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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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## The Octofoil, November/December 1982

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Volume XXXVII Number 5

Nov-Dec 1982

## Worcester Memorial

It was great to be once again with the troops — the gathering on Saturday evening at the Marriott Hotel, the brand new hotel; we had the gang meeting and chatting — music, some dancing, a happy and very pleasant evening. Then on Sunday marching from the fire station to the church; and General Westmoreland arriving a little late; but arriving in time to push me along as I marched very feebly. Then to the church mass offered for our 4581 men who sacrificed their lives in the hopes of winning a lasting peace, and as always praying for peace, the lovely choir of the Immaculate Conception parish, the color guard of the Worcester Police Department, and at the conclusion of the mass our national anthem and the impressive playing of taps. After the mass our services at our memorial the usual brief services prayers offered by our faithful George Apar of the Jewish faith, Rev. Ralton Speers of the Protestant faith, and Father Curtis and Father Rowan. Brief talks, our President, Emil Langer, Congressman Joseph Early, city Francis J. McGrath, Mayor, Sara Robertson. As the men know, enshrined in the memorial on microfilm are the names of our 4581 who died in combat in WW II serving with the Ninth Infantry Division; and two years ago we added the names of the men who died in the Vietnam war serving with the reactivated ninth infantry division.

After these services we made our way to the Marriott Hotel for luncheon. At the luncheon Judge Mellquist welcomed us back; the Judge is a member of the Immaculate Conception parish, Father McKiernan, the pastor of the Immaculate Conception parish, and my successor, invited us back for 1983; Emil Langer welcomed all, and yourself, Dan Quinn, stole the show with words of wisdom and humor: words from one of my faithful helpers, and treasurer of the association, Tom Boyle; and a few words from Franny Maher, who arranges to take care of your room reservations; and he does a grand job and spends many hours to arrange for your comfort; and besides brief talks from the local dignitaries, our number one ninth infantry division member, General Westmoreland inspired us all; and of course he insulted me, and with good reason; General Westmoreland has the deep respect of us all, he insists that I may not quit, but the annual pilgrimage to Worcester must continue.

When Jim Hennelly (Capt. 26th FA) arrived home he wrote me a note in which he remarked "Discontinue these memorial services when they stop coming." Sooooo — we reserved the hotel for 1983. We have decided to go back to the Sheraton Lincoln Inn 1983, Sunday, November 6th. Again the memorial mass and services at the Immaculate Conception Church; and already we have reserved 140 rooms at the Sheraton.

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## The Bond That Keeps the Ninth Coming Back

By Paul Vitello Photos by Don Jacobsen

The ex-GIs of the Ninth Infantry Division call it combat camaraderie, the fraternity of the foxhole. And that's what impels these veterans of many World War II battles to return to a Massachusetts manufacturing town year after year for an emotional reunion.

They have old war wounds but they are not quite old men, these stout ex-soldiers in their raincoats and different kinds of hats, marching three abreast and 40 deep on a deserted street in Worcester, Mass.

It's an autumn ritual they have observed since 1946 in honor of fallen friends, a kind of human clockwork keeping time for the dead.

Their faces are red and dry in the thin air of this 60th or 70th autumn of their lives. Red enough to harmonize with the miniature American flags that sprout from their fists.

They are almost old enough to be called spry.

Veterans on parade: World War II division.

This march happened on Sunday, Nov. 8, almost 38 years to the day after they returned from the last war that all Americans would say America won, the one where the soldiers came home and fathered babies by the tens of millions.

Today they remember friends and brothers from New York, Florida, Pennsylvania, all over — soldiers like them, assigned to the Ninth Infantry Division — who lost not only their youths in the war but their lives.

Of the 15,000 soldiers in the Ninth, 4,581 were killed in campaigns in Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium and Germany. The division was famous. Not so much for heroes, which it had its share of, but for its tenacious battalions. They were used and reused.

\*\*\*

*Did I kill anybody? Who knows. You shoot, they fall down. That's all. Of course I was scared. But the friends I made ... If you were born together, you couldn't get any closer.*

— Former Pfc. Max Umansky Co. K-47th

Of the survivors, 400 to 500 convene every year for a weekend, to hold their march and lay a wreath on a war memorial, to have luncheons and dinners and a dance with the wife, and to speak in the lost language of their youth.

The meeting is held at the Worcester Marriott Motel, a spanking new glass-and-brick building that is referred to as a high rise in downtown Worcester, with a plush disco-bar that attracts so many young people at night the lines stretch down the block. On Saturday night, the veterans dance their lindys and two-steps in a ballroom at the other end of the building, stepping out to tunes from the days when Glenn Miller's orchestra and other big bands ruled the dance floors.

But talking is what they do most. And the talk is mainly about the good times they managed to slip into the cracks in the war — a bawdy song sung in a foxhole, a prank, a drunk between campaigns — that even in the retelling all these years later reveals a touch of something overpowering, like divine madness. They call it combat camaraderie, the fraternity of the foxhole. They

say it is hard to explain. But whatever it was, it was the kind of thing that could turn prolonged death-fear and weariness into something as close to pure joy as many of them would ever know.

That, they say, is what keeps them coming back.

They spend the two days in Worcester every year because Worcester is where the wartime pastor of the Ninth Division, the Rev. Edward Connors, lives. He attended the last moments of many of the Ninth Division's dead.

He arranged to have the war memorial built on the grounds of his church. He keeps tabs on the men, sends them reminders every year about the memorial mass.

He remembers the war with nostalgia. "Combat simplifies the job of a priest," he says with a practiced ironic smile. He is 75 now. Retired. "I would have to say that the 35 months of the war were the best of my life. And I'd be surprised if most of the men here wouldn't say the same."

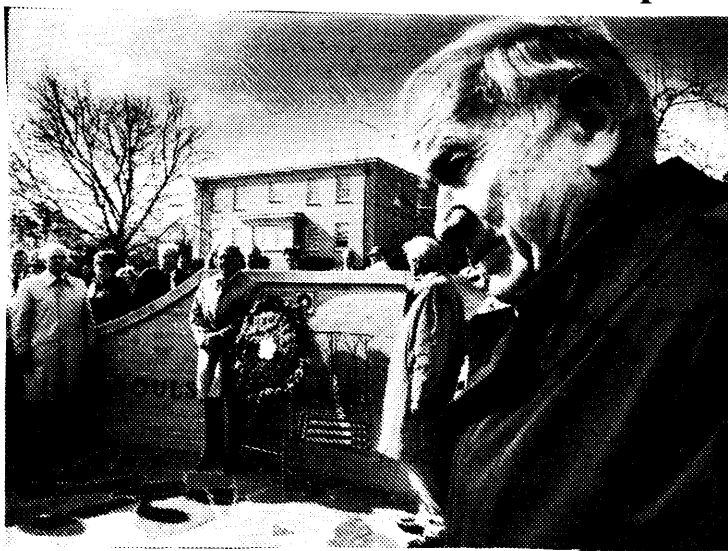
It doesn't seem to matter that the face of the world in which they fought their war is hard to recognize today, or that the loose ends of their war would eventually tie up the United States in Vietnam, or that millions have died in other wars since, or that new wars are being born every day.

Their war stories have beginnings, middles and ends. And every man at the reunion fits in somewhere, or remembers someone who does.

They talk about men whose names they have trouble recalling, or remember too well; places where they almost ceased to exist but for the grace of a well-placed rock; about booby traps buttoned into fallen bodies on the field. Battles where you came, you saw, and if you were lucky, you conquered.

"You can't explain an artillery attack to someone who's never been in one," says 65-year-old John Dolak of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "These guys all got attacked by the same guns."

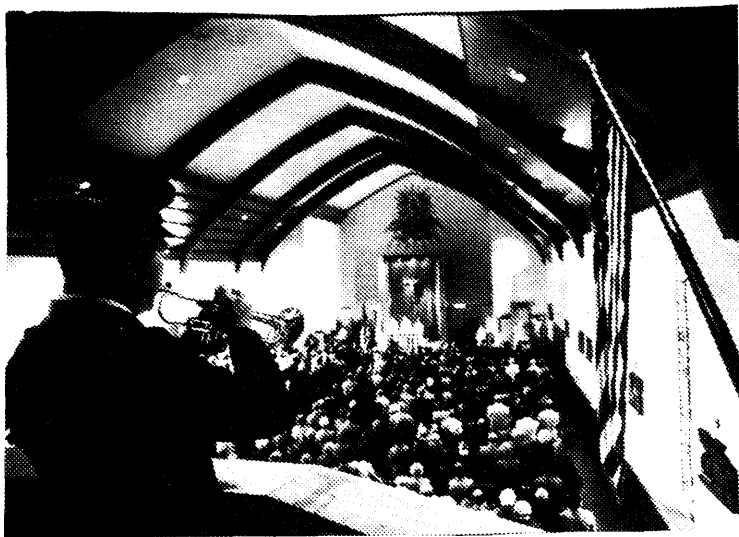
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Rev. Father Connors at wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial Services. To his left - General William C. Westmoreland, President of the Association Emil Langer and Secretary Dan Quinn.



Members marching to the church for the Memorial Services.



The playing of taps to conclude the memorial mass held in the church.



**1983 Reunion**  
**Detroit July 21, 22, 23**

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.

**1983 Reunion**  
**July 21, 22, 23**

**THE OCTOFOIL**  
Form 2579 should be sent to  
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehwken,N.J. 07087  
Octofoil Associated Editors  
Walter O'Keeffe and Daniel Quinn

**National Officers**  
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Emil Langer  
5 Brentwood Dr.  
Morris Plains, N.J. 07950

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Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

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2833 Hotchkiss Rd.  
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Ronald Murphy, 3rd V.P.  
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Scituate, Ma. 02066

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Judge Advocate  
4303 Carriage Court  
Kinsington, Md. 20795

Thomas Boyle Treasurer  
39 Hall Avenue  
Somerville, Mass. 02144

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

**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 five times yearly, May June July, - Aug Sept Oct, - Nov-Dec, Jan-Feb, Mar-April by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

Copy must be received on or before the 15th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th.

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

**Board of Governors**  
1983  
Emil Langer  
Morris Plains, N.J.  
Charles Tingley  
St. Leonard, Md.  
Edwin Wisniewski  
Richmond, Mich.  
Joseph Williams  
Jacksonville, Fla.  
Gordon Anderson  
Des Plaines, Ill.  
1984  
Walter O'Keeffe  
Ridgewood, N.Y.  
Herbert Olsen  
Randolph, Mass.  
Frank Wade  
Port Tabacco, Md.  
Roger Alsgaard  
Saginaw, Mich.  
Art MacDougall  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
1985  
Thomas Boyle  
Somerville, Ma.  
Henry Santos  
Tampa Fla.  
Dave Heller  
Highland Park, Ill  
Al Perna  
Philadelphia, Pa.

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

James Allgood  
47th Inf.

Paul Jaaskela  
47th Inf.  
Co. G

Chesley Mischler  
26th F.A. Hq. Bty.

