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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, May/June 1981

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Westhampton, 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 XXXVI Number 3

May-June 1981

WORCESTER MEMORIAL NOV. 8th

37th Annual Memorial Service and Mass for the Deceased Men of the Ninth Infantry Division will be held at the Immaculate Conception Church, Worcester, Mass., on Sunday, November 8, 1981, at 10 a.m. Luncheon after the Mass at the Sheraton-Lincoln Inn. — As usual for room reservations contact Francis K. Maher, 14 Davenport Street, Worcester, Mass. 01610 — his telephone number - 617-756-1803. — If you

wish to have dinner with the gang at the Sheraton Lincoln Inn on Saturday evening, November 7 — contact Ronald V. Murphy, 44 Strawberry Lane, Scituate, Mass. 02066 - Ronnie's telephone number - 617-545-2490.

God bless.
Father Connors
St. Joseph's Rectory
Barre, Mass. 01005
Tel-617-355-6201

Tip of the Hat

Remembering the Memorial Fund the association is thankful to those who contributed to this most worthy fund:

Howard J. Heilman
Harold Willoughby
Leo Charland
Felix Tomlinson
George Berday
John F. Marston
Alice Lynch (In memory of her husband James)
Anthony Forte
Harry C. Kish, Jr.
Vincent Iannucci
Erv Etzler
Felton Jones

We Salute You.



TAPS SOUNDED

Joining their comrades who have gone before them it is our sad duty to announce the passing of these members:

John "Al" Young
60th Inf. Co D
Fred Villanova
39th Inf A-T Co
Leon Grigsby
60th Inf A-T Co
Philip Krow
Co I 60th Inf
Peter Cromal
Co C 47th Inf
Howard "Pop" Ellis
Co B-60th Inf
& M.P.'S
Joseph Phillips
39th Inf.
Robert Sullivan
Co L 60th Inf
Mrs. Tippie Plunkett
Widow of Paul

May they rest in peace. To their loved ones we offer our belated sympathy.

Rev. Father Connors lost his sister Mrs. Mary F. Conway this past May. She attended the Memorial Services in Worcester for years. On behalf of the membership we offer our belated sympathy to Father Connors.

As we go to press we learned the sad news of the demise of John "Al" Young and Tippie Plunkett widow of our late Editor Paul.

John was one of active members from that great Chapter of Michigan and could be counted on for any detail that would make our reunions more enjoyable. Last summer at the Washington reunion he was in attendance after undergoing a very serious operation a short time before the convention. We still imagine him handing out his retirement cards now that he was a member of the leisure set. May God be good to him.

Tippie Plunkett's death was a surprise to us. For while we knew she was not up to her old self we believed that she was still "hanging in" there. Her husband Paul had passed on a decade ago and we missed him especially when it became time to publish the Octofoil. Tippie remained active in Veteran affairs and made sure that she would visit the Vet's hospitals - never to forget the more unfortunate. May God bless them.

FORT BRAGG MEMORIAL MARKER FUND

The Fort Bragg Memorial Marker Fund is nearing its goal through the generosity of these members and friends:

The Ladies Auxiliary

C Webster Johnson
Dr. Jay P. Roller
John W. Saquella
Paul J. Bolduc
William J. Dwyer
Charles V. Maraldo
Henry Santos
Art Stenzel
Anthony Forte
Anna Pasch (In memory of her husband Walter)

Wilfred Thornton
William Haverty
Emil Langer
Charles Dusky
Joseph Vanni
Al Bravin
Harold Hokanson
Mike Kauffman
Leon D. Robins
Maurice Tougas
Sam Azzarelli
Dr. A.C. Hagood
Bill Dallas
James J. Long
David Silberberg (In memory of Chaplain Irving Pepper and Honor of Col. Randall Bryant)

Michael Lasalandra
Harry C. Kish, Jr.
Herman Short
Mrs. Philip Krow (In memory of her husband Philip)

Augie Aversa
Charles L. Gill
William F. Braun
Lindsley Nelson
William T. Arnold
Frederick G. Dick
Henry Cassata
Sammie Goodwin
Felton Jones
John C. Hyland
Mrs. Emmett Schuette (In memory of her husband)

Elmer R. Wagner
Joseph Russ
Jack Collier
Russ Bassel
Al Benoit
William Coen
Vincent Iannucci
Matty Mullholland
Elizabeth Roberts
George Gordon
Thomas Schnetzer
Larry McLaughlin
Robert Hughes
Michigan Chapter
William Hawkins
Henry J. Golabiecki
Richard W. Martin
Joseph Kearns
Joseph Boudreau
Martin Gill
Casimir Pakisz
Fanis Apostolides
Louis M. Prince
Jack Robinson
William Canales
John Mrugala
Irven Hokka
Col. George E. Pickett
Felix Tomlinson
George Berday
Joe Williams
Vincent Guglielmino
George Dugan
Merton Lawrence
Michael J. Fazio
John F. Marston
Leon R. Birum
Col. Randall Bryant
Alice Lynch (In memory of her husband James)

(Continued on next page)

IT'S BACK TOBRAGG IN 1982

New Headquarters

The advance party detail has selected the Bordeaux Motor Inn-Convention Center in Fayetteville as headquarters for the reunion. This center is only a few years old so don't scratch your head trying to figure out where it would be located. It's on the outskirts of town and not on the site where the "Town Pump" once stood.

Plan Now

More details will be published in the Octofoil but make your plans now for our 37th reunion and in the words of that great philosopher-Tom Boyle- "Stay together it's getting late"

It will be forty years since the Division left Fort Bragg for overseas, when the "Troops" will gather next summer at Fayetteville-Fort Bragg for the 37th Reunion. A Memorial Marker will be dedicated at that time in memory of those who have gone "beyond". It was in 1962 that the gang last met in Fort Bragg for a reunion but next summers reunion should be the "Daddy" of them all.



IT HAPPENED IN JUNE

It happened in June. 'Twas a delightful month. Our convention committee gambled and won. June was early for the convention. Many had to change their priorities. The location, clam bake, golf, and other attractions were a big plus in our favor. The first convention in June that I remember was in Pittsburgh back in '49. We have come a long way since then. We are glad you came. We hope that you enjoyed your stay immensely.

It happened in June for Joe and Alice McKenzie. The June we especially remember was the one in '49 when we were married and following the ceremony attended our convention in Pittsburgh as part of our honeymoon.

Renewed Vows

It happened in June for Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Daysh. They were married in June 35 years ago and spent their honeymoon on the Cape. This June Mr. and Mrs. Daysh renewed their marriage vows during a celebrated Mass by Fathers Connors, Rowan, and Curtis during a 9 a.m. Mass at Dunphy's.

Young Joe

It happened in June for Joe McKenzie Jr. now of Bethesda, Maryland, a scholarship recipient from our association, received a PhD degree in economics from the graduate school at Washington University, St. Louis. Before graduate school Joe attended the College of The Holy Cross,

Worcester where he majored in Math and Economics. At the present time Joe is Financial Economist, Office of Policy and Economic Research, Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

It happened in June. Joe Albanese from White River Junction and Elmer Roscoe from Storrs, Conn. attended their first convention. Both are from Service 26FA. Joyce Roscoe and Jeannette Albanese equally enjoyed the convention.

It happened in June. For the first time Mike Sciarappa, "C" 26FA recited a prayer in the Jewish faith at our Memorial Service for all men both living and dead.

Birthday

It happened in June. Father Connors had another birthday. One night in Hyannis someone went out on recon and returned with a big birthday cake for him. Needless to say it did not last too long.

Mark Calendar

Before you get too interested in what you are going to do the rest of the year make sure you mark your calendar for November 8th trip to Worcester.

Have a good summer.

Joe McKenzie
Service Battery
26FA Bn

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank you, one and all for making this past year one of the most memorable of my life. It has been my honor and a privilege to have been your president.

The Board members and officers, as in the true tradition of the 9th. Inf. Div. Assoc., made my post as president easy and enjoyable. They should be acknowledged for their hard work and continued efforts.

It would be unfair not to publicly thank Dan Quinn for his support. Dan is the one who keeps us all honest. If you don't remember what he looks like Dan doesn't mind. Just so long as you don't forget to pay your DUES.

