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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, March/April 1983

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Volume XXXVIII / Number 2

Mar-April 1983

Father Connors Honored at Worcester St. Patrick's Day Parade



Father Edward Connors to whom the Worcester St. Patrick's parade was dedicated, and city Manager Francis McGrath watch the parade from the reviewing stand.

On Sunday March 13, 1983 the city of Worcester, Massachusetts held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 73 years and honored Rev. Father Edward Connors to whom the parade was dedicated. Father Connors who has been dubbed "Worcester's No. 1 Irishman," was riding in a Ninth Infantry Division jeep, the division with which he served as a Chaplain in World War 2. Father Connors said of the parade organizers (of which Fran Maher was one of) "They pepped up the whole city. I'm honored and embarrassed."

Francis Maher writes that Father Connors will conduct his Annual Memorial Mass and Services on November 6, 1983 in Worcester, Massachusetts. More details will appear in the next issue of the Octofoil.

ARE YOU DRIVING TO DETROIT

If you are driving to the reunion, it is easy to get to the Detroit Renaissance Center via the interstate freeways. For those coming on I-75, follow signs leading to the Civic Center Exit I-75 to I-35 (Chrysler Freeway). I-75 terminates at Jefferson Avenue with the Renaissance Center on your left as you exit. Stay in the left hand lane and turn into the Renaissance Center. Proceed to the hotel entrance on Renaissance Drive West for luggage drop-off.

For those driving across Canada to Windsor, the Detroit-Windsor tunnel exits right next to the Renaissance Center. If you cross the Detroit River on the Ambassador Bridge, connect with I-75 north, and follow the previous directions to the Civic center.

If you come from the West on I-94 or I-96, link up with I-75 and I-375 in Detroit by following signs to the Civic Center. For those crossing the Bluewater Bridge at Port Huron from Canada, take I-94 west to Detroit. Link up with I-75 and I-375 and follow the signs to the Civic Center.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has finally come to Morris Plains. We had one severe snow storm that left 28 inches of snow on my very long driveway. I couldn't do very much about it since I had an operation on my thumb (stenosing tenosynovitis). The doctor tells me that in a couple of months all should be OK again.

As you read this message, Molly and I hope that you are all in good health and ready to take on the summer in full swing.

I have received the goings on at various chapters and I can say that we are a very active organization. Received a letter from John Clouser recently and he stated that it was cold in Florida this winter. Come up north, John, and enjoy the sun with us. I have received many notes and postcards from our traveling membership.

Before long we will be heading for Detroit. The dates are July 21, 22 and 23. I am looking forward to greeting all of you. Don't forget to pre-register before going to Detroit. It makes it a lot easier for everyone. Be sure to include the full name for each strip ticket and your outfit.

Through this message I am asking each chapter to submit the name of a person to be honored at the convention. Send your selection to Dan Quinn. Also, will each chapter select the people for the various committees. Chairman of each committee will be selected at the Board of Governors meeting on July 21st.

Start packing your bags and may God be with us as we travel to Detroit.

Yours in Comrade-ship
Emil Langer
5 Brentwood Drive
Morris Plains, N.J.

In Praise of Reunions

This story appeared in the February 1983 issue of the VFW magazine. The Author, Tom Lavin had contacted the secretaries office a few times asking about the 9th Division reunions. Here's what Tom wrote:

By Tom Lavin

"...describing a reunion is like trying to tell someone who hasn't been there what combat is like — it's impossible. The days that fly by ... the parties, banquets, memorial service. What can't be described is what it is like to take part in all this with men like yourself ... the wonder of seeing a foxhole buddy after all those years..."

—Doc Waters, editor of Blue Devil, 88th Division newsletter.

During the years since World War II, my attendance at reunions of the 101st Airborne has been spotty at best. Then three years ago at a reunion in Nashville, I vowed never to miss another. In 1981 in San Diego came the big payoff — a meeting with two men of my own World War II squad.

The way Nashville hooked me on reunions partly explains why many units are attracting bigger crowds than ever, though the World War II fountainhead keeps receding into the distant past. I went because it seemed more practical than in former years, and I discovered that others found themselves in the same position. I was semi-retired; there was more time to travel; my kids were grown, and, most pleasant of surprises, the lure of meeting with World War II buddies proved stronger than ever.

Our Nashville attendance — 1,300 included families of the vets — was the biggest ever for the 101st, though the magic figure of 1,000 had been attained in other recent years. What is the fundamental reason for this continued interest and the strength of other World War II outfits?

To begin with, successful reunions wouldn't happen if some person or group of persons didn't care enough to keep contacts strong — this, plus pride in one's outfit, the same spirit that prevailed in wartime.

Anyone who attends a reunion for the first time, or attends the first in a long while, will surely have the same experience I had. You're in a dubious frame of mind right up to the moment when you sign your unit book, collect your I.D. badge, tickets to events and other paraphernalia.

You'll also be worried about your spouse or family members if they have accompanied you. This latter concern should be the least of your worries. Program chairmen generally take care of it for you and the trip usually proves to be a welcome vacation for the entire family.

But even before you meet anyone you know, all around you is enough activity, joyous greetings, charged comments like "why you old..." to get you into the right frame of mind.



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TO BE GUEST SPEAKER

We will be privileged to have as our Guest Speaker, Secretary of the Army, John O. Marsh.

Mr. Marsh was born in as Secretary of the Army in 1981. His responsibilities include: training, operations, administration, logistical support and maintenance, welfare, research and development, military and industrial preparedness, and overall effectiveness of the Army.

He was born in Winchester, Virginia, on 7 August 1926. After attending public schools in Harrisonburg, Virginia, he entered the United States Army and was commissioned at 19 from OCS in 1945. He saw duty with the United States occupation forces in Germany. He is also a graduate of Parachute School and Jumpmaster School at Fort Benning and holds Senior Parachutist wings.

In 1951, after World War II, Mr. Marsh received his LL.B. degree from Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. He was then admitted to the Virginia bar and began law practice in Strasburg, Virginia.

A four-term Congressman from Virginia's 7th District, he served in the United States House of representatives from 1963 to 1971. He was a member of the House Appropriations Committee. Choosing not to seek a 5th term, he returned to federal service in March 1973 as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

In January 1974, he became Vice President Ford's assistant for National Security Affairs, then Counsellor, with Cabinet Rank, to President Ford. He held that position from August 1974 to January 1977.

He served in the 116th Infantry Regiment, the 29th Infantry Division and the State Headquarters Detachment of the Virginia National Guard from 1951 to 1976, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Prior to his National Guard service, he was a member of the Army Reserve for four years. He also served for five years on the Board of Visitors to the Virginia Military Institute.

Mr. Marsh is married to Glenn Ann Patterson. They have three children.

1983 Reunion
July 21, 22, 23

PLAN YOUR VACATION IN MICHIGAN

Michigan, with its many lakes and streams, bordered by four of the five great lakes, has always been known as a great vacation state. Its many natural and man-made attractions make tourism a great summertime industry, especially the northern part of the state.

Since you are coming to Detroit for the reunion, why not spend additional days enjoying some of Michigan's well known attractions. The northwestern section of the lower peninsula around Traverse City, Charlevoix, Petoskey and Harbor Springs area is beautiful at any season of the year. Cross over the soaring Mackinac Bridge connecting the upper and lower peninsulas at the Straits of Mackinac. Take the ferry boat to picturesque Mackinac Island for a visit to this world renowned beauty spot. Visit the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie. Move on to the beautiful Tahquamenon Falls west of the Soo, and still farther west along Lake Superior, visit the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

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THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to
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Honorary Member Emeritus

Rev. Edward Connors

Board Member Emeritus

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.
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In Praise of Reunions

continued from page 1

And even if you don't meet anyone you know personally, the individual meetings, of units — regiments, battalions, batteries, companies or troops — generate a lot of reminiscing about the old days.

Something about a hotel seems made to order for a gathering of veterans. I have attended many business conventions, but a military reunion fits a hotel better than anything I know. Even as you wander through the lobby looking for someone you know personally, or at least someone from your regiment, battalion or company, you begin to enter into the spirit of the meeting. (If you had been with a unit that is still active, try to ignore the generals who are young enough to be your sons.)

In the literature of military action, there is not much about the feeling of brotherhood that develops in combat. And "brotherhood" is not too strong a word. Perhaps not strong enough. No one is closer to you than the man with a rifle alongside you who is engaged in the same job as you. That spirit hangs in the air in the hotel lobby.

In San Diego and again in Chicago last year, I had the keen pleasure of reviving old times with buddies. Ralph Winters and John Piane. The three of us once protected each other and that says it all.

To meet someone you haven't seen for many years (perhaps 30 or 40) is an emotional experience you are not likely to forget. It is strange, but at first you see only the changes — the wrinkles, baldness, pot belly and all that. Then, slowly, the personality and even the physical appearance of the old buddy emerges.

We recalled our experiences in England, then all the days of combat in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany. You find that you have forgotten much of it, but a few pitchers of beer and a friend like Piane of the Long Memory bring it all back. The smell of soft coal hanging over an English village in winter; the wet streets; "time gentlemen, please"; the fish and chips wrapped in the News of the World; the biting dampness on maneuvers, and then The Main Event, the greatest show on earth at that time, or any time since. And here you have a chance to re-live it, even the sadness over those who did not make it back.

And although there is always a formal ceremony for the dead, there are smaller memorials as the names of personal friends are mentioned across the beer glasses and morning coffee.

As you sit at a banquet table of stand at a bar in a hospitality suite, you hear about people, places and events recalled by others around you. You realize there are many mini-reunions within the larger one, a hundred true stories, and some nearly true, that you wish you could absorb. And there is this side benefit: You are expanding both your experience and your contacts with new potential friends, a double psychological boost.