Norman Funkouser  
39th Inf. Co. G

Russell Babrial  
9th Sig. Co.

Domenick Marino  
Hq. Co. 60th Inf.

Eugene Skinner  
899th TD

Joseph Lynch  
Gold Star Parent

May they rest in peace.  
To their loved ones we extend  
our deepest sympathy.

**Gold Star Parent**  
Mr. Joseph Lynch beloved Gold Star parent, of Captain Paul Lynch who was killed in Germany in March of 1945 while leading his company of the 39th Infantry, passed away on October 30, 1982.

Until the years took their toll Mr. Lynch had attended many reunions and the Memorial Services in Worcester. May God be good to him and may he rest in Heaven with his beloved son.

\*\*\*

James Allgood was one of the great leaders in the Ninth. A former Company Commander of Company K, 47th Infantry he later became Battalion Commander of the 1st Bn., 47th Infantry. He will be remembered by the many men he led in the 47th Infantry.

\*\*\*

I am sorry to report that my beloved husband, James D. Allgood (Col.) died June 10, 1982 of cancer. He served in the 9th Division, 47th Inf. At the wars end he was a Lt. Col. at age 27, commanding a Bn. in the 47th. He was a retired partner of Touche-Ross & Co., International CPA firm.

Sincerely,  
Myra S. Allgood  
387 S.W. Birch St.  
Dallas, Ore. 97338

Co. E, 47th Inf.  
MRS. HELEN (MATT)  
WALOWSKI  
812 Hobbs Dr.  
Joliet, Il. 60435

Thank you so much for sending me the paper. I always enjoy reading it. Matt has been gone 11 years this month and I still miss him. You were so thin (Walter O'Keeffe) that Matt said you wouldn't be around long, but I see you are still hanging around with the rest of us. Best Wishes.

W.L. RATTEREE  
919 Squirrel Hill Rd.  
Charlotte, N.C. 28213

I am writing in regards to some information on my only brother, Major Milburn K. Ratteree, 39th Inf. 9th Division, killed in North Africa on April 24, 1943. If anyone comm. or non-comm. officer or private who knew him or some details about his death, I would appreciate you letting me know. Thank you for your consideration in the above matter as local VA referred me to you.

Monsignor DeLaura Bell Fund

Rev. Monsignor Edmond J. Trench, Pastor of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament at 201 North Central Avenue, Valley Stream, New York once again acknowledges the contributions made by the association members to the late Monsignor DeLaura's Fund toward bells for the church. Although Father DeLaura's dream has been fulfilled and the bells erected at the church our members continue to donate to this fund. At their Christmas party held on December 5th the New York Chapter members sent another donation as Vince Guglielmino explained that the bells have been placed in the church but the fund could use more contributions.

New York Chapter  
Francis Smiles  
Richard McGrath

"May I again express my gratitude for your generosity. I read the article about your reunions in the Sunday paper (Newsday). May God bless each and every one of you for what you have done for our country and for your present support of one another.

With prayers for a blessed Christmas, I am

Gratefully,  
Edmond J. Trench  
Pastor

**Fort Lewis Museum Seeks Memorabilia**  
The Fort Lewis Military Museum is looking for 9th Division memorabilia, in as much as that is the home station of the 9th. They need uniforms, patches, weapons, books, newspapers, etc. that refer to 9th Division campaigns. Here is an opportunity to preserve the items that have been gathering dust in basements or storage sheds. Items should be sent to Barbara Bowers, Director, Ft. Lewis Military Museum, Ft. Lewis, Wash., 98433. Each donor will receive a receipt that can be the basis of tax deductible donation.

Michael Kauffman  
2nd Bn 60th Inf.

HELLO HELLO  
HELLO  
ALL YOU 9TH DIVISION  
JOES

With heavy arms, and  
stumbling feet  
But with a Spartan Soul  
They met the fate, that  
all must meet  
All 9th Division Joes  
Gallant Fighters in  
their prime  
Knights of high degree  
They cannot win, said  
Father Time  
For they'll be fight-  
ing me  
I beat them in the last  
long mile  
The humble and the  
great  
And though they struggle  
for awhile  
I simply stand and wait  
A general may rule the  
battlefield  
A chaplain soothes the  
mind  
But when they have that  
final fling  
All the world is mine

One touch of time above  
the brow  
And they must pay the  
score  
The Devers and the Eddys  
now  
Are names and nothing  
more  
So take your tattered  
blanket Joe  
And vanish from the scene  
You gave the world an  
honest-thrill  
When youth was fresh and  
green  
You were a gamester in  
your prime  
A knight devoid of fear  
Good bye ole man said  
Father Time  
And shed a big round tear

SO LONG JOE SO LONG  
J O E  
SO LONG  
ALL YOU 9TH DIVISION  
JOES

Michael (Mike) Procovic  
Company K 47th Inf  
14 Knollwood Drive  
Totowa, N.J. 07512

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name .....	Serial No. ....
Street Address .....	
City .....	Zone ..... State .....
I was a member of:	
Battery .....	Company .....
Regiment .....	
9th Div	
I wish to sign up for the following:	
Regular Member, per year .....	\$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
THREE-YEAR MEMBER .....	\$13.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Life Membership .....	\$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Ladies' Auxiliary Member .....	\$ 2.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

Decals .....	\$ .50 <input type="checkbox"/>
60th Infantry History .....	\$ 2.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

\*\*\*

Please credit the following chapter:

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

## REPORT OF THE "Annual Reunion Location and Time Questionnaire"

## Board Meets

The 144th meeting of the National Board of Governors took place in Worcester, Massachusetts at the Marriott Hotel on November 6, 1982. The meeting was called to order at 3:15 P.M. by President Emil Langer. Attending the meeting were Herbert Olsen, Henry Santos, Dave Heller, Walter O'Keefe, Ed Wisniewski, Tom Boyle, Art MacDougall and Frank Wade. Also in attendance were 1st Vice-President Vince Guglielmino, former Board member Fred D'Amore, past President Robert DeSandy and Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh.

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

The secretary read the minutes of the 143rd meeting held in Fayetteville, North Carolina on June 26, 1982 and upon a motion duly made by Herb Olsen and seconded by Ed Wisniewski it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and instruct the secretary to place copy of same on file.

Thomas Boyle, the Treasurer, gave a quarterly report of the income and spendings of the association for the period ending September 30, 1982. Upon a motion made by Henry Santos and seconded by Art MacDougall it was voted to: Accept the report of the Treasurer.

The secretary read a statement of the reunions spendings and income and announced that a profit of \$6456.00 had been realized from the reunion. Upon a motion duly made by Frank Wade and seconded by Walter O'Keefe it was voted to accept the financial report of the 1982 reunion.

## 83 Reunion

Bob DeSandy, Chairman of the 1983 reunion, was called upon for a progress report. DeSandy informed the members that all was set for the Detroit reunion to be held on July 21, 22, 23, 1983. Various committees have been formed and are hard at work to insure the success of this reunion. Details will appear in the Octofoil.

President Langer thanked DeSandy for his excellent report.

A discussion was held on the subject of the copyrights of the Divisions history of World War 2 for the book "8 Stars to Victory". Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh's opinion that the associations rights had expired but never the less Frank Wade requested that the association look into the possibility of re-instituting the copyrights. Walter O'Keefe will check with Washington, D.C. with the Department that handles such matters.

## Resigns

Frank Wade announced that he was resigning from the Board of Governors of the association "due to personal reasons". President Emil Langer stated that he was accepting the resignation with regret, and that he hopes to see Frank in the future and would appreciate any recommendations that he might offer.

Upon a motion duly made by Frank Wade and seconded by Ed Wisniewski it was voted to: Appoint Warren Bouden of the Washington, D.C. Chapter to replace Frank Wade on the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors at their November 1981 meeting requested a survey be made of the membership to determine preferences for the location and date of the Annual Reunions. The survey was conducted by distributing a questionnaire to the members at the 1982 Reunion, (non-member responses were discarded). The questionnaire was published in the post-reunion issue of the OCTOFOIL so that all members would have an opportunity to make their preferences known. One hundred members filled out the questionnaire at the reunion and eleven responded by mail.

## TABULATED RESULTS

(Some members did not respond to all questions)

## A. General Locations

Large Cities - 20, Medium Cities - 56, Resorts - 74

## B. Time - Months

June - 58, July - 16, August - 3, September - 11, October - 10,

Any of the Above - 13

## C. Time - Resort Seasons

High Season - 1, Near High - 63, Off Season - 39

## D. Specific Locations

	YES	NO
Las Vegas, Nev.	55	43
San Francisco	49	40
Tacoma & Ft. Lewis, Wash.	51	30
Puerto Rico	19	61
Honolulu, Hawaii	36	50
Nashville, Tenn.	60	30
New Orleans	50	37
Toronto, Canada	41	30

## Other locations mentioned:

1. More than one suggestion  
San Diego - 6, Colorado - 5, Louisville, Ky. - 4, Texas - 3, Indianapolis - 2, Myrtle Beach, S.C. - 2
2. One suggestion  
Daytona Beach, Fla., Jeckle Island, Ga., Bahamas, Hilton Head, S.C., Virginia Beach, Va.  
Atlantic City, Catskills, Ocean City, Md., Wilmington, N.C., Niagara Falls, Asbury Park, N.J.  
Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Knoxville, Ky., Springfield, Ill., Columbus, Ohio, Lake Geneva, Wis.  
Mobile, Ala., Huntsville, Ala. Birmingham, Ala.  
Los Angeles, Cal., In the West  
Caribbean Cruise, France, Germany, Portland, Ore.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Most members prefer medium size cities and/or resorts
2. June is the most highly favored month, with September and October combined the second preference. The Summer months of July and August are the least preferred.
3. The Near-High Season is preferred at resorts.
4. The most preferred future sites are: Nashville, Las Vegas, New Orleans and San Francisco, there was a definite negative response to Puerto Rico and Honolulu
5. Though many indicated a preference for Fort Lewis and Tacoma as a reunion site, we would need to give this special consideration in view of the recent action on opening the membership to other than World War II veterans.
6. With the response for Las Vegas, San Francisco, San Diego, and Los Angeles serious thought should be given to holding a reunion in the Far West.
7. The large response for June as the preferred month for reunions and the large turnouts at Hyannis and Fayetteville most reunions should be held the latter part of June with some reunions in July and September or October.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The chapters should explore medium size cities and resorts in their areas for future reunion sites.
2. The Board of Governors should take steps to make sure the opinions of members not in chapters are solicited and considered.

John J. Clouser  
Reunion Site Study Tabulator

## Trip to N. Africa

Boardman Lockwood reported on the tentative trip to North Africa, Sicily and Rome, Italy. He reported that the majority of members who were interested in the trip would rather have a shorter stay and so he revised a schedule that will appear in the Octofoil. President Langer thanked Lockwood for his report.

Henry Santos of the Florida Chapter reported that his Chapter was very much interested in being host for the 1985 reunion.