I was very pleased to hear so many pleasant comments about our reunion on the Cape. The New England Chapter worked very hard at putting it together.

I know you will all join with me in wishing John Clouser the very best as he assumes his new role as President.

My closing thought is a quote from Tom Boyle: "STAY TOGETHER IT'S GETTING LATE"

Good Health & Best Wishes

William "Bill" Bongiorno
35th President
9th Inf. Div. Assoc.

THE OCTOFOIL

Form 3579 should be sent to
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
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Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

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

Michael Belmonte, 3rd V.P.
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Oak Park, Ill. 60304

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Judge Advocate
4303 Carriage Court
Kinsington, Md. 20795

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
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Somerville, Mass. 02144

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

Board of Governors

1981
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William Bongiorno
Beford, Mass.

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

1982
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Crystal River, Fla.
William Klauz
New York, N.Y.
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East Boston, Mass.
Martin Krasovetz
Gibbsboro, N.J.

1983
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Morris Plains, N.J.
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St. Leonard, Md.
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Richmond, Mich.
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Jacksonville, Fla.
Gordon Anderson
Des Plaines, Ill.

Board Member Emeritus

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

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 XXXVI Number 3

May-June 1981

Publication No. 402820



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

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

ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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

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

Memorial Marker Fund

Continued

Woody Sulham
Paul J. Sakai
Harold W. Sell
Don E. McCleery
Frederick Scheel
Frank Lovell
Richard Toole
Harold V. Schramm
Daniel Layman

We Salute You.

MICHIGAN HAPPENINGS

Our June Picnic is now history as is the 36th Annual Reunion. I am sorry to say that I didn't make the reunion but from what I have heard it was a "good" one.

The year is half gone so now we turn our thoughts to what we will be doing the last half.

Next Big Event

The next big event is our Out State Meeting. I am Chairman and have the very capable assistance of Elmer Wagner. As of this writing the Holiday Inn at Angola, Ind. has been booked for the week end of October 16th and 17th. This week end is not an exclusive of the Michigan Chapter but for all you reunion fans in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio as well. I have booked 30 rooms for Friday the 16th and 20 more, for a total of fifty rooms, for Saturday the 17th. Room rates are \$29.70 single and \$36.90 double plus a 4 percent sales tax.

Room Reservations

I have better than half of the rooms reserved as of this date. Those who desire to reserve a room for either Friday or Saturday send me your request. This method of reserving rooms was requested by the Holiday Inn. We will handle with their room reservation staff when Elmer and I travel to Angola later this September. One other request that we received that, any room cancellations would have to be made two weeks prior to October 16th.

Those who attended last year will remember our spacious CP room. We have had the same area reserved for this years event.

There will be a banquet on Saturday Night. The final details will follow as this arrangement will be made when Elmer and I can sit down with the Catering Manager at Holiday Inn. You will all be kept posted on any future information as it is received. As of now get your reservations started this way.

Sick Call

I must report that Charlie Fox is still in the hospital. You can write him at 20236 Fairport Detroit, Mi. 48205. Also our Past National President Charlie Koskie is in the Hospital. You can send cards and letters to him at 4334 Hirshberg Schiller Park, Ill. 60176. Both these members will be in the hospital for some time. So let's cheer them up with a little note of cheer and remembrance.

Time to get this in the mail I guess. I read the March-April copy of the Octofoil but could not find a dead line date. Guess one over sight a year can be granted to any editor.

Rodger E. Alsgaard Sec'y.
Michigan Chapter
2834 Wynes Street
Saginaw, Michigan
48602



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

"Tho the mail service has been giving us some trying times since our arrival in Largo, Fla. we have gotten good response from the "Beco - gang" recently advising us that plans are in progress for their trip to Hyannis comes June 15th.

"Big Nick" and Olga Palega were the front runners--then Pat and Ann Morano wrote they're "rarin' to go" -- Jack and Kay DiSanto, now among we "retiree's" never fully unpacked their gear after returning from Margate, Fla. in preparation for an early departure for Cape Cod and Joe and Edith Podany stand by for their flight from Minneapolis, Minn. --hopefully, many of last year's attendees will join us.

Respectfully Represented

The Washington Re-union found ol' Beco-47th. most respectfully represented and enjoyed -- those of you who attended can attest. We are hopeful that was the beginning of a new era with greater aspirations toward attending all the future Re-unions -- needless to say, it was wonderful renewing the friendships of the yesteryears for us all.

Our "Wherefor art thou" search has been rewarding over the short span of time we have been writing this column."

--First, we learned the whereabouts of George and Janyne Bentley down in Conyers, Georgia. --then we re-newed the long friendship of Pete and Nettie Mastrangelo (hope you both will be making the upcoming Cape Cod Re-union!). Dennis Canedy quite accidently learned of the "9ths" existence and "Beco Buddy Club". Former Company Commander Orion Shockley and his charming wife came on to Washington from Bellevue, Wash. adjacent to the home of the "new" 9th. Division.--

--Then, and through the efforts of the Bentley's, we learned the whereabouts of Bob and Ann Edie (who sought me out in Largo last January while touring the Florida West Coast.) and, in turn, learning of buddy Art Slageter in Cincinnati, Ohio.--

First Reunion

--We also learned Al "Limey" Faulconbridge and Vickie are now living out in Van Nuy's, Cal. --this information was forwarded by Joe and Eleanor Taubner, good buddies who we'd welcome seeing at our Re-unions, -- and last year long time buddy, John Compagnone, along with his lovely wife, Katherine, made their first Re-union regretting not having joined us in previous Re-unions.

Maybe Next Year

Thus, to all of you entertaining the "Maybe next year "Philosophy -- may we remind you --we're running out of next years!! --To the "ol'reliables" who, somehow, manage to make this yearly event, we're looking forward to "see'in ya" all at Hyannis comes the 25th.

After-thought. --It's quite apparent, based on the space taken in the "Octofoil" in behalf of amending the Association By-laws that, although, "Beco-47th." to the man is opposed to this move, this year the power of insider politics will be victorious over the social-minded. "This could play a strong role toward the popularity of the "mini" Re'unions on the company or battalion level!--

--in essence, we're in for notable change--So! let's better use these valuable Saturday afternoon meeting hours--not in a losing verbal dissertation but enjoying the camaraderie of good buddies and friends and their wonderful wives.

O.K. - start packing, and we'll see you shortly on beautiful Cape Cod.

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

Art J. Stenzel
700 Starkey Road, Unit 611
Largo, Florida 33541

9th Infantry Division Association Memorial Marker Fund

Enclosed is my contribution + of \$5.00 - 10.00 - 15.00 - 25.00 for the 9th Division Memorial Marker to be erected at Fort Bragg

Name:

Street

City

State

Zip

9th Division unit

+ Any funds not used will be placed in the Scholarship Fund.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
THREE-YEAR MEMBER	13.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Membership	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ladies' Auxiliary Member	\$ 2.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Memorial Scholarship Fund		<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation Fort Bragg Marker Fund		<input type="checkbox"/>
Decals	\$.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
60th Infantry History	\$ 2.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater New York	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington, D.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>
New England	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fort Bragg, N.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Traveling down road of history

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

part six

VICTORY!

The rapid advance after the breakthrough on 25 March brought back many of the same old problems encountered on the Division's race across FRANCE.

—Ninth Division Report of Operations Center of Bridgehead

Thrusting eastward in the center of the Rhine Bridgehead, the Ninth found itself at the western bank of the Wied River. Against machine gun and sniper fire, the Division forced its way over the river in the 60th Infantry sector on 22 March. Fanning out, the Ninth continued to attack, capturing ten villages. All three regiments carried the battle eastward, sweeping clean Berscheid, Bertenau, Manroth, Hodden, Buhlingen, Egbert, Krunkel, Ober Steinbach, Herschbach, Horhausen, Raubach, Urbach-Kirchdorf and Mudersbach. Countless thousands of Nazis retreated before the growing American onslaught.

Then, as the might of the First Army poured out to form the mold that was the Ruhr Pocket, the Germans went into full retreat. The stage was set for a huge final offensive, and it came on 25 March. Fully cognizant of the American goal, which was to trap the retreating German Army, the enemy planned to break out of the pocket before its formation was completed.

