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The Octofoil, November/December 1981

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 XXXVI Number 6

Nov-Dec 1981



Reverend Edward T. Connors who began the Memorial Services in 1945 in the City of Worcester, for the departed men of the Ninth, is shown for the 37th year he has conducted these services.

Privilege and Joy

Again, it was a privilege and a joy to be with the troops the weekend of November 7 and 8. I think that we had about 450 9th Division people at the Mass — and about 400 at the luncheon. As usual Saturday evening was a fine time — and the reverence of the gang at the Sunday Mass and Memorial Service impresses all. A great gang.

As you may remember, on the occasion of our luncheon at the Sheraton-Lincoln Inn, I mentioned to the troops — what they thought of my discontinuing the November Memorial Service — because they have the summer convention each year — and I am wondering if I should keep up the annual November Service — I shall be happy to continue — but I do not wish to impose this Memorial Service on the troops — but they seemed sincere that I should continue and so I shall.

Tremendous Help

Franny Maher is a great help to me — he checks on the request for rooms — almost every day — as soon as the requests start coming in — and some of the other 9th Division men in the area are a tremendous help — Tom Boyle, Ronnie Murphy — two of our most faithful helpers — Fred D'Amore — (who finally received his just reward he admits that he is most worthy!) — Herb Olsen, John Edmunds, — Connie Matulis — and Joe McKenzie — who write each year to many of the men in his battalion — the 26th F.A. — Bill Bongiorno — and others. As I have said, this November Memorial Service is not a Worcester event — or a New England Chapter — but since I am in this area, it is the men of this area that help me — and together we work together for the 9th Infantry Division — men of all chapters, and all areas.

Plans for Next Year

I think that all went well at the Sheraton. The people there seemed anxious to make things right for us. The manager, Russ LeMay, called Franny Maher to inform him that in 1982 the weekend of November 6 and 7 is already booked. However, a new hotel, the Marriott, will open in two months — due to open January 15 — so we expect to book that hotel for next year — the weekend of November 6 and 7. The hotel is situated at Lincoln Square — an easy trip to the Church — and only a few hundred yards from the Fire

Station. In this hotel there will be 250 guest rooms and a banquet room that will accommodate 650. It will have many conveniences and should be a good spot for next year.

Veterans Day

On Veterans Day in Worcester at the Lincoln Square Services, Franny Maher was the number one man. The City Manager and Franny dedicated the new site of the Memorial. There should be a large crowd at the Convention at Fort Bragg.

(Hope that there will be no fights with the 82nd Airborne!) Every Grace to you and Marie and your family — and we are all grateful to you, Dan, for keeping alive the spirit of the Division. God bless.

Rev. Edward T. Connors
ST. JOSEPH'S RECTORY
Barre, Mass 01005

Sound Off

Father Connors' 37th annual Memorial Mass and service was beautiful. The singing of the choir, the presenting of the colors by the Worcester Police Color Guard and the feeling Dick Hill put in to the playing of "Taps" is something I will always remember. I realize that I am considered one of the local people who do not have to put in hours of travel to reach Worcester. However, I can honestly say that no matter where Father was holding this service, I would be there. What a wonderful thing Father has done for all us. Once a year we gather together, men of all faiths to remember our honored dead — to remember those men who were the true heroes of our eight campaigns. I sincerely hope this memorable occasion never comes to an end. So please fellows, write Father a note letting him know how meaningful this Memorial Service is to all of us. Enclosed is the article written by Jeremiah Murphy of the Boston Globe. Read it slowly and digest the contents for it is beautifully done. His words do paint a true picture. We are indeed proud to have served our country. We are indeed proud to have been part of the famous Ninth Infantry Division and we are proud that we continue to fulfill our commitment that they shall never be forgotten!

Ron Murphy

WORCESTER — They were mostly late-middle-aged men and they gathered early Sunday morning in the thin November sunshine and waited for Father Edward Connors to arrive.

There were about 200 men and they stood in front of the Grove Street fire station here and chatted and joked. Many were paunchy and most had thin gray hair or were bald. Then Father Connors arrived. He is 76 and tall, but a little stooped now. All the men seemed very glad to see him. He looked tired and old, but he still joked and laughed, so everything was all right again.

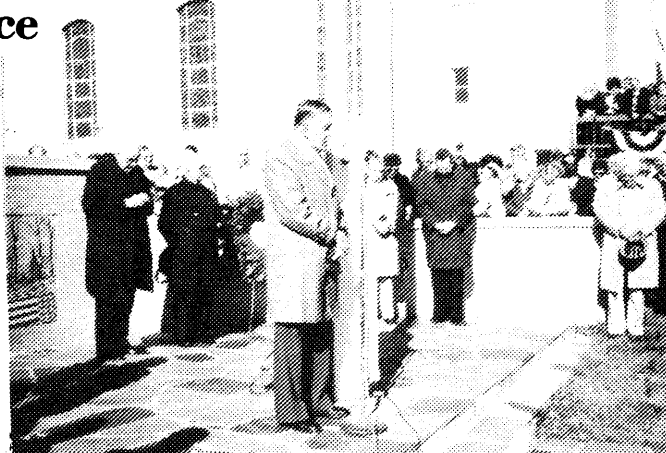
Then Tom Boyle of Somerville called out in a sergeant's stern voice: "All right, we're all set! Let's move it!" The Worcester Brass Band played "The Washington Post March" and the drums sounded first as they turned onto Grove Street.

Then it was time for the men to march, time for the World War II veterans of the famous 9th Infantry Division to march again in an annual memorial service for the 4571 division members who had been killed in action so long ago on battlefields across North Africa and Europe. The Ecumenical Service was started in 1946 by Father Connors and Sunday marked the 36th consecutive year that it had been held here.

Something happened to those men when they began to march together again, and it was beautiful to see. The talking had stopped and each man had pulled his stomach in a little and squared his shoulders and held his head up high, marching along with pride. Father Connors was in the second row. He is their leader.

There is an athletic field next to the fire station and two teams of young fellows in their early 20s were playing touch football. I was tempted to run over to those young guys and say, "Hey, listen! see those old guys marching down there? That's the 9th Infantry Division from World War II and they were combat soldiers, all of them — not clerks or chauffeurs or Hollywood GIs, but the real thing. They were soldiers and they fought, and far too many of their pals — thousands of them — were killed. It was men like them who paid in blood and sadness for the freedom too many of you young guys take for granted today, because absolutely nothing is free in this life. You have to pay a price and..."

They would not have believed me anyway. They would have probably figured that I was another crazy old guy wandering around. So instead, I watched the veterans march along and there were Larry McLaughlin from Wakefield and Mack Umansky from Florida and Dick Hall from Dallas and Herb Olsen from Randolph and... Olsen was 19 when his twin brother was killed at Normandy in 1944. They had both served in the 9th Division. And there were Eddie McGrath of Marshfield and Ronnie Murphy of Scituate, who had grown up in the



President of the association John Clouser remembers "our comrades" in his prayers at the Memorial Service.

Depression years in Cambridge. They were drafted in February 1941, before the war started for America ("Goodbye Dear, I'll Be Back in a Year") but it was five long years and eight campaigns before they came home for good.

And there was Fred D'Amore of East Boston, who has attended every memorial service for 36 years. But most of all there was Father Connors, with his weathered face, raspy voice and humorous one-liners. The night before, I had listened at a party while the men of the 9th Infantry had spoken with love and admiration for the retired pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church here, where the memorial services were held.

The men were from different faiths and different backgrounds, but they all are linked forever with Father Connors who was their chaplain during those years in North Africa and Sicily and Normandy, the Ardennes, the Bulge and finally across the Rhine and into Germany itself.

Tom Boyle told how Father Connors had walked three-quarters of a mile alone at dusk through a mine field, with Germans dug in on the left, to celebrate Mass for Capt. Paul Lynch's isolated I Company before they went into battle. Lynch and many of his men were killed the next morning.

You meet memorable people while working for newspapers, but Father Connors, Holy Cross '27, is right near the top of my list. He said these men are his "family" and have been for almost 40 years now. But the other morning he looked tired and with mock seriousness explained, "I sang the 'Wabash Blues' too many times last night (at the party). Somebody had to liven up this old bunch." So on Sunday, a tiny segment of the old 9th Infantry from 38 states briefly marched together again. Thirty-nine years ago to the day they had gone ashore in North Africa to begin the long and costly battle to rid the world of a dreadful evil — Hitler, and all he represented.

Although the shadows of time now grow longer for these men, the memory of their service to their country will warm their nights until the day they die.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The following members remembered the Scholarship Fund and the Association is ever grateful.

Max Umansky
John E. Thornton

Waited 37 Years For Trip

Well, I knew it was going to be a fun trip when the pilot said "Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to American Airlines — our flight goes to Boston from Dallas nonstop, and our route is fairly simple — we will go to the Atlantic Ocean and turn left!" Being from Dallas, we don't fly over too much water, and as we came in low over Boston Harbor, I observed my wife holding her feet up so as not to get them wet.

Long Haul from Dallas

Father Connors holds this Memorial Reunion for us every year, and my outfit — Service Battery, 26th F.A. — is basically from New England. So a lot of them can drive to Worcester, but being from Dallas, it's a long haul — so I've waited thirty-seven years for this trip. On Friday night we were met at the airport and spent the night in Needham with my wife's former college roommate — who she hadn't seen in 34 years. We did all the tourist things with these nice people — like go aboard "Old Ironsides," something I'd wanted to do since I was 8 years old. We ate "Scrod" down at the Wharf, took a picture of Trinity Church, and saw Boston Common.

We loved Worcester, in fact the entire New England countryside with the rolling hills; and it was the end of Indian summer, so the leaves were all pretty colors.

Lifetime Experience

It was a once in a lifetime experience for me. To see guys that I dug fox holes with, ate and slept with for over three years was an experience beyond description. On Saturday night we had a private dinner for six of us and our lovely wives — then on to the dance where I sat in and played my cornet with the band — and Father Connors and I did "Wabash Blues" which he sang in his distinctive baritone (or was it Irish tenor?).

Continued on Page 5



The Editors of the Octofoil wish to thank all those who sent the beautiful Christmas Cards and best wishes for the New Year. We would like to wish all the members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to
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Honorary Member Emeritus

Rev. Edward Connors
Board Member Emeritus

Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Ret)

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 the 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.

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DEADLINE NEARS FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

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, Rt. 4 Box 50A Crystal River, Fl. 32629.

Taps Sounded

"Somewhere afar,
Some White, tremendous
daybreak and the light,
Returning, shall give back
the golden hours."

Again it is our sad duty to announce the passing of these Old Reliables.

Rene D. Hoyle
(General Retired)
Division Commander

Edward G. Garofano
Co D 47th Inf.

Herman Seibel
Co K 47th Inf.

Robert Kline
Co C 15th Eng.

Vance Brown
Co F 39th Inf.

Thomas Delmore
Div Arty

Steve (Smiles) Timko
1st Bn Hq 60th Inf.