Upon a motion duly made by Herb Olsen and seconded by Art MacDougall it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Quinn  
National Secretary

## Reunion Parking

During the reunion our designated parking area is the outdoor parking Lot "B" just east of the Hotel. The parking fee is one dollar (\$1.00) per day with in and out privileges. When arriving at the hotel entrance identify yourself as with the 9th Infantry Division convention, unload the car and then park it in lot "B".

K Co. 47th Inf.  
JOHN MRUGALA  
Box 11, RD 1  
Barnesboro, Pa. 15714

Enclosed you will find my check for dues for 1984 if my records are correct. My wife and I had a wonderful time in North Carolina at the reunion this year. It was good being with my buddies again. I also had a chance to meet and talk with Joe Lagattuta's widow. We enjoyed our stay at the Bordeaux and the meals at the cafeteria were excellent, and the juice was right! We are now looking forward to the Detroit reunion in July. It is good to be with your buddies and relive your youth. \*\*\*

We're waiting for the day when detergent boxes come in four sizes—large, giant, colossal and full.

## DETROIT IN 1983

Fascinating Detroit. Trading place for all the goods of the Midwest. A major convention and tourism city. Fast changing. A link with Canada. Crowning the city's proud riverfront is the magnificent Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center Detroit—a world class hotel that's a symbol of Detroit's new growth, new ideas and new pride.

Space. Architect John Portman designed it. And The Westin is worth a special trip to Detroit just to see. Outside, the gleaming tower soars seventy-three stories above Detroit's riverfront overlooking two nations. Inside, an extravagance of open space takes your breath away. A half-acre lake in the lobby. Forty-foot trees, green and growing everywhere. And guest rooms, the likes of which you've never experienced before. Discover absolute luxury in our 1,400 magnificent rooms, each with a 180° view of Detroit and the riverfront. And in food, drink and fun. The Westin is unsurpassed in Detroit or anywhere else. There are seven restaurants and lounges for you to discover, including The Summit revolving restaurant and lounge at rooftop. A classic gourmet restaurant. LaFontaine. The sidewalk ambience of Cafe Renaissance. Even a revolving cocktail lounge next to the reflecting pool.

The Westin has it all. A year-round swimming pool. Health club. And three levels of spectacular shops and boutiques in Renaissance Center.

\*\*\*

## ADVANCE REGISTRATION BY MAIL

In 1981 National, in planning the 1982 reunion, conceived the plan of PRE-REGISTRATION of members going to Fayetteville, N.C. The plan proved to be very successful. This year, in planning the 38th Annual Reunion to be held in Detroit, Mi. on July 21-22-23, the Michigan Chapter is going to use the Pre-Registration concept to make your registering less of a last minute hassle on your arrival at the Westin Hotel.

We ask that you send your request for registration early. In so doing you will find your Name Tags, Strip Tickets and all other materials waiting for you at the Pre-Registration Desk upon your arrival.

You may order your strip tickets now by sending a check or money order to: Rodger E. Alsgaard 2834 Wynes St. Saginaw, Mi. 48602. Make the check payable to: 9th Infantry Division Association Reunion. Banquet tickets must be purchased before 4:00 P.M. July 21, 1983.

The strip tickets of \$42.00 per person include: Registration, Thursday Night Welcoming Party, the Friday Night Dance and the Banquet on Saturday Night.

Refunds will be given to those who through some unforeseen circumstance are unable to attend the reunion. Deadline for cut off date will be July 13, 1983.

You will handle your room reservations direct to the hotel.

9th Infantry Division Association  
1983 Reunion  
July 20, 21, 23, 1983

Please Reserve Westin Hotel Accommodations

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Check in 2 p.m. Check out 1 p.m.  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to the Westin Hotel, send to Reservations Department, The Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan 48243.

Single (one person) \$59.00  
Twin (two persons) \$59.00  
Double (two persons) \$59.00

Reservations must be received by July 6, 1983 to guarantee convention rates.

Include first nights deposit to confirm reservation or use American Express or Diners Club credit card to guarantee your reservation.

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Refundable if reservation is cancelled 48 hours prior to arrival with cancellation number from Hotel).

## REUNION JOURNAL

The Michigan Chapter is making a limited program booklet for the 1983 Reunion of 20 pages plus the front and back, due to the high printing costs. We would like to make it up of full page chapter ads, and then on the last pages we would place the Chapter Boosters, name and unit. The full page ads will be \$50.00 and the Booster ads will be \$2.00 each, so we will need all the booster help we can get.

The donations should be sent to Rodger Alsgaard, Secretary, Michigan Chapter 9th Infantry Division Association, 2834 Wynes Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48603. Make check payable to: 9th Infantry Division Association Reunion.



## Worcester Memorial

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— Incidentally, this year we occupied 140 rooms at the Marriott, 38 rooms at the Days Inn, and a few rooms at the Holiday Inn, so here we go again; and by next November old Connors will be 78½ years old.

November 18th I attended a funeral mass in Cambridge, Mass. for Danny O'Rourke' 15th engineers. Danny attended the mass and services on November 7th. Others attending the funeral mass were Ronnie Murphy, Ed McGrath, Franny Maher, Tom Boyle, Bob Gibson, J. Davidson - The Ninth remembers. Danny left his wife and nine children — a fine gentleman; God rest him as off he goes to God.

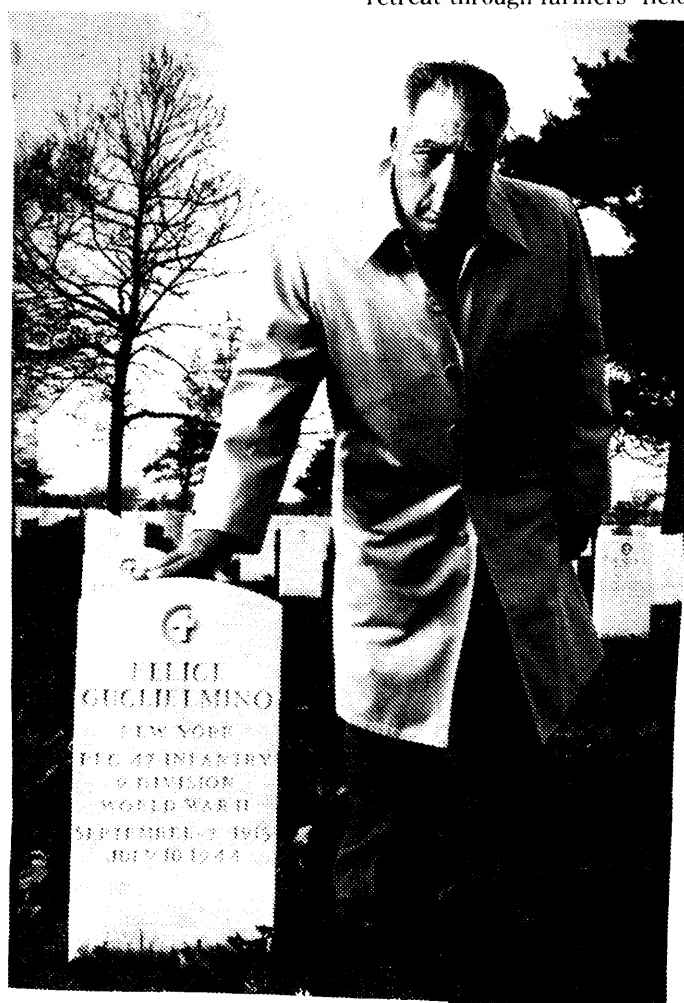
## T.V. Coverage

Channel four, Boston, as you know took some shots of our affair, the march, the church services, and the luncheon — and we were on channel four on Thursday, November 11, Veterans Day. The program is called "Evening Magazine". Thus far I have not heard from Playboy????

Every grace to you, Dan, and Marie and your family — and thank you for your dedication to the association and our Octofoil newspaper. Hope to see you in Detroit. I don't expect you to spoil the Octofoil publication with these hasty and mixed up thoughts. — However, I expect to be here in 1983, God willing. And I wish to report that to the troops. Thanks for taking time to read this epistle; and I have a lousy typewriter; and I am a lousy typist. By the time I write again, I hope to have a new typewriter. Thanks for everything, Dan. I know that you are devoted to the 47th, so am I, and to all elements of the ninth.

God Bless

Father Edward Connors  
87-5 Park Avenue  
Worcester, MA 01605

1983 Reunion  
July 21, 22, 23

Vincent Guglielmino at the grave of his brother, Felice, who was killed fighting alongside of him in France, on July 10, 1944. Felice is buried at Pinelawn National Cemetery on Long Island, New York.

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*There was no difference in the minds of the fighting men between World War II and Vietnam.*

— Gen. William C. Westmoreland, ret., 68, an officer in the Ninth Infantry Division during World War II, commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, and one of the old soldiers at the 38th annual meeting of the Ninth Infantry Association, Worcester, Mass.

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Vincent Guglielmino of Floral Park never said the war years were the best of his life. The last two years of it, after his kid brother Felice was killed in the hedgerows on the road to Cherbourg, France, were kind of a blur, in fact.

"I carried his body for three days on my back." He holds up three fingers and looks at them "I couldn't leave him. The Germans would have opened him up and put a booby trap in him." Common practice in Double-U Double-U Two. "I went a little ... out of my head."

Guglielmino is 71 now, a retired furrier. He has a thick face, thick shoulders and a thick Italian accent. (He was born in New York, raised in Sicily, and returned to the United States just in time to join the American army when the war broke out.) He tells his story at a table in the Marriott ballroom littered with the remains of the annual dinner. His wife, Myrtle, is uncomfortable. "Vince," she says, "not now," her hand on his arm.

But Guglielmino doesn't come to this thing every year to talk about the fur business. He hasn't missed it once in all the years. And when word got around that a reporter was collecting stories, at least a half-dozen men had said, "Talk to Guggy. Get Guggy to tell you his story."

Guggy's story: He and his brother were in the same company, Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment. Felice was a 25-year-old rifleman and a flagbearer, a short kid built like a bull. On July 10, 1944, the division was involved in a torturous pendulum of assault and retreat through farmers' fields

in St. Lo, about 120 miles west of Paris. It is remembered in the military histories as Hedgerow Warfare because of the high, thick hedges along the roads that fenced each field and made advances costly.

"There was a farmhouse with Germans inside," Vincent says. "They put up a white flag. My brother was suckered in. The Germans shot him with machine guns." The fighting resumed. The house was taken a few hours later. There were 11 German soldiers inside.

"We didn't take prisoners," Guglielmino says. "It was bad."

Guglielmino buried his brother three times. Once on the battlefield behind secured Allied lines. Once in a cemetery in France. And in 1948, he brought the body back to the United States and buried it in the Long Island National Cemetery in Pinelawn. He could have come home after his brother was killed, but Guglielmino turned down the offer. "I wanted revenge. I was a little crazy. I wanted to go behind the lines. They sent me a couple of times, and I did good." Behind the lines, a soldier doesn't use firearms. It attracts too much attention. He kills with his hands, or a knife, or a blackjack.

Guglielmino was wounded five times. He received the Silver Star.

"I came home an alcoholic. I was a year in the hospital." He doesn't drink anymore.