Perhaps summing it up best is a letter sent by ex-GI Joe Suarez of Brooklyn to Octofoil editor Daniel Quinn of the 9th Division Association:

"I cannot put into words the great joy a fellow member of my outfit brought me when he called and we met. I was 25 again. He rounded up three others and the excitement of seeing each other after 40 years. Wow!"

Taps Sounded

There is no death
What we call death
is but a restful sleep

They wake not soon
who slumber so.

Therefore,
We mourn-we weep.

With profound regret and remorse
we record the passing of these
comrades and friends.

John "Duco" Boden
26th F.A.

Paul Dougher
Bty B, Bty 60th F.A.

Arthur J. Sullivan
M.P. & Co E 60th Inf

Arthur Paulus
15th Engs

William F. Haverty
Co A 15th Engs

John W. Santora
Co C 9th Med Bn

William B. Trafford

Robert Sullivan
M.P.

Harry Torah
60th F.A.

Daniel O'Rourke
Co A 15th Eng.

William Trafford
Co E 60th Inf

Mrs. Sally Stearns Brown
Red Cross

May they rest in peace. To Their
loved ones we extend our heartfelt
sympathy.

26th F.A.
MRS. MANNY EFFRON
924 Magee Ave. 1st Fl.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19111

Thank you so much for sending the Octofoil to me. Even though I am not a member, my husband, Manny, was a member for many years. He enjoyed visiting every year but now that he isn't here I like to read the paper. I am unable to travel as I have heart trouble. Got a wonderful letter and card from Fr. Connors. It was very nice he took the time to write me.

Div. Hq.
MRS. ROBERT BAR-
BAGALLO
516 Anderson St.
Baldwin, N.Y. 11510
Dear Members of the 9th Infantry Division Association:

I thank you all for the great times my beloved husband Salvatore Robert Barbagallo and I had attending many conventions and Father Edward Connors Memorial Mass. The Octofoil flower stand was beautiful and the New York Chapter friends will forever stay in my heart for being so kind to me. In memory and prayers, Bobby was very proud to be a member of the 9th Division. To Vincent Guglielmino and family and to the many friends I met over the years from different states and cities, my sincere thanks. Enclosed find a check in memory of Bobby for the Memorial Fund.



47th Inf. Co. G

MRS. MARY JAASKELA

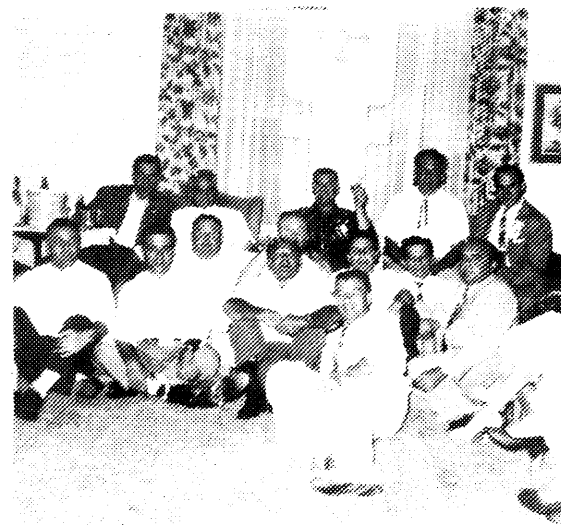
550 Sugar Rd.

Bolton, Ma. 01740

God bless you and Dan. Received your memo and my membership card. Gave me a real lift. Keep the money and put it in the Memorial Fund in memory of my late husband, Paul. Must keep it going. Am enclosing a little extra for you to put in the Memorial Fund or wherever you see fit. Enjoy reading the Octofoil and our son does too. I plan to go to the Worcester Memorial Mass and hope it is alright. The very best to you and Dan and have a good time at the Detroit reunion. I went out to a church function this afternoon. My first outing and meeting. Next week I'm going to go on a trip to the Hammond Castle at Gloucester plus dinner at the Gloucester House. So, it's a start.



Donald Rogers of the 39th Infantry I and R platoon sends this pic but hopes a member can help recall the names of the men in the photo.



Maurice Houckes of Company E 47th Infantry sends these photos of a reunion held in Washington, D.C. in 1953. Former members of the 47th are shown in a group.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name Serial No.

Street Address

City Zone State

I was a member of:

Battery; Company; Regiment; 9th Div

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year \$5.00 ☐Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund ☐THREE-YEAR MEMBER \$13.00 ☐Life Membership \$50.00 ☐Ladies' Auxiliary Member \$ 2.00 ☐Decals \$.50 ☐60th Infantry History \$ 2.00 ☐

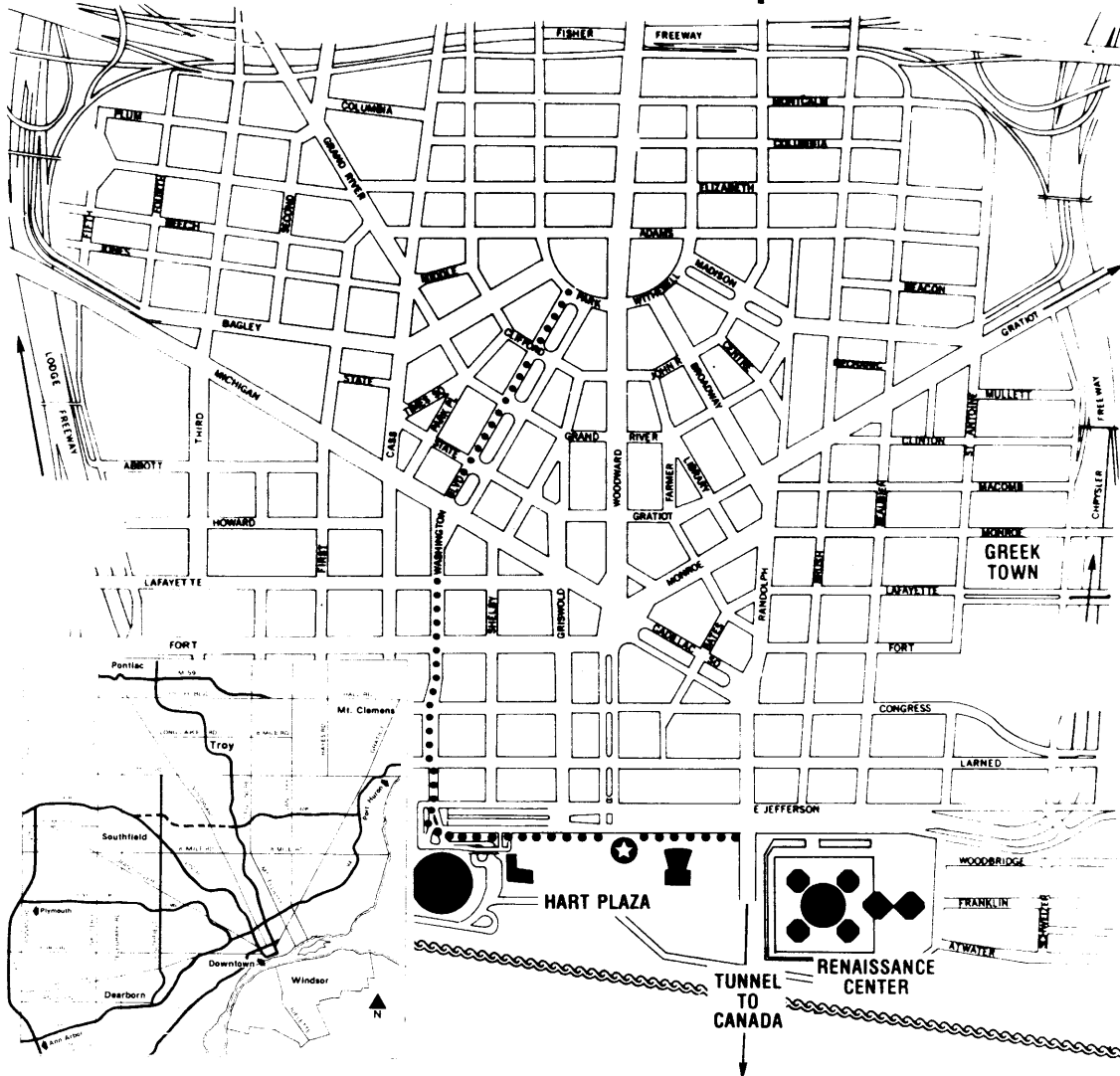
Please credit the following chapter:

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



DETROIT'S TROLLEYS — Climb aboard one of the antique red and brass trolley cars and take a nostalgic trip through the heart of downtown Detroit. The trolley line runs from the Old Mariners' Church (on Jefferson Avenue, near the Renaissance Center), past Cobo Hall and continues nine blocks down Washington Boulevard to Grand Circus Park. The trolley cars offer a unique form of transportation to many of the hotels, restaurants and stores in downtown for only 45¢.

Detroit Area Map



REUNION PARKING

Our designated parking area during the reunion is the outdoor parking Lot "B" just east of the Renaissance Center. After unloading your car at the hotel entrance, proceed to Jefferson Avenue and turn right one block to Beaubien Street. Turn right again and proceed to Lot "B" which will be on your left where you will receive a ticket for parking.

At the reunion registration area, you will receive parking validations. With these validations, your parking fee will be one dollar (\$1.00) per day, with in and out privileges. Each time you leave Lot "B" during the reunion, request an IN and OUT PASS. When you leave on your final day, give the parking cashier one validation for each day of unpaid parking, PLUS the IN and OUT PASS, if applicable. Without the parking validations, your parking fee will be considerably greater than the special one dollar (\$1.00) per day.

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

ARE YOU FLYING TO DETROIT

Airline service is provided to Detroit Metropolitan Airport by all major and many regional airlines. Both bus and limousine service is available to the downtown Civic Center area and the Westin Hotel.

PRE-REGISTRATION

This year, for the second time, we will have advance registration by mail. If you have not already done so, please send in your pre-registration, as shown elsewhere in this issue of the Octofoil. Register early and avoid waiting in line at the Reunion. Name tags and strip tickets will be picked up at the Reunion Pre-Registration desk.