Little hope lay in creating another major line of defense in the Rhineland. Even enemy militarists, like General Field-Marshal Kesselring, admitted the situation almost catastrophic after the success of the Remagen Bridgehead Operation. Hard fighting, alone, was all the Germans could count upon to stop the American steam-roller. But this wasn't enough!

At 1740 on 26 March, the 3rd Battalion of the 60th Infantry was in a position to cross the Holz River. Rapidly, the Go-Devils secured their way over. Together with other combat units of the Ninth, they followed in wake of the 7th Armored Division eastward.

On 27 March, the Division moved 27 miles forward, securing many crossings over the Dill River. Rolling along to the Lahn River, the Ninth received orders to change its direction for a new mission. Bidding farewell to the III Corps, the Ninth rejoined its assigned Corps, the VII, on 31 March 1945.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, commander of the First Army, beat the Germans to the punch just 24 hours before they tried to smash out of their Ruhr pocket near Winterburg ... The Ninth Inf. Div., commanded by Maj. Gen. Louis Craig, was rushed in to block the assault. When the enemy attacked, the doughs were waiting.

—Stars and Stripes

Sealing Off

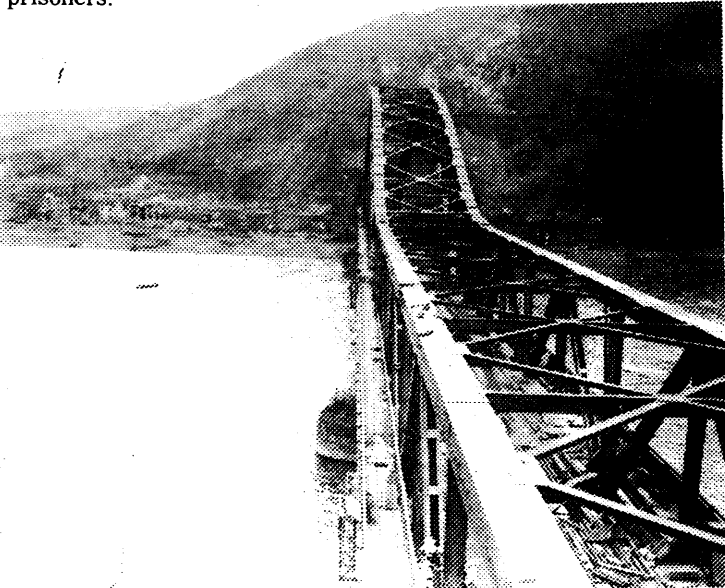
This April 1st mission was an important one—sealing off a German attempt to break out of the Ruhr Pocket in the vicinity of Winterburg. Speedily, Gen. Craig moved his regiments to the north, northwest and west, seizing Perleberg, Berghausen, Zuschen, Neu Astenberg, and the vital town of Winterburg.

Fanatical Nazis offered stiff resistance and Neu Astenberg was regained by the enemy. In a freak snow storm, the 60th Infantry's 3rd Battalion recaptured the town. Small arms fire, Riegel mines, and roadblocks hindered in cleaning out the area. As one 60th dough put it, "We shot up the SS boys in country resort-hotels."

Attempting to hold escape routes open, the enemy was using tanks, infantry, self-propelled gun and artillery fire, and offering determined resistance. Extremely fierce action was encountered by the infantry attacking Oberkirchen, where, like cornered rats, the Nazis tried to break their encirclement. By nightfall of the 4th, Oberkirchen, Westfeld, Alt Astenberg, Niedersfeld, Gronebach and Hildefeld had fallen to the Ninth.

A sweeping attack from the area of Niedersfeld began on the 5th. Clearing out six towns, the Division continued the surge north and west. Town after town fell in the advance. Innumerable booby-traps and road blocks were unable to stop the Old Reliabilities from cutting roads and capturing high ground. In two days of fighting, 16 more towns capitulated to the inevitable.

Attacking the clearing terrain to the northwest, the Division was eventually pinched out by the junction of the 7th Armored and 5th Infantry Division on 10 April 1945. The Ruhr Pocket was closed! The Ninth Infantry Division had helped trap over 350,000 Germans, who became prisoners.



A view from tower at the West end of the Remagen Bridge spanning the Rhine at Remagen Germany. The photo is dated March 15, 1945. The bridge collapsed on March 17th.

Final Thrust

Girding itself for the Final Thrust, the Ninth re-supplied and rehabilitated itself on 11 and 12 April. Germany was reeling and groggy under the blows of the First Army, but fanatical SS, SA, and make-shift groups of resistance were holding pockets of opposition. Absolute loyalty to Hitler, and fear of Allied occupation gave rise to well-organized delaying units. One of these was concentrated in the rugged Harz Mountains. Toward this area the Ninth prepared to embark.

Friday the 13th meant the start of an 150-mile motor march. From the east side of the Ruhr Pocket to the VII Corps sector near Nordhausen, the Division made its long trek.

Sight Long Remembered

Arriving on the 14th at the city of Nordhausen, the Ninth beheld a sight to be long remembered. One of the most infamous of all concentration camps had been uncovered by tankers of the 3rd Armored Division. Here scenes beyond belief met the eye. The dead and living lay side-by-side. The living were too weak to move their limbs—the dead were unburied or half-burned.

It was but a gesture when all male citizens of Nordhausen were made to dig graves and bury the unfortunates of Nazi persecution. Condoning and participating in such sadism could only be repaid by punishment in kind.

Fired to justifiable hatred of Nazism and its creed, the Ninth jumped into the attack upon the Harz Mountains, driving north into the eastern part of the mountains. Objective was seizure of the area Breitenstein-Guntersberge-Siptenfeide-Strassberg.

The 39th rapidly advanced on Stolberg in its sector, but the 47th met strong panzerfaust and machine gun fire, and dug-in infantry in its advance on Guntersberge and Strassberg. Nazis savagely attacked the 47th Regimental sector, shooting up towns and capturing American equipment.

Anger filled the Raiders. Furiously, they charged into enemy positions. Former supermen limped out of Siptenfeide, as the 47th cleared the town. It was late afternoon and the phase ended with 899 prisoners, an enemy field hospital, an ammunition factory, a signal sending and receiving station, and signal depot being captured in one day's bitter carnage.

Despite this wholesale surrendering, a patrol sent by the 9th Reconnaissance Troop over the Mulde was met with heavy anti-tank, machine gun and small arms fire. Three M-8 Recon Cars were knocked out, and another disabled.



A view from tower at the West end of the Remagen Bridge spanning the Rhine at Remagen Germany. The photo is dated March 15, 1945. The bridge collapsed on March 17th.

Contacted Red Units

An artillery observation plane of the 60th FA landed in the area of the Russian 118th Division and contacted the advancing Red Units on 26 April. The juncture of American and Red Army forces was imminent, and at 1830 on 27 April a patrol of the 60th's 3rd Battalion contacted elements of the Russian Forces. The Eastern and Western Fronts were at last linked!

By the evening of the 27th, another historic occurrence came to light. During that particular day, the Ninth had captured 8,368 prisoners—more than the total of its own combat infantry facing the enemy!

Col. John G. Van Houten, CO of the 60th Infantry, personally established contact with the commander of the 337th Rifle Regiment, 121st Russian Infantry Division at 1600 on the following day. He arranged for the future meeting of the respective Division commanders.

The 47th Regiment now contacted the Russians to its front. Despite the barrier of language, a rapid comradeship developed between G.I. Ivan and G.I. Joe.



General Craig Division Commander meets Russian General at Ceremony when Division met the Russians at the Elbe River.

Formal Meeting

Arrangements were completed for the formal meeting of the General Staffs, and on 30 April, Major General Craig greeted the Russian military leaders at Pratau, on the west bank of the Elbe River. Booted Russians, with their massive epuletts and colorful medals, gathered with officers of the Ninth Infantry Division as Gen. Craig and Major General Sohonov exchanged good will visits.

Patrolling was now limited to cleaning out sectors of stragglers. Sometimes the load of PWs became too much for a day's processing. By 5 May 1945, the Reds were on the other side of the Division river boundary to the south.