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**How Mike Bish of Pittsburgh, Pa., Saved the Life of Mike Lasalandra of Stamford, Conn., on Feb. 22, 1943:**

Mike L.: "We both got wounded by shrapnel at the Kasserine Pass (in Tunisia) and they put us in an ambulance to take us to the aid station."

Mike B.: "There was room for four stretchers in the ambulance, two stacked on each side, like bunk beds."

Mike L.: "On the way, we were strafed by German aircraft. Mike was in the top bunk. I was underneath him."

Mike B.: "I got hit in the shoulder. I took the bullet."

Mike L.: "If not for him being up there, I woulda got hit. He saved my life."

Mike B.: (Laughs.)

Mike L.: "No, really. He saved my life."

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*We used to sleep with our arms folded, a gun in one hand, maybe a knife in the other. If you wanted to wake somebody up, you kicked his feet. You touched him anywhere else, you might get killed. That's how it was.*

— **Former Pfc. Peter Uhl**  
39th Inf.

William C. Westmoreland was a lieutenant colonel in the Ninth Infantry Division at the start of World War II. At the end of it, he was a full colonel and the division's chief of staff.

For an ambitious soldier, it was a good division to be in. The Ninth was in every major African and European campaign: from Casablanca to Tunisia, to Sicily, then up to Normandy, where it landed on Utah Beach on D-Day plus 4, pushed through France into Belgium, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and finally battled its way through Germany, where it met the Soviet army at the Elbe River.

Westmoreland has been to a dozen meetings of the Ninth Infantry's veterans association, and the men like him for it.

His presence doesn't strike anyone as incongruous. He is, after all, of their generation: a military professional who just happened to reach the top of his ladder in time for an American debacle. He's Westy. He was at El Guettar, Utah Beach, the Bluge, the Elbe. Vietnam. Next question.

On the Sunday of the march and memorial service — a clear, cold, leafless autumn day, colorless except for a blue sky — the general is late. He pulls up in his car in time to make a dash for the head of the line and to take his place behind the color guard, beside Father Connors.

He is in a good mood. He waves to some familiar faces, including Guglielmino's ("Westy! Westy!" cries Guggy from his place in the line); and he jokes with Father Connors: "Got here just in time to push you up the hill, eh Father?"

Standing later with the men for a brief ceremony at the war memorial, he wears a white raincoat, brown gloves, black shoes shined to military gloss. He is tall, gray, with thick dark eyebrows, deep creases around the mouth and a sharp nose: a face that might have inspired the word "hawk."

"I try to come to these meetings whenever I can," he says afterwards between politician-perfect handshakes with scores of men. "This was my first wartime command."

He is asked if he attends similar meetings among Vietnam veterans. "Some," he replies, turning to give his autograph to a man who says it's for his wife.

But there are not as many reunions among Vietnam veterans, he continues.

Is that because the two wars were so different? he is asked.

"There was no difference, in the minds of the fighting men ...," he says, sternly, emphatically. It's simply because "... in World War II the men remained in the same organization for the duration of the war. In Vietnam, there was a tremendous turnover." End of interview.

Introducing him at a luncheon later that day, Father Connors praises Westmoreland as the Vietnam commander who "fought not only an enemy, but indifference and opposition in his own country ... a man who believes in America ... and opposes atheistic communism."

The applause is rich and warm.

"Westy had some bad luck with Vietnam," says John Dolak, who is sitting with his wife under a small tree in the hotel lobby. "All that guerrilla stuff, they don't teach that at West Point," says Dolak, a former rifleman. "And there was drugs in Vietnam. We didn't have that. We had liquor, sure. A lot of it. But no drugs, thank God."

But, he is told, Westmoreland says the two wars were basically the same, in the mind of the fighting man.

"It was the same in one sense. When a soldier comes home, everything is different. People don't speak your language. Where we were, everything was blacked out all the time, people were starving, begging for food ... You came back and everything was wide open, lights on everywhere, people having fun. It's a shock."

He never got used to it. After the war, he enlisted in the Air Force. He retired in 1963 as a master sergeant.

His war buddy, 68-year-old Max Umansky of Queens and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., butts in to the conversation, which, it develops during the weekend, is his favorite mode of entry into most conversations.

"I never had no trouble coming back," says Umansky, a trim, bald man in a gray polyester suit and green, open-collared, flower-print shirt.

"I was happy to come back. In the infantry, you live like a dog, like a pig. Just staying alive is a miracle. When I came back, my friends wouldn't let me pay for a beer for six, eight months. It was great," he exclaims.

He was wounded a lot.

"I got hit in Sicily, and I came back and I got hit in El Guettar, in Africa, and when I came back the third time they assigned me to headquarters. Me and Eisenhower. Then they made me a rifle instructor ..."

Dolak butts in, back: "Max, you got hit in El Guettar first, then Sicily. 'Cause we didn't even go to Sicily until we got through in Africa."

"Right," says Max. "That's what I love about these reunions. You fight the war again. Every time it's a little different."

As a rifle instructor, what did you teach the recruits that wasn't in the manuals? Max is asked.

"Little tricks to stay alive ... Mainly you taught from the book, but you'd add little touches of your own." Like what? "I can't remember them anymore."

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*The Ninth was good ... It kept tenaciously on the enemy's neck. When the Germans would withdraw a little, the Ninth was right on top of them.*

— **War Correspondent**  
**Ernie Pyle, 1941**

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For a month after the Allied landing at Normandy, the staff worked around the clock in the emergency room at the American military hospital in Southampton, England.

Helen Holmes, a supervising nurse, recalls how "you slept on a cot for a half an hour and there'd be another batch of wounded to take care of." She was 26 years old then.

She is 62 now, still big and blonde, and still the one who can get all the men at the cocktail reception in the Marriott to start singing "I'm gonna buy a paper doll." Her arms are wrapped around the shoulders of two old friends.

"You know what?" she says. "We had fun, didn't we?"

Mrs. Holmes used to come to the meetings with her husband, Joseph Lagattuta, a Ninth Infantry soldier whom she met during the war. Since his death in 1977, she's been attending the meetings with her second husband, Al Holmes, a Navy veteran.

She's hard to miss, and has served as a sort of lightning rod of remembrance for more than one former soldier who came to a meeting and couldn't recognize anyone else.

One of them was William Canales, who immediately spotted her the first time he came to a reunion, back in 1970. She had been his nurse.

"You were the one who used to make me peanut butter and jelly sandwiches!" he had exclaimed.

"And you were the one," she had replied, "who used to always sing that song 'Roll Me Over in the Clover.'"

"Yeah," he'd said, a little abashed: it was a dirty song.

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Canales, a Mexican-American who was drafted out of high school in Woodside, had been sent in as a replacement during the battle for Cherbourg. He was wounded Sept. 6, 1944, at the Meuse River in Belgium.

He is reticent about his part. He was only "a replacement," he repeats several times, though it emerges that he was wounded twice, the second time during the Battle of the Bulge, when the German army made a stunning counterattack against the Allies' advance.

When he first heard about the reunions, he hoped he would meet the man he was wounded with at the Meuse. "He was a sergeant named Paul Segal. I was the radioman," says Canales, 58. "We had to go up on this hill together. We both knew something was going to happen. You feel these things."

A lot of men talk about that — the communion of fear — how they knew when something bad was going to happen.

"We got hit by a shell and the first thing Paul said was, 'Dammit, I knew it! I knew it!'" They were in the hospital three months, recovering from shrapnel wounds in their legs.

Canales finally met Segal at a reunion in 1975. After 30 years. "I saw him and I said, 'I know you! I know you!'"

Canales' wife remembers how the two men embraced, how they cried in each other's arms. "It made me cry, too," she says.

"With friends you make on the outside, it's different. It's different when you know a guy will die for you, and you'll die for him," Canales says.

The reunions have been good for Bill, his wife adds. "Before he started coming, he couldn't remember anything about the war. It was like a block, he never talked about it." (Bill was with Co. K, 47th)

There are too many stories to recount, each with a different date and time and a different twist of fate:

Joseph DeFini of the Bronx, finding his father's sister and her family in Cesaro, Sicily, starving, and bringing them all the Spam he could carry.

Sixty-five-year-old Peter Uhl of New Hyde Park, holding his position during a battle that lasted two weeks, during which no one could sleep and a few men cracked up.

Ed Maher of Patchogue, spending 18 months in a half-dozen hospitals, recovering from a bullet wound in his chest.

What all the remembrances add up to is hard to say. Death figures prominently in most of them.

But after death, the most common theme you hear over and over from the veterans of the Ninth Infantry Division — and, you'd guess, from veterans of any war — is that friendships made on the battlefield are special.

Father Connors says it has something to do with the plumbing of the psyche — how a group of people facing death together, over and over, acquire certain insights about themselves and each other, and how it all boils down to a recognition of the fact that everyone's life depends on everyone else's.

Getting religion on the battlefield, maybe.

Or just the way it is, this side of the abyss.

Most of the former soldiers at the 38th annual reunion didn't care to analyze it. They are the best of old friends now, though they may see each other only once a year or every couple of years. And every year there are a few faces missing.

"I was waiting for a buddy of mine from Trenton, but he didn't show up," says Maher. "He didn't show up last year, either." It seems unnecessary to ask why Maher doesn't call.

As they do every year, the old soldiers end their weekend meeting in Worcester with a round of "Auld Lang Syne," sung with arms draped around each others' shoulders, lifting cups of kindness all around, marshaling a softer version of that old esprit de corps.

The generation that saved the world for democracy the second time around is dying off, or retiring and moving to Florida.

"But I expect we'll keep doing this," says Father Connors. "To the last man."

The Newsday newspaper of Long Island, New York featured the above story of the Worcester Memorial Service held on November 7, 1982. Permission was granted to the Association to reprint the article. A special thanks to Paul Vitello who wrote the story and to Don Jacobsen who supplied us with the pictures. It appeared in the Newsday Magazine section on December 19, 1982.

Co. K 47th Inf.  
GEORGE NICKLIN, M.D.  
6 Butler Place  
Garden City, L.I., N.Y. 11530

Newsday  
Long Island, N.Y. 11747  
Gentlemen:

Paul Vitello's article on the Ninth Division Association in the Sunday, December 19th Magazine Section was excellent. During World War II, I served with the Ninth and there was indeed a special aura that hung over this Division. We had no idea where we were going or what we were doing except that we knew we were in the very heart of fighting the war.

When I joined the Ninth Division as a replacement in "King" Company, 47th Regiment, they were the nearest Allied unit to Berlin. The Germans were intensely counter-attacking against this spearhead. Replacements were routine. In the four months I was with the Unit — we held off the counter-attacks to break into the Aachen area where we had surrounded 250,000 Germans. We attempted to take Cologne. We held the North hinge of the Bulge and kept it from swinging further into Belgium and after the Bulge, we again launched the Battle of the Rhineland.