GOLF OUTING IN CANADA

For the golfers coming to the reunion, a Thursday afternoon golf tournament is planned at a course in the Windsor area across the river from Detroit. Fred Josey is Chairman of this event. Those members, wives and guests who wish to participate in this golf outing should send their names to him by July 8, 1983. Fred will then

send those individuals details regarding rental of golf clubs and carts, starting time, etc. Fred's address is: Fred Josey, 8162 Green Valley Drive, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439. Phone 313-694-6108.

P.S. Reservations are requested, but we will accommodate a late decision to play if at all possible.

FRIDAY NIGHT BANQUET

With the banquet on Friday night rather than on Saturday night, the arrangements for seating obviously must be started a day earlier. Another good reason for Advance Registration.

We must give the hotel an accurate head count. As has been the custom in the past, tables are assigned to all attending the banquet. Those persons wishing to be seated together at the same table or tables should delegate one individual to bring the group's banquet tickets to the registration area for the assignment of table numbers to the tickets. This will ease the congestion and confusion and smooth out the table reservation process.

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 Banquet and the Dance on Saturday Night.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Your Name: _____

Unit Number: _____

Your Address: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Widow of: _____

Please submit with your request for strip tickets to:

Rodger E. Alsgaard
2834 Wynes St.
Saginaw, Mich. 48602

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
July 21, 22, 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).

The above special 59 dollar rates apply from 4 days prior to 4 days after the convention.

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.

OLD MARINER'S CHURCH

Pay a visit to the "Maritime Sailor's Cathedral," a mission for the sailors of the Great Lakes since 1849. It is Detroit's earliest Gothic church, and warms passerby with carillon music throughout the day. The church with its historical displays is located on the West Side of the Renaissance Center.

HISTORIC FORT WAYNE

Inspect the dry moat, tunnels, powder magazine and barracks of this unusual military fort. Built in the 1840's Fort Wayne, by treaty, was never armed. Exhibits outline Detroit's military history and Michigan's Indian heritage in the Great Lakes Indian interpretive Museum.

Westy and C.B.S.

THE GENERAL GETS REINFORCEMENTS

After two strikes in the same Federal court, CBS News last week declared itself out of legal arguments. Gen. William C. Westmoreland will get an internal report this week on a CBS documentary that he says libeled him.

It was a sudden surrender for CBS, which earlier said it would appeal the directive by Federal Judge Pierre N. Leval. That was before the judge refused the network permission to file for an appeal, saying there was no longer a constitutional basis for it.

CASE WAS PROMPTED

The case was prompted last year by a TV Guide article on a CBS documentary, "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception," which included General Westmoreland in a high level Government conspiracy to misrepresent the number of enemy troops American soldiers were facing. TV Guide said the program's producers had ignored or excised material that challenged the conspiracy thesis. CBS then launched an internal investigation and made public its conclusions in July. The network, citing the internal review, said it stood by the program and its conspiracy thesis.

HAD BEEN LIBELED

General Westmoreland sued for \$120 million saying he had

been libeled by the program and again in the July statement. In pretrial proceedings, he asked for a copy of the CBS investigation and was refused. CBS argued on constitutional grounds that a news organization's internal reports are privileged information protected by First Amendment free press guarantees.

JUDGE RULED

Judge Leval, however, ruled that the network "cannot at once hold out the (internal) report to the public as substantiating its accusations (against General Westmoreland) and, when challenged, decline to reveal the report contending it is a confidential internal study utilized solely for self-evaluation and self-improvement." Judge Leval said the constitutional question was thus not an issue in the case. Even if the privilege existed — and he avoided saying whether it did or not — he said CBS effectively made the private document public in its July statement.

Though the judge did not consider the constitutional status of news organizations' internal reports, the National News Council last week said the court action would have a "chilling effect" on self-critique efforts of all news groups.

Michigan Doings

Yes the 38th Annual Reunion Committee is still hard at work. Hard at work to make the dates of July 21-22-23 ones that will be remembered, by those in attendance, for a long time.

I am very much surprised in the amount of planning that is necessary in planning an affair as large as a national reunion. As we worked at our last planning session I thought how what we were doing could be compared to cooking a pot of stew. A little bit added here a little pinch of something else until the finished product would be one that would leave a good taste in the mouth of all who joined with us in Detroit. Under the guidance of Bob DeSandy we are planning things never tried at previous conventions. All we are going to need, that we can't supply, is you in attendance.

I am still waiting for your advanced registration. This is a must unless you are one who enjoys standing in line waiting to be served by slow poke clerks. This letter, incidentally, is the last one you will read in the Octofoil before the reunion. I know that Dave and Dvora Heller of Highland Park, Il. won't mind but the following was included in their request for strip tickets "This is an excellent idea — to pre-register. Thanks" If they think so why should you be different?

We in Michigan started our year with a good group meeting at the Michigan House in Bay City, Mi. Elmer Wagner was Chairman. Our President Bill Andrews called a meeting in which plans were made for the new year. Our April meeting is to held at the home of Leonard and Sally Kowalski. May will find us honoring our dead at a Memorial Service with Tom Saunders as Chairman. Don and Helen Lewis will be chairing the June Picnic. After that we will be packing our bags and heading to Detroit for that big event which is looked forward to with big expectations.

Rodger E. Alsgaard Sec'y.
Michigan Chapter

DE DONATO/SCHACOR LINK UP

Emil J. De Donato and Fred Schacor now share one of the four property markers that separate their present residences in Rainbow Lakes Estates, a community approximately 6 miles north of Dunellen, Fl.

Over forty years ago, "Freddie" Schacor and "Dee" De Donato were drafted into the Army. Freddie was assigned to the 39th Infantry Regiment while Dee served with the 47th Infantry. Both men served throughout the "Eight Stars To Victory" campaigns.

The discovery that both Dee and Freddie were ex-Ninth Division men happened recently . . . at the little 4" x 4" concrete monument in the ground that separates their properties. Mrs. "Lottie" Schacor noticed De Donato's name in the Florida Chapter membership. It was at the little concrete monument that Lottie asked and learned that both men served with the 9th Infantry Division.

The Schacors lived in Wantagh, Long Island, N.Y. until the spring of 1982 when they made their move to Rainbow Lakes Estates, Fl. They have a daughter and a grand daughter living in California. Freddie suffered a slight stroke last year however he is now well on the road to recovery.

The De Donatos have three sons. Ralph, who resides with his wife on Kerr Lake, Fl. while Robert and Richard make their homes in New York City and Philadelphia respectively.

Sign on the back of a small foreign car: "Quit honking. I'm pedaling as fast as I can."

Bananas are not born; they are brought by the stalk.

1983 Reunion Detroit July 21, 22, 23

When was the last time you wrote a letter to our Mail Call Column? Just a postal card would denote your interest and let some buddy know where you are. You like to read what other members send in . . . why not do your own part and write a few lines now and then for their enjoyment.

Florida Gators

I guess the best way to start our news of the Florida Chapter April 15 thru 17 meeting at Jacksonville is to give many thanks once again to Joe Williams, his wife Dottie, Hal Mullins, his wife Charlotte, Chuck Van Der Poel, his wife Dolores, and Dean and Marie Privett.

TREMENDOUS JOB

This committee did a tremendous job in planning and executing a weekend of activities that included a good chapter meeting with a total of 49 people at the Sheraton at St. John's Place.

After arrival Friday, we had dinner at the Mayport Naval Station, yep, that's right, I said NAVAL Station and they showed us GI's a really good time by having excellent food and the waitresses were, not only "cute", they were great in taking care of us.

Saturday morning Joe Williams and his wife Dottie invited the whole gang and wives out to their lovely home, situated on a lake site. We were treated to a delightful brunch and plenty of liquid refreshments.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

After brunch the men had their chapter meeting under the trees in the sun where many items of business and conversation were resolved. Elections for the year 1983 and 1984 were held and these people are once again in office:

Bob Pappas re-elected president

Phil Berman re-elected secretary

Henry Santos re-elected treasurer

Pete Radichio was elected as the new vice-president to fill out the slate.

The ladies also had a meeting of their own and though I don't personally know what was discussed, they broke up later and went on tours—one shopping in Regency Square, and one to a museum. Transportation was provided by the committee to these events as well as back to the Hotel for those desiring this.

WELCOMED AND INTRODUCED

On Saturday evening we had a banquet at the Sheraton Hotel. Joe Williams served as MC and host for this event. New people who just joined the Florida group and were welcomed and introduced at the dinner are as follows:

Henry Gatti and wife Mary, Edward Crawford and wife Eleanor, Jack Shaffer from Palm Coast, Elwood Stafford and wife Maxine.

SURPRISE GUESTS

As surprise guests, our chapter was honored with a visit and talks from our National President, Emil Langer, Fran Maher and, earlier in the day, John and Helen Clouser. We appreciate their efforts to meet with us.

GENERAL RANDLE

Joe Williams, our host, elegantly presented our honored guest, General Edwin Randle and his lovely wife. The General gave us a lively speech and I think every one of us was deeply touched by his remarks. In fact, at least twice, he had the whole crowd in stitches by his remarks.

Mrs. Randle won our 50-50 and turned her winnings back to the women's group. Two crocheted poodle dogs were donated by Clara MacDaniel for a raffle, proceeds going to the ladies group.

JOYOUS AND ELEGANT

As President, once again I have to say that of our 5 chapter meetings to date, each one gets more new members and gets more joyous and elegant as we go along. Our next meeting will be held on Oct. 14 thru 16, 1983. This meeting will take place in the Clearwater area in honor of General and Mrs. Randle.

I'm sure I'm omitting some things that should be mentioned, but I have to get this letter in the mail, to be sure it is in the Octofoil issue before our Detroit re-union.