Historic Message

The historic message of General Eisenhower was received on 7 May, stating that the unconditional surrender of Germany had been signed by a member of the German High Command. All offensive operations were ordered to cease immediately. Troops were instructed to remain in place. The end of the war in Europe was set at 0001, 9 May 1945.

Soon the day came. After five bloody years of war, Europe was at peace. Victory in Europe brought a strange sensation of relief and misbelief to the tired veterans of the Ninth. Troops blinked their eyes at the first rays of electric lights, as the blackout of the continent ceased.

General Craig addressed over 1,000 liberated prisoners of war in their native French tongue. Commanders addressed their troops. But, what was felt inside of everyone could not be expressed in words. Death and destruction had given way to hope that out of the ruins would rise a better Europe.

General Bradley

On the 10th, General Omar N. Bradley, Commanding the Twelfth Army Group, sent the following letter to the Commanding Generals of the 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions.

"This May 9th that passed was too big a part of your life to crowd it with recollections. It belongs to you and the world as the day on which the German war was ended. However, May 9th has a greater meaning for men of the First and Ninth Infantry Divisions. In recalling the day in future years, you can remember with great pride that it marks not the first, but the second unconditional surrender of an enemy you fought valorously for thirty long months.

"From the waddies of El Guettar were the First and Ninth Divisions fought shoulder to shoulder against crack

elements of the Afrika Korps to the final surrender of German forces to the American Second Corps on May 9, 1943, the Tunisian campaign was an epoch, fashioned largely in the bravery, skill and achievements of your two divisions.

"American troops advancing through the minefields of the Sedjenane and on the road to Mateur, gave our Nation its first great land victory of the war, and the world its first great unconditional surrender of large-scale German forces.

"Since then I have followed your red numeral of the First Division and your tricolored insignia of the Ninth across the sands of Sicily, past the defenses of Troina, over the beaches of Normandy and through the hedgerows to Cherbourg. Side by side, your two divisions have fought the German army 700 miles across the Continent to the inevitable and final defeat of the German nation.

"The American Army is studded with splendid divisions. But rarely have two teamed so expertly; never have two divisions fought longer and harder with greater skill or courage.

"Sometimes you may have felt forgotten. Sometimes you may have felt, as fighting soldiers do, the endlessness of our long road to Germany. Now that you're here, however, and now that many of you are ready to go home, I want you to know the gratitude of your Nation.

"And as your commander, I want to share with the millions of your friends and champions throughout the Army, their pride in your unsurpassed and monumental achievements."

WHAT MORE IS THERE TO SAY?

WHAT THEY SAID OF THE NINTH

+ "A great division".
—Drew Middletown (N.Y. Times)

+ "The Ninth is good".

—Ernie Pyle

+ "There have been many times during your campaigns in Africa, Sicily, Normandy, and Germany that I have said, 'That's my old outfit.' Every soldier knows how much feeling goes into those words".

—General Jacob L. Devers
+ "The infantry from the Ninth division rates a mass Congressional Medal".

—William H. Stonemann (Chicago Daily News)

For some reason which we have never fathomed the Ninth wasn't released through censorship as early as it should have been, while other divisions were.

—Ernie Pyle

mail call

Continued from page 6

34th FA.
MORRIS KAUTZ
412 Page

Kewaunee, Ill. 61443
Just a few lines and enclose my dues for another year. My how fast they go! Sorry to say we won't be with you this year. We are taking our vacation the last of Aug. and the first of Sept. and are going to Hawaii for the National Legion convention and to celebrate our 38th wedding anniversary. I hope you all have a good time in Cape Cod.

9th Div. M.P.
JOE MOWERY
R4, Box 310

Forest City, N.C. 28043
Enclosed is a check covering dues for the next 3 years. Sorry I let it run over as my last issue was in red. You are doing a great job and we are all indebted to you for your excellent service. The years seem to slip by two at a time as we grow older. Surely hope to attend the reunion at Fort Bragg and see my old friends again, as we all know the ranks are getting thinner each year. I hope we can keep our association as it is. Every one has a right to express his opinion, however, I, for one will not be critical of that opinion. If the need actually arises it should be put to a membership vote. Best regards to everyone and especially my faithful pal Wadalavage.

47th Inf. Co. E
CHARLES V. MARALDO, SR.
171 Bryson Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10302

Once again I am sorry I must cancel out for the reunion. As you know I was having trouble with my eyes and now I have to go in to the hospital again for the left eye. Let's hope this is the last of it. I sure wanted to make this reunion and I know I will be missing a good time. Enclosed you will find a check for the Marker at Ft. Bragg. Regards to all.

60th Inf.
RAYMOND S. DERENDA
1111 Arlington Blvd. M 444
Arlington, Va. 22209

Am sending you a check for a life membership. Keep up the good work. I may not be able to make the reunion this year. Thank you until next time. P.S. Hope you will not be sending my next Octofoil in RED!

47th Inf. AT Co.
JOSEPH VANNI
419 Parker Ave.
South Amboy, N.J. 08879

Enclosed is a check for the Marker Fund. Hope to make the meeting one of these days. Time sure marches on. Regards to all the boys. See you soon.

Hq. Co. 13th Engrs.
BILL DALLAS
P.O. Box 712
Pinehurst, N.C. 28374

You will find enclosed my yearly dues and also a donation for the Fort Bragg Memorial Marker. I surely plan to attend the reunion here at Fort Bragg next year, as we are moving from our present home in Danville, Va. and moving to Pinehurst after the 1st of next year. As of this letter, please change my address to the above, as we are in Pinehurst every week-end getting ready to make our move to North Carolina. I've heard from Major Alex Forrest, now in Salt Lake City. "Thanks for corresponding, Alex". Everything great in the sandhills so come on down to the convention in 1982.

60th Inf. Co. C.
SULLIVAN LEE,
614 Byland Dr.,
Beech Grove, Ind. 46107

I keep watching for some of the Co. C boys to put something in our paper, so far nothing yet. I went over with the 9th and stayed with them to the finish. Would like to hear from some of the old guys.

84th FA, Med. Det.
LEO E. SMITH (THE REBEL)
215 Geary Dr.,
Montgomery, Ala. 36108

I'm sorry I'm late with my dues. Just an oversight. The next time I'm late, tell James F.X. Delehanty to pay them for me.

47th Inf. Med Det.
DR. A.C. HAGOOD,
1309 Sherwood Dr.,
Johnson City, Tn. 37601

Enclosed are checks, one for the Fort Bragg Memorial Marker and the other for the extension of my membership dues. Best wishes to you and yours and say "hello" to Lou Sieben.

60th Inf. Co. A,
KENNETH F. FINCH,
4308 Mesa Dr.,
Bakersfield, Ca. 93306

Just a line or two to let you know I received your letter and Octofoil and enjoyed reading both very much. I have always been proud of being a member of the 9th Div. I belong to the American Legion Post 682, Bakersfield and wear the 9th Div. pin and also the 60th Inf. lapel pin on my Legion hat. I also belong to the 40 and 8. Enclosed is a check for membership dues. My wife and I will be in St. Louis the 1st part of June, if possible we will be at the reunion. I drive a motor home so will not need a hotel reservation.

47th Inf. Co. D.
FRANCIS J. PICARD,
37 Cottage Ave.
Tiverton, R.I. 02878

I am a former member of the 47th who went from Ft. Bragg to the Rhine. I was home on rotation when the war ended and so was unaware of the association until recently. I'd appreciate any information on the New England chapter as retirement has left me with time to spare. Am making plans to attend the Hyannis get-together and this will be a first for me. I hope to see a familiar face or two.

60th Inf. Co. L,
BOB DAVIS,
184 Academy St.
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702

Enclosed is my check for three years dues. Betty and I hope to make the reunion this year for sure and hope to see some of the old gang. Best wishes.