George Jamison
34th F.A.

May they rest in peace.

To their loved ones we extend our deepest sympathy.

Maj. General Rene DeRussy Hoyle, 98, who served in the Army for 39 years before retiring died November 19, 1981. He was born at West Point, N.Y. September 16, 1883, son of the Late Eli and Fanny DeRussy Hoyle. His father graduated from West Point in 1875 and his grandfather, Rene E. DeRussy in 1812.

General Hoyle graduated from West Point in 1906. Between World War I and II he held numerous command and staff positions and at the outbreak of World War 2 as a Brig. Gen. he served as artillery commander of the 9th Infantry Division artillery. Promoted to Major General in 1942 he commanded the 9th Division until his transfer to Camp Roberts California the same year.

34th F.A. Bn.
MRS. TERESA JAMISON
43 Central Ave.
Whiting, N.J. 08759

I am writing to inform you that my husband, George, a member of your association, passed away suddenly on Nov. 4, 1981. He was a corporal attached to the 34th F.A. Perhaps some of his comrades would remember him. George just retired Aug. 1 and we moved to a lovely community in Ocean County. He was very happy here, but short lived.

15th Engrs. C Co.
Ronald Murphy
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, Ma. 02066

Today I received a letter telling me the sad news that a good friend of mine and a member of the association had passed away. His name is Robert Kline and he lived in Allentown, Pa. Bob served with C Co. of the 15th Engrs. He came to us at Bragg as a replacement and was with us to the end of the war. His wife and family have my deepest sympathy and I know the sympathy of all those who were fortunate enough to have known Bob in the service. The old adage that Tom Boyle uses is certainly true — Stay together, it's getting late. It was great seeing you and all the rest of the gang in Worcester. Stay in there pitching Dan as we certainly need you.



Brig. Gen. Rene R. Hoyle, Commanding General of the 9th Inf. Div. while on the Carolina Maneuvers, November 9, 1941, greets Pvt. Francis Bozerth. For months the General had been searching for a soldier from Nevada to make the 9th Division a truly "All American" Division by having a man from every state in the Union.

ROOM RESERVATIONS Ninth Infantry Division Association 37th Annual Reunion June 24-26, 1982

Bordeaux Motor Inn-Convention Center
1707 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, N.C. 28304

Please Reserve the following Accomodations:

Single Room - 1 person, 1 bed	\$33.00
Single Room - 2 persons, 1 bed	\$38.00
Double Room - 2 persons, 2 beds	\$40.00
\$5.00 Charged each additional person per room.	
The above rates include tax	

Please print or type and indicate Day and Date: Please Confirm....

(I) (We) will arrive
and depart

Name

Address

City

State

Zip.....

Telephone

Today's date

One Night's Room Deposit (Please include check, made Payable to Bordeaux Motor Inn) required to guarantee Reservation.

The reunion rates will be offered to any early arrivals beginning June 20, 1982. Reservations must be made by June 10th or regular and higher room rates may be charged.

Suites available ---- Telephone 919-323-0111

Correction: Room Reservations-1982 Reunion. We regret that the price of a single room was misquoted in the Sept-Oct issue of the Octofoil-it should read \$33.00 for a single.

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 ☐

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund ☐

THREE-YEAR MEMBER \$13.00 ☐

Life Membership \$50.00 ☐

Ladies' Auxiliary Member \$ 2.00 ☐

Decals \$.50 ☐

60th Infantry History \$ 2.00 ☐

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐

Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐

New England ☐ Michigan ☐

Ohio ☐ Fayetteville-
Fort Bragg, N.C. ☐

SERVICE BATTERY

26th FIELD

ARTILLERY BATTALION

On Sunday morning, November 8, 1942, men of the Ninth were greeted by a bright sun and a beautiful blue sky. We were on a cruise to where we did not know. Our ships were heading for a place unfamiliar to all of us. Soon we learned that all of the skills taught to us during our many months at Ft. Bragg would be put to use. The invasion of Africa was on.

39 Years Later

Thirty nine years later on a Sunday morning, November 8, 1981 the Ninth was on the move again. This time it was by car, bus and plane. It was a beautiful day in the third largest city in our Commonwealth.

Every year during the past thirty six years Father Edward T. Connors invited the troops to Worcester. His purpose was to set aside at least one hour a year, during which those of us who answered the call could remember in their prayers those men of the ninth we left behind in foreign lands. This remembrance is best done in Father Connors way which is called The Holy Sacrifice of The Mass. The Mass is always the same. Some people may change. Flowers may change. The weather may change. The members of the clergy who are on the altar may change, but not The Mass. Men of all faiths are invited to come to Worcester to attend this Mass and in their own way remember those who are gone.

Francis Maher, 15th Engineer Battalion, and right hand man for Father Connors, in preparing for this week end, stated that he had letters from men in thirty eight states requesting room reservations.

First Visit

Dick Hill, Service Battery, 26th Field Artillery was one of them. His wife Phyllis, accompanied him on their first visit to Worcester. They make their home in Richardson, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. Dick is the manager of a dance band playing in and around Dallas. On the trip with him was his trusty trumpet. Dick played for about one hour with the band at our Saturday night dance. He also played taps Sunday morning at the Memorial Service at the end of the Mass.

Here 'n There

Harry and Dorothy Fry of Munhall, Penn. enjoyed their week end in Worcester. Both were singing the praises of their sixth grandchild, Garrett Austin Fry.

John P. Quinn has improved greatly since his serious illness of a year ago. Pergi has a new job. He cannot make up his mind as to whether or not he should stay retired. Bill Sacco finished his summer job at Leo Martin Golf club in Weston, Mass. He will be on a retired pay status until next May. John and Dorothy Murray just returned from a cruise to Europe and the Rhineland. Bill Bongiorno, Elmer Roscoe and Joe Albanese are enjoying good health and a good life.

The next four months are going to be tough ones. Take care of yourself. Remember Fayetteville — Worcester 1982.

Joseph A. McKenzie
95 Washington Ave.
Waltham, MA 02154

To "B" (47th Inf)
Or Not To "B"

Well here we are at the end of another great year for all our "BECO" Buddies! As we write this column our "BECO" buddy Art Stenzel and his wife Grace have finally moved to their new home in Tarpon Springs, Florida. Art says that it was a change from the Golf View (Largo) to the Gulf View (Tarpon Springs)! However it's still the Gulf of Mexico! We wish them the best of luck and happiness in their new home for many, many years to come! By the way, wasn't that a terrific column by Art in the last issue (SEPT-OCT 81) of our Octofoil, in his description on of "Downtown" Fayetteville, bringing back the memories and nostalgia for all of us who were at Ft. Bragg in 1941-1942. So to repeat it once again on behalf of Art and myself, start making your plans for the big 37th Annual Reunion of the 9th Inf. Div. Assoc; which will be held in Fayetteville, North Carolina June 24, 25, and 26th, 1982. Our C.P. will be at the BORDEAUX MOTOR INN, so send in your reservations at once to make certain that you will be staying at the Main Headquarters. The biggest turnout we believe of any 9th Div. Assoc. Reunion was at Ft. Bragg in 1962 for the 17th Annual Reunion. All indications are for the largest turnout ever for this reunion since many members who were unable to attend previous reunions for one reason or another are saying "We'll see you at Bragg"

Tent City

We are happy to report that our "BECO" column has come to the attention of another one of our Buddies! His name is Neal Conger who lives in Hermitage, Pa. He was in the 1st Platoon of "B" Co 47th. Neal is one of the original 47th men who were in 'Tent City' back in Sept. 1940. On behalf of our "BECO" buddies, we welcome you to the fold! Neal says that he and his wife Betty are planning to attend the 1982 Reunion. We have sent along Neal's letters together with a photo taken of some of the fellows on the steps of 'B' Co Barracks in 1941. Weren't they handsome men!

Great Fun-Evening

Ann and I together with some of our buddies attended Father Connors' 37th Annual Memorial Mass and Services in Worcester on Sunday Nov. 8. The Saturday Night Get-To-Gether was held in a very nice large room at the Sheraton Inn where we all had a truly great fun-evening dancing to a fine musical aggregation who played the kind of music that we could really dance and sing to! Our leader of song naturally was Father Connors!

"Wabash Blues"

His rendition of "Wabash Blues" was so good that he made all of us sound like professionals! Mr. Jeremiah Murphy, Reporter for the "Boston Globe" wrote a beautiful and inspiring story on Father Connors entitled "The Chaplain and his Men." We are sending a copy of the column for publication in the Octofoil.

The following "BECO" buddies (and their wives) were in Worcester with us:

George and Dorothy Apar - Queens, L.I., N.Y.

Dennis and Thora Canedy - New Britain, Conn.

John and Catherine Compagnone - Netcong, N.J.

Nick and Olga Palega - Bellerose, L.I., N.Y.

Joe and Stella Cichocki - Phila., Pa.

We understand that Dennis and Thora plan to visit Norway, or is it Denmark? come springtime. All of us wish them a pleasant trip and safe home.

Mail call brought a letter from "BECO" Buddy Jack DiSanto and his wife Kay. Jack says that he is enjoying retirement. He is very active and walks 6-10 miles a day. He says that maybe he could enter one of the Walking Contests we have in Penna.. Jack and Kay will be in Florida Feb-March '82. They will be at Satellite Beach which is on the East Coast.

Sincerest Best Wishes

Since this column will be published and received by our members after the Christmas Holidays, we hope that all our "BECO" buddies and their families had a truly wonderful Christmas. Ann and I wish to thank all those folks who sent us Christmas Cards and letters. Our sincerest best wishes to all of you for Good Health, Happiness, and Prosperity for the coming New Year 1982!!

PAT J. MORANO
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201

ART J. STENZEL
1815 Mariner Drive, Apt. 174
Tarpon Springs, Florida 33589

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

Great Turnout

We're a little behind in our news this time. The Outstate Reunion in Angola was a tremendous success. We had a great turnout, nineteen Illinois members showed up. The Hennemuths started out but they developed car trouble on the way and had to turn back. We had beautiful weather on Friday and Saturday morning but by noon we were drenched with rain but it didn't dampen our fun, we went on instead to a delicious dinner. The raffles were a huge success and among the Illinois members who won were Emil Radek, the winner of a radio raffled by the Illinois Chapter. Larry Ghre won the portable bar raffled by the Michigan Chapter. A Michigan member won the Michigan clock donated by the Michigan Chapter.

Election Held

At a meeting held in Angola during the outstate reunion, election of officers was held. No changes were made. Mike Belmonte is still President. Gordan Anderson is Secretary and Chuck Koskie is Treasurer. All the other officers remained the same also.

More Rest

After the mini reunion, Chuck Koskie went in for a check up and landed back in the hospital for more rest and surgery. Fortunately he didn't stay in too long and was released before Thanksgiving.