THANK ALL

My wife, Beryl and I thank all the chapter members for being so kind to us and I'll endeavor to be as newsy and helpful as possible in the next year. Thanks, once again to Emil, Fran, Gen. Randle and the Jacksonville committee for making the April meeting so successful. Also, many thanks are due to those who offered suggestions this past year. See you all in Detroit.

My apologies to Mr. and Mrs. Barnwell, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Trzpcacz as the named I omitted, with promises to do better.

Robert Pappas, Pres.
738C518, Box 175
New Port Richey, Fla. 33552

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

The Illinois Chapter held their March meeting on St. Patrick's Day at Tedtman's after a delicious corn beef and cabbage dinner. The affair was well attended and was a welcomed change of pace. We were pleased to see Joe Lipka and his wife as well as Wilma Radic and her sister Ann. This is the first time Wilma has attended anything since the passing of her husband Emil last year. We also missed Bob Winkleman who was in the hospital undergoing some tests. He's out now and doing well.

HONOR THE MEMORY

Our April Meeting was held at Tedtman's on the 15th and plans were made for the Memorial Day Observance. We will go to Mount Carmel Cemetery, The Veteran's Section, on May 29th at 11:00 a.m. and will honor the memory of our dear departed Bud Remer. Since Bud donated his body to science at the time of his death we have no gravesite for him and decided on this manner of honoring him and all the departed members of the Illinois Chapter. We will meet afterwards at the home of Bob and Jo Pauli for a picnic lunch. They live two blocks from the cemetery. For further information call Larry Ghere, Chuck Koskie or Mike Belmonte.



Michael Procovic Company K, 47th Infantry, catcher, infielder on the best team the 9th had in 1942. Picture taken in 1942. We are sorry that another photo of Mike in the same uniform some 40 years later could not be reproduced (it was in color).

LOOKING FORWARD

After surviving a mild winter, we were looking forward to a beautiful Spring. Someone forgot to tell the weatherman it is Spring. On April 16th we had snow showers. We are still waiting for Spring and hopefully it will arrive. The Koskie's are hoping for good weather for the celebration of their oldest granddaughter's First Communion on April 17th. The Grays are in the process of selling their home in Oak Park and moving to Wisconsin.

The Belmonte's are looking forward to the graduation of their oldest daughter, Luann, from college on May 7th. She will receive a degree in Business Administration and is fortunate to have received employment with Osco Drugs after graduation. Our sincere thanks to the Scholarship Committee for their financial assistance the past four years to make it all possible.

GOOD TURNOUT

Plans were discussed for the reunion in July in Detroit. We're hoping to have a good turnout from the Illinois Chapter. Our booster list is being compiled for the Souvenir Book for this year.

We are also looking ahead to the mini-out-of-state reunion in Angola on October 21st and 22nd which will be hosted by the Illinois Chapter this year. More details will be available at the Detroit reunion.

Respectfully submitted
Mike and Ann Belmonte
1161 South Lombard
Oak Park, Il. 60304

39th Inf.

MRS. R.H. STUMPF
5840 Lowell Ave.
Alexandria, Va. 22312

Since the 9th Division reunion will be in Detroit this year, you might be interested to know that the Army Reserve Center there is named for my father, M.G. Donald A. Stroh who was Assistant Division Commander of the 9th in Africa and France until Aug. 1944. He was with the organized reserve in Detroit 1924-1929 and kept the morale up during that a period when there was to be no more war. My father would be so pleased that the Octofoil is still printed. My mother and I enjoy reading it. I'm anxious to purchase "The Pawns of War" to give to my Army son at West Point who is to return to Germany for a second tour. My husband had a battalion in the 39th so we like to read what we can find.

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

"Hello" once again to all our 'BECO' buddies! We are back home now after a month's stay in Florida. Florida weather in the month of February on the Gulf Coast is usually sunny with mild temperatures, however we experienced lots of rain, high winds and very, very, few 'sunny' days! We aren't complaining though because we managed to leave Chambersburg, Pa. a day before the big snowstorm hit most of the East Coast.

MANAGED TO ENJOY

We visited with 'BECO' buddy Art Stenzel and his wife Grace at Tarpon Springs, and they also visited us at Madeira Beach where we were staying. Despite inclement weather we managed to enjoy ourselves and to talk about our 'BECO' buddies who have been corresponding with us. Our 'BECO' Column has been showing results and we sincerely hope that much more correspondence and letter writing will be forthcoming from those 'BECO' buddies out there who have yet to get in touch with us (through this column).

A pleasant surprise was meeting with 'BECO' Buddy 'Jack' DiSanto and his wife Kay, at Art's lovely place in Tarpon Springs. Jack and Kay looked great. They were on their way to vacation at Satellite Beach on the East Coast. Needless to say we all had a lot to talk about and reminisce once again of WW II days while in our 9th Inf. Div.

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

Mini Reunions

Company B 39th Inf
June 17 and 18th
Contact Daniel Douvanis
2025 Eaton Avenue
Bethlehem, Pa 18018
Tel 215 866 5828

Company M 60th Infantry
June 23d to 25th
Contact Curtis Buchanan
2914 Alexander Street
Florence, Ala. 35360
Tel - 205 766 2716

Co B 39th Inf
DANIEL DOUVANIS
2025 Eaton Avenue
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018
Tel 215-866-5828

Words could never express how proud and thrilled I was to be one of the fortunate men to attend the Ft. Bragg Reunion. Just being back where my basic training was taken, re-visiting the old familiar places, eating at the base, witnessing the field maneuvers (as the parachute demonstrations), as well as the Memorial & Marker dedication was a privilege. To top that, seeing and speaking with Gen. William Westmoreland was rewarding. Members of my Company B, 9th Infantry Division and myself are always happy to get together and consider ourselves "family". The return after all these years to our point of origin was wonderful. Many, many thanks to everyone who worked hard to make this a most wonderful reunion.

In regard to reunions: Co. "B" - 9th Infantry Division's annual reunion will take place on June 17th, 18th and 19th. Interested persons may contact me for additional information. Everyone is welcome and we promise you a wonderful weekend of various activities.

HERE-N-THERE

Our column received letters a short time ago from Ed and Helen Sarnocinski and from Sam Moscatelli who lives in Chisholm, Minn. Ed and Helen have already made reservations for the Detroit Reunion. Sam says that he will try to make the Detroit Reunion. Like most of us, Sam has medical problems too; so "hang in" there Sam!

Art is getting in touch with 'BECO' buddy John Morgan who lives in Pittsburgh, Pa. Yes, John "Mail Call" is a good way to make contact with friends in addition to 'BECO' buddies. Now that you are retired perhaps you can plan on going to the Detroit Reunion? We can assure you that it will be an experience you will long remember after seeing your buddies and friends from our famous 9th Div. Letters to our "Mail Call" column reveal stories about the men in our Division that no author could put down in print because he would find them difficult to believe or comprehend.

Ann and I have made our reservations for the Reunion and we hope that 'BECO' will be well represented. Time is getting short for many of us, so why not make the Detroit reunion this year. Putting the reunion off year after year for some of us, will only make it that much harder, as we grow older. So the time is now! Let's go 'BECO' Buddies!! God Bless all of you and keep well!

PAT J. MORANO
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg,
Pa. 17201
ART J. STENZEL
1815 Mariner Dr.
Apt. 174
Tarpon Springs,
Fla. 33589

The American Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association is seeking all former POW's for membership in our National Association. We have been instrumental in getting the POW Bill made into law, and this legislation has re-opened the door for many veterans who have previously had their claims for Service-connected Disability and/or compensation disallowed. For the location of the Chapter nearest to you, please contact: Bill Menninger, 5009 N. La Madera Avenue, El Monte, Ca. 91732

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

Col. Robert N. Waggoner, FA Chief, Historical Services Division
Department of the Army
The Chief of Military History & the
Center of Military History
Washington, D.C. 20314
Dear Colonel Waggoner:

Replying to your letter of 16 August 1982 and enclosures I am enclosing the letter of 22 February 1983 from the conservateur of the Museum of Liberation, Fort du Roule, Cherbourg, France which expresses their gratitude for helping to supply replacements for the Museum.

Also enclosed is the certificate you requested stating that the Museum is not for profit but for education; also the request of 3 or 4 uniforms from the Infantry, Air Force and Navy; also the measurements of the models.

I will be glad to pay for all the cost of transportation to Cherbourg - air freight if possible. I would suggest that the uniforms be addressed to the Museum itself.

Should you require any other data please do not hesitate to call me.

As you may know the 40th anniversary of Normandy is in June 1984.

There will be many appropriate ceremonies at Cherbourg and the Beaches from many other nations. I would like our uniforms to be in tip-top shape.

Please help me if I have any further paper work to do.

Thank you,
Harry C. Herman



Milton Hacker sends this picture of Company E 47th Infantry's non-coms of the 1st Platoon taken in 1941 at Fort Bragg.



Rud Hoffman supplies us with this picture taken in June in 1945 in Germany. Left to right - Rud, Sid Ginsberg, Frankie Gallo and in the background Art Beining. Sid Ginsberg's brother Harold was one of the old timers from Fort Bragg who was killed shortly after Sid had joined Company F 47th Inf in Germany.



Curly Kremka 84th F.A. sends this photo taken in Safi, North Africa. Edwards, DeMoranville, Sukon and Kremka and Arab kids. (1942) Kremka's letter appears in Mail Call.

Trip to North Africa

Our proposed Tour to North Africa, '83 has prompted enough response (fourteen deposits in hand and four more expected) so that I am sure we will be able to operate the trip with the minimum of twenty on which it has been priced. I am a little shy of that so I will postpone the decision until late May or early June.

So far the committed participants are from the 47th and 60th Regiments and the 15th Engineers although inquiries have come from members of other units of the Division and one from outside of our membership who must have served with the 1st Division or one of the others.