39th Inf. A.T. Co.
HENRY GEISEL
242 S. 3rd St.
Lehington, Pa. 18235

Hello Everyone: Enclosed find check for 3 years dues. It's always a big day when the Octofoil arrives even though it seems there are not too many letters from men of the AAA-O. When I see the AAA-O I always remember Col. Paddy Flint, our regimental commander who came to us in Sicily and the lecture he gave us. Enclosed is a snap which always makes me feel good when I see it (not because of the ugly faces). It was the day we got to step out of those lousy, sticky, smelly impregnated clothes. My good friend Joe Davis, on the right, operates a furniture store in Union City, N.J. I still correspond with many of the old buddies from AT 39th, and any others I've lost contact with, I want to thank them for all the pleasant memories they have given me. It's surprising how the good memories over shadow the rough times from the Carolinas till the end of the war in Germany. Woodrow Wilson Boze of the "Paduca Eagle" as everyone knew him by, was the life of our company. He was always late and as usual when impregnated were issued in Barton Stacey he wasn't there. But hours later he came to the supply room looking for his "pregnant clothes". I often wonder where he and so many other buddies are and if I'd still recognize them. Guess I'll leave now but after you read the Octofoil you really get nostalgic.

39th Inf. Co. G
WILLIAM J. WOLF
5704 Westgate Rd.
Lanham, Md. 20801

Enclosed is a check for my dues. I am a new member of the association, only having belonged for one year. I was a member of G Co. 38th, during the Sicilian campaign and in the European theatre up until the Hurtgen Forest, at which time I was taken prisoner of war and have not been in touch with anyone from that time until your reunion in D.C. last year. I would like to know if there is any way I can get in touch with any other members of G Co. 39th who were in during the same period I was. You might be interested in a little human interest story. In your next to last copy of the Octofoil, I was surprised to see a story about Tom Shine (deceased). Tom and I were very good friends and even served as asst. Scout Masters for several years at a local scout troop. For some reason we never did discuss our war experiences very much. You can imagine my surprise when I read Tom was in the same outfit I was. It really is a small world. I am sorry I cannot attend your reunion this year but maybe sometime in the future.

60th Inf. Co. L
MICHAEL PATTI
9942 Kings Canyon Dr.
Huntington Beach, Ca. 92646

Terri and I are looking forward to the Ft. Bragg reunion. Sorry I can't make the reunion this year. Wash. D.C. was great last year.

47th Inf. Hq. Co. 2nd Bn.
PERRY PAYNE
509 Sutherland Dr.
Chicksaw, Ala. 36611

Sorry I'm late with my dues but here they are for another 3 years. Haven't been doing much down here in the deep South, just fishing, playing golf and just taking life easy. I won't be able to make the reunion this year but feel pretty sure I'll make Ft. Bragg. Best regards to everyone and take care, but have fun.

39th Inf. Med. Det.
JAMES J. LONG
6903 Donachie Rd. Apt. 3,
Balto., Md. 21239

Enclosed is a check for annual dues plus a donation for the Marker fund. I go way back to Jan. 1941 with the division and sure would like to hear from someone with the old outfit. A serious lung condition limits my activities so I cannot participate in those things that require even mild exercise. Overall, life has been good to me and I look back with great nostalgia on those exciting days with the 9th when we were all so young. Good luck, Dan, and I hope the reunion is great.

AT, 47th
ED ORR,
12150 Orr Ave.
Kittanning, Pa. 16201

I received your association letter today and better send in my dues. We plan on being in Hyannis on the 25th. My wife and I have been to the last 3 reunions. The Orrs and the Remaleys are going to drive up. George Remaley and I are two of the first 10 privates in the anti tank company, 1940. That goes a long way back. All we saw of Ft. Bragg was scrub oak, pine trees and white sand. Hope you and your better half are OK.

Div. Arty. Hq & Hq Btry
RALPH FULBRIGHT
Rt. 3, Box 341
Vale, N.C. 28168

Enclosed are my dues for another year. I enjoy the Octofoil. Time sure flies by. Hope to attend the reunion in 1982. Thanks for everything.

47th Inf. L Co.
CLARENCE RAY
RD No. 1, Box 77
Penn Run, Pa.

Am sending my check for life membership for the Octofoil. We both enjoy it very much. At the present I am working as a pipeliner at Watertown, S.D. on a big job. I also worked on the Alaskan pipeline for several months. This is one reason we cannot go to the reunion, I am away a lot. Thank you again.

39th Inf
A.B. CASEY
311 W. Wood St.
Paris, Tenn. 38242

Hi Dan: Didn't intend to let the dues get in red this year, but I just overlooked it again. Thanks.

AT Co, 47th
CHARLIE BODNAR
187 New York Ave.
Bergenfield, N.J. 07621

I'm sending you dues for another 3 years and I hope to be around to send it till I'm 100. It's great every so often to come across someone who has slipped from your memory and suddenly becomes alive again through a letter to the Octofoil. I look forward to our paper more eagerly than a tri-ecta at the races. To the fellows from AT Co., I'd like them to know I got together with Henry Cassata and his wife after the Wash. D.C. reunion and had a great time recalling places, friends and experiences overseas. We had our wives hysterical with some of our more humorous escapades. This was Henry's first reunion and he enjoyed it even if it cost him \$40 in gas to drive from N.J. to Wash. and that was only the cost one way! While down there he got a parking ticket. When he was 15 miles from home, he stopped for gas and the attendant checked his oil and didn't hook the hood shut. About 5 miles from home his hood was torn off the car and sailed over, hitting the road. No one was hurt. What really got under his wife's skin was the parking fine. She put it in an envelope and sent it to Pres. Carter with a note saying it was a shame. Her husband came to attend a reunion with his WW2 buddies, and that he should pay the fine himself. A couple of weeks later he still hadn't heard from Carter. After 30 years, I find a buddy that only lives 18 miles from my house. Henry decided to buy a farm in upstate New York. The last I heard from Henry was in March, snowed in. Sorry I will not make the reunion this year but I'll probably make the next one.

60th Inf.
WYETT H. COLCLASURE
So. Washington St., RR No. 1
Kimmunity, Ill. 62854

Again a red ink shows. Either time passes quicker or I am slower. Like most old war horses, we watch and feel a speed up of heart beat when the Flag is displayed. Then to permit our memories to pass in review. At the moment I remember that on Sept. 18, 1942, a baby boy was born at Ft. Bragg Hospital. Today that baby boy is Chief of Concepts and Studies Division, U.S. Army Chemical School, my son 6'3", Lt. Col. Wyett H. Colclasure, II. Am I proud, you better believe it. Please renew my membership for 3 years. You are a great bunch of troopers. God bless every one of you.

60th Inf. Co L,
ANNA PASCH
266 S. Main St.
Clintonville, Wis. 54929

Enclosed is a check in memory of Wally for your Fort Bragg Memorial Marker. I know he was a good soldier with all the medals received and he was very proud of the 9th Infantry Div. He went from Africa all the way to Germany. He was sent home on terminal leave on New Years Eve, so he missed the end of the war and was disappointed for that. His buddy, Francis Ray from Oswego, N.Y. died about a year and a half ago and Wally has been dead now 4 years and sadly missed. Thank you for the Octofoil as I always look through and try to find those that are from Co. L.



Members of Company B, 60th Infantry and the 746th Tank Bn. waiting on road in Rath, Germany for orders to move out. Photo dated February 28, 1945.

mail call

Continued

9th Medic

JAY P. ROLLER, M.D.
14 Green Wing Tail Rd.
Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928

Enclosed is check toward the memorial marker at Fort Bragg.

I will be unable to attend the reunion in Hyannis, Cape Cod, MA. However, if I were to attend, I would vote for the continuation of the 9th Division Association. If we do not vote for the addition of the more recent members, the association will surely die.

I hope to see a united 9th Division when I attend the Reunion at Fort Bragg.

With regrets and sadness I hate to pass up the meeting of former members and the clambake.

Kindest regards to all.

39th Inf. Co. D.

SAM J. AZZARELLI
RR No. 6, Box 214
Kankakee, Ill. 60901

Well, another reunion has crept up on us, and it looks like I won't make it again this year. I think the biggest reason would have to be lack of interest from my old Company — D, 39th Infantry. I've been reading The Octofoil since its inception, and I think only once I read an article on one of our company.

I attended the Chicago reunion and I believe I saw only two people I knew. Needless to say, it would be hard to talk of old times without D Company men. Maybe things have changed in the past few years. Hopefully next year I will make Fort Bragg.

I really think what is being done at Fort Bragg — the Memorial Marker — is a must; and I am enclosing a check for my share.