Matter of fact he was well enough to host the Christmas Party at his house on December 5th. This year we had one of the largest turnouts with some new faces. We had about 26 people including the Koskies, Clarks, Andersons, Paulis, Hellers, Winkelmans, Radics, Faynors, Gheres, Hennemuths, Belmontes and the new faces were Leona and Fred Swanke and Ruggero Costanza. It was a pleasure having them and we look forward to seeing them more often in the future. Among the missing were the Clusers. They weren't able to make it down from Michigan but they sent a card and were with us in thought. Bob Pappas said he was going to come but he never showed up. As per usual, we had more than enough food and liquid refreshments and played some new and exciting games.

Mike and Ann Belmonte
1161 South Lombard Ave.
Oak Park, Illinois 60304

FORMER POW's

On August 14, 1981, the President signed Public Law 97-37, known as the "Former Prisoners of War Benefits Act of 1981," expanding VA eligibility for thousands of former prisoners of war. The former POW incarceration period was reduced from 6 months to 30 days, a presumption of service connection was established for certain disabilities resulting from malnutrition, and service connected benefits were allowed for psychosis and anxiety states regardless of when first shown unless there is an intercurrent cause. In addition, former POW's are now to be provided both inpatient and outpatient medical treatment on a priority basis, and their concerns are to be considered by an advisory committee to the Administrator.

Need of Assistance

VA wants to contact all former POW's to tell them of this new legislation and to assist them in applying for benefits. To do this we are going to need the assistance of your large network of friends to help update our locator files with current information.

We would appreciate it if you would ask the members of your organization to collect for us the following data on as many former POW's as possible and to send it to you as a control point:

o Name, Address and Telephone Number
o VA Claim Number; Social Security Number

o Whether or not veteran is presently receiving VA benefits
When the information has been consolidated, please forward it in bulk to my office. We want to begin acting upon this information by early January 1982.

Let me thank you in advance for your continued support and timely response in this important joint outreach effort to help former POW's obtain their entitlement under the new law.

Sincerely yours,

DOROTHY L. STARBUCK
Chief Benefits Director

Hqs. 3rd Bn 60th Inf.

JOSEPH RAPPAZINI
24001 Sherman

Oak Park, MI. 48237

Dear Dan: Seasons Greetings to you and your wife at this special time of the year. Your contribution to the Octofoil are deserving of an unending tribute. You are serving so many comrades by enabling them to recall and relive such a stirring part of their lives. I'm sure all are deeply grateful and thankful. Once again the most recent edition of the Octofoil has revived memories and thoughts so warmly cherished.

MARKER FUND

The drive for funds for the Memorial Marker to be erected at Fort Bragg is near the \$6000. mark as the drive comes to an end. This amount exceeds the amount anticipated or needed for the monument but the committee stated "any money not needed" will be turned over to the Scholarship Fund. As we go to press the secretary's office is still receiving donations —

The following members and friends are gratefully acknowledged for their contributions.

Warren E. Walters (In memory of Capt. William D. Weaver, K.I.A.)

Paul Potts

Francis J. Rullo

George Grieve

Fred Veno (In memory of

Tony Nunn, Wm. Weseman, Leonard Gustafson & Wm. Spears)

Charles Cheevers

Pat Reale

Max Umansky

Earl Sullivan

James P. MacManus

Lawrence Gannone

J. Graff Bomberger

John D. O'Rourke

Joseph Reeder, Jr.

Edward V. Drabik

Thomas T. Reith

E.B. Thompson

Harold Gebhardt

Joseph R. Coppolino

Nicholas Colombo (In memory of W.O. Edward J. Kelly)

Roger Vuilleumier

Roy D. Code (In memory of 1st Lt. Thomas O. Fowler)

Norman Funkhouser

N. Curtis Hoffler

Sam Moscatelli

Wallace B. Hawkins

Adam Mikoluk

Clifford M. Painter

Arthur E. Delbartes

William Z. Zimmerman

R.M.A. Hirst

Paul Brown

Charles Hoffman

Michael Nojunas

Edwin E. Brewer

Elmer Berta

Howard Waldman

Robert F. Waldvogel

Samuel Moscatelli

John E. Thornton

Mrs. Florence Seibel (In memory of her husband Herman)

Mrs. Agnes (Stidman)

Cooper (In memory of her husband Albert)

82 Reunion

June 24, 25, 26th

REFLECTIONS

I read of Bill

I read of Jack

Oh, how these names do take me back!

All the men that I first met-

Some still are with us yet.

But my mind espies, some who died

And somewhere tears are not yet dried

Still, hearts are light and eyes are proud,

As if adrift on a passing cloud.

Thoughts are revived, freedoms alive!

Strength and courage the Ninth displayed

Made worth the price for which lives paid.

The flag's lowered, it's at half mast,

But we know that can't last.

Once more it waves in the breeze,

Saluting those left overseas.

Its message rings loud and clear:

Cherish that which men hold dear,

And live your lives without fear.

Remember war's mankind's foe

Down with pain; perish woe!

Pray without surcease for an everlasting peace!

Remember the Dates

June 24, 25, 26th

82 Reunion

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING

The 141st meeting of the National Board of Governors was held in Worcester, Massachusetts on November 7, 1981, at 3:10 P.M., at the Sheraton-Lincoln Motor Lodge. Attending the meeting were President of the Association John Clouser, Herb Olsen, Martin Krasovetz, Arthur MacDougall, Charles Tingley, Fred D'Amore, Edwin Wisniewski, Emil Langer, Frank Wade. Also present were 1st Vice President Vincent Guglielmino, Treasurer Thomas Boyle, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, former Presidents Francis Maher, Ron Murphy, Bill Bongiorno and members Boardman Lockwood, Sal Trapani and George Apar.

President Clouser 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 140th meeting of the Board of Governors and upon a motion duly made by Herb Olsen and seconded by Marty Krasovetz it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes as read and instruct the secretary to place copy of same on file.

The treasurer, Thomas Boyle, gave his report for the three month period ending in September, a detailed account of the spendings and income of that quarter. Upon a motion duly made by Ed Wisniewski and seconded by Fred D'Amore it was voted to: Accept the treasurer's report.

President Clouser called upon Ron Murphy for the final report of the 1981 reunion. Murphy thanked everyone who attended the reunion and told the members of the compliment received from the Dunphy's Hotel people in Hyannis on the behavior of our group, always courteous, always friendly and yet enjoying themselves. Ron asked Thomas Boyle the treasurer of the reunion to make the financial report. Boyle reported that a profit of \$1,310.21 had been realized from the reunion and that \$1,335.00 had been collected for the Scholarship fund. He turned over to the President a check for \$2,645.21.

Clouser thanked the reunion committee for a wonderful reunion and upon a motion duly made by Ed Wisniewski and seconded by Charles Tingley it was voted to: Accept the report of the 1981 reunion committee.

Charles Tingley made a motion that was seconded by Art MacDougall to: Grant the New England Chapter a gratuity of \$100.00 for a job well done.

A discussion was held on the recommendation of a Fidelity Blanket Bond for the association. Upon a motion duly made by Frank Wade and seconded by Emil Langer it was voted to: Obtain a bond of \$25,000.00 to cover the Secretary and the treasurer of the annual reunion.

A discussion on the use of permanent name tags for reunions ended with the Board members expressing their opinion that it would not be practical.

Upon a motion duly made by Marty Krasovetz and seconded by Fred D'Amore it was voted to: Increase the price of the 60th History to \$2.00.

The Board recommended that registration at reunions be opened early and if possible before the first day of the reunion. It would be a great aid to the reunion committee in order to determine how many people would attend the reunion. It would also eliminate standing in lines waiting to register.

Herb Olsen opened a discussion on use of resort areas for reunion sites. Upon a motion duly made by Herb Olsen and seconded by Marty Krasovetz it was voted: Inquire of the members through the Octofoil for resort areas for reunion sites.

The president John Clouser called upon Boardman Lockwood a member of the Memorial Marker committee as to the wording on the Marker. Upon a motion made by Marty Krasovetz and seconded by Frank Wade it was voted by the majority body (there were two negative votes) to include on the monument on equal status the Viet Nam Conflict.

Upon a motion made by Emil Langer and seconded by Herb Olsen it was voted to: Dedicate the Memorial Marker to all those who served with the Ninth Infantry Division with the wording:

In memory of those who served in World War 2 1941-1945

In memory of those who served in Viet Nam - 1964-1969

Plans for the 1982 reunion were discussed in order to give the committee a format for the three days. Basically the three evening affairs will be as held in the past but the day program will depend upon the dedication of the Memorial Marker and Memorial Service.

Solicitations for the Reunion Program will be discontinued.

At the General Business meeting member qualifications will be checked.

Members in good standing attending the meeting will be expected to have their membership cards in their possession.

The General Chairman for the Reunion will be John Clouser. William Martin and Daniel Quinn will be Co-Chairman.

Publicity Committee will consist of: Walter O'Keefe, Daniel Quinn and Elmer Wagner.

Thursday evening social Chairmen will be: Roger Alsagard and Edwin Wisniewski.

Friday Night: Chairmen Marty Krasovetz and Art MacDougall.

Saturday Night Banquet-Chairman. Chairman Emil Langer.

Memorial Service-Chairmen Herb Olsen, Frank Wade and Boardman Lockwood.

President Clouser will ask for volunteers from the Board Members to assist with the various committees.

Expenses incurred by Board members attending meetings were discussed and upon a motion duly made by Frank Wade and seconded by Emil Langer it was voted to: Reimburse William Bongiorno the sum of \$200.00 for his trip to Fayetteville, North Carolina in order to set up a convention hotel etc., for the 1982 reunion. No unauthorized expenses (in the future) will be reimbursed unless approved by the Board.

President Clouser called upon the Board members for a report of their chapters. Emil Langer from the New York Chapter reported that the chapter was very active with 35 or more members attending the meetings held the first Friday of each month (except July-Aug) at the 25th Street Armory on Lexington Avenue. A Christmas party for the members will be held on December 13.

Thomas Boyle reports that the New England Chapter is again on the move forward after a most successful reunion held in Hyannis.

Marty Krasovetz reports progress for the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter.

Charles Tingley reporting for the D.C. Chapter condemns the Board action of a few years ago when they censored a members letter for the Octofoil. They would also like to have the minutes of the meetings reported in detail. Consider printing the names of the members in the Octofoil (also their addresses)

Ed Wisniewski reporting for the Michigan Chapter told the members of a Christmas party that will be held by the members on December 6th and at that time they will install the new officers for the coming year. They have committees working on the plans for the 1983 reunion that their chapter will host. The Out-State meeting held in Angola, Ind. was a success with 82 members and guests gathered at the Holiday Inn on October 16th & 17th.

John Clouser reported for the Illinois chapter and he told of a Christmas party being held on December 5th along with their regular meeting.

Due to the absence of a member from Florida the secretary reported on the progress of the newly formed Florida Chapter.

Thomas Boyle the treasurer suggested that a committee be established to study the feasibility of re-investing funds now in Mutual Funds.

It was also suggested that Boardman Lockwood who is in the Travel Business explore the idea of a trip to North Africa, Sicily, Rome.