The Division was the Division that, after crossing the bridge at Remagen, as the first Division to follow the Ninth Armored Division across that bridge, we went on to make contact on the far side of the Elbe River with the Russians. Before Remagen, I was shot and spent the rest of the war in the hospital. But after making contact with the Russians and being pulled back across the Elbe, the Division then went to Dachau where while maintaining a very low profile they nurtured the surviving Concentration Camp victims for three years, until the last of them were placed in other countries.

The experience turned my life around, made it possible for me to become a physician and psychiatrist and ultimately to be highly instrumental in sparking the formation and idea of the Friends World College, whose spirit I would say definitely came out of my exposure to the Ninth Division fighting in the Rhineland and the Battle of the Bulge.



Herman Rahn of Company G 47th Infantry sends this photo of Theodore Perry of Athens, Pennsylvania, taken in Fort Bragg in 1940 at Tent City. Perry was killed in France in 1944.

#### Writing on Normandy Campaign

I am a researcher working for Max Hastings and I am just writing to confirm our telephone conversation on Saturday.

He would be very grateful if you would publish the following paragraph in your next issue of The Octofoil, which I understand will reach members sometime in January. It would be helpful if you could stress that veterans should write to him immediately as he is planning to visit the States in February or March and he must set up some sort of itinerary.

"I have been commissioned by publishers in Britain and the U.S. to write a new study of the Normandy campaign for publication on the 40th anniversary in June 1984. I would be very glad to hear from survivors of the campaign, giving details of rank, unit and service, with a view to conducting interviews in the U.S. early in 1983. Max Hastings, Guilsborough Lodge, Guilsborough, Northamptonshire, England."

What he really needs are the names, addresses, telephone numbers of survivors, what unit they were in, where and when they landed and what they did (very briefly) and anything that makes them specially memorable — if they were wounded, for instance.

Thank you in advance for your help and Max Hastings will be in touch with you when he arrives in the States.

Yours sincerely,  
Deirdre Chappell

P.S. My address is 30 Fernshaw Road, London, SW10 0TF, England, should you yourself have any queries. The veterans should write to him in Northamptonshire.

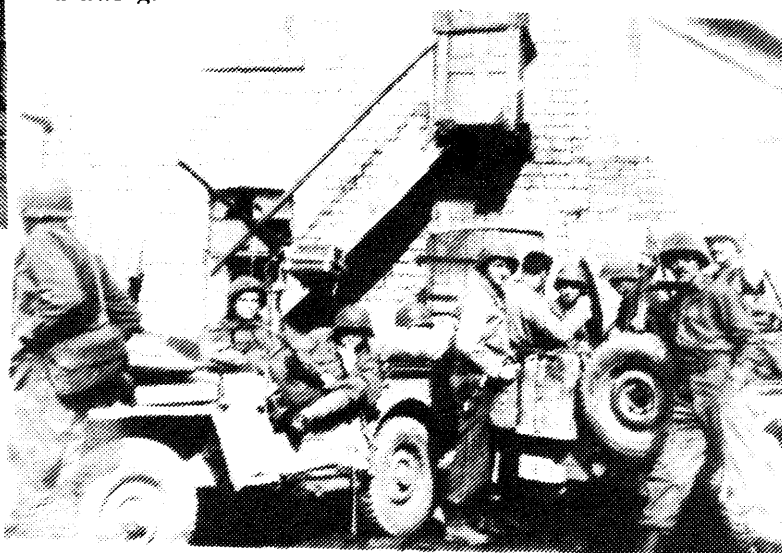
Co B, 39th Inf.  
A.J. SEASOCK  
2795 Crestwood Rd.  
Smyrna, Ga. 30080

Enclosed dues for 3 years, plus some for the Scholarship Fund. Enjoyed the Fayetteville reunion and a job well done. All responsible with the planning, etc. of the reunion deserve an A plus from all that attended. God bless you and yours.



6-20-44 - Welcoming Norman villagers offering liquid refreshments during break on dusty road through Vallerolle. (Marvin choked after gulping down Calvados thinking it was water)

Marvin Levy of Company A 60th Infantry supplies us with this drawing. A story appears in mail call concerning the drawing.



Members of the I and R platoon, 47th Infantry in a photo taken on March 18, 1945, eleven days after the crossing of the Remagen Bridge. The story appears in Mail Call.



Members of the Association gather at the Michigan-Illinois outstate meeting, held in Angola, Indiana on October 23, 1982.

709 Ord.  
ROBERT DEFFENBAUGH  
1270 - 18th Ave. N.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601

Having received the Octofoil for sometime now I really enjoy it. I read it through several times before I receive the following issue. Sorry I didn't come to the reunion at Ft. Bragg. I live only 180 miles away and I should have gone because I see where Robert Spencer was there from the 709 Ord. I have a son-in-law who is in the Special Forces, a Warrant Officer and helicopter pilot. I go to Bragg quite often because I also have a grandson there. I'm thinking of contacting some of the boys who were in the 9th and live here in N.C. Anyone from the 9th is a friend of mine.

60th Inf. F Co.  
FLAKE FORD  
Rt. 2 Box 10  
Ashland, Ms. 38603

Am sending my dues in for 3 more years, should get me into 1986. I enjoyed the reunion at Ft. Bragg very much and the dedication. Although it was wonderful it was also a sad occasion for me, because of remembering my Buddies that did not make it back from F Co.

It was wonderful to see my old buddies and their wives. I enjoy the Octofoil very much and I hope to see all of you next reunion.

Co F, 47th Inf.  
EARL WILKEY  
402 Calhoun Ave.  
Rome, Ga. 30161

I have belonged to the 9th for six years and made 4 reunions. Believe me they get bigger and better. 40 years and then come back to Bragg, that tops them all! To see my buddies from F Co and my new friends from the great Ninth is something I look forward to each year now. I thank you and Marie for what you do to hold this great association together. To me you are both Five Star Generals! Merry Christmas and God Bless.

Co B, 39th Inf.  
LUTHER WILSON  
124 Earlean Ct.  
Richmond, Ky. 40475

I was in B Co. 39th Inf. from 1940 to 1945. I and all the members of the 9th appreciate the wonderful job you do as the Secretary of the association and the Octofoil. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and all the gang of the 9th.

1983 Reunion  
July 21, 22, 23

### 26th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION Reporting:

On Sunday, November 7, 1982, Fr. Connors celebrated a Memorial Mass for the troops especially for the 4581 men who made the supreme sacrifice while serving with the Ninth Infantry Division during World War II. A micro-film containing the names of Ninth men who did not return from Vietnam is resting in our monument along with the 4581 names of men who did not return from Africa and Europe.

#### Where Were You?

Think back 40 years to November 7, 1942. Where were you? I was leaning on the rail of the Excellor of the American Export Lines. This ship was in the harbor in Algiers. Were you a member of the 47CT waiting for something to happen at a place called Safi? Then there was the 60CT waiting anxiously in the harbor at Port Lyoutey.

November 7, 1982 was a beautiful day. It was so nice that man with all of his scientific knowledge could not duplicate. The sun was bright in a beautiful blue sky which was made more beautiful with dainty white clouds. As is customary in New England at this time of the year the weatherman promised a chill breeze which was not too uncomfortable.

The parade is very much a part of our Memorial Service. The Colors flying in the breeze, the Honor Guard from the Worcester Police Department, a marching band plus a column of over 200 men reminded everyone of their days in basic training of learning to march. The boys learned well.

#### Church Was Filled

The Mass was concelebrated Mass. When the celebrant of this Mass, who is always Fr. Connors, is assisted by two other priests, then the Mass is referred to as being concelebrated. The Church was filled. As the Honor Guard marched up the main aisle to post the Colors a certain stillness became noticeable. The Ceremony had begun. Fr. Connors starts reading the Mass from the Missal. Wherever you go to Mass in this country you will hear the same words and see the same Consecration as Fr. Connors is doing. The congregation by their attention and devotion is showing its respect and sympathy for those 4581 men who did not return.

The present pastor at Immaculate Conception Church again offered his Church to Fr. Connors and to us for a Memorial Mass during 1983. The offer was accepted. Make a notation somewhere in your home or place of business that you will not miss our Memorial Mass which might be held on Nov. 6, 1983.

#### On Television

If you missed the Mass in 1982 you missed being on Television. Yes, a four member crew started at the fire station to catch the start of the parade. It took several shots of the parade before reaching the Church. Several pictures were taken inside the Church, at the Memorial Service at our monument, and at the hotel. Their pictures were shown on Evening Magazine, Chanel 4, W B Z Boston at 7:30 p.m. on November 11th.

#### Here 'N There

GERARD LEONE was really disappointed. He was the only representative of Hdqtrs 26FA attending the Mass. DICK ROGERS called from Whitefield, N.H. He was unable to be present and wanted to be

remembered to all of the gang. Mrs. Julie Mischler sent a note saying that her husband Chesley, died during the month of August. ED NELSON has joined MILT PARROTT as a permanent member of the Cape Cod community of Centerville. BOB WARNER is a much better looking eligible bachelor than those selected in a most recent contest held in Boston. JOHN BABBITT will never again be 1A but so far this year he has not seen his doctor too many times.

The trio of GIL PERNOKOS, DAN MAZEIKA and HENRY CAPPELA continue to wait for support from other members of "B" Battery. CONNIE MATULIS, TOM BOYLE, JIM HENNELLY and MIKE SCIPPARPA were in Worcester. Tom has a part time job which he likes very much. Jim likes retirement very much. Both men retired from the Boston Postal System. JOE ALBANESE retired last July. ELMER ROSCOE has cut short his work week. JOHN MURRAY and his wife, Dorothy vacationed in Alaska last summer. HARRY FRY and his wife Dorothy, have already made reservations to be in Worcester during November, 1983. BILL BONGIORNO looks well, he is enjoying life. JOHN QUINN has had no serious health problems this year but he must be careful. November 1982 was the first time in his 65 years that JIM DANIELS ever visited New England. He chose the right time because he really enjoyed our Memorial Mass. On November 9th Jim was to leave Worcester, head north for the great state of Maine. In the City of Randolph he had hoped to see DALE GUION who was an original 9th man from tent city. His next plan was to cross New Hampshire into Vermont. He tried to see as much of Beautiful New England as he could before heading for North Carolina to see his mother. Then it was back home to Los Angeles. PERGI and his wife Louise should be home from China by early December. PAUL FRIBUSH called to say that MANNY EFFRON died during August. ARTHUR SHEFFLER died during June.

As with all gatherings of any kind someone will attend and not be recognized. If you were a member of 26FA and present and your name is not mentioned above, I am sorry. There was just too much going on for an experienced journalist.

#### Take Care of Yourself

Take care of yourself. Do a little exercise, get plenty of rest. Save your money for those important days of July 21, 22, 23 when Detroit is expecting you. Worcester will be expecting you on or about November 6, 1983.

Joe McKenzie

95 Washington Ave.  
Waltham, Ma 02154

Most worries are reruns.

Co G, 39th Inf.  
RICHARD SCHAFER  
5117 Barley Dr.

Stephen City, Va. 22655

Not a whole lot new at Stephen City. I see Jim Keller when I go to Winchester. Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to all the members and their families. Enclosed is my 1983 dues.