I have confidence in the program and in the services which will be provided en route as the son of an old friend is now in Tunisia and he advises that we should expect moderate temperatures (65-75 degrees); reasonably good roads between the places in which we are interested; a somewhat passive or disinterested population which is derived from a widely different culture from ours but which has a long and fascinating history. Morocco has been a "tourist" destination for quite a while so everything there will go well.

I look forward to the trip myself and hope that there will be a few more members who will decide to join me and who will send their deposits along.

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: _____



National Citation: Joseph J. Devine (left), member of the Greater N.Y. Chapter of the Ninth Infantry Division Association (Co. "A" and Hq. Co. 1st Batt. - 60th Infantry), Past County Commander of the Nassau County American Legion - Long Island, New York, presently serving as Chairman of the Nassau Legion Arthritis Program for the past several years, and a long time resident of Huntington Station, L.I. is cited by the National Arthritis Foundation in recognition of unselfish and outstanding support in a fight against the Nation's #1 crippling disease.

Executive Director, Patrick McAsey, of the Arthritis Foundation - Long Island Division (Melville) makes presentation on behalf of both the National and Long Island Arthritis Foundation. Mr. McAsey further states, "we are deeply grateful to Joe and the American Legion for all the help they have given to the Foundation. Last year they raised more than one-fourth of our total Telethon income."

mail call

continued

Co B 47th Inf
SAM MOSCETELLI
 401 2nd St NW

Chisholm, Minn 55719

Pat Morano and Art Stenzel who write for Company B-47th Inf asked that this letter be printed as it was sent to them.

"Vostra lettera e Venuto a mia casa per Natale e per la fiesta del nuoro anno. Non Poderia imagiane ero molto conteo. (Just showing off) First it all means that I was so glad to hear from you.

Greeting from Minn. the land of milk and honey, frozen milk and damn poor honey. Also frozen lakes no fishing any more.

You are right when you say we can go on and on! While we were in Oan, after African Campaign, I ended up in the hospital, man was I sick, for a month and a half, then the head Doctor said you are all through with the Infantry, was with a car and truck unit bringing up new men and officers to the front in France and Germany, then later I was with a labor Supervision, all Italian and German POW last 5 months came home October 1945. Some how I had contact with Naber, Podany and Love. I saw Naber and Radtke in 1948 and no word since. Still keep in touch with Podany and Love at Christmas time. Joe was at my house 2 years ago. Just like every one of us, a pain here and there. Love has a heart problem. I remember Monroe, I think he got hit in the ankle. Give them all my best regards.

47th Inf. Co E
MARTIN BERGMAN
 9805 B Haldeman Ave.
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19115

Thanks so much for the nice words you wrote about me from Joe McKenzie's letter. I'm going to write a note to Joe. It sure was nice of him to write it and he sure has good eyes to see the small emblem on my POW hat. I've missed a few 9th reunions, Ft. Bragg and Detroit coming up, because it is the same time or within a week or two of the POW's convention and it is just too much for me to do both. Next year, good Lord willing I'm coming to the 9th reunion because the POW convention is in Washington state. A long way to ride! I sent a copy of Joe's letter to the "Real People" show. Mr. George Schlatter enjoys little notes about the show and especially Joe's letter. Best to everyone and have a pleasant summer.

15 Engrs. Co. A
GEORGE Q. DUGAN
 7775 Moro Rd, Apt #18
 Atascadero, Ca. 93422

I retired last July, sold my home in New England and joined my sons and brothers in California. Missed the reunion in Fayetteville. Jeanne and I married there in 1942 and missed more than words can tell the Memorial Buss in Worcester. I've been busy, built a new home that's almost finished. Hope it's done in time for a visit from Eva & Henry Santos when they come to California this year. I've even got a couple of rocks for him. One sad note. Before I left Marshfield, Mass. I lost a long time friend, Bill Haverty of Co. A 15 Engrs, died from a heart attack. Bill is the one who got me back into the association after I dropped out for a number of years. Jeanne informs me that my address is written in "red ink" (I'm color blind!) Here's my dues.

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

On St. Pat's day of all days I find my copy of the Octofoil addressed in red ink. Red ink scares me, I lived with it for the past two years. But the market is starting to warm up now and I'm beginning to warm up again.

Enclosed, please find my check in the amount of twenty five dollars. This is for three years membership and the balance either for the scholarship fund or any other needy purpose.

The article written by Harry Santos touched me. I know this is happening in these times. I think the prayer on the same page ties in with it. I see it every day in my business and have helped a couple of families over the rough spots.

Dan, if such a fund is ever started, please let me know about it. I promise to try to help out. Possible one of our members in insurance can find a way to put a policy together to cover our members. The cost can be paid by members able to pay and the cost for the ones unable to pay can be paid by donations the same as the scholarship fund. This can be monitored by local chapters. If we don't help our old comrades, then God Bless.

Dan, I wish the very best of everything to you and yours.

Co. C 9th Med Bn
RALPH PALERMO
 223 Barbera Dr.

McKees Rocks, Pa. 15136

Received the Octofoil with the red ink so enclosed is check for 1983. Sorry I missed the Ft. Bragg reunion as I took ill. I don't know if I'll be able to make Detroit. Enjoy receiving the Octofoil and reading all the letters. I agree with Pete Radichio in a YES vote for all division members regardless of which war they fought in, to be a member of our group. One of our members, Joe Todarello, who passed away, worked so hard for the Vietnam veterans to belong to our organization. He lost a son there. I appreciate all the letters I received at the time of my illness and thank God for watching over me and all our buddies.

84th Fa, Hq Btry & C Btry
ROBERT J. PICHETTE
 19020 W. Davison
 Detroit, Mich. 48223

Due to illness, will be unable to attend all functions during the Detroit reunion. Do not want to miss anyone from the gang of C Btry & Hq. Was in C Btry through Africa, Sicily & Normandy. Left C Btry after St. Lo. In C Btry was with Sgt. Heinz group, after moving to Hq Btry skipped around a lot. Near the end of the war was in Officers Mess up to and including our stay on the hill between Pfaffenhofen and the Autobahn. Anyone who remembers would appreciate it if they would call me in Detroit, 835-3010. This will help me to make arrangements to meet you during the reunion. For the few reunions I have been able to make, have still run in to no one I know except Father Connors.

60th Inf. Co L.
JOHN DOWNEY
 40 Center St.
 Jersey City, N.J. 07302

In this morning's mail I received the Octofoil addressed in red ink. Sorry I missed up on sending in my dues or 1983. Enclosed is my check for another year. Regards to all.

47th Infantry
RANDALL BRYANT
 15640 SW 85th Avenue
 Miami, Florida 33157

During the past few years I've been lucky in getting several articles about the Ninth published in various magazines. The latest, by the way, is "Above & Beyond" in the November issue of the Retired Officer. An outcome of these articles I've received several letters from old members of the Division asking if I knew where they could get copies of the Ninth Division History which was published by the Association in 1948. I see in it that it was printed by the F.J. Heer Printing Co., and the Terry Engraving Co., both of Columbus, Ohio.

Recently I received a military book catalog from the Fairfield Book Company of Brookfield, Conn. In it is an entire section devoted to division histories — it does not include the Ninth's history. I read that most of them are reprints from previous books published in the period 1945 to 1948. With the exception of the First, none of them had the combat record that we had. Now to my idea. Why can't the Association or some group look into the possibility of reprinting the history? I feel there would be a good sale on them provided there is sufficient publicity. How about it? Editor's Note: The secretary has contacted several publishing companies regarding the re-printing of "8 Stars to Victory" and is awaiting replies as to costs etc. It is hoped a report can be given to the members of the Board of Governors of the association at their meeting in Detroit and they can take action on the matter.

39th Inf. Med. Det.
WILLIAM KELLER
 Mechanicsburg, Ohio 43011

Enclosed are my dues for 3 years. I enjoy reading the Octofoil which is certainly a fine paper. When I went overseas in Mar. 1943 it was as a replacement and I joined the division near Bizerte in May 1943. The division went back near Oran for training then returned to the Bizerte area in June. On July 10 we went in Sicily at Licata and I was an aid man in the 1st Bn. After getting to Palermo we went by truck to the Troina area and were in some hot fighting for about a week. On reaching Mt. Etna we were relieved by the British and our part in Sicily was over. In bivouac near Palermo I was one of the large number of 9th men sent to the 3rd div. When the 9th went to England to prepare for the invasion I went with the 3rd to Italy and on to France and Germany. This brings back many memories of those days and the fellows who didn't come back with us. I am now with Sorbol Co. of Mechanicsburg since 1945. To anyone in the 9th who sends me their name and address I'll send free a bottle of T-4-L for athletes foot and foot odor. Best to you and the 9th. Will be at the reunion in Detroit, I hope.

60th Inf. Co G.
CHARLES M. ROSE, USA Ret.
 609 Glendale Dr.
 Wilson, N.C. 27893

Enclosed are my dues for 3 years. I joined the 60th in Nov. 1940 at tent city, Fort Bragg. Served with the same platoon through most of the war. Also served another tour with the division at Fort Carson, Colo. Retired from service May 1964. I would like to say hello to all the guys from New York and New Jersey who served in the 3rd platoon G Company, 60th Inf.

Co. A 15th Engr. Bn.
JAMES G. DELEO
 27 Hollis Street
 Cambridge, MA 02140

I'm sorry to be a little late on paying my dues.

First of all, may I wish the entire 9th Division the best of health.

Danny O'Rourke passed away. We knew each other since we were kids. We also joined the 15th Engr. A Company together February 1941. I'm sure we will all miss Danny — he was well-liked by everyone. May God grant him eternal rest.

If two of my buddies, Jim Tomasso and Jerry Fasno, give me a boost into the plane, I will see you all in Detroit.

God bless all of you!

15th Engrs. Bn, Hq & A Co.
ALEX FORREST
 241 N. Vine St. 702W
 Salt Lake City Utah.