President Clouser states that he has written to a number of members requesting that they express their views pro and con on the subject of changing our By-laws in order to open the membership to those who served with the Ninth other than in World War 2. Their replies will be published in the Octofoil.

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion duly made by Art MacDougall and seconded by Fred D'Amore it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

mail call

Hq. 3rd Bn. 47th Inf.
AL FRAVIN
420 Fairview Ave.
Fort Lee, N.J. 07024

Wish to compliment Art Stenzel on the fine article in the Sept.-Oct. issue of the Octofoil. It was very descriptive and interesting. Enclosed is an old picture taken during the summer of 1942 from the steps of the post office. When I passed through Fayetteville in 1965 the town looked pretty good. This past Nov. 5, on my drive back from Florida I decided to see the old town once again and perhaps spend the day there. My mind started to play tricks on me as I was driving along. I pictured myself walking down the main street with my 9th Div. hat on and people stopping me and saying "You're from the famous 9th Division, good to see you". I had a rude awakening when I saw the change that had taken place. (Art's article described the town perfectly). To be honest with you, I just drove through the town slowly and didn't even get out of the car. For me it was a sad ending for a nice army town. My wife came down from New York and we were married in the court house Dec. 25, 1941. Many towns throughout the country have suffered the same fate. So when you all get there for the reunion, enjoy the comradeship and the excellent facilities prepared for you at the hotel.

Co. F., 39th Inf.
PAUL BROWN
250 Brookview Dr.
Follansbee, W. Va. 26037

Enclosed is my dues for membership for 3 years plus a donation to the Marker fund in memory of my brother, Vance Brown, who was also a member of F. Co. 39th. He passed away in Jan. 1976. Hope to see you at Ft. Bragg. It was good to see Ward Payne's letter in the Octofoil, he was my platoon leader and recommended me for the Bronze Star.

Co. F, 60th Inf.
PHILIP BERMAN
10 Seahawk Dr.
Ormond Beach, FL 32074

I read in the last Octofoil that Oct. 20, 1981 was the last day to get articles in the next Octofoil, so I sat down immediately to write. I have been putting it off for a while, being busy, busy, busy! I am the secretary of the Florida chapter and would like to write about the last meeting we had in Sarasota on Sept. 18, 19, 20, 1981 at the Hyatt Sarasota Hotel. We had 15 members show up from all over Florida, Jacksonville to Miami to Ft. Myers, etc. Since it was on rather short notice, and I am having some trouble with the right addresses, we think it was a nice turnout. Friday night, some members' wives attended a nice dinner-theater. Saturday morning we had a board meeting at 11 AM and then a general meeting of members at 1:00, transacted some small business affairs, including paying dues to our treasurer, who will forward it to you. The hotel was absolutely wonderful, food, rooms, service, 2 restaurants, pool, fishing pier and a reasonable rate. Members present were Pres. Trahey, Vice-Pres. Pappas, Treasurer Santos and myself, Johnstone, McLaughlin, McDonald, Wilson, Zwicker, Shankman, Randle, Ayers, Privett and Dulong. We had a dinner Saturday evening and General Randle gave a flowing discourse on some of his experiences while with the 9th. He is a wonderful speaker and we all enjoyed him. May he be at many more meetings. The dinner was delicious and then we all adjourned to the hospitality suite for food, drink and comradeship. The next meeting of the Florida chapter will be April 23, 24, 25, 1982 at a site to be picked later. I will advise all the members when and where later. Well, that's all for now, except that any Florida living men of the 9th Division who were not sent notices of our chapter meetings, can write me and I will see that they get on our list. Have a happy, safe and wonderful holidays and we will see you all at Ft. Bragg next June, God willing.

Celebrates 75th Birthday



The Rt Rev Monsignor Anthony DeLaura, third from right, and former Chaplain of the 47th Infantry Regiment celebrated his 75th birthday on October 25, 1981. Shown with "himself"-left to right-Rt-Rev. Msgr. Edmond J. Trench-Pastor Blessed Sacrament Church, Rev. Walter Swietek, Rev. Clement J. Walsh, Rev. Larry Dunklee and Rev. Nicholas Lortorello. After celebrating Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church, Valley Stream, N.Y. a reception was held at the Church Hall. Perhaps the excitement was too much for the Monsignor for later that day he was rushed to the hospital with a heart seizure. As we go to press we heard from our Vice-president Vincent Guglielmino who attended the mass and reception and Vincent tells us that the Monsignor has been released from the hospital but will have "to take it easy". Although officially retired Monsignor DeLaura keeps active by assisting at Blessed Sacrament Church. We know he would love to hear from the "old gang" and he can be reached at PO Box 67, Garden City, N.Y. 11530.

Life Complete for Matt Urban

This letter, written by Fred Scott, Jr., of 291 Lakeview Avenue, Ocean, N.J. "When I heard about Matt Urban being awarded the Medal of Honor it brought back many thoughts of this great soldier," Scott wrote. He served with Urban during World War II. "These are thoughts, impressions and things I have talked about for more than 30 years whenever the topic of the war has come up. Every word is uttered in praise, I have always felt that just knowing Matt was like my receiving an award," Scott wrote.

Life is now complete for Matt Urban.

Nothing else will ever be needed.

He has the "Big" one, the Congressional Medal of Honor...

Recently my wife looked up from an article she was reading in the newspaper and asked, "Who was that Lt. Col. you were always talking about? I think he was just awarded the Medal of Honor." Nothing rang a bell so I walked over and looked at the story she was reading. Here was a picture of President Carter wiping away a tear after he had awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor to Lt. Col. Matt Urban.

Thirty years late in coming but here it was. Life has been fulfilled. Surely, here was the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for Matt Urban. So very well deserved. This award was really earned, perhaps it was earned several times. Truly, a great soldier. I think from the day he was born the Medal of Honor was predestined. He, more than anyone I ever met had to earn it.

If my wife had said Major I would have known at once, Matt was a Major when I met him. Matt was in the Ninth and so was I. Here let me highlight a small difference. I was a replacement officer with the Ninth. I lasted all of three or four days. Matt was in the Ninth all the way, from Africa to Germany. Sometimes I thought Matt was the Ninth. Some seven months after I joined the Ninth I was sent back to the States and so was Matt. Here is where I met him and became a buddy for the next 30 days or so. As it was with everyone I held him in great awe. All soldier from head to toe. During the war I don't think he ever had a thought of anything except what he was there to do, fight a war, kill the enemy, get shot, get up and fight some more. Be with the troops. Be with his men. Help them with the battle.

General Patton once slapped a soldier. Had he ever known Matt he would have hugged him, he would have kissed both cheeks, he would have proudly saluted Matt Urban. This was his kind of people, made from the same cut of cloth. They both marched to the beat of the same drummer. All soldier, from the day he put on the uniform until the day he stepped out of it. And after he stepped out of it, I'm sure there was a great void in his life. The war was over. They took away his gun. No more fighting. They took away from Matt a large part of his life. I actually believe he loved it. He lived it. He looked forward to every battle. He was there to do a job and he found the job to his liking. Like everyone else on the boat and in the hospital I put him on a pedestal. He had more awards than most of the rest of us put together. Everyone held him in awe. Wounded seven times. Can you picture someone being wounded seven times? Several of these times he went AWOL from the hospital. Why?

Why, to get back to the front. To fight some more war. To be with his men. To be leading the battle. To be where he belonged. Picture this. Shot through the throat. In one side and out the other. Voice box impaired. No voice. He now goes AWOL. Why? He had not reached German soil. Back to the front, across the Rhine in a small boat. Set his feet on German soil and now back to the hospital to be repaired. Like I said, all soldier. Crazy maybe, but all soldier.

I gained the impression that Matt felt he was going home missing something. He was going home without the Medal of Honor. It just didn't seem right. I am sure that after several battles he looked back at what he had done and had the feeling that this would surely earn him the "big" one, the top prize, the Medal of Honor. Not that he felt he was better than anyone else. I told you this was all soldier, all thoughts were of the battle at hand. Destroy the enemy, kill or be killed. He had seen the medal being given to others and in his heart and soul knew he had done as much. (He really did, maybe a good deal more).

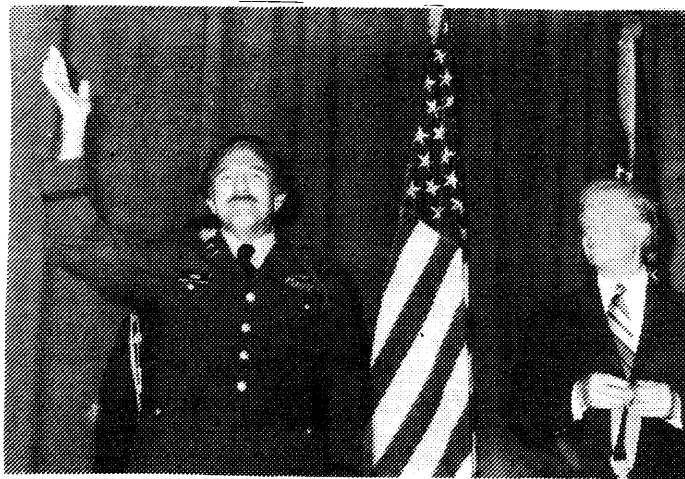
There was not bitterness in not getting it, just the feeling that he had not accomplished what he was there to accomplish. After all, that was why he was there. Just an empty felling, something I left undone. I failed. What was it? Where did I miss out? Where did I go wrong?

You didn't, Matt. After all these years it has been corrected. It is yours. The President of the United States gave it to you. God bless you Matty. You earned it and now you have it. All these years I thought they had cheated you. I am so very happy for you.

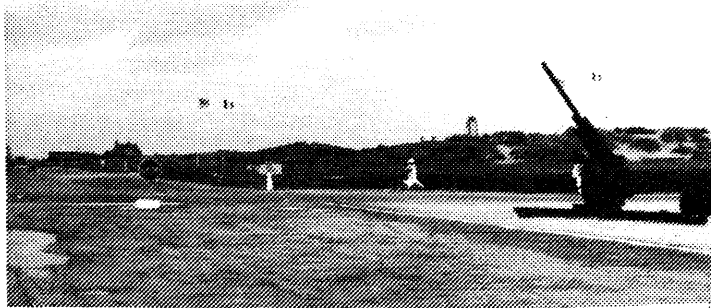
Matt Urban now resides in Holland, Michigan. Holland, Michigan you have in your midst one of the great soldiers of all time. You too can be proud.

I am sure that when the time comes for us to leave this earth, certain thoughts have to flash through our mind. Thoughts about your wife, the children, happy times with friends. Love and the home. I am sure that such will be the case with Matt Urban, but in addition he will be blest with thoughts that few can have. He will be hearing the bugles sounding the charge. He will be atop a tank firing a machine gun at the enemy. He will be planning the next battle. Off in the distance he will hear the sound of cannon. He will be hearing the faint far drums beating the long roll. The rattle of musketry, the mourning mutter of the battlefield, the smell of death so often present in battle. He will be in the war all over again. Then he will join the ranks of the Ninth Infantry Division on the other side and once again he will take his place leading. His very last thoughts might well be of the Ninth and the slight sign of a smile may well be saying, "I feel the hands of the President of the United States reaching around my neck with the Medal of Honor. By an act of Congress I have been awarded my country's highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor." Matt Urban will be at peace.