1st Bn Hqs, 47th Inf.  
LINUS DZIEMBOWSKI  
381 Providence Rd.

S. Grafton, Ma. 01560

Was unable to attend the Memorial Mass in Worcester due to health, first one missed in years. Enclosing check for 3 years dues. Season Greetings.

### Florida Gators

The 4th meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association (Florida Chapter) was held over the weekend of October 22nd and 23rd, 1982 at the Daytona Hilton Hotel in Daytona Beach, Florida. Phil and Barbara Berman of that area made all the arrangements for us.

There were 43 people in attendance from almost every section of Florida.

Those in attendance were: Pappas, Santos, Johnstone, Deresh, Scotto, Radichio, McDaniel, Trahey, Berman, Rago, King, Vanderpoel, Richardson, Hulslander, McLaughlin, Mullens, Williams, Ray, Vascoe, Lelak, Mellinger, Shankman, Johnson and Pope. We had several members and their wives attending for the first time, and were signed up as Florida Chapter members.

#### Informal Get Together

Friday night, we started off with an informal get together in the Pappas C.P. and, if you can believe this, no bull was thrown around because, as far as I know, all of our 9th Div. guys are straight forward, no nonsense, honest talkers and peace loving gentlemen. Dinner was enjoyed at Steve's, a beautiful dining room about 2 blocks from our hotel. Back to C.P. Several of the ladies brought hot appetizers besides chips and dips, plus fresh vegetable strips, olives, cheese, etc. No one went hungry.

Saturday noon a meeting was held to pick a place for our April 1983 get together and the Jacksonville, Fla. area was chosen in place of Fort Myers. Volunteers from that area are taking care of arrangements.

#### Bid for 1985 Reunion

Henry Santos stated that he and his wife were going to attend the Memorial meeting in Worcester, Mass. and our membership asked Henry to submit to the Board of Governors that we be considered for the 1985 open national reunion with a tentative spot at Orlando, Fla. area.

Saturday night we had our usual banquet-style dinner in a private dining room at the Hilton and all 43 people were there. After dinner, Henry Santos showed slides of his trip to Sicily and Rome, which we all enjoyed. We then returned to the C.P. for refreshments and more snacks. Four-couples went on to D&J lounge for an old fashioned sing-a-long. The two piano players and singers used music from the 40's and 50's which we all remember. It was a really nice friendly atmosphere as all of the people there were in our age group and everybody joined in on all of the tunes. We almost forgot this is the second time the rain cancelled our daytime plans for the entertainment of the ladies.

#### Goodbyes Over Breakfast

Most everybody said their goodbyes over breakfast on Sunday morning, and pledged their best to meet at our April meeting. As we left the hotel, on our journey home, my wife, Beryl, and I stopped at the Ormand Beach home of Jack McDaniel and wife, Clara for more social time and dinner at local steak house. Thanks a lot, Jack and Clara for a good time, and you can bet we take time out to see you in January, God willing.

#### April Meeting

For all of you 9th Division reliable who are planning to be in Florida in April or the rest of the folks now living in Florida, be sure to watch for the time and place of our April meeting

### A VISIT TO NORTH AFRICA OCT. 1983 FOR THE 9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

The response of those who expressed interest in a return to the sites of our campaigns in North Africa and Sicily overwhelmingly indicated a shorter trip and by implication a reduction in price. This has lead to a revision of the itinerary which eliminates Sicily and Rome and reduces the price perceptibly, in a large part due to a more attractive airfare as well as a reduction in the number of days.

A brief resume of our present plans is as follows:

Fri. Day 01 Kennedy departure using Iberia Airlines of Spain via Madrid.  
Sat. Day 02 Arrive Casablanca and transfer to Safi for overnight.  
Sun. Day 03 Morning free to visit sights of Safi, lunch before departure for Marrakech.  
Day 4 & 5 In and around Marrakech  
Wed. Day 06 Marrakech - Fez with lunch en route.  
Day 7 & 8 In and around Fez and Meknes  
Sat. Day 09 Fez - Rabat  
Sun. Day 10 In and around Rabat; visits to sites of interest to 9th Infantry Division.  
Mon. Day 11 Transfer to Casablanca airport and flight to Tunis. Proceed on arrival to Bizerte.  
Tue. Day 12 Visit to battle sites in vicinity of Bizerte.  
Wed. Day 13 A long day touring the route of the 9th Infantry Division; overnight at Kariouan.  
Thur Day 14 Visits of battle sites Thala, Kasserine, El Guettar, Sene Station, etc., returning to Kariouan for overnight.  
Fri. Day 15 Kariouan to Tunis.  
Sat. Day 16 Sightseeing in and around Tunis.  
Sun. Day 17 At leisure in Tunis.  
Mon. Day 18 Depart Tunis for return to New York via Madrid.

#### CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY:

##### Included:

- \* Trans Atlantic Economy Coach airfare.
- \* Surface by private motorcoach throughout Morocco and Tunisia.
- \* Local tour escort (courier) in each country.
- \* Twin bedded room with private bath throughout.
- \* Single rooms at additional supplement.
- \* Breakfast and dinner daily.
- \* Selected lunches as specified in final itinerary.
- \* Comprehensive sightseeing.
- \* Special events where possible.
- \* All service charges, local taxes and gratuities to escorts and drivers.

Boardman F. (Woody) Lockwood will accompany the trip at his own expense.

The tour operator will be Allied Travel, Inc. of New York in conjunction with Moroccan and Tunisian operators and government tourist agencies. Airfare \$795.00 per person; land cost at \$1,181.85 per person for 20 paying; \$1,067.55 per person for 20 paying; single supplement \$180.00.

Our detailed itinerary will be cheerfully furnished on request while a \$200.00 per person deposit will insure space on the trip. Should a decision be reached that it is not feasible to operate the trip, this deposit will be refunded in full.

Boardman F. (Woody) Lockwood  
DAVIS JACOBS TRAVEL SERVICE  
240 Trumbull Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Yes, I/we are interested in participating in this tour.  
Please send detailed itinerary to:

Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Former 9th Infantry Division Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

and do your best to show up. We want this Florida Chapter to grow and grow. More and more of our members are reaching the retirement age and moving to the land of fun and sun. Oh, yes, we will also be electing new officers for the year 1983-84 in April. Come one! Come all! and do your part.

#### Sincerest Regards

My sincerest regards to all of my old Illinois Chapter friends, for Beryl and I miss your good party times. Hi to Georgia and Bob Winkleman, the Belmontes, the Clarks, and all the rest. Would like to hear from all of you.

Also, on Saturday afternoon, our ladies had a similar meeting and organized an auxiliary in another room. Just to aid the husbands and keep open lines of communication. They're pretty good at that. Homemade goodies added a great deal to the C.P. Officers chosen were Mrs. Robert

Pappas, Pres., Mrs. Henry Santos, Vice Pres., Mrs. Bruce Johnston, Treasurer and Mr. Pete Radichio, Secretary.

Robert E. Pappas  
President Fla. Chapter  
738C-518-Box 175  
New Port Richey, Fla. 33552  
1-814-847-6607

Co D, 47th Inf.  
EMERSON GROSS  
7515 Miller Dr.  
Bath, Pa. 18014

I just fought the biggest battle of my life, WW2 was a piece of cake. I am recuperating from 5 bypass heart surgery. During catheterization of my heart before the operation, my heart stopped twice and after the operation I had bad times. I am home now and getting stronger each day. The Good Lord and good doctors and prayers from family and friends did the trick. I am not ready for the big association in the sky yet.



# mail call

continued

84th F.A. HQ Btry  
HAROLD FREDERICK  
16 West End Ave.  
Freeport, N.Y. 11520

I am still hanging in there, my legs in winter weather are no good. I missed the Memorial Mass as I can't travel too far. Please give my regards to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Hq. Btry 60th FA Bn  
DAVID ELWAY  
4221 Elrancho Dr.  
Allison Park, Pa. 15101

I am sending my dues for 3 years because I want to continue receiving the Octofoil. I enjoy reading it but feel bad when I read of the passing of my former comrades. We are all getting up in years and recall the years that have passed and many fond memories of our Buddies. I want to thank you and all the officers of the division past and present for the wonderful job they have done and are doing. Please use the enclosed for the Memorial fund. May everyone enjoy the Holidays and continued good health and success.

I Co. 47th Inf.  
GORDON MORK  
1407 N. Oakhill Ave.  
Janesville, Wi. 53545

After an absence of over 30 years, I am enclosing membership dues for 3 years. Being retired now, I can reflect more on the past. I placed an inquiry in the VFW and DAV magazine for a copy of the book "The Raiders," the history of the 47th. A book that I had at one time but lost. Received correspondence from all over the country and the only resource I have left is to write to you Dan. I believe I got the book from the 9th in the first place. Would you please advise me how to get the book if they are still around. Thank you. After my inquiry appeared, I received a call from a Lyle Kitchen in my home town here and he had the book. Come to find out he was my back door neighbor 25 years ago for about a year. Never got acquainted as our work made it that way. He was a member of the 3rd Bn also. Since I talked to him about the association he has joined and I am now reading his copy of the Octofoil. I gave him my book 8 Stars to Victory which he had not seen before. I became a member of I Co a couple of days after El Guettar and left in August 1944 near Mortain, France. Nice to read of William Tanner in Octofoil as he was my platoon leader at that time. 1st platoon, I co. Attended a reunion in Chicago about 1950. Did not meet anyone I knew by name, only Gen. Eddy. Did not get acquainted with too many, only those in my own Co or platoon, which is just as well, because most of them never returned to the Good Old USA. These are the people I think of. Everything is fine in this part of the country and plan on going to Texas again this winter. Why not? I am RETIRED!

2nd Pl. Co B, 746 Tank Bn  
KEITH MCLEAN  
P.O. Box 207  
Summerland Key, Fl. 33042

Enclosed 3 years dues. I was attached to 2nd Bn, 60th Inf., Matt Urban and Hardige's (Hardtack) battalion and originally joined the division association when transferred to Div Hq at the end of 1945. Regards to all the old comrades.

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

Sending in dues for 3 years. Sure hate not making the reunion at Bragg, maybe after I retire it will be possible. I made a fast trip to Florida back in August and met Spencer Norwood and his wife, Wanda Lee in Sarasota. Hadn't seen him since I departed for hospital at Dessau, Germany in 1945. We had a wonderful time. Talked about our war days and our old comrades in the I&R platoon that we have lost contact with. I'm sending a picture, Norwood sent me the negative so I had some made. It was 11 days after we crossed the bridge at Remagen, March 18, 1945. We were either taking a break or getting ready for another patrol. Time does things to my memory, it's only been 37 years! I remember 5 in the picture besides myself, Spencer Norwood in jeep to left with Frenchy the driver. Jeep to right, Lawrence Martin with tommy gun leaning on rear spare, over my back is Bob Kinkoph, driver David Brower, Pete Smalley talking to someone with helmet off, the other 2 I don't recognize. I really enjoy the Octofoil and keep looking for some more buddies from the 47th I&R platoon. I've lost contact with all but 4 members but plan on a visit in summer to see the remaining 3. I want to say, Dan, you sure do a fine job keeping the association together. Hope to hear from some members of 47th I&R platoon. Thanks and good luck to all.