Enclosed is my check for 2 years plus a contribution to the Memorial fund. Since the most memorable reunion at Ft. Bragg, we have vacationed in Pennsylvania, Nevada, California, Mexico and most recently in Florida with a side trip to New York State thrown in. While in Florida we spent a pleasant day with Frances Millstine, widow of Walter Millstine (AISE). While unpacking from that trip one snowy night, I was pleasantly surprised to receive a phone call from John Ryan, Div HQ & 60th, who was just winding up a skiing holiday in nearby Park City. We plan to be in Detroit in July and have sent in our deposit for the trip to North Africa in October. If that trip falls through, we will probably tour the Scandinavian countries. With best regards.

47th Inf. Co A
JOHN POLHEMUS
 22 Golfview Or. Dr
 Newark, Del. 19702

I am enclosing my dues for 3 years. I read the Octofoil avidly and enjoy it very much. Not being able to attend any of the affairs, (for medical reasons) makes reading of the events even more enjoyable. I have before me a copy of the 47th regimental history. It certainly brings back many memories. The only sad thing is the Taps Sounded pages. There are many names of buddies I served with on these pages, too numerous to mention in this short letter, but I would like to name a few that were more special to me for various reasons: Kelly Bowling, James McCann, Jr., Paul R. Buffalo. If anyone recognizes these names I would appreciate their writing me and listing the names of any of the guys from the Sicily, England, Normandy era who are more fortunate, as you and I, to still be able to communicate with each other. Keep up the good work.

709 Ord.
RAY KENNEDY
 334 Stratford Ave.
 Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232

Here are a few dollars to insure my getting the fine Octofoil. I can't figure out why I never see or hear from members of the 709rd. They must be alive somewhere in this world. Note change of address.

60th Inf. Hq. Co. 2nd Bn
CHARLES DULING
 312 4th Ave.
 Wilmington, Del. 19808

Enclosing a check for 3 years dues, sorry to be late. Beginning with Atlanta I've attended the reunions regularly and am looking forward to seeing Detroit and my buddies from the 60th Personnel. Best of luck to you and yours.

47th Inf. E Co.
CHARLES TROCOLLI
 1106 Chestnut Ave.
 Woodbury Hts., N.J. 08097

Enclosed are my dues for the next 3 years also a check for the Memorial Fund in memory of my friends in E Co. 47th. Betty and I just returned from a cruise to Puerto Rico where we were met by Fermin Martinez. The last time we met was March 1943. He looks the same and we spent the day sightseeing and shooting the breeze. He sends his best to all E Co. 47th men and invited all 9th division troops to visit Puerto Rico. It's a beautiful island. Got home just in time to go to a St. Patricks dance with Bob Dunn and his wife, Marie. Bob was the chairman and the band he hired was a 20 man, big band sound! We really had a ball. Bob was in HQ 47th. He looks great and sends his best. I had some trouble with my eyes and the doctor said I would lose my sight. But with the help of God and my many friends who prayed for me, I'm holding my own. The doctors at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia used the laser beam and it helped very much. I go back in June for more treatment. I was in Washington, DC for the Vietnam Memorial services and the parade and have many friends who served in Vietnam and one from the 9th who works with me. I think it's about time we extend our hands and hearts and welcome our 9th comrades into the association.

Hq Co 47th Inf
I & R Plat.
JOSEPH A. DEFINI
 1614 Williamsbridge Rd.
 Bronx, N.Y. 10461

The Octofoil has always been the publication that I read from cover to cover and it is a thrill to see so many familiar names of the 47th. There is one name that I search for in the Octofoil and I look for at the Reunions and at the Memorial Mass at Worcester, Mass. and I haven't located him yet. His name is THOMAS LEANZA of the 60th Inf.

He was from my old neighborhood in New York and I met him in North Africa and also in Sicily in one of our skirmish's in a little town of Cesaro, Sicily. The 60th was in the town before the 47th and he located an aunt of mine who came looking for me with a mule while I was digging deeper into a fox-hole. I never saw or heard from Tom Leanza again. I pray he is still alive and is one of our members of the 9th Div. Assoc.

Thank you for any help you can give me. My regards to your wife Marie and we will see you at the next reunion.

Editors Note: We looked in our records and find no Tom Leanza. Maybe our members can be of some help.

47th Inf. F Co.
RAY A. SCHMADER
 3757 Northview Dr. N.W.
 Canton, Ohio 44709

I noted on my last issue of the Octofoil that I am delinquent. Enclosed is my dues for a couple of years and an additional few dollars for the Memorial Fund. Be the good Lord willing, my bride of 40 years and I will be attending the forthcoming reunion in Detroit. We attended our first last year at Fort Bragg and it was one of the highlights of my life. What a great group of people! Hope to see all of my renewed friends again. Best regards.

1983 Reunion
Detroit July 21, 22, 23

mail call

continued

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

I want to let you know that I am getting along fine but I will not make the reunion in Detroit. I hope things will be to my advantage for the 39th reunion. I also want to thank all the old reliables for their concern and prayers, who have inquired about my health. I also received a check from an old reliable from Western Penn., to help pay for my doctors bills which are all paid by my insurance. I called my comrade and thanked him for his concern and that I would keep his check as a remembrance and would not cash it. There are a lot of 9th men that show what they are made of, good friends, good comrades and good buddies. I received a letter from a 9th man who was wounded in Europe and was transferred to the 3rd division after his recovery. He attended a 3rd division reunion and said it could not compare to the 9th's reunions. Our reunions are great! Enclosed is a check for 3 years dues. Again I want to thank all my friends who wrote me and wished me a speedy recovery. Keep up the good work, Dan. I am still hoping for a reunion in Hershey, Pa.

47th Inf. Co. E.
FERMIN MARTINEZ
Box 90
Aquirre, P.R. 00608

Hope everything is OK with you and yours back in N.J. Charles Troccoli from Woodbury, N.J., and his lovely wife, visited with me and we had our own reunion at San Juan, P.R. We spent all day on the Carabello, the ship that brought them, and also around the city of San Juan and some other towns. We had lunch at the El Paseo in Rio Piedras. We went back to Safi, Morocco and El Guettar, Kassserine Pass and so many other places! Give my regards to all the boys 62 and over by now and the rest of the gang. Hope to see a reunion in Puerto Rico some time.

39th Inf. G Co.
JIM LEMMA
1213 E. Windemere
royal Oak, Mi. 48073

Finally got the nerve to sit down and write a letter. Saw my first Octofoil 2 months ago when Dan Quinn sent me the paper in response to a letter I wrote him. I don't have the words to describe what I felt as I read the mail call column. Naturally I joined the association. I never get tired of reading the letters. I don't think anyone who wasn't there with us can understand what I mean. I was with G Co. 39th from Mar. 3, 1945, until I came home from overseas in Nov. 1945. Was on the line for a little over 2 months but that was an eternity. I didn't realize what an effect it had on me until I got older. I guess I'm lucky to have gotten this far without too many problems. Have been retired for 3 years and love it. I had 40 years with Ford Motor Co. If anyone out there remembers me I would be glad to hear from you. Will see you at the reunion.

M.P.
JOHN H. MALONEY
337 Dewey St.
Bennington, Vt. 05201

Having received the Jan.-Feb. Octofoil in red and being an optimist I enclosed a check for 3 years dues. If all goes well from now until July, I hope we will see all of you in Detroit. Good luck to all.

15 Engrs.
RON MURPHY
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, Ma. 02066

Once again I see it is time for me to pay my dues. Enclosed find a check that will keep me out of the red for another 3 years. Enjoyed Pat Morano's and Art Stenzel's column in the last issue. Thought it was very well done and their ending of "Letter about 3 guys" certainly expresses the same opinion that many of us share. As you know, Fr. Connors was in the hospital and went through a serious and painful operation. A few weeks ago a group of us met in Worcester and had lunch with him. I was surprised and delighted to see how well he looked. Of course he still has his wonderful sense of humor and time seems to fly by when you're in the company of this marvelous priest. When you listen to him and realize how much all of us meant to him. We truly are his family and his love and devotion to us is unending. To the Michigan Chapter my sincere wishes for a successful reunion. I know it will be a most enjoyable one. If all goes well, I too hope to be a part of this enjoyment.

"M" & Service Co's
60th Infantry
EUGENE D. CRONIN
185 Bronx River Road
Yonkers, NY 10704

Stop! put that red stamp away, enclosed find 1983 dues and which now are overdue, sorry for that.

We have marked our calendar for the 1983 reunion in Detroit, one day at a time, hopefully we will be there.

The 1983 reunion will serve as a double event for us, we plan to visit the home office of General Motors my former employer and from where I retired here in New York in 1974. Perhaps other "Old Reliables" will want to visit the giant of the auto industry. I am sure that special tours can be arranged.

Using this mail call to say hello to my old buddies from both "M" and Service Co, 60th Inf, especially Fred Golub and Harold W. Sell Sr., hope you fellows are feeling well, knew you both had some setbacks.

It was great meeting so many old warriors at Fort Bragg, not remembering first names just now, but to my old BB Vassar, whatever happened to those pictures your wife was going to mail us? Also you Bill Billings, or Lt. Billings as I used to know you in Service Co, perhaps they weren't good enough to bother mailing. Let's hear from you anyway.

Dan at a later date I will mail a deposit to the reservations department of the Weston Hotel.

Regards to you both, keep up the good work, have a good day and much success in 1983.

9th Signal
JAMES W. BROWN
Box 204
Roseboro, N.C. 28382

Sorry I had to be reminded. Enclosed find my dues for 3 years. I really enjoy reading the Octofoil which I did not know existed until last year. Would love to hear from some men of the 9th. Good luck to all.

60th Inf. Co. F.
GEORGE ARNOLD
636 Catherine St.
Syracuse, N.Y., 13203

Enclosed find dues for 3 years. I want to thank you for the copy of the Octofoil along with your warm letter. My wife and I are looking forward to my first reunion. Hopefully for many more in the future.