I was not an original, as I joined the Company in Africa as a replacement, then stayed with Co. D through all the campaigns. Have been a general contractor in Illinois for the past thirty years. Maybe someone from my old Company will read this (if you print it); I would like to hear from any of them. Then we could meet at the next reunion in 1982.

Keep up the good work, Dan.

Hq. 1st Bn. 47th Inf.

PAUL J. SAKAI
6 Southfield Rd.
Glen Burnie, Md. 21061

Enclosed you will find my dues for the next three years and contribution for the 9th Division Memorial Marker to be erected at Fort Bragg. I will not be able to attend the Reunion at Hyannis but will make plans to attend the reunion next year at Fort Bragg.

Co. C. 9th Medics
BRUCE JOHNSTONE
100 Glenslane Apt. 109
Dunedin, Fl. 33528

Your notice arrived today, just as we got rid of your pesky old Mets, and the rest of our baseball colony, so in as much as the race track closed I figured it better to pay my two bucks to you for the Booster.

Be sure and have my correct outfit listed "C" Company, 9th Medics.

We have our confirmation at Dunfey's, and we have remitted our payment for the clambake, and we have our route trip set up by the AAA now all we need is to keep our health and we will be on our way.

Sure do hope that the regulars show up. And with the nice arrangements that are offered a good many new faces should be on hand.

We have had 2 weeks of real nice weather, its about 80 degrees at noon and it gets cooler at night. So we have not used the A-C so far. Take care of things and lets all hope we are together again at the reunion.

Hqs.
W. B. CARDOZA, SR.
17 Jones Terr. No. 3
Stoughton, Ma. 02072

Fran-Maher:
Received the nice letter and the picture of the Bust and thank you so much for remembering me and sending it. I will cherish the picture and some day my wife and I will come to Worcester to see it. Franny, I really feel bad I live too far to attend meetings. I'll try my utmost to go to the reunion. Say hello to Mrs. Maher and Fr. Connors.

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

Please find enclosed check to cover my dues for the year. Sorry I have not been able to attend any of the recent reunions but it is hard for me to get away. I am self employed. I really enjoy the Octofoil. Also would like to wish everybody a healthy 1981. Can assure you that the next convention you people have in the midwest, I will attend.

9th Medics, Co. D.
EDWARD MACHOWSKI
5931 N.W. Circle Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60631

Dear Dan:

I am now working for the Government, got away from the Pharmaceutical field after all these years. I'm with the State Dept. Transportation Dept., Maintenance Div. in Chicago. Just going along and feeling my way around. Regards to you and yours and all of the 9th men.

Bty. B. 60th FA Bn.
JOHN F. MARSTEN
5 Hilltop Ln. Box 63
So. Easton, Ma. 02375

I can't believe I am again a member of the 9th Div. Assoc. For over 30 years I have been under the impression that the association had been abandoned. When I read of the reunion planned this June in Hyannis, I wrote Dan Quinn immediately and as a result have rejoined as a full fledged member who will be attending the reunion and will I hope meet old buddies of the 60th FA Bn. I joined the 9th in Ft. Bragg in early Feb. of 1941 and was discharged in August 1945 after having served thru all campaigns starting with Port Lyautey. Later on I would like to send to mail call some of my fun prose I wrote overseas, having to do with most members of the Battery at that time, plus some prose on the supply sgt. and other tid bits on "Mail and Morale", "Waiting in Line" et. Great to be back with the association and be attending once again Fr. Connors Memorial Services in Worcester this November.

47th M Co.
WILTON TAYLOR
Stop 6
McKittrick, Ca. 93251

We haven't moved, but our address has been changed to McKittrick. We are half way between Lost Hills and McKittrick and that is why our mail is in the A.M. instead of P.M. Best wishes to all the 9th men. Bless them all, the short and the tall and hope their hills to climb are low and small.

39th Inf. Co. L
ROBERT F. GORDON,
1021 Merion Dr.
West Mifflin, Pa. 15122

Enclosed is dues for another three years. I guess I won't be at the reunion again this year, but I enjoy reading the paper although I don't see very many familiar names, from L COMPANY 39th REGT.

Best wishes and a happy reunion to all.

Co. G, 60th Inf.
WILLIAM A. BONSALL
345 Elmhurst St.
Morgantown, W. Va. 26505

Received the information I requested concerning the 9th reunion. Also a copy of the Octofoil which is the first I've seen. I've had no association with the 9th since 1945 and the result is that my memory of names, dates, places has all but disappeared. How unfortunate! I hope my membership in the association will help to clear up some of the foggy past. My time with the 9th started about 2 weeks after D Day when I joined as a replacement. They were in a rest area at the time. I lasted until Sept. 5 when I was picked up by the Germans after crossing the Meuse near Dinant, Belgium. Spent 6 months in various camps and finally escaped, Jan. 31, 1945, to Warsaw, Poland. I wonder if any other G Co. men went the same route? Perhaps I can find out at the reunion should it be possible for me to attend. I have a copy of "8 Stars to Victory" which the Octofoilsays is now a rare item. The account of my capture (and others) is on page 230. Thanks for your prompt reply.

Co. G 47th Inf.
REUBEN A. HUNT
3647 Center Ridge Road
c-o Vida K. Pennell
North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039

Just a few lines to let you know that I'm still around but that's about all. I can write at the present time. I'm very sorry that I've been unable to attend any of the yearly reunions since 1970, but because of very poor health and bad eye conditions (cataracts) in both eyes, the right eye had surgery on June 25th and the eye doctor and a specialist told me that within the next six months the left eye would have to be taken care of. Between June 25th and August 12th this year I have had four operations, among them a kidney operation, of course, I'm in the process of moving again, everything is scattered all over the upstairs apartment. When I can get the apartment in any sort of decent living quarters, I'll be sending you more news. I became a grandfather for the eleventh time on New Year's Day, January 1, 1980, when my eldest daughter and son-in-law became the proud parents of a baby girl, born at 12:20 P.M. and named Kristen Marie Somody, weighing in at 7 lbs. This birth breaks the tie score so to put it, because previously it was five granddaughters and five grandsons, now its 6 granddaughters to five grandsons. Please see enclosed special note of address change. Warmest regards and the best of health and happiness to all. Sincerely hoping to be able to attend the reunion in 1981. As I'm in rather of a hurry, to get things in shape so that the gas company can turn on the gas. Please excuse such poor penmanship, because at times my eyes give me trouble.

Enclosed please find a check. I believe my wife's auxiliary membership has expired. Please renew Jeanne E. Dugan for another year. Please add the balance of check to your Fort Bragg Memorial.

Co. B, 60th Inf.
CHARLES R. HARVEY
7407 Huntridge Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Enclosed is a check for my dues for the next 3 years. I have been totally disabled for the past 11 years and have a lot of medical problems. My condition will never change and my wife is also in poor health. I still hear from Tippi Plunkett when she is able to write. My daughter Diana is a registered nurse.

The following letter was sent to Wilton Taylor by Dick O'Connor and Wilton wanted it published in the Octofoil
Bty. B 84th F.A.
DICK O'CONNOR
9567 Bluford Avenue
Whittier, Calif. 90605

I was surprised and happy to get your interesting letter. That long walk from Safi to Port Lyautey, gets more enjoyable, as the years go by. I enjoyed the swims in the ocean after the day's walk, along with washing our fatigues and drying them in a matter of minutes in the hot sun. I still remember Col. Randle on a little bluff watching the troops go by.

Do you remember the long walk thru Casablanca on that weekend? The 84th Btry consisted of 105 A.B.C. Btry. supported the 47th and Bn. I spent some time as a forward observer as a telephone operator, my main job was a switchboard operator, along with the mail orderly. The 155 Howitzers were with the 34th F.A. The 155 Long Toms were with Corp.

My buddy Tony Chaconas was with Col. Johnson (2nd Bn 47th Inf) when he was killed along with Captain McClatchey.

My wife and I are both from New Jersey and married in 1946. We have five boys, Rick 33, Phil 30, Kevin 27, at 25 and Doug 22. Only one boy Doug is home and will graduate from Whittier College in May. Two are married and we have a nine year old granddaughter.

I retired from the retail grocery in 1977 at age 62 and have enjoyed every day. I play lots of golf and have taken over the home cooking. My wife Grace is a tailor at a large department store in Whittier. My wife may come with me to Washington, as a rule I go alone.