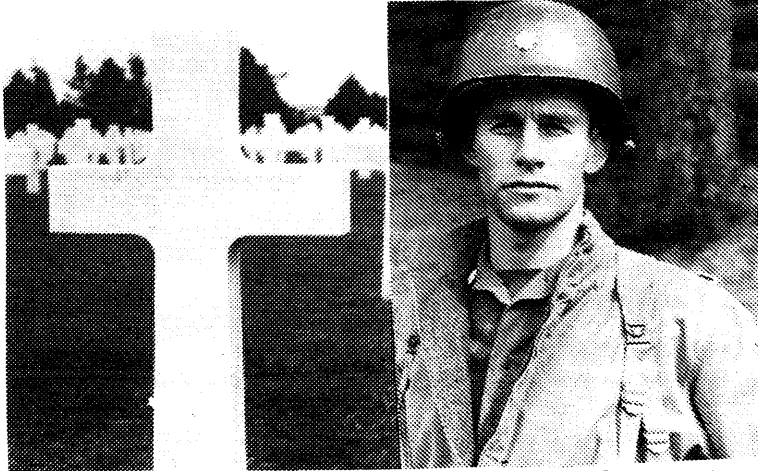
Bill Canales, Company K 47th Infantry, supplies the Octofoil with pictures taken at the Worcester, Memorial Services.



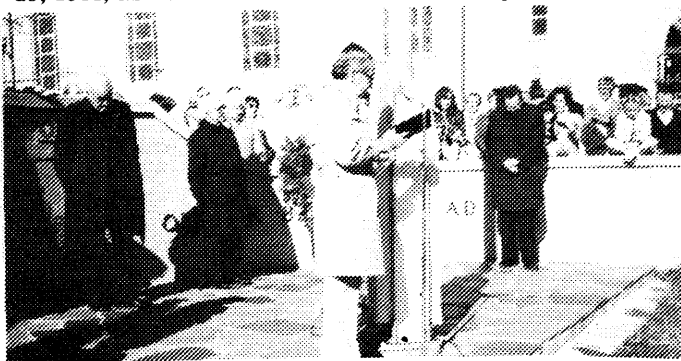
Matt Urban and President Jimmy Carter are shown in 1980 when the President of the United States was about to present Matt Urban with the Medal of Honor. A story in the December 1981 issue of the Readers Digest recalls the event and is called "The Hero We Nearly Forgot".



Randy Bryant sends photos of Utah beach taken last summer when he visited France. "Inland road, the memorials that can be seen in the foreground and background are Division Memorials erected by Division Associations".



At the National Cemetery at St Lorient-Randy Bryant took this picture of the grave of Colonel James Johnson, 2nd Battalion Commander 47th Infantry, killed on June 29, 1944, as he led his Battalion on the way to Cherbourg.



In the ecumenical spirit of the Services, George Apar, offers prayers in Hebrew for the departed men of the Ninth.



Rev. Robert J. Curtis, former Chaplain of the 39th Infantry, traveled from Monterey, California by car to be with the "old gang" and offer his prayers.



Al Bravin sends this photo of Fayetteville, N.C. from the summer of 1942. The picture was taken from the steps of the former Post Office which is now a library.

Christmas of 1944

Just before the German breakthrough I was in a house in Duren, Germany with my buddies, 6 men in a squad on the 81 mortars on the Roer River. The snow, rain and sleet was falling and it was cold. I tried to keep warm. Soon the Germans dropped paratroopers and the Battle of the Bulge had begun. The breakthrough took place to my left, to the front of the 106th Inf. Division. The Germans took many prisoners including my brother-in-law, Bob Yenser. We got orders to pull out. We left Duren and moved through the hills and dark Hurtgen Forest toward Malmandy. The roads were icy and narrow dirt roads. Trucks and tanks slid off the roads into the ditch. It was cold and dark. We reached the outskirts of Malmandy in darkness. The next morning we were told we would be here for a few days to train for river crossing. That night I walked into a house which had two old women and an old man and two GIs who were rifle men. The old folks gave us coffee and food and we drank a toast to Christmas. Then we sang Christmas carols, the old folks in German and I in English and German and the old man played the piano. We spent hours with them singing and laughing and forgetting all about the war. This was Christmas. The old man played piano pretty well at that. Next day I knew something happened, because we were told to pack up, load up and move out. Little did I know the Germans were coming. We sure got out of Malmandy in a hurry. Then we fought our way to Monschau. There we held the southern land of the breakthrough against the Germans until Gen. Patton moved up from the south. We dug a hut in the side of the hill for 8 men. We had a few men hit from the company. We also took some German paratroopers trying to get back to their lines. This was a Christmas I'll never forget. Only after I got out of Malmandy did I learn the Germans captured American soldiers, they did not take prisoners. All were shot down, murdered in the field by machine guns mounted on the back of trucks, one GI survived! This was Christmas, my Christmas of 1944! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

47th Inf. Co. D.
EMERSON H. GROSS
7515 Miller Dr. E. Allen Twn-shp.
Bath, Pa. 18014

Continued from Page 1
Honored to Bugle Taps

The Memorial Mass was beautiful, and Father Connors honored me by allowing me to bugle "Taps" for our fallen comrades by the Memorial outside. The weather was dry and crisp — just perfect for our march up the hill from the fire station to the church. We ended up this great reunion with a big luncheon for everyone after mass. There were a lot of guys that I hadn't seen since I got busted for "swinging" Reveille on my French trumpet that I picked up in a hock shop in Algiers.

Well, it was a ball — we flew back to Texas, after cramming four days into two, completely exhausted. But, as we leaned back in the plane with the earphones on, we listened with a smile on our faces to Tommy Dorsey's "Sunny Side of the Street" circa 1942 — and were grateful for "Our Sentimental Journey."

Dick Hill and wife,
Phyllis
516 Ridgedale Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080
26th F.A.

Return To Remagen and Other Places

Happy Experience

It was a happy experience I had recently, being able to spend eight days in Germany. Most of that time was spent visiting places, towns and areas where I had been in World War II with 'F' Company of the 60th Infantry.

Our trip began in Frankfurt. After a day in Frankfurt and another day in Wiesbaden I headed the rented car in the direction of Linz and Remagen. I was particularly interested in visiting Remagen inasmuch as I had crossed the bridge with 'F' Company before the bridge collapsed. On the road from Wiesbaden to Linz we passed through the territory that the Ninth Division and the 60th Infantry had crossed during breakout from the Remagen Bridgehead, and some of the towns which had significance in those days of combat in March of 1945. We followed the river into Linz, past many of the vineyards that everyone who was there will remember, particularly the champagne which arrived with our daily rations in March of '45. We drove along the river to the remains of the old Remagen Bridge. The area around the eastern end of the bridge is now a nature park. We were able to park the car and walk up to the bridge pier and the tunnel that we ran into upon crossing the bridge. The tunnel has now been sealed off and the area around the tunnel and the bridge pier pretty well grown up. We drove back through the town of Linz, however it has changed so much that other than the name of the town I recognized very little. I had hoped to make a visit to the stone quarry that we used for an observation post, but was unable to arrange that. We drove on east from Linz past the factory, located at the intersection of the two roads just a mile from town, which caused us so much difficulty in trying to expand the bridgehead. From there we drove to the town of St. Katherine, a town that 'F' Company had captured in March of '45. As an illustration of the changes that have taken place, I spent 30 minutes looking for the town of Lorschied which according to my memory was on the same road as St. Katherine, but another mile or so east. After spending a half hour looking for the town, I stopped and inquired and was assured that there was a town of Lorschied. However, what had happened was that St. Katherine and Lorschied have grown and moved together so that there is now one town rather than two separate towns that 'F' Company could remember. Once I discovered what had happened the topography and the land around St. Katherine and Lorschied began to look a little more familiar. After a little sight-seeing in the town of Linz and a little shopping we decided to find a place to stay and wound up at the castle outside of Linz, Burg Ockenfels which some of you may remember. I was not familiar with the location of the castle or its existence, inasmuch as I had been on the other end of town with my company. We had a good night's sleep, as well as an excellent meal in the castle which has now been converted into a hotel.

Hard to Describe

We did a little more shopping in the morning and then took the ferry across the Rhine from Linz to the town of Kripps, and then from Kripps went down river to Remagen. We found the

pier, the remains of the Remagen Bridge on the west bank, looking very much as it did in March of 1945 when I crossed it with 'F' Company. It is a little hard to describe the feeling of walking up towards the bridge, almost the same path that the company had followed back in 1945. There is a museum in that end of the bridge, or the Remagen side of the bridge, however, it is only open on a part time basis and we wanted to move on without waiting until the museum opened. We did, however, come back to Remagen later in the week and spend some time in the museum looking at the pictures and reading a little bit about the crossing and the bridge before the Americans captured it in 1945.

Around Monschau

We left Remagen and headed for the area that I was particularly interested in visiting because so much of the time I was with the 9th Division and 'F' Company of the 60th Infantry we had spent in and around the town of Monschau. On the way there we drove through a number of towns. We stopped at the town of Heimbach, located on the Schwanenau Dam. That part of the dam is used as a recreation center. It's the east side of the dam, the one we didn't get to in February of 1945. From there we headed on into Monschau. On the way we passed through the town of Dreiborn which again is of particularly significance to 'F' Company, one of the many towns we were involved in capturing. As with most of those towns there is a lot of new housing, remodeled housing and only an old building here and there that would appear to have been in existence when we were there. I'm sure there are a number of them, but they're not readily identifiable, at least they weren't to me. In most of the little towns the churches are still there and often times are the only 'old' appearing buildings still standing. The farms and terrain around Dreiborn look very much the same as they did when we made our attack on the town in January 1945.

Metropolitan Area

From there we drove into the area of Monschau which is now almost a metropolitan area incorporating the towns of Hofen, Kaltenberg, Monschau, Mutznich, Imgenbroich. The general appearance of Monschau is very similar to the way I remember it in September of 1944 and later in January of 1945. However, it has changed and is now the center of a summer resort area with many shops, hotels, etc... We stayed in a hotel outside of town on the road to Eupen. According to the information at the hotel it was there in 1939 so I assume the building was there when we were although I do not remember it. It is right on the road from Eupen to Monschau where the road turns to go down into Monschau.