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

Do hope this card finds you and yours in good health and that things are going real good for you. I am doing O.K. for an Ole Goat in his middle 70's! Wearing out a little here and there. Here it is the holidays again, the time sure does go by too fast, especially when we get over 39! Sure hope the coming year will bring better employment and business conditions everywhere, things sure are not good anyplace. I hope to get to the Detroit reunion if things go O.K. So much can happen nowadays, so do not let anything surprise us. Must sign off for now so keep well and take care of yourself and have a real good holiday season.

47th Inf. Hq. Co. AT Plt.  
HOWARD FITZPATRICK  
2 Overdale Dr.  
Louisville, Ky. 40229

Enclosed find dues for 3 years membership. My wife and I enjoy reading the Octofoil. Sorry we couldn't make the reunion this summer, as my brother passed away. But maybe next year. I still live at 2 Overdale Dr., Louisville, Ky. and am retired from General Electric after working there for 26 years. We have 2 grandsons which are twins and they keep me plenty busy taking them fishing. Also my son, who is 25, really shows me up when it comes to hunting. I was with the 47th from Ft. Bragg to the landing in Safi, Africa, England, France, Belgium and stopping at the Elbe river in Germany where we met the Russians. I will never forget seeing the thousands of Germans coming through our lines to surrender. It was a wonderful sight to see and knowing the war was just about over. I would like to hear from some of my buddies who were with me. Keep up the good work, Dan, that you are doing for the association.

B Co, 15th Engrs.  
RICHARD C. McGRATH  
2856 W. 85th St.  
Chicago, Il. 60652

Though it's been some time since the Ft. Bragg reunion the fond memories remain with me. The "Southern Hospitality" sticks in my mind. The 82nd troops were so good in providing a luncheon, entertainment, and a good atmosphere for the Memorial. It was so different than the "Town Pump" scrapes that Lindsey Nelson had us laughing about. Watching the demonstrations by the paratroopers made you proud to be an American. Those young men gave you the good feeling that there's not much wrong with this country. If you are alone at the reunions, you feel the generosity that others show you. My sincere thanks to the Rankin's for showing me what "Southern Hospitality" means. We had a good time at the golf outing and although it was hard to remember the past as it used to be, we enjoyed the drive around the area. I also feel good about the time shared with Jim Mullen and Fred D'Amore. A look back when you can sort out only the good things to remember. Jim and Fred helped me do that and I appreciated that. The 15th Engineers were well represented with the 3 ex-company commanders, Rankin, Clevidence and Cowling. Also our ex 1st Sgt. of B company Lt. Bowman and many enlisted men. We missed many of you out there and hope more engineers show up at Detroit. Hope you are listening Charlie Hoffman, Tony Maddona, Allie Ferrante, Bill Davidson, Jerry Shea and any others who read the Octofoil. I realize most of you guys get together at the Memorial Mass and we who are so far away from Worcester envy you. At my first reunion in Hyannis I was lucky enough to meet Fr. Connors and at Fort Bragg I was fortunate to personally meet Dan Quinn. Also met Gen. Westmoreland and John Clouser. It's easy to understand why the 9th Association has been so active and strong for all these years with such stout leadership. I was deeply sorry to hear of Fr. De Laura's death. He was a man for his time. His bravery under fire and joking way of keeping up the spirits of his men will be in my mind forever. A vivid memory I have of him—one day when Jerry shells were being expressed in to our area, I think it was the Hurtgen Forest, he came bouncing in, standing up in an open jeep and singing the Notre Dame fight song. I add his name to all the fine departed men from our division that I pray for. Enclosed find a donation to the Fr. DeLaura Bell fund. Thanks to all the committees that worked to make the reunion the good event that it was, even to bringing good sunshine weather. I hope the warmth of this Christmas season surrounds you all and it will be a Happy New Year.

Hq. Co. 39th Inf.  
PAUL POTTS  
2100 Norton Lane  
Bedford, Ind. 47421

I am sending my 1983 dues and at the same time to wish all 39th members and especially Regt. Hq. Co. my best wishes for good health and happiness in the coming year. I retired from Gen. Mtrs. after 30 yrs. and 7 months and am in fairly good condition for 61 yrs. of age. Wishing all 9th members the best.

1983 Reunion  
July 21, 22, 23

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

A few short lines from the Golden West. The Queen and I are in good health at the moment. I hope and trust you and all the boys back there are well and happy. This is the time of the year when I am sort of down in the dumps. I think of Father Connor's reunion in Worcester and our annual Christmas bash in New York. I sure miss both these events. But most of all I miss you men of the New York Chapter. Live and enjoy and have a fond thought for us on the other side of these great United States. May you all have a Blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year. God Bless.

Anti-Tank 47th Inf. Reg.

The following letter was received by Joe Suarez from J.E. Clark, Jr.:

Dear Joe: I read your letter in the Octofoil and was delighted to know of your meeting with some of the old anti-tankers. I have been at several conventions with Howard and one with Chick. Howard is the prime mover of getting representation from our old company. One year we had the 2nd largest group from the 47th. F Co beat us out on numbers, not on quality. Harold Leigh was at the Ft. Bragg one and we had a good time talking. I do not plan to go to the Detroit one. Several of our guys live nearby: Walt Cottingham, Dan Adams, George Beaver, Charles Lingerfelt to name a few. I still have the Mothers Day card which you made for me in Sicily to send to my Mom. You will recall it had a 9th Division patch on the front, a beautiful job! I was in Europe during Nov. and visited some of our old areas. I rented a car in Brussels and drove to Liege, Verviers, (where we had a chateau for a CP), Zeifall, Eupen, Vicht, Mansbach and the Hurtgen Forest, also went to Stolberg and Aachen. With some effort I found a few folks I knew during the war. The landmarks are still there but it's difficult to find exact locations. I plan to go back if my health holds up. Wishing all a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. (Editor's note to Joe: Sorry printer can't make the card).

J-E Clark, Jr.  
P.O. Box 146  
Camden, S.C. 29020

60th Inf. C Co & Serv. Co.  
PAUL DRUMMOND  
122 Pier D  
Naples, Fl. 33942

Getting ready for the 38th reunion in Detroit, have never been to Michigan so it should be enjoyable. This will be my seventh consecutive, after missing the first 31! My buddies from the 60th hope to be there: J.G. Bomberg, Mike Deresh, Chuck Duling, J.W. Engel, G. Eggebrecht, John Kocay, Al Hodge, B. Smith, F. Mulcaster, A. Wilkens and hopefully Bob Carpenter and Tex Sanders from Texas. Contacted Bill Zonitsch up near Albany but too ailing to attend. Congrats to you for being so faithful, Dan.

Co. M. 47th Inf.  
JOHN F. YOUNG  
Star Rt., Box 33  
Sawyer, Okla. 74756

Would like to hear from men who sailed on USS Thomas Stone from Norfolk, Va. 10-18-42 landing at Safi, Africa, 11-8-42, especially Charles Thomas, Grady Peters, John R. Davis, Capt. Phillips, Bill Summers, James LeBar, Gerard Sullivan and Capt. Roosevelt.

47th Inf. C.O.  
BRIG. GEN. E.H. RANDLE,  
(USA RET.)  
503 Althea Rd Belleair  
Clearwater, Fl. 35516

The letter from Paul Segal in the last Octofoil struck a cord. I remember very well when the men from Camp Wheeler joined the 47th. As he said, "there were so many great guys in the 47th." He said, "I was wounded after crossing the Meuse River in France." I was wounded after crossing the Meuse River in France in World War I and I remember that day most clearly. There were great guys then too. I enjoyed the reunion at Fayetteville more than most. As usual, you had it so well organized. I don't know if we can get to Detroit or not, but I haven't given up hopes.

F Co. 60th Inf.  
GERALD TEACHOUT  
7475 La Palma, Suite 223  
Buena Park, Ca. 90620

Hope that you have the best holiday season and New Year. Fayetteville - Fort Bragg was certainly a rewarding experience. Our crowd sort of burst the seams of the facilities, but so good to see so many turning out. We are looking forward to the Westin at Detroit in '83. Best Wishes.

Co F, 47th Inf.  
JOSEPH AYLES,  
16 Old Sawmill Road  
Trumbull, Conn. 06611

Enclosed find a check to cover dues for three (3) more years, you have probably heard this statement before, however, "The reunion at Fort Bragg was terrific - thank you and Marie for your time and effort in making this a great organization."

Hq. Sp. Tr.  
ROGER SCHAEFFER  
1664 Sunset Ave.  
Akron, Ohio 44301

Fayetteville sure was great last summer! Saw so many of the guys and their wives and especially appreciated the ones whom we hadn't seen since the 1940's! Enclosed find dues for the next 3 years, don't want to become delinquent. Things are about as usual here. Mona (our 9th division friends usually call her "Bee") and I are still busy with our music, both playing and private teaching, although I retired from the Akron Public Schools as band director in 1975. Keep up the good work and best regards to you, your wife and all the 9th guys and gals!

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

Thank you very much for the information I received over the phone. Enclosed is a check for the Scholarship Fund. Sorry I cannot make Worcester this year. Lyl and I are doing OK healthwise. Do hope you folks stay healthy.

47th Inf  
EDWIN WISNIEWSKI  
7576 Gratiot Rd.  
Richmond, Mi. 48062

What a wonderful gathering! Seems to me the best we ever had! I enjoyed it and will miss being on the board when my term expires. Such wonderful people to meet with and discuss our past and future problems. I cannot understand why people have themselves elected to various posts and then refuse to attend.

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



## MAIL CALL

60th Inf. Co. A  
MARVIN LEVY  
2044 Ellen Drive  
Merrick, L.I., N.Y. 11566

I am a recent new member of the 9th Inf. Div. Assoc., but a veteran rifleman of the 9th in WW11 Normandy Campaign. I landed on Utah Beach June 13, 1944 as a 19 year old replacement. On June 15 I was assigned to Co. A, 60th Inf.

I was wounded and taken out of action on June 23, during an attack in the Flottmanville-Hague sector near Cherbourg. While recuperating in an Army hospital in England, I recorded my combat experiences with original drawings and V-Mail drawings. (I was an aspiring artist before entering military service.)

In the fall of 1982 I revisited Normandy with my wife, Barbara, to retrace my steps with my 38 year old sketches. This time I shot movies and still photos, with the idea of producing a 1984, 40th Normandy Campaign Anniversary book and TV film containing the old drawings and new photos. I was only able to cover part of my photo trip this time and intend to return to Normandy again to complete my pilgrimage.

Before I return, I would appreciate it if anyone from Co. A, 60th Inf. could help me document what platoon and squad I was in. (My military records were destroyed in a fire at the St. Louis Military Personnel Records Center.) The only names I remember from my squad is "Martinez" — our scout, from the southwest and possibly "Sgt. Robinson" — asst. Squad Leader. Both of them were wounded after me and we met in the same hospital in England. More information about my unit, names, places and dates during the period — June 15 to 23 would be of great help.