Thanks again for your letter.

Div. Arty.
R. A. DONNELLY
314 11th St.
Logansport, Ind. 46947

My Octofoil came with a red address so I guess the 1st thing I'd better do is get myself back in the black. I was wondering if you know how I can get in touch with Ladislav Farago? I hope Father Connors sees this letter and answers me, letting me know if he knows Father Keane of Boston.

15th Engrs.
LAWRENCE GANNONE
Olive St., Box 371
Neshanic Sta., N.J. 08853

Enclosed find dues for 1981. Regards to all men of the Ninth.

60th Inf. A.T.Co.
MEL GILLIS
7656 E. Inverness Ave.
Mesa, Az. 85208

Enclosed find dues for three years. I saw red on my name and address. Sure enjoy the Octofoil. We moved last September. Out of the city. Stagecoach comes thru every Wednesday and Sunday. We're close to the Superstition Mountains. No street lites and the desert is north of our property. I changed jobs, now making jet engines. Good luck to you and all 9th men.

60th Field Arty. B. Btry.
GEORGE J. FURBER
11825 S.W. 107th Ave.
Miami, Fl. 33176

Time marches on and here is my dues for another three years. I hope this note finds you and yours doing well. Paul Mahon C Btry was wounded the same time that I was and I believe he returned to our unit. I was hospitalized for 18 months and then discharged. I have tried unsuccessfully to locate Paul over the years. If he is still about, I would like to hear from him.

2nd Bn. 47thth Inf.
JOHN A. HILL
2140 E. 20th Street
Tulsa, Okla. 74104

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$5.50 for one year of membership and decals.

It was so nice to see the 9th Division reunion advertised in the local VFW magazine, I have previously belonged to the association but then I lost track of them when I went to Europe in 1967 for 12 years as a civilian, living on the economy. Glad to return to the fold.

During the five campaigns of Europe I was a member of Company H, 2nd Bn 47th Infantry. I joined this glorious organization as a replacement 2nd Lt. and my last assignment was as company commander of G company after the end of the war. I have never nor since met such a fine all around organization of MEN.

My son is a physician and an officer currently with the U.S. Navy and circumstances do not allow me to attend the reunion this year, but since I have never been to a reunion, I wonder if they have them yearly and if so where & when is next years reunion to be held. Sometime in the near future I plan on moving to the east coast (Virginia) and hope to be able to attend reunions and functions of the organization.

Below are names and address of former combat 9th Div. personnel, sending them a copy of the newspaper may bring them back to the fold:

Ken Niece, 1130 N.E. 106th Street, Portland, Oregon 97220
Harold (Slim) Hagler, 13709 Preston Rd. Dallas, Texas 75240
Harry Kenney, P.O. Box 67, Eagle Rock, Mo. 65641

Thanks for the newspaper. Hope to hear from you again.

47th Anti Tank Co.
GEORGE REMALEY
Box 437 A, RD No. 1
National Hts., Pa. 15065

They have been talking about the hostages and I remembered when I was coming home. I told the men I would ride in the crows nest coming back on the ship if there was no other place to sleep. I got to the ship and was assigned a stateroom with some others. I had 2 nights in the bed when a Master Sergeant started to cry about sleeping with the men on canvas bunks. He pulled rank so I had to give up my bed so he could sleep in it. I told him a damn cry baby thinks he is too good to sleep with the men. I said I slept with these men for 4 1/2 yrs. and I wasn't too good to sleep with them again. I did not ask for the stateroom, I was given it. I don't know what division he was from and I didn't try to find out.

47th Inf., 1st Bn.
MATTHEW W. SCOTT
6 Terrace Place
Danbury, Conn. 06810

Enclosed find dues for the next 3 years. It was good to see a letter from Ed Slosson in the Jan-Feb Octofoil and I have written to John Sherwin to suggest he attend the reunion which we hope we can make this year. Does anyone recall the Winchester days? I still have my English Bride!

Co. B, 47th Inf.
SAM MOSCATELLI
401 N.W. 2nd St.
Chisholm, Minn. 557.9

Enclosed find check for my dues and looking forward to seeing some of the men from Co. B, if my health gets better.

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.

MAIL CALL

39th Inf. Reg. Hq. Serv. Co.
DANIEL M. LAYMAN
212 Almur Lane
Wynnewood, Pa. 19096

Sorry to have added to your chores by overlooking the "RED" address back in January. I enclose dues for 3 years plus a donation for the Marker fund. It so happened I joined the 39th at Fort Dix when the regiment was enroute to the troop transports up Staten Island was (or wherever we embarked). I came up from training camp at Camp Wheeler, Ga. and was with regimental hqs. until April 12, 1945 when I came home on 45 day R & R. I want to share in seeing this Memorial in place honoring the 9th Div. I am happy to see the proposed bylaws changed to admit all persons who served in the 9th no matter when. This will continue the memory of the 9th beyond the lifetimes of those of us who did our service in WW2.

Co. C. 9th Med.
FREDERICK G. DICK
7901 40th Ave. No.
66 Outer Circle,
St. Petersburg, Fl. 33709

Enclosed is my contribution for the Memorial Marker to be erected at Fort Bragg. My very best to all of you at our reunion which unfortunately I will not be able to attend this year. Please note my new address.

AT Co. 47th Inf.
HENRY CASSATA
P.O. Box 92
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

Enclosed find check for dues and a donation for the Marker fund. Wish it could be more but being retired it's hard. Please let my buddies know I moved to upstate New York. I would like to hear from some of them. They can use the P.O. Box or R.D. No. 1, Box 521, Mt. Upton, N.Y. 13809.

39th Inf. Co. E.
KENNETH HILL
3210 Maxwell
Midland, Tex. 79701

Enclosed is my check for dues. Last year I made my first and only reunion. It seems they are always so far from home. I've been exchanging Xmas cards with about a half dozen of my old buddies. Would like to hear from more of them. John Wood, Jimmy Elias, John Shinley, Larry Faulkner, Preston Gordon, where are you?

47th Inf. Hq. 3rd Bn.
RICHARD TRAHEY
2355 Hillview St.
Sarasota, Fl. 33579

Sorry I'm late with my dues. We were away for awhile and just got back. Regards to all.

39th Inf. G Co.
BOB SMITH
134 Roger Ave.
Bellevue, Ohio 44811

Speaking of reunions, we had a mini-reunion in Winchester, Va. on June 13 and 14 for G Co. men and six of them attended. We had a ball, to say the least.

47th Inf. E Co.
VINCENT IANNUCCI
58 Ellsworth Ave.
Yonkers, N.Y. 10705

I'm making plans to go to the reunion this year. I am glad it is being held in June otherwise I couldn't have gone. I'm looking forward to seeing you and many of the boys. Best regards to you and the family.

1st Bn. 60th Med. Det.
RUSSELL M. HUMMEL, M.D.
2411 Lommel Lane,
Marion, Ind. 46952

Best wishes to you and the Mrs. How does one continue to make excuses for late payment? I was color blind - true, I was busy - true, I was negligent, also the truest(I continue to enjoy the Octofoil and always will, please put me back in the black. Although we will not be able to attend the reunion, we will be thinking of everyone. Mrs. Hummel, (my first and only wife) and I will be enjoying a vacation to Ireland, Scotland and London in July. We are going to Winchester for a day and hope to find a pub or two open. It might be of interest to mention that for 12 years or so, by some political arrangement, I have had the No. 9 for my auto license - one manifestation of my pride. Say "Hi" to everyone.

26th FA Bn. Bty. A,
JOHN L. BABBITT,
738 Berkley St., R.F.D. No. 1,
Berkley, Ma. 02780

Enclosed is my check for 3 years renewal. Am pleased with my Octofoil. Sure would like to hear from anyone of A Btry and know how things are since our homecoming in 1945. You're doing a fine job keeping us pleasantly informed of our former close buddies. I might add, anyone who hasn't already joined a Veterans organization, should do so at once. I delayed much too long. Since belonging to the D.A.V. I have been informed of many veterans rights which prior to, I was in the dark. Am once again home from the V.A. hospital, feeling better and wish everyone the best of health and good luck. Would like to add, am very proud to have been part of the 9th Div. 26th FA Bn. along with the 39th Inf - was the best combat team going.