Difficult Day

While there in the Monschau area we spent some time in Monschau itself. We drove to Imgenbroich, a town just outside of Monschau that is important only to me personally. We also drove to the town of Konzen, a town of some significance for 'F' Company. One of the platoons had a particularly difficult day making a diversionary attack on the 3rd of January 1945 at the time the attack was made to cut off the Germans to close the Battle of The Bulge. On beyond the town of Konzen, I drove to the town of Roetgen which some



Members of Company B 60th Infantry are met by Belgians in Macon as their patrol enters the town. The picture is dated Sept. 1944.

may remember was one of the first towns captured in Germany. 'F' Company was there in September of 1944. It's just across the Belgium border and south of Aachen. Outside of town I found a section of the Siegfried Line still intact, although somewhat grown over. This was an area that I remember because 'F' Company had been in that exact site in September of 1944 and some 'F' Company men who read this will probably recall having been there. On the second day in the Monschau area we drove into Belgium through Eupen, Malmedy, and down to Bastogne. Although the 9th Division was not involved in the Battle of Bastogne, it was a significant action and the 9th Division was very much involved in the Battle of the Bulge on Elsenborn Ridge. We saw the Memorial, but arrived too late to see the museum. We drove through territory that the 9th Division had been in and out of several times, through Houffalize and some of those towns in southern Belgium. We drove back to Monschau by way of Liege and Verviers. I was a little disappointed that time did not permit a trip to Camp Elsenborn inasmuch as we had spent some time there and I was curious as to how much it might have changed.

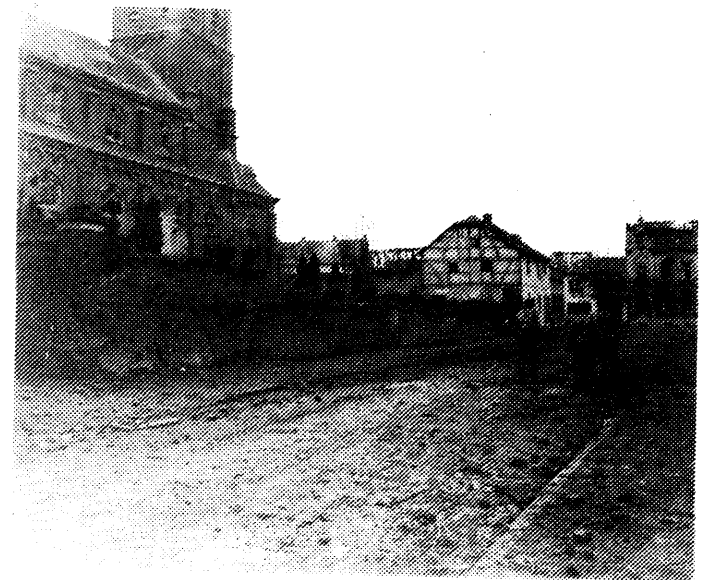
Around Duren

Time was getting short and we decided we had better leave Monschau and head for the other area that I particularly wanted to visit. That was the area around Duren. We left Monschau, driving through the Hurtgen Forest and the town of Schmidt, which the 9th Division will remember quite well. Most of the houses in Schmidt as you can well imagine, are new houses. You will recall that it was nearly demolished during the many battles in and around Schmidt and the Hurtgen Forest. The area looks even more formidable, terrain-wise, than it did back in October of 1944. As I drove over some of the modern highways I wondered how we ever managed to get through the woods. Without the

opportunity to leave the highway and do some cross-country hiking or travel, it was hard to recognize anything in the Hurtgen Forest area. Many places looked a little familiar, but whether they were the actual sites where we were in 1944 is difficult to determine.

Wanted to Visit

We went from that area into the Duren area. The particular places I wanted to visit were the towns of Mariaweller, Hoven, Geich, and Obergeich. Those were the towns that the 2nd Bn 60th Infantry were involved in capturing back in December of 1944. 'F' Company people will remember that we had our Company CP in what was then a hardware store on the main intersection of Mariaweller.



Mariaweller, Germany dated December 15, 1944

That corner is now occupied by a restaurant. The church in Mariaweller and some other buildings are obviously buildings that were there in 1944. In general the towns of Mariaweller, Geich, and Obergeich have probably changed as little as any of the towns I visited. The town of Obergeich was a town that 'F' Company had captured. It was a particularly difficult operation one afternoon with more casualties than even now I like to remember. Obergeich looks very much like it did when we were there. The building at

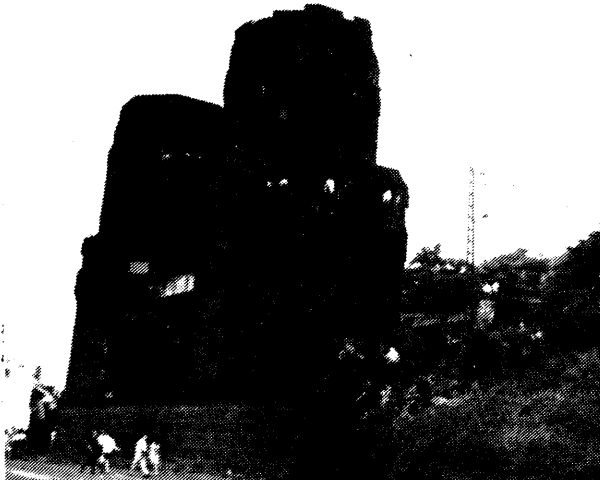
the edge of town where we had our Company CP is still there and still recognizable. Up the street the barn where the TD Platoon Commander was killed is still there. In general, the area around Obergeich is very much like it was in December 1944. Even the open field approach to town that we had to take that day is still open and still looks as difficult to cross as it was that afternoon. We drove on through Duren which is now a large town, having grown considerably since we knew it in December of 1944. We took a short side trip into Cologne primarily to see the Dom Cathedral. It is certainly an imposing structure and anyone who hasn't seen it and has an opportunity to do so should certainly make the effort. We left Cologne and drove back down to Remagen, in order to see the museum. After visiting the museum we returned to Wiesbaden to prepare for our trip home.

Nostalgic Experience

All in all our trip was most enjoyable. For me, in particular, it was a nostalgic experience, being in the places I had been before, recalling the experiences of combat in many of those areas and sadly enough, having to recall the price we paid in terms of men killed and wounded and thankful that I had been fortunate enough to survive the experience and be able to return again. We all found Germany a pleasant place to be. We found

the people quite friendly and even though we spoke little or no German, and in many of the places we visited, found no one who could speak much English, we were able to get a place to sleep, get a meal, buy a beer, do some shopping, and in general had no significant problems from start to finish. Even traveling on the highway was not that difficult once we learned the key to their system of sign posts and direction signals. We had food that ranged from good to excellent, certainly much better than the food I had had back in the winter of 1944-45. There were a number of places I didn't get to see and I'm hopeful that I can make another 'Return to Remagen' trip and see some additional places and recall some of the experiences that I shared with the men of 'F' Company 60th Infantry from September of 1944 to April 1945.

Clifford M. Painter
240 Hawthorne Rd.
Washington, Pa. 15301



Remains of the Remagen Bridge on the East bank of the Rhine as shown in 1970 when the association members revisited the E.T.O.



82 Reunion
June 24, 25, 26th

mail call

Continued from Page 8

60th Inf.

R.M.A. HIRST
6200 Wiesbaden
Gustav-Freytag STB 6
Germany
Dear Friends:

Even though still continually harrassed, pestered, plagued, & tormented by the IRS, who seem to believe we are the font of support, this has been a successful year for the Hirst family, filled with surprises, successes and succor - perhaps that is why Vergil once said, 'Haud ignara mali miseris, succurrere disco. One thing always asks the help of another.

Ronald Paul has gained his Master of International Business from the University of South Carolina, gained his Columbia. Inge has gained a Master's rating in international bridge competition and Scotty has laid the foundation for his 9 January 1982 retirement after more than thirty-nine years of Government service. We have all succeeded and trust all of our friends have done likewise!

No year begins at a moderate pace and neither does one end with a temperate trot. Can you imagine a year so filled that you've not had the pleasure of a holiday. No, we've none to report on this year.

Ron finished his six months 'apprenticeship' at the Bayer Chemical Corporation in Leverkusen in early February, spun through Wiesbaden on his way to holiday in Sri Lanka(Ceylon) and then flew home to his graduation. Inge fulfilled the year with bridge tournaments, with sojourns with various female friends to the various crystal, china and porcelain factories in western Bavaria, fulfilling her Mother's whims and tending her many, many plants and flowers. While Scotty trundled about the Continent, the Middle East and the United Kingdom, including a detour to Iceland, savouring the dishes of those lands for the last time.

Inge's mother is donig well for her eighty-two years. The eyesight has failed, the walk has become a bit unsteady but the will remains with the spirit. This might be an adequate description of Scotty's Mom in Waupaca, Wisconsin. We're very proud of the two spunky individualists.

We miss you all! We do not write enough. We do have enought to write about. We just seem to miss you guys when we sit down of an evening and chat and that is frequent. Thus none of you ar forgotten or ever will be. Just remember we love you all. Our weather remains typical for Wiesbaden - undecided. Snow but no snow, rain but but no rain. We'll defer our return home until later in the year, then into Florida. We've not set itinerary. MANENT residence - H E R E ! We promise to stay in touch. We will visit those which circumstances permit. God bless you, all - we miss your company.

To those of you are rare and hard to find, our friends!

Co. K, 47th Inf.

MRS. HELEN (LAGATTUTA) HOLMES
352 D. Hackensack St.
Wood Ridge, N.J. 07075

Dear Dan: I enjoy reading the Octofoil. Enclosed is a check for the Marker Fund and auxiliary dues. Occasionally see George Bastedo and Larry McCabe and talk over old times of the 9th. My best to you and Marie.

Co. C 9th Med. Bn.
JOHN W. SANTORO
62 King St.
Reading, Ma. 01867

As a new member I went to my first memorial mass in Worcester and had a swell time. When I look back I wish I had joined sooner because I sure missed a lot. The only thing I wish I had found some men of Co. C 9th Medics there. Plan on going to Bragg in June and hope to find some of you there.

Co. F, 47th Inf.
GEORGE KING

44 Park St.
Phelps, N.Y. 14532

It's that time of year again and somehow it keeps coming around faster and faster! All's well in Finger Lakes country - retirement is so great, it should be sinful. Hope you and Marie are well and enjoying life to its fullest. Merry Christmas to all. P.S. Tony and Terry Repetti, Red and Esther Hoffman visited us this fall and we really enjoyed them.

Med. Det. 60th Inf. 3rd Bn.
WALLACE HAWKINS
318 S. 13th Ave.
Hattiesburg, Ms. 39401

Enclosed you will find membership dues for 3 years plus a donation for the Marker Fund. Would like to see as many as possible of the 3rd Bn. Med. Det. 60th at Ft. Bragg. Keep up the good work, Dan. God bless you and yours.

Co. M, 60th Inf.
WILLIAM A. ZIMMERMAN
3331 Orlando Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21234

Enclosed is check for dues and a donation to the Marker fund. Sorry we missed the Hyannis reunion but we had a new granddaughter in July and couldn't miss the happy event. Best Wishes and a good year to all.