60th Serv. Co.
FRED GOLUB
21 Lenore Ave.
Monsey, N.Y. 10952

I'm happy to report I'm back working 4 hrs a day, 4 days a week. Beats the hell out of goldbricking in front of the boob tube. We've tried Florida and it's great for a vacation, but we don't plan to settle there so far. Tom Billings visited with us in January on his way to Boston and we spent a wonderful evening together. I visited with Max Monsarno several weeks ago and enjoyed rehashing old times. He informed me that Hank Bialos came through bypass surgery very successfully. Tom Billings and I plan to be in Detroit for the convention, if the man upstairs approves. I would appreciate any information regarding Peter Viverito of 60th Serv Co. whom I would like to contact.

60th AT Hq Co 2nd Bn
WILFRED G. LEMIRE
25 Russell Rd.
Norwich, Conn 06360

Enclosed is my check for 3 years dues. I am actually a re-join in the association. I first joined in 1945 in Ingolstadt, Germany right after the war. For one reason or another I lost contact with the association until recently when I saw the reunion advertised in the Army Times. I was very happy to receive a copy of the Octofoil and I am looking forward to all the future copies. Now that I have re-established contact with the association, I don't plan on missing out anymore. Hoping to attend the reunion in Detroit in July.

34th FA, Btry B
JAMES CARL WARD
Rt 1, Box 10
Reidsville, N.C. 27320

Enclosed is my dues for 3 years. We hope to see you and the rest of the buddies this year. We have already made our reservations and have purchased our plane tickets. So we are all set as long as nothing happens. Looking forward to seeing all the good old boys again.

Co B 9th Medics
WILLARD HAAS
914 Whittier Dr.
Allentown, Pa. 18103

I just want to let you know how good I felt about attending my first reunion last June. I met a number of fine people there. Especially heartening to me was to see those buddies I had not seen since 1945 to reminisce and to see them still with an optimistic attitude. Stein, Laubach, Wilson, Splendorio, Radichio, Richards. They are all first class guys from the 9th medics, most of them from Co B. In addition I met C.B. Baker and his wife. From that grew the opportunity to correspond with 2 capital buddies from my outfit, both from Alabama, Clinton "Whitey" Vaughn and Ira "Pappy" Benton. It was also great as we drove to the Ft. Bragg luncheon together, to remind Danny Quinn of those days and nights we spent with the Dunkel and Stiel families in their home in Schevenhutte, Germany. So I'm grateful to all of you who brought it about. Please note the death of Paul Dougher. Although he lived in the town I grew up in, I didn't know him very well. However, we met a couple of times "over there". He was with the F.A. but I don't know which one. When we occupied the former Nazi youth camp. They were right behind us near Roetgen and sure could make those wooden barracks "shake, rattle & roll"! Thanks for your fine work.

47th Inf. Med. Det.
DR. HYMAN COPLEMAN
111 Livingston Ave.
New Brunswick, N.J. 08901

I can't tell you how many times I've thought of writing to you to report my present status. I read the Octofoil religiously and always make a mental note about going to a reunion but somehow, something always turns up.

This time, however, I have decided to let you and all my friends in the 47th Infantry know that this old former battalion surgeon is still alive and well.

Three years ago I underwent a quadruple By-Pass in Houston, Texas and have been feeling well ever since. However, I have given up doing major surgery and do only office consultations and minor surgery. I am also the Team Physician for Rutgers University Athletic Teams, a position I have held for 48 years. In addition, I work 20 hours a week as Medical Director at Johnson & Johnson Surgical Dressing Plant on U.S. #1 in New Brunswick. So you see I am still actively engaged in my professional work.

On April 26, 1983 I am being honored by the Anti-Defamation League by B'nai-B'rith with the Torch of Liberty Award.

Give my best to all the members of the 47th there, and hopefully I will make one of these conventions soon.

39th Inf. Co C
CARLOS D. WARD
10280 Eaton Pike
New Lebanon, Ohio 45345

I'm sending my dues for 3 years. I hope we are well this year so we can attend the reunion in Detroit. We wanted so bad to go to Ft. Bragg but my wife had an operation. I hope to see you and a lot of my buddies there. God bless and good luck to all.

Hq. 60th Fa Bn
PHILIP P. THIVIERGE
RFD 2, Box 152
Pelham, N.H. 03076

Enclosed find dues for 3 years. Detroit reunion sounds good and we are definitely going to do our best to make it.

39th Inf. Co E
RAY WHITE
1208 Sylvan Ave.
Palestine, Tex. 75801

Enclosed is my check for 3 years dues. I went to the reunion this past June and enjoyed it very much. However I didn't see anyone I know. Myself and another guy were the only ones to have registered from the 39th E Co. I understand the reunion will be in Detroit and I am making plans to be there. Warm regards to all.

84th FA. A Btry
A. G. (CURLY) KREMKA
407 W. Marion St.
Portage, Wis. 53901

We are looking forward to attending the Detroit reunion with Ray Knerr and Lorraine, but we ask your help in trying to locate a buddy of ours Andy Yankura from the Pittsburgh area. We wonder if he belongs to the Pittsburgh chapter or if he belongs at all. We appreciate any help you can give us and maybe some of the other members of "Adams Apples" can contact us and tell us when they will be there. I am enclosing 2 snap shots. One of Yank and Simmons at Aachen, Germany just before we went to the Bulge. The other of Edwards, De Moranville, Sukon, from Detroit, and myself just after we freed these kids from the French in Safi.

Seeking Information

Do you think that you could possibly help me with information about 'Hambone Junior'. I am not a researcher or anything like that but became interested after we discovered 'its' grave in Alresford.

I have enclosed a photograph of the headstone in the hope that it might jog someones memory. It might well be that somewhere — someone in your Association may even have a photograph of the dog, if indeed, it was a dog in which case I would love to have a copy.

I have also enclosed photocopies of letters I have already written which are self explanatory.

I am an ex army chap having served with the 18th Division in Malaya and Singapore fighting the Japanese. We were transported most of the way in American troop ships — mine being the Joseph T. Dickman which was originally the passenger liner President

Roosevelt. The West Point was also in our convoy so from one ex serviceman another may I take this opportunity to wish you well and I hope that you will be able to supply the information I seek. If so I will do my very best to persuade the U.S. Army Military History Institute to include it in their records.

Trusting that you have no objection to my writing you on this matter.

Yours in good faith.
R.S. Thomas.

"Numba-Wun"
Walsingham GDNS
Townhill Park
Southampton, Hampshire SO2 2(1)

Editors note: To the best of our recollection "Hambone Junior" was a dog that found "a home" with the 1st Bn of the 47th Infantry while the Ninth was stationed in England and the 1st Bn, billeted in and around Alresford. So come on you ole Raiders dig in and see if we can help this chap.

39th Inf. C Co.
CHARLES A. YENSER
RD #1, Box 281
Leighton, Pa. 18235

Just received the latest Octofoil and believe me I don't miss anything. Sure was sorry to hear about Charles Scheffel's misfortune. Get well, Charlie. Also, I have a sad event to report, Paul Dougher, Btry C, 60th FA passed away last December. He received a battlefield commission in the above unit. Attending his services was Lawrence Gould from Hull, Mass. also a member of the above unit. I see Henry Geisel also a member of the 39th infrequently. However when we do, the stories really fly. Good luck and Best Wishes to all.

Co F 60th Inf
FRANK DENNIS
RD #2 Box 387
Dallas, Pa. 18612

I am enclosing my dues for 3 years and enjoy receiving the Octofoil.

We enjoyed the reunion at Fort Bragg and have sent in our reservation for Detroit in 1983.

We are looking forward to meeting our many friends. Best wishes to all.

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

My Octofoil arrived in red ink so here is my check for three years dues.

Attended my first reunion at Fayetteville and Fort Bragg last year. My wife and I enjoyed the trip very much. Hope to also make Detroit this July.

Best wishes to all members of the Ninth.

MAIL CALL

39th Inf. Hq Co. 1st Bn
WILLIAM KREYE
2 Maryland Court
Jackson, N.J. 08527

You people are the greatest (your know that). This is a delayed thanks for sending me a duplicate (Nov.-Dec. 1982) Octofoil issue of the newspaper which I received first class. The original issue I never received sent through ordinary channels. I have been busy but, perhaps, never as busy as you probably are.

It was at the Fort Bragg reunion last year that the former wire chief of the 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry, Sgt. Arthur Schneider showed me a snapshot of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill of England inspecting soldiers of this battalion a few days before the Normandy D-day Invasion with the white painted on the sides of their helmets. I saw the picture before in "The Octofoil" but Vantage Press, Inc., my publishers of "The Pawns of War" stated that they couldn't reproduce it because it was a newspaper print. I said to Schneider, "I would like to have one like that if he had any duplicates." He said that I could have this one.

Churchill is looking at Sergeants Shapin, Schneider and Tekely, left to right. So, I took it to Vantage and they put it in the book. When we were in France sometime after D-day, my interpreter, Kraus, picked up a German magazine with this picture spread over the front cover. I asked him what the kraut writing was? He said that Hitler was warning the German troops and the French about these "American SS Troopers."

During the fiercest battles at Troina, Randazzo, Utah Beach, St. Jacques de Nehou, Octeville, El Desert, Cherence le Roussel and the Battle of the Bulge, men kept popping up in the strangest rolls. Ironically, the 39th was the only troops to have these identification marks on them. When kraut generals such as Von Rundstedt, Rommel, Model, Bayerlein and others reported to the Fuhrer he probably remarked "auch du leiber." These pesty troops were there again.