Hq. 15th Eng. Bn.
PAUL J. BOLDUC
573 Woonasquatucket Ave.
No. Providence, RI. 02911

Enclosed is my contribution for the Marker Fund. Any funds not used will be placed in the Scholarship Fund. With luck I hope to be at the 1982 reunion. I wish I could be at the 1981 reunion, but I have to attend an anniversary mass and a wedding in Canada during the 25th and 26th of June. Best wishes for a successful Memorial Marker Fund drive.

Co. M, 60th Inf.
WILFORD THORNTON
515 E. Duball Ave.
South Bend, Ind. 46613

I won't be able to make the convention this year but I am looking forward to seeing everyone in 1982. Raymond Gedde came down from Superior, Wis. in March for a weekend visit. Our first meeting since we parted in Europe in 1945. He had just retired as a bus driver for some 35 years. We went through all our Ft. Bragg pictures which really brought back memories. He was a driver and transportation cpl. in Co. M. Phil Gilbert of Reddick, Ill. joined us for the weekend. He and Ray were in the motor pool together at Bragg and overseas. That was their first meeting in 36 years. I am working at Notre Dame. I plan to work 3 more years before retiring. I hope to see everybody at Bragg in 1982.

60th Inf. K Co. & Hq. 3rd Bn.
KEENE (SLICK) WILSON
26 River Oak Apts.
Selma, Ala. 36701

After a lapse of more years than I care to remember, I would like to renew my membership in the association. I served with the 9th from Aug. 1942 until July 1945. I am enclosing payment for 3 years dues. At one time I hoped to join the division for its annual reunion at Hyannis, but it now appears I may be unable to make it. In any case, please give my warmest regards to all former members of the old 9th. No persons in the world are closer to me than the friends, cronies, soldiers of the 9th Division.

60th Inf. Co. M
HAROLD SELL,
328 So. Plains Dr.,
Petersburg, Va. 23803

Am enclosing check for renewal of my membership dues, and the rest to go to the Marker fund. Am pleased to see this being instituted. Wish I could contribute more. Have a nice reunion and again must say, health prevents me from attending. The best to you.

47th Inf., M Co.
WILTON M. TAYLOR
Stop 6,
McKittrick, Ca. 93251

Please put me on the mailing list of the Octofoil again. Hope all the 9th are in better health where ever they are. Had a nice letter from Gen. Randle, he writes just like he is talking to you in his home. He has such a nice way of saying welcome to my home "Old Buddy". He writes such interesting books too. The Safi Affair and about Ernie Pyle are real interesting. All who were in the long Safi march should read it. Enclosed is a check for 3 years. Best wishes for the national convention. Hope it is in Colorado, Texas or California next year as westerners might like it. We send you food we raise, come see us sometime. Best Wishes to all.

47th Inf. F Co.
FELTON JONES
Box 7
Alapaha, Ga. 31622

Sorry we can't make the reunion this year. Enclosed you will find 2 checks. One for the Scholarship fund and the other for the Fort Bragg Memorial Marker. Love and kindest regards to all. The Lord willing, we will see you in Fort Bragg in '82.

Btry B, 60th FA Bn.
JOHN F. MARSTON
5 Hilltop Lane, Box 63
So. Easton, Ma. 02375

I feel embarrassed for sending a letter yesterday complaining that I failed to receive my Mar-Apr. issue of the Octofoil, when today it arrived. Sorry to have jumped the gun! Heard from Lt. Louis Prince, former officer of Btry B as a result of my first letter being printed in Mail Call. Also from Dom Amato, my godson, who I stood up for in Cefalu, Sicily when Fr. Connors had a mass baptism event at the Cathedral. Dom was in Div. Hqs. and was the entertainer at most events that the Div. band put on board ship on the way to England. Never see letters from former buddies in the Octofoil, but I hope to run across some of them at the reunion. Enclosed is donation to the Memorial Fund and the Marker Fund. I look forward to each issue of the Octofoil and hope to see letters from members of Btry B, 60th FA Bn.

THE OCTOFOIL

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47th Inf. Co. K,
FELIX TOMLINSON
214 Walnut St.
Bristol, Pa. 19007

After receiving the Jan-Feb. Octofoil, was I sorry that I had missed 36 years off being a member of the association. Also I was sorry to see the Hyannis reunion dates as I already committed myself to the Penna. V.F.W. convention. I am very active in the Chester W. Terchon Post in Bristol which I formed. Today we are one of the largest posts in the U.S.A. I joined the 9th as an infantry rifleman. I was with the squad about 2 hours when a courier found me and told me I was wanted at C.P. Our squad leader had been killed and I was the new leader. I learned quick and managed to survive from the Remagen to the Elbe River. After VE day we pulled duty at Dauchu and Bonn. While stationed in Dauchu, there was a meeting to form the association which I could not attend, hence the reason I never knew of the association. Hoping I will hear from someone who served from March 1945 to Oct. 1945.

Hq. 47th Inf.
AL BREVIN
420 Fairview Ave.
Fort Lee, N.J. 07024

Seeing that I won't be going to the reunion this year I thought it best to send my check to you at this time for the Memorial Marker Fund. God willing I expect to make the Fort Bragg affair. Have a good time. Best regards to your wife.

Co. A, 47th Inf.
JOHN SAQUELLA
6200 Upsal St.
Pennsauken, N.J. 08110

Enclosed please find my contribution to the Marker Fund. I most certainly hope I am able to visit it. Hope to see you at the reunion. Say Hello to all my 9th Division friends.

Hq. Co. 1st Bn. 47th Inf.
HAROLD SCHRAMM
497 Boulevard
New Milford, N.J. 07648

Enclosed is my contribution to the Marker Fund. I might retire in 1982 and if so may be able to attend the reunion in Fayetteville. Chances of attending the N.Y. chapter meetings would improve too. Regards and good health to all the gang.

60th Inf. L Co.
EDWIN BREWER
322 Park Ave.
Maryville, Mo. 64468

Just a note to give you my new address - same town, etc. A few months back I saw a note in the Octofoil from John Knightly, Ludlow, Mass. We were both in the same co. in France and I wrote him. He answered immediately. We had not heard from each other since I left the co. and went to a field hospital, then to England and last to a hospital in the U.S. Wish more fellows that were in L Co. 60th would send a note to the mail call column. Best regards to you and Marie.

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

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

Div. M.P.
KEN MEYER
1200 Magnolia Rd.
Belton, Tex. 76513

I am in arrears and am aware of it. However, here is a check to cover my dues. May I make a few comments about Vince Mitchell's letter? Right on, Vince, I am one of a very, very elite group. Not only did I serve with the 9th Infantry Division from September of 1940 to March of 1945, winding up as a corporal, but I also served as Command Sergeant Major of the 4th BN, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam in 1969. I also am a charter member of the Octofoil Association.

I attended several of the 9th Infantry Division Association Conventions, the last being in 1970. At that convention, I spoke at length on my service with the division in Vietnam and urged that the membership be opened, at least, to those who wore the Octofoil in combat in "Nam." My proposal was unanimously rejected.

Each copy of the Octofoil I receive states that the certificate of incorporation reads that the 9th Infantry Division Association was formed in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, etc., etc. Looking up the meaning of the word "Perpetuate" in my 1980 edition of Rogets Thesaurus shows that it means to preserve or sustain. How can any organization which restricts membership to a very narrow time frame (as history goes) hope to perpetuate anything?

As I told many of my fellow members in 1970, the 9th Infantry Division Association is a "Last Man" organization. I remember the convention in New York in 1965 when we had several thousand attending. By contrast, I believe our newspaper said that the last convention was attended by several hundred. Each issue lists more of our comrades who have passed over. Is my point clear? The only way our association can perpetuate itself is to merge with the Octofoil Association, an organization of young men, interested in us but not awed or dominated by our feats in World War II.

Well, Dan, Vince, and my very good buddy, Jake Wadalavage, I cleaned my system out again. I have protested once more and although it will do no good, I do feel better and will remain a member of both the 9th Infantry Division Association and The Octofoil Association.

(Please turn to Page 4)

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.