9th QM

ANGELO (ANDY) SINARE
716 E. 162 St.
Cleveland, Ohio. 44110

Enclosed is my check for dues renewal. Will try and make the reunion at Ft. Bragg. I sure miss the men from the QM. Although I do send and receive Christmas cards from quite a few. I never see any news from the QM. There aren't any members from the QM in the Cleveland area. I belong to the VFW Post 2926 and the American Legion Post 434 in Brocton, N.Y. Have a Merry Xmas and many more.

39th Inf. K Co.

TED WISNIEWSKI
366 Ashburton Ave.
Yonkers, N.Y. 10701

Dear Dan:

Just a few lines to let all my old buddies from Co. K 39th know that I'm still around. I am working for the U.S. Postal Service and have all hopes of making the '82 reunion at Ft. Bragg this June. Please keep me posted on the coming reunion regarding time and transportation schedules by air and rail so I will know how to plan my vacation.

47th Inf. B. Co.

GEORGE BERDAY
100 N.E. 6th Ave. Lot 286
Homestead, Fl. 33030

Sending in dues for the next year and hope the next one is better for me. I've spent the last 7 months in the Air Base Hosp. down here. I've got radiation burn in the groin. I look like a scarecrow! Down to 105 lbs. Guess it will stop me from going to Bragg in June. I sure hate to miss this one! Wishing you and yours the best for Xmas and the New Year.

Co. G, 47th Inf.
GEORGE BAKO
5275 Monroe Ave. Apt. 7
San Diego, CA 92115

A few hurried lines to let you know that we have lost a buddy. Walter Kraft. He died after returning from Switzerland on Sept. 28, 1981 of a massive heart attack. A man during his life is many faces to many people. He was my friend. May he rest with those other buddies who have gone on before. God Bless Them All.

15th Engrs. Co. A
ANTHONY SOPRANO
713 Delaware Ave.
Norwood, Pa. 19074

Enclosed find my contribution to the Memorial Marker Fund. On my way home from Hyannis in June, I stopped to see Ed Fida in Comberland, R.I. He is still the same old Fida. I had an enjoyable visit with him. I also had the opportunity to speak by phone with George Tsiknas in Calif. He had hoped to come to the reunion in Hyannis, but is not well. He had hoped to come back to Hyannis in '82. I met George's family while in Hyannis and had a wonderful time.

47th Inf. E & I Co.

JOHN P. HYNES
Lot 46 15th St.
Sarasota City Mobile Home Pk.
Sarasota, Fl. 33478

First I hope you are well and I am sending my dues. I came to Florida to take it easy and I am. Help out at Candlelight Dining for Senior Citizens here in Sarasota. Had a visitor from Pa. who was in I Co. 47th with me before I went to OCS and came back to E Co., a Steve Weber. He left for Air Force in Texas from I Co. the time I left for OCS. He and a Tom Coughlin who went to OCS with me and who hails from Sioux Falls, S.D. and he also was from I Co. keep in touch with me. Also Steve Weber and his wife and I visited places I never heard of and probably wouldn't have seen if they hadn't come from Pa. to see me. They stayed at my mobile home as I have room as it is quite big. There is something inside of you that makes you feel real good when you see someone from the 9th. When we left the states I was captured at El Guettar Pass Runisia March 28, 1943 I don't hear or see any of the fellows who were with me as P.O.W.'s in Germany. God bless and keep you well, Dan. There is a Spencer Norwood here at the park who was with Hqs. and G Co. 47th.

Co. M, 60th Inf.
JOHN ELICHKO
10005 Bay Pines Blvd.
St. Petersburg, FL 33708

Enclosed are my dues for another year. I enjoy the Octofoil. If possible, I would like to have it sent down here for the next six months. I'm a winter visitor down here. My northern address is 1504 Valley Rd., Rahway, N.J. 07065. Have heard from a few of the old Co. M boys, and hope to see them all at Ft. Bragg. Thanks for everything, Dan. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

47th Inf.
STANLEY POLLINGER
2317 W. Washington
Allentown, Pa. 18104

Enclosed is dues for three years. I receive the Octofoil and enjoy it very much. Best wishes to you and your family for the coming year.

84th FA, B Btry.
SAMUEL ROBINSON
3 Rock Ave.
Swampscott, Ma. 01907

Just got out of the hospital after having major surgery (removal of section of my colon). After 2 weeks in the hospital, I had no time to send out my regular Christmas cards, so I'm letting the Octofoil send out Joyous Greetings to all my friends and good health to each and every one and their families. God Bless! See you in Worcester in '82.

Personnel Section

60th Inf.
J. GRAFF BOMBERGER
37 Spanish Villa Drive
Jeannette, PA 15644
Dear Dan:

Reading over the latest issue of The Octofoil reminds me anew how remiss I've been in getting a Marker Fund donation to the Association. So a check for same is enclosed herewith. Other than for that petty bickering, almost out of control, over the extended membership controversy, my wife, Patty, and I enjoyed ourselves thoroughly at the Cape Cod Reunion and look forward to another such great weekend at Fayetteville, North Carolina and Fort Bragg next June, God and circumstances willing.

As hopes our new Association president, John J. Clouser, in his message may those of our fellow Association members who are truly dedicated to the Association purposes rise above any personal feelings and emotions in order to continue the spirit and the memory of the Ninth accordingly. We submit anew that Clouser's idea earlier this year, to have the Association consist of two co-existing groups, the older and the newer, may be a good beginning toward resolving the controversy, rather than to allow the Association to just pass out of existence in a couple decades sooner than otherwise, as now it stands.

39th Inf. and Co. B Med Det

MILO J. OLSON
2114 Burrows
Grand Prairie, Tex. 75052

Thank you for your letter and for sending me the Octofoil. Enclosed find membership dues. Until recently I was not aware that the 9th Div. had an association or newspaper. Since my discharge in 1945 I have lost all contact with the comrades I served with in England, Africa, Sicily, France and Belgium. I was with the Med. Det. and maybe you remember me doing a lot of barber work. During my service my home address was Minnesota, but now we live in Texas. Four years ago I had a heart attack and stroke which affected my speech a little. My wife and I plan to attend the reunion at Fort Bragg. I will really enjoy hearing from my friends in the 9th. So if anyone remembers me please write.

Cannon Co. 47th

JOHN J.C. NEILL
3706 Wyatt St.
Fayetteville, N.C. 28304

Just a note to tell you who I am. I was in Co. A 47th and then when Cannon company was formed I was sent over there as company clerk and stayed until I was ZI'd. from the Belgian border. I was happy to read all about the association in the Fayetteville paper. I use to live in Wildwood, N.J. as a postal letter carrier and retired back here in Ft. Bragg where I served. I will be looking for you at the reunion in June. I live near the Bordeaux so I'll see you then.

47th Inf. Hq. Co. I&R Platoon
LAWRENCE D. MARTIN
1418 Blair Loop Rd.
Danville, Va. 24541

Enclosed is my donation to the Marker fund. I will be at Fort Bragg next year God willing. Sure wish I could locate more of the I & R platoon. I'm enclosing a picture that Chris Patterer made in Germany. All I remember is the fellow on the right is Busch. I have heard from Chris, but for Mike and Busch I have heard nothing. Looking forward to seeing some buddies at Bragg. So come on I & R Platoon - be there!

47th Inf. Hq. Co. 2nd Bn.
HOWARD FITZPATRICK
2 Overdale Dr.
Louisville, Ky. 40229

After several years of being out of the association, I decided it was about time I got back in. Enclosed is membership dues and thanks Dan for sending me the Octofoil. It sure was a thrill to read all the news about everyone once again. I am retired after working at General Electric for 26 years. If there is anyone from my outfit around Louisville, they may drop by anytime. Keep up the good work you are doing.

Hq. Btry. 84th FA

JOHN BOISKY
5003 Kendrick St.
Panama City, Fl. 32401

Enclosed find donation for the Marker fund also dues for membership in the association. Looking forward to Fort Bragg and seeing some friends and making new ones. We thank you and your staff for the fine work and please continue. Any addresses of former 84th FA Bn. would be greatly appreciated.

60th Inf. Co. A

KENNETH FINCH
4308 Mesa Dr.
Bakersfield, Ca. 93306

Enclosed is a check for 3 year membership in the association. I heard from a friend of mine that there is a Go Devil Regiment patch. Does anyone know where I might get a hold of 2 of them? I hope to run in to a lot of my old buddies at the big reunion in Ft. Bragg. I have a small motor home and hope to find a good camp ground near Fayetteville. I was reading my December Readers Digest about the hero we nearly forgot, Matt Urban. Chaplain Timothy Andryziak was a friend of his and I often wonder what ever happened to him. I still remember him to this day, he was one fine chaplain to all faiths. I will close for now and wish you all the best.

Co. B 15th Engrs.

CHARLES HOFFMAN
9143 81st St.
Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421

I want to thank you for printing my story on "Schevenhutte" again. Here are a few thoughts I've been meaning to convey to all the guys who were in the line companies of the 9th. Whenever I was working with them or right behind them I was frightened by the incoming artillery, mortar, planes, small arms fire and many other things, but I never gave it a thought that the enemy would break through our guys up front. I'm sure all the support units felt the same way.

A.T. Co. 47th

ELMER BERTA
5538 Ponderosa
Utica, Mi. 48087

Enclosed is dues for three years plus a donation for the Marker fund. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

82 Reunion June 24, 25, 26th

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

MAIL CALL

47th Inf. Co. H.
(Mother of Roy D. Code)
ALICE M. CODE
Box 431
Meeker, Oklahoma 74855

I am the mother of a 9th Div. veteran, Capt. Roy D. Code, Co. H, 47th Inf. My husband, deceased, was a WW I veteran, so I am quite familiar with each war. I wish to send a donation to the Marker Fund in my son's name, to a soldier friend of his who was with him when he was killed in France. They were together from the invasion of North Africa, Safi, Tunisia and Sicily, trained in England for the invasion of France. 1st LT. Thomas O. Fowler was killed only 9 days after the invasion. His body was returned home to Switzer, S.C. for burial from Laurent, France. After the war, my son Roy returned home to Odessa, Texas. Thomas' father found my son's name among his things. He wrote us and then came to see us. Thomas was an only son and he wanted first-hand information. They spent a week together as he wanted to know about his son's life during their togetherness. I seldom see my son as he works for oil well drilling companies and moves around. He was in Iran for 3 1/2 years but I am glad he is not there now. I have every Octofoil since the beginning and I read each one and save them for him to read when he gets home. We both enjoy them very much. Your association is a wonderful one and a very active one. I love to read and have read war books of history World War 1, 1917-1918, "Doughboys," World War II "Invasion" by Charles Christian Wertendbaker, Ernie Pyle "Comes Ashore and other Stories," "Safi Adventure" Edwin Randle. I am now reading "Eight Stars to Victory" Mittelman. Among my cards is a Christmas card from the 9th Division which says "Greetings from overseas." The officers and men of the 9th Division wish you a Merry Xmas and a victorious New Year. How proud we were to receive that card. I am nearing my 82nd birthday so I hope you understand what I have been trying to say. In case I am too late for the Marker fund please use it for the Scholarship fund. Best Wishes.

