and your ladies will stand up front, we will present arms for you".

There we stood, while that finely trained platoon of Honor Guards went through the formal manual of arms. We have never felt so honored. After the ceremony was over we spoke with these young soldiers from the 3rd Regiment of Fort Myer, Virginia and came away with this conviction: with men like these, our future is in good hands.

It was a great reunion.

You and all the committees did an outstanding job. Best to all.

Co. B. 47th Inf.
JOSEPH S. PODANY
2956 N.E. Benjamin
Minneapolis, Minn. 554518

His many buddies will be sad to learn that Mike Resch, of Rt. No. 1, St. Cloud, Minnesota, a member of Co. B., 47th Inf. passed away at his home on March 21st. He was 67 years old, and died of cancer.

My wife and I plan to attend the Ninth Division Convention in Washington, D.C. on July 17th. We have had our reservations and plane tickets for some time.

We drove to Colorado Springs, Colo., the first part of June to attend the graduation exercises of the Air Force Academy. My wife's nephew was one of 900 cadets graduating in the class of '80. On the way home we passed through Grand Island, Nebr., the day before the tornado hit and demolished the town. We didn't really realize how lucky we were until we read how much damage was done. We could just as easily have stayed there, but instead, decided to drive on.

"Beco" men — take note — we'll see you all on July 17th.

47th Inf.
DR. A.C. HAGOOD
1309 Sherwood Dr.
Johnson City, Tenn. 37601

"Better late than never".

Am enclosing my dues for a five year period.

As a Captain, Dental Corps; I was in the Medical Detachment, 47th Infantry, Ninth Division from its activation at Fort Bragg, N.C. in 1940 until I came back on rotation from Sicily in 1943.

Please enter my membership for a five year period.

Thank you very much.

A.T. Co. 47th Inf.
OLIVER H. CARTER
3107 Walters Lane
Forestville, Md. 20028

Another milestone — and a great one it was! The special events of the 1980 Reunion will be long remembered by all who attended. I'm sorry a lot of the A-T Co. men couldn't make it this year, but, God be willing, we'll get together at Hyannis Port next year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the A-T members who contributed to the full page in the Journal, commemorating our lost buddies. Listed here, in alphabetical order, are the participants:

Daniel B. Adams, Julius R. Andrasi, Charles A. Bodnar, Edward J. Brown, John Capek, Oliver Carter, J. Edell Clark, Jr., James J. Corcoran, Peter Cusack, John Einbinder, James R. Hayes, Anthony Lello, Thomas Maguire, Edward F. Orr, George Poole, George Remaley, Harold F. Siegle, Joseph Vanni, Frank Venezia, Howard G. Waldman, Charles Wollrich.

Hoping to make Father Connors' Memorial Mass at Worcester this coming November.

Best regards to all,

Hq. 3rd Bn. 39th Inf.
JAMES W. LACKMEAD
166 N. Westlawn
Decatur, Ill. 62522

Saw the red ink, so am enclosing 3 years dues.

Wilton Taylor's letter was of interest to me — describing the 47th hike from Safi to Port Lyantey.

I was in the 3rd Div. and the 47th hiked right past our bivouac that Christmas time 1942. The 3rd Div. was split in half using the men for replacements for the losses at Kasserine Pass. In the Spring of 1943, I was sent to the 3rd Bn. 38th Inf., they were bivouacked near Bon Chebka and was with them until the end of the war — what memories.

Best regards to you and to members of the 39th Inf. and the 9th Division.

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If you are planning on moving please notify the secretary of your new address. It will save postage and keep you on the Octofoil mailing list.

1981 Reunion in Hyannis on Cape Cod

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

Deadline for next issue of the Octofoil will be Oct. 20th