Today I am an art director with an advertising agency in N.Y.C. and am working on this project in my spare time. If, and when finished — and produced, I hope it will add another inspired proud "Oak Leaf Cluster" of recognition for the "Old Reliabilities" in the 1984 Anniversary Year of the Normandy Campaign.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

26th F.A.  
BRUNO ADAMIK  
5415 South Natoma  
Chicago, Il. 60638

Enclosed dues for three years.

While rummaging with my wife thru some of our old memoirs, I came across this old Christmas Card from 1941. I am sending you a Xerox copy, as you can see it is for HQ & HQ BTRY. It has a menu for the day, plus all the names of Personnel in the battery at that time.

I'm sending you this Roster hoping that you try to put it in the OCTOFOIL, to see how many of us are still around to remember that date, CHRISTMAS DAY FORTY-ONE YEARS AGO. Take care and Happy Holidays to all.

Winter is the time of year when your car won't start and your fuel bills won't stop.

## 1983 Reunion Detroit July 21, 22, 23

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

## 47th Inf. Med.

C. B. BAKER  
2001 Oakland Ave.  
Johnson City, Tenn. 37801

Have just finished writing to Major Roberts and decided to write to you. I know you will enjoy that considering all the mail you get.

I made a few pictures at the Fort Bragg Meeting Ceremonies that you are in, so I am sending you some. Hope you enjoy them. You probably have been "Showered" with photos, but I will take the risk.

I am sorry that I had to leave the Reunion Saturday morning, but I had to get back to work for the weekend. I am still running a pretty tight schedule.

I kept looking for Crowder (B Company Mess Sgt.), but he signed in after I had checked the B Company list in the lobby. I see from the Octofoil that he was there. I used to come around with Captain Larimer and Major Roberts to inspect the kitchens after the fighting was over. He used to give me some leftover apple pie in those days. After Spagnolia was rotated home, I got to go on the inspections to the First Battalion Kitchens. Always ran in to some goodies from time to time.

Was able to see several of my old friends in B Company 9th Medics. All our ambulances came from that unit, so I knew several of the drivers. Benton, Vaughn, Laubach, Wallace, Guilford, Shucas, Tony, Crone, Brown and Horn. All good men.

3rd Bn Hqs 39th Inf.  
MAXWELL KATZ  
8450 Sunrise Lakes Blvd.  
Sunrise, Fl. 33322  
Bldg. 51, Apt. 203

It has been quite some time since I corresponded with you, but I retired in 1980 and have been on the go ever since. I would like to send along happy and healthy seasons greetings to the members and their families of the 9th. Effective Jan. 1, 1983 my new address will be as above. Incidentally the Aug.-Sept. Octofoil in the Taps Sounded column had a topographical error. Anthony Kuczewski was with me 4½ years in the 3rd Bn. The best buddy anyone would want.

60th F.A. C Btry.  
ROSCOE SHIELDS  
2917 Sunset Circle  
Vernon, Tx 76384

Leola and I attended the reunion in Fayetteville and this was our first. I sure hope it won't be the last, because we had a good time. Nine men attended from C Btry and we enjoyed each other like long lost kin folk. We all plan to meet again next year in Detroit. I sure wish I could get some more to come. If anyone out there has the address of anyone from C Btry, write them or send me their address and I will write to them. The men from C Btry that attended were: Gerald Blackwell, N.C., Fred Duckett, N.C., Loren Hunt, Ill., Alfred Hause, Penn., Rory (Chief) Wilson, Ca., August Pegnalitti, Ohio, Bob Tate, Ky., and Phelps, Ohio. I failed to get Phelps' address, so if you see this in the paper, please write as I want to send you some pictures.

A Mistake proves that someone stopped talking long enough to do something.

1st Bn. Hq. Co. S-2, 39th Inf.  
WILLIAM KREYE  
2 Marymount Ct.  
Jackson, N.J. 08527

The Fayetteville reunion was an exciting, enjoyable, memorial affair with the 82nd Airborne and the 13th Airborne Corps putting on a great display, show and entertainment for the members of the 9th Infantry Division Association. It was a very impressive reunion which featured among other things the appearance of old wartime buddies and their families.

Most of my time was occupied by Frank Russo, that is "Fats" Russo and his lovely missus. We had two Frank Russo's in the 1st Bn. Hq. Co., 39th. Arthur Schneider, wire chief for the battalion, Nick Androvich and his missus, Charlie Warner and "Deadeye" Prossner occupied most of my time while we stayed at the Bordeaux Motel. I didn't get much time to spend with my guests for this convention B Co., 39th Infantry who are great guys. There were many men from the 39th. Peter Uhl, Sgt. from D Co. almost shook my hand off.

"THE PAWNS OF WAR," a history of the 9th Infantry Division, the 60th Infantry, the 47th Infantry, and the 39th Infantry as well as a biography of S-Sgt. Bill Kreye's adventures during WW II should be released soon by Vantage Press, Inc. The publication has been going on for too long a time. There has been many cuts, alterations, revisions and other delays but still, I believe it will be a good interesting book. When I know the exact details about it, I'll pass that info on to you.

I had this book published for many reasons. One of the main reasons has been the omissions from histories and war stories about WW II where some things have been missing. For instance, in the Sicilian invasion the 39th Infantry has been omitted. In the Cherbourg drive the 39th has been forgotten and they discredit what the 9th did in the Battle of the Bulge.

Keep up the good work Dan and Company. Best wishes to all.

C Btry, 34th FA  
JACOB KROLO  
2299 Sunset Circle  
Largo, Fl. 33540

I'm preparing to move to the above address just prior to the end of the year. Going through the massive chore, everyone does who has resided in one location for 30 years, to sift your possessions into the keep and discard groups, I found a photo. Now I can say a bit more than just a change of address. I forward same for the time you might need a bit to fill out an issue of the Octofoil. It's a difficult task you have undertaken and it's a wonderful job you have done. I can only identify my wife and myself in this photo taken in 1948 (I think) at the reunion in Philly. I remember getting the names of those at the table but it must be lost. In the lower right hand corner is my wife, Virginia, in striped dress, then myself. This is in a counter clockwise direction. If it were to appear in an issue of the Octofoil, someone may be able to identify himself if for no reason than to see how young he or she was and how handsome or beautiful they were in 1948! I sincerely hope you and your family are well and happy and I wish you all a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. I have been retired for 5 years now and enjoy every minute of it. (Former address: 18041 Oakley Ave., Lansing, Ill. 60438)

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.

F Co. 60th Inf.  
JOHN MILLER  
1511 Cochise Dr.  
Arlington, Tx. 76012

Had a great time at the convention at Ft. Bragg and as usual everything was well organized. Enclosed find dues for 3 years.

Well, here we are about to complete 1982 and the report of the Miller's is good, as it has been in the past.

Jean and I took a couple of vacations this year. We went to Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, B.C., Canada and had a great time! That's beautiful country up through there and I can truly understand why a number of people would find it grand to live in that part of the country. Our only problem was we didn't stay long enough. On the other side of the coin, we took another short vacation and went to the horse races in Louisiana. We went from there to Vicksburg, Mississippi; New Orleans, Louisiana; and back home to Arlington. I must say I don't think I've ever been in a dirtier place in my life than New Orleans!

Keith and I went on our usual deer hunt out on Bryson's ranch in Brady, Texas. We've never had such terrific luck on any other hunt. We went out Saturday morning, November 13, and by 8 o'clock we had shot four bucks! We decided to hunt for trophies that evening, and by 7 o'clock Keith had killed a 12 pointer and his friend from college had killed a 9 pointer. So what a day it was — six bucks bagged in one day!

Jean is pursuing her normal activities with the Arlington Women's Club, gourmet cooking, and fighting rezoning cases. She really gets pepped up on the rezoning cases. She solicits the neighborhood and sometimes gets up to 200 signatures to kill spot rezoning and other types of rezoning that could spoil our neighborhood.

Keith will complete his last year of college this June from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas. After five years of college, he will graduate with two majors and a minor.

I'm about ready to retire some time in the first quarter of 1983. I haven't decided the exact date at this time, but it looks like by the end of March I'll be on the retirement roles. However, you might be interested to know that I am thinking of going into a new venture now, something I've wanted to do for a long time—get back into the building business.

Hope this finds all of our friends near and far in the best of health and, from our house to yours, Merry Christmas!

B Btry, 60th FA  
JOHN MARSTON  
108 Norton Ave., No. 20  
S. Easton, Ma. 02375

Just a short note to notify you of my change of address effective Dec. 1, 1982. It will be as noted above. I am always bewildered by the lack of letters from former 60th FA members, especially Btry B buddies.

47th Inf Cannon & Serv. Co.  
W.R. McLAUGHLIN  
Box 33  
Red Oak, N.C. 27868

I want to say how much I enjoyed the reunion in Fayetteville. I met several men of service and cannon company which I served with. I went to G Co at Tent City and transferred to service company and when cannon company was formed I transferred to it. I left cannon company at Sicily to cannon company 15th Inf. and went to Italy. There are 6 of us living within 25 miles of each other. We had a reunion of our own in Tarboro, N.C. at John Robins home, Frank Jenkins, Melvin Stroup, John Davidson, Joe Parker, Arnold from Fayetteville and myself. We are planning another one at my home in February and if you know of anyone from service or cannon company within our area we would enjoy hearing from them, we are planning for Valentine day. If at anytime a book 8 stars to Victory can be obtained, I would like to have one. (Editors note: At this time no books are available.) I did not know the division association existed until March 1982. I would enjoy anyone from service or cannon company 47th contact me.

47th Inf. Co. G  
HERMON RAHN  
R No. 1, Box 310  
Pisgah Forest, N.C. 28768

I am late writing about how much I enjoyed my first reunion with the 9th division association. Words cannot describe it anyway. It was great to see all the men of the 9th and to see George Bako, Eddie Maher, Louis Rullen, Jack McDaniel and Irving Feinberg who I trained with at Ft. Bragg was just wonderful! I enjoyed making new friends, too. Grady Perry in Hampton, Fl. and Ernest "Tex" Byers in Longview, Texas were planning on attending but Grady's wife was sick and Tex had a heart attack, so they couldn't make it. Grady and Tex are old G company buddies. Grady, Tex and I had a little reunion in Florida in 1979. We had a great time and it was too bad they couldn't be at the reunion in Fayetteville because they trained at Ft. Bragg too. I am enclosing a check for a years dues and the rest for the Scholarship fund. We are proud of the job you and Marie do and depend on you. Thank you.

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

Hello Dan and all the 9th men wherever you are! Remember 40 years ago in Safi getting ready for the 200 mile hike to Port Layautey? Hope all had a nice Thanksgiving and Best Wishes for Xmas and the New Year. Best Wishes also to Bob Winkleman and Choma Case, to all M Co. cooks of WW 2 days and now wherever you are. May your hills be low and easy to climb.

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Culture is one thing, and varnish another.

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