60th Inf. Co. B
THOMAS LORELLO
753 Rockaway Ave.
Valley Stream, N.Y. 11581

Just a few lines hoping "Mail Call" can help me locate some war time buddies. I was a S-Sgt. in Co. B, 60th Inf. 3rd Platoon and was known as Brooklyn. I served in 1944 in Normandy, thru Belgium and past Elsenborn, Germany. I would like to locate the following people or anyone from my unit, Vito Tosto, Chicago, Ill. and Captain Grady Holman Jr. of Macon, Ga. who was C.O. of Co. B. If anyone can help me locate these fellows or knows of their whereabouts please contact me at the above address or call 516-561-8134. For many years I have been in close contact with George Cyphers of Cleveland, Ohio and hope to arrange a great reunion in Ft. Bragg with as many guys of Co. B as possible. Here's to "CO. B" at Ft. Bragg in 1982. R.S.V.P. by April 1982.

82 Reunion
June 24, 25, 26th

F Co. 60th Inf.
CLIFFORD M. PAINTER
240 Hawthorne Rd.
Washington, Pa. 15301

I don't know if the enclosed 'article' is the kind you think appropriate for the Octofoil or not. Thought I would send it along and you can use your own judgement. My wife, daughter and I made the trip to Germany in October. It was quite an experience for me. Much had changed, but some things were quite recognizable, particularly the remaining bridge piers at Remagen and Linz.

Certainly enjoyed the reunion at Hyannis and am looking forward to the 1982 reunion at Fayetteville. Sure would encourage everyone to make an effort to attend the reunion and renew old friendships and trade memories.

Had a nice visit with Jim Etue (Clerk—F Co.) and Tom Saunders (3rd Plat. F Co.) in October. Also on the way home from Toledo looked up Jimmie Panzone. He lives in New Albany, Ohio. Some may remember that he was a driver for 'F' Co. He was Matt Urban's driver, also drove for Capt. Alan Johnson and later for me when I commanded F Company. I hadn't seen him since March of 1945 and as you can imagine we had a great time visiting. He was wounded on the bridge at Remagen while hauling supplies before the bridge collapsed. Jim has had some health problems, but is doing well. I'm sure he would enjoy hearing from other 'F' Co men. His address is: 10716 Johnstown Road, New Albany, Ohio 43054.

I am enclosing a small contribution for the Marker Fund. Wish it could be more as I am very proud of my association with the 9th Division and the fine men I served with in WWII.

Let me close with this thought: I hope that next summer the membership will see the wisdom of insuring the perpetuation of the Association by approving the change necessary to open the membership to all who have worn the Red, White, and Blue Octofoil honorably, regardless of the period of service.

Thanks again to you and your lovely wife for all your efforts in behalf of the Association, Best Regards.

Co. D, 60th Inf.
JOHN E. THORNTON
PO Box 3782 Mdse. Mart Sta.
Chicago, Ill. 60654

Well here it is that time again and it sure goes by too fast. I do hope this card finds you and yours in good health and that things are going along good for everyone. I am doing O.K. for an "Ole Goat" of 73. Enclosed is my check for dues and a donation to the Marker and Scholarship fund. If I am too late for the Marker fund do please add it to the Scholarship fund. Been on the busy side this past year. Working at the Mdse Mart for vacations and at the Opera house when needed on the elevators, along with being executor for an old lady friend, getting rid of her things. Sure hope the coming year will improve in all departments, especially the unemployment situation, sure is in bad shape. Glad that the last reunion was a success and everyone had a good time. Must sign off for now, so keep well and have a good holiday season and this goes for all the 9th members and families.

THE OCTOFOIL

National Secretary 9th Div.
412 Gregory Ave.
Weehawken, N.J. 07087

I read your notice of the 9th Div. reunion in the Louisville Ky., Courier-Journal. I have an item that I would like to pass along to you, for any action you may want to take.

I was in the 79th. Div. 315th. Regt. and as you will recall the 9th. was on our left flank during the drive to Cherbourg late June 1944. Your 39th. Regt. was to our left flank during most of this time. Last year I had the pleasure of taking a group from our unit back to Normandy, and this was a thrill that I will never forget. While in St. Marie du Mont we were hosted by the Mayor of this small village at Utah Beach. I am sending you a copy of his letter to me last December requesting any kind of souvenir or momento for the museum at Utah Beach. He would appreciate anything we may be able to send.

In St. Mere Eglise I found a memorial marker dedicated to the 9th. 79th. and the 1st. Engr. Amph. Brigade. I also found two ex-GI's that married and now are living in Normandy. they were wonderful guides.

The address of the French Mayor:

Michel de Vallavielle
Mayor Saint-Marie-Du-Mont
Manche, France

Sincerely,
GLYNN WELSH
224 N. Court St.
Irvine, Ky. 40336

Pat Morano sends
this letter along with B Co.
news.

47th Inf.
NEIL CONGER
110 S. Keel Ridge Rd.
Hermitage, Pa. 16148

Hi Pat: Thought I had better answer you letter before you head south with the ducks. Yes. I belong to the 9th Division association and also have the sun flower emblem on my cars and trunks. With this means of advertisement that I was in the 9th I have met a lot of 9th division people, the 39th Inf. and 36th F.A. but none from the 47th. Do you remember George Grieve, he was a cook and lived in New Castle, Pa.? We were on the advance detail when we were shipped out of Newport News, and advanced on to N.C. and Sharon, Pa. (we went over the hill for 2 days) The last time I saw George he was a foreman in the pottery about 5 years ago. Pat, you didn't see a photo of me in the 47th regiment book because they had us on detail at the recruit recep. center for 5 months. My wife, Betty, and I are planning on the 1982 reunion in Fort Bragg and with the help of the Lord, we'll make it. I'll close for now and hope you can read this. I'm a top shelf artist and sign man but a lousy writer. Keep the Lord in your thoughts and stay healthy.

34th F.A.
CARL BUNYAK
5705 Livernois Ave. Apt. No. 6
Detroit, Mi. 48210

I'm writing to let you know of my change of address for the Octofoil. I wish you and yours and the men of the 9th a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Co. F, 60th Inf.
ROBERT WALDVOGEL
2026 S. Chapin St.
South Bend, Ind. 46613

Enclosed is our donation for the Memorial Marker fund. Hope to make the reunion in Fort Bragg in 1982. Regards to all.

JOHN CLOUSER
RT 4 BOX50A
CRYSTAL RIVER, FL 32629



THE OCTOFOIL Publication No. 402820

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087.

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

60th Inf. L Co.
EDWIN BREWER
222 Park Ave. Apt. 5
Maryville, Mo. 64468

Don't want my Octofoil addressed in red ink so here's a check for dues and some for the Scholarship fund. Everything is going well with us, here in the Midwest and my wife and I both feel great and we are very thankful for that. Come June, we'll be heading for Bragg, the good Lord willing, and hope Ernie and Martha Long, Bob Davis, John Lewis and wife, John Knightly, John Klooz, Adolph and Peggy Wadalavage and others will be there. Best regards to you and yours and hope all are enjoying good health. God Bless and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

9th MP.
JAKE NAILOR
312 Brandy Lane
Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055

I hope this finds you both in good health and about to enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I goofed 1st time and didn't include Frank Rada's address like I said I did. I will send it now along with best wishes to all the M.P.'s and members of the 9th Div. Association. Frank A. Rada, Northgate Apts. Apt No. 1, 1220 N. Hemlock Rd. Hemlock, Mi. 48626. The good Lord willing I will see you all at Ft. Bragg in June. God Bless the 9th Division.

60th Inf. D Co.
JAMES T. CANADA
P.O. Box 434
Shannon, Ga.
Dear Dan:

Here are my dues for 1982, they almost slipped my mind. I am retired from my job but have a hobby that keeps me pretty busy for I can not sit around and do nothing. I had a letter from an old buddy, Paul Pelish, but have not had time to sit down and write him but I will soon. I had a buddy come by and visit with me last summer but cannot remember his name. I enjoy reading the Octofoil very much and read everything in it. I will close for now and hope you will keep up the good work.

47th Inf. Co. A
DENNIS C. KELLEY
1618 6th St. S. W.
Roanoke, Va. 24016

Many thanks for your reply and the necessary form for becoming a member in the association. Please find enclosed check for dues also any information and addresses on former members of Co. A would be greatly appreciated. (Editors note: Any Co. A fellows interested can contact Dennis Kelley.)

17th Med.
MRS. EDITH JAFFE
138-18 78th Ave.
Flushing, N.Y. 11367

I am sending a check for membership and for the Marker fund in Harold's name. I enjoy reading the Octofoil. Harold loved the 9th and it was a very important part of his life.

Hq. 47th Inf.
RANDALL H. BRYANT
15640 SW 85th Ave.
Miami, Fl. 33157

As I wrote several months ago I wouldn't be able to make the Convention for my wife and I were going to France to visit Utah and Omaha Beach where the Cemetery is located. We had a nice but cold and rainy trip there last October.

This is to report on my visit and to send you some photos I think will prove interesting to many of the members. One is of the exact spot at St. Marie du Mont where most of the 9th landed including the 47th. Regt. To the rear is the museum organized and managed by the people of that area. It is very interesting but to hear the lecture (in English) and to look at the pictures one would hardly know that the 9th. was there. The only picture is one of Gen. Eddy looking at a map. The Division patches are all there on a board including ours. But we are completely left out of the overall story. As we all remember we landed to pass through a completely demoralized 90th Div. cut the peninsula in a very short time and captured Cherbourg. (I recognized nothing in Cherbourg it has grown so much.) One very bad gripe I have is that there are very beautiful memorials to the 4th, 90th, and 79th Divisions and the 1st. Special Engineer Brigade. I didn't even remember that the 79th was there until I looked it up in the story of the landing. These memorials were erected by the units themselves. You will see two of these memorials in the photos. What is wrong with us? As far as I remember, and according to the history, there were two divisions that did most of the fighting—4th and 9th. The 90th did better after they relieved most of their commanders from the Division down to Bn., most of them were taken from the 9th, at our expense. I'm certainly in favor of a memorial at Ft. Bragg which is scheduled to be dedicated next July but let's do something about Utah Beach.

Looking back on all 8 campaigns of the 9th, there are three highpoints: El Guettar, Utah Beach and Huertgen Forest. Looking back at the Beach from the defenders viewpoint, I don't see how any of us got ashore. The German strongpoints are awesome even now.

Enclosed are three photos of St. Lorient Cemetery at Omaha Beach. It is the most beautiful of the four other American cemeteries I've seen and overlooks the landing site. I don't know how many 9th Division soldiers are buried there for I only looked at the data of the 47th. There are 114, 47th graves, including the one of Lt. Col. Jim Johnston, our ranking officer there. Photo enclosed

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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.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE Feb. 20th.