I read books where other regiments and divisions have been classified with this claim but this is not true. Read, "The Pawns of War" which has finally been published. It can be purchased from Vantage Press, Inc., for \$11.95 (\$10.95 for the book plus \$1.00 for postage and handling). It is an attractive hard covered 284 page 5½ x 8½" including pictures (one mentioned above), lists, map charts and index. It has a yellow and black jacket. Just send check, Visa or Master Card charge, give number, expiration date. Be sure to include your name and address. I am not selling or handling these books myself, only can be obtained through Vantage Press, Inc., 516 West 34th Street, New York, N.Y., 10001.

I am planning to attend the "B" Co., 39th reunion in Allentown, Pa. in June and to go to the 9th Infantry Division reunion in Detroit in July by bus from New York City if that chapter charters one.

60th Inf. B Co
GEORGE CYPHERS
18011 Windward Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio, 1983

I received my Octofoil in red ink so I'll take care of that right now. My wife and I did a few things last year that was very interesting. In June we flew to Vancouver, B.C. and went on a 7 day cruise to Alaska. We had a marvelous time on the Holland-American line Statendam. We went up the Inside Passage, stopped at Ketchikan and Juneau going up and at the Glacier Bay National Park and Sitka on the way back. The only time we were really cold was going up Tarr Inlet at Glacier Bay, as close as the boat could go to the faces of the Margirie and Grand Pacific glaciers. The food was out of this world. One man said that he felt like he wouldn't eat for 2 months after he got home. I had always wanted to see Alaska and had the opportunity to see at least a part of it. It was worth the price. In the fall went on a tour of New England to see the colors. Had lobster in Gloucester, saw the Old Man of the Mountains. Never having been in that area we had a great time. I hope to make the reunion. After all it isn't very far from Cleveland.

47th Inf. Co F
R.S. HOFFMAN
RD#2, Box 47
Waterloo, N.Y. 13165

I always find my name in red at this time of the year, but it's a good thing, because then I write a note to you and you usually share it with anyone who cares to read it in the Octofoil. I was so pleased with the pictures you printed in the Octofoil. Hank Kucharski was originally a medic in F Co. The last time I saw him was when he came back to visit some of his old friends in F Co. in Germany in June 1945. Here is a picture that might bring some memories if it can be printed. Frank Gallo was with us from the start. Sid Ginsberg joined us in Germany. His brother Harold was one of our originals and was killed just about the time Sid got to the 9th. I have not heard from either Frankie or Sid since the war. If anyone knows where they are I would appreciate a line.

60th Inf. Co. D
DONALD WHITENACK
131 Garfield
Longview, Tx. 75602

Just received my last issue of the Octofoil and since my address was in the red, Am enclosing a check for 3 years dues.

I would love to make the 38th annual reunion in Detroit but don't believe it's physically possible at this time.

I've been able to locate only a couple of men from D Co. since starting to receive the Octofoil last year. I was only with the Company from July, '44 to Sept. '44. They were rather busy times and did not include a lot of room for socializing. Would love to hear from anyone with the Company at that time.

60th Inf.
ZANE M. GREY
350 Fleetwood Dr. (Apt. 221)
Elgin, Illinois 60120

I am writing this letter in reference to a book. The name of it is Historical and Pictorial Review of the Ninth Division. Published in 1941.

The Publisher was Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. A private publishing company no longer in business and out of print now.

The Historical and Pictorial Review consisted of five Volumes, I am interested in the Volume 60th Inf.

Currently the New York Public Library has a copy. But not for loan.

I am wondering if anybody in the 9th Inf. Association has one for sale or know's how to obtain one or a Reproduction of this volume.

Thanking you very much for any information you can obtain about this I would appreciate it very much.

PS: Thanks for the prompt service on membership, book and Insigna. Appreciate it very much.

Co Co, 39th Inf
THOMAS FUNKHOUSER
1421 Myrtle Avenue
New Brighton, Pa. 15066

Enclosed is my check for Eighteen Dollars. Thirteen for three years dues and Five for the Fort Bragg Memorial. I first joined the Ninth Division Association on May 31, 1945 in Germany. But in the years have been more a non paying member than a paid up member.

I am not a Fort Bragg man. I joined the Ninth in the Sedjenane Valley in Tunisia as a private in the first platoon of C. Company 39th Inf. Seven Campaigns and two years later was on the Elbe when the war ended. Still in the first platoon of C. Company 39th Inf as a S/Sgt.

Have only attended four Reunions. Two in Pittsburgh, the 25th in New York, and in 1974 in Atlanta, Ga.

On April 30, 1978 the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. for whom I worked for thirty seven years forced me to retire, they were eliminating my job. In August my wife of 36 years took sick and sixty days later she died. Been living alone here ever since.

I have three daughters. Two here in New Brighton and my oldest in Gwin, Michigan. Her husband spent 21 years in the Air Force. In January 1979 I flew to Frankfurt Germany and spent two weeks with them at the Rhein Main Air Force Base. The worst winter since WW II and we were snowed in. Arrived on Friday and on Sunday we went to Remagen. On the way back the snow started, so I spent the rest of the time shooting pool and drinking Binding Bier in the N. Co. Club.

All or now. I don't know about Detroit. I have a trip to make to Gwin, Michigan, in early June.

39th Inf. G Co
DONALD ROGERS
801 W Forrest Hill
Peoria, Ill. 61604

It's dues time again. Just got home from Florida for the winter. I was in G Co. 39th from Fort Bragg to Algiers, then was sent to Reg. Hdq. 39th. in I & R sec. Would like to hear from some of the guys. I retired 2 years ago from Agriculture Dept. in Peoria. I am enclosing a picture of I & R sec. Reg. Hdq. Can't remember the names, maybe someone else can.

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47th Inf. F Co.
ED HOPKINS
110 Hollywood Ave.
Metuchen, N.J. 0884

Do you remember where you were on this date forty years ago? Neither I nor my laundryman will ever forget. It was on this date, March 28th, that the Forty-seventh was committed to the attack at El Guettar, Tunisia. It was here that E Company lost practically its entire complement, we lost our battalion commander, Lou Gershenow, and we lost our company commander, Frank Smith. That was quite a day! But fortunately those days are behind us now, and when we get together it is for 100% fun and laughs.

A couple weeks ago when I was in Philadelphia for a basketball game (to see one, not play in it) I had the good luck to catch Yosh Ryncavage at home. I wonder how many F Company 47th men remember him as the second half of the "Gold Dust Twins" of which Smig Tokarchek was the first half. Yosh left us in the spring of 1942 to join the paratroopers at Fort Benning. While there we called Al Yanechfsky who is related to Yosh by marriage, and we had a pleasant conference call. Al's health has deteriorated these past few years. Yosh had a bout with Father Time who came at him with a stroke that left him paralyzed from the waist down and unable to speak. Before being forced into early retirement Yosh had been very successful in the construction industry. He flew his own plane when he had three kids in different colleges, thus enabling him to see each one at regular intervals. Yosh made a gutsy effort to rehabilitate himself so that he has reached a point where he speaks with ease and walks five miles a day, every day rain or shine. A slight numbness in his arm is his only reminder of his illness.

As always it's great to talk with guys from the Ninth. Five or six times a year I have a pleasant chat with Frank Gonzol, and I made it a point to visit with Tony Repetti three or four times a year. Last time I saw Tony he was looking better than I had seen him in some time.

Last month I spent a couple weeks visiting friends in the Tacoma-Seattle-Vancouver area. While there I tried to track down one of our former company commanders, Jesse Groff. I phoned every Groff in the area, but nobody knew Jesse. It would have been nice if I had found him and talked him into making the reunion in Detroit in July. Then if we could have the four company commanders that we had at last year's reunion plus Groff, we would be establishing some kind of a record. There's nothing like collecting old company commanders. I think of Jabez Jordan, Middleton, Murphy, Stakes, and Chance in addition to Smith, Geyer, Jones and Ray Schmadef.

Bob DeSandy called me last night and he was high in his praises of the Westin in Detroit. Bob was instrumental in arranging the facilities for the F Company, 47th CP. We expect a great turnout from F Company, and of course the "honorary" members of the company who have received appointments through the years are most welcome. Bob informed me that the inimitable Sam Buemi will grace our CP with his presence during the festivities.

Any of you who have not sent me your check please do so now so that I can provide the sustenance in the manner to which we have become accustomed.

All the best to you and your family, Dan. I know I can depend on your presence and good humor in July.

60th Inf. Co A
JOHN MERRICK
105 E. Washington Ave.
Newtown, Pa. 18940

Received my copy of the Octofoil today with my name and address printed in red ink so it look as though I owe dues for 1983.

I joined Company "A", 60th Infantry near Monschau, Germany in September 1944 and was hit in the ankle by machine gun fire at an early morning attack on Dreibern the 3rd of February 1945.

After recuperating at a Hospital Plant in Swindon, England, I rejoined the 60th at Bitterfeld, Germany near the Elbe River before occupying various towns in Bavaria such as Geisenfeld, Wolnzach and Pfaffenhofen with Company "A"

John K. Moore, who wrote a letter to the Octofoil in the January-February issue was my Company Commander with "A" Company in the Hurtgen Forest around Germetor crossroads while I served as 4th Platoon Runner.

Travis Muirhead, was First Sergeant, but I haven't seen nor heard from him since the Chicago Reunion in 1950.

Fortunately, I did run into Major Moore when our reunion was held at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and we talked over old times.

I've been to Europe five times since our 25th Reunion trip that we took in 1970, and I enjoy driving around Luxembourg, Holland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France while overseas to visit the Octoberfest in Munich.

I'm still single and I guess that's why I'm able to keep making these trips even though the prices keep going up.

Hope to hear from any former "A" Company men that I served with and best wished to all 9th members.

Hq. Co. 15 Engrs.
CAMILLE PELLAND
152 Deith Hill Rd.
S. Grafton, Ma 01560

Enclosed find check for 3 years dues. Enjoy reading the Octofoil and appreciate your dedication and hard work. Best regards to all.

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

Deadline for next issue of the Octofoil will be July 20th