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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, November/December 1984

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

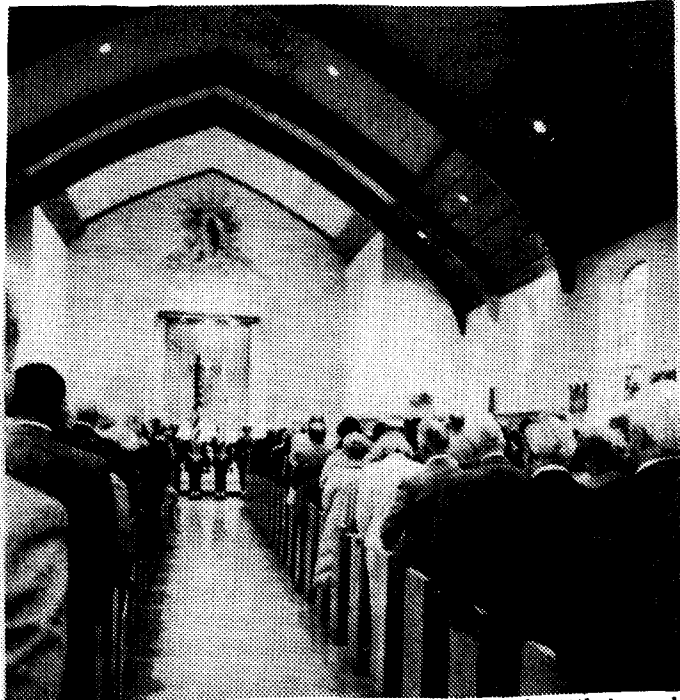
412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Volume XXXIV Number 5

Nov-Dec. 1984



A view of the services held inside the Church for the 40th Annual Memorial Service and Mass. (Photo by Bill Coen)

Memorial Pilgrimage

This year we had more than a few who arrived on Friday. The 140 rooms at the Sheraton Lincoln Inn were filled very quickly and the others Franny Maher put in the Day's Inn near the Sheraton, and others were billeted in a new Inn downtown. We had the usual crowd, about 500 at the Mass and the Memorial Service. Over 500 attended the luncheon, of these 450 were 9th division people. I am amazed and thrilled that the troops keep coming and keep remembering, but I always worry that this Worcester pilgrimage will hurt the summer convention. The gang assured me that the Worcester pilgrimage helps to keep the spirit of the men vibrant. Actually the Worcester annual get-together is primarily not so much a convention, but a pilgrimage to pray for our beloved deceased who have gone off to God and to pray for a just and lasting peace. And with that in mind, I have signed up the Sheraton-Lincoln Inn for 1985. Franny Maher promises me he will be my right hand man for I could not continue without his dedicated help and the help of Tom Boyle and helpers. They are great people!

Highlight

The highlight of our 40th pilgrimage was the attendance of General Louis Craigs widow, Miriam, a gracious lady and at the luncheon she stole the show, and 90 years young! Another distinguished guest was General Craig's son, Michael. I hope the gang prays that General Westmoreland will be successful in his suit against CBS as he fights to defend his good name and he fights to defend all of us who faithfully served our country in time of war. As his wife, Kitsy, wrote to me, it is sad that he is attacked by people in his own country, the country he served so long and so valiantly. A Blessed Christmas to you and Marie and to all our wonderful 9th division family. Hope to see you in Orlando, June 6, 7 & 8 and to see you in Worcester at our 41st annual Memorial pilgrimage Sat. Nov. 9 and Sunday Nov. 10, 1985. God bless.

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



Father Connors at the Memorial Services for the 40th year is shown addressing the group. Although the weather was on the damp side it did not dampen the enthusiasm of those in attendance. (Photo by Bill Coen)

The 150th Meeting of the National Board of Governors

The 150th meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place in Worcester, Massachusetts on November 10, 1984, at the Sheraton-Lincoln Inn. President of the Association Elmer Wagner called the meeting to order at 3:15 P.M. In attendance were Thomas Boyle, Robert DeSandy, Louis Connors, Robert Pappas, Henry Santos, Normal Caswell, Larry Ghare, Gil Pernokas, Richard Starr, Harry Wax, and Ralph Carci. Also in attendance were Herb Olson Chairman of the 84 reunion, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, Ed Wisniewski, Fred D'Amore, Ron Murphy, Emil Langer, Pete Radichio, Fran Maher, Bill Mauser.

President Wagner asked the members to rise and join with him in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and to remain standing for a silent prayer in memory of the departed men of the Ninth.

Secretary Quinn then read the minutes of the 149th meeting and upon a motion duly made by Larry Ghare and seconded by Robert DeSandy it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and have the secretary place copy of same on file.

The treasurer Tom Boyle was called upon for his report and he gave the members a detail report on the income and expenditures for the quarter ending in September. Upon a motion duly made by Henry Santos and seconded by Norman Caswell it was voted to: Accept the report of the treasurer.

Herb Olsen the Chairman of the 1984 Lake Placid reunion was called upon for his report and Herb reported that a profit of \$1142.00 was realized from the reunion. He turned over a check for this amount to the secretary for deposit. The members complimented the committee for a splendid reunion. This was a first time where by the members attending the reunion were on a package deal that included lodging and meals. President Wagner thanked Herb Olsen and his committee for their efforts.

Henry Santos a member of the Florida Chapter reported on the progress of the 1985 reunion that will be held in Orlando, Florida on June 6, 7, 8, 1985. The Twin Tower Sheraton Hotel will be the headquarters for the reunion. Joe Williams will be the Chairman and details will appear in the Octofoil. Advance registration will be used again for this reunion and the members are urged to make reservations as early as possible.

Bob DeSandy a member of the committee for national run conventions (1986) reported that the Radisson Plaza Hotel will be the reunion site on June 26, 27, 28, 1986, in Nashville, Tennessee.

1985 Orlando Reunion

June 6, 7, 8th

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Thursday June 6th	
Registration	10:00 AM
Golf Outing (to be announced)	
Board of Governors Meeting	4:00 PM
Welcoming Party	8:00-11:00 PM

Friday June 7th	
Registration	10:00 AM
Business and Committee Meetings	10:00-11:00 AM
General Meeting	11:00 AM
Ladies Meeting and Social	11:00 AM
Board of Governors Meeting	4:00 PM
Entertainment and Dance	8:00 PM

Saturday June 8th	
Registration	10:00 AM
Memorial Mass	8:30 AM
Memorial Ceremony (depart Hotel 10:00 AM Ceremony)	11:00 AM
Luncheon at Officers & Petty Officers Club	12:00 Noon
Evening Mass	4:30 PM
Banquet & Dance	6:00 PM

The Florida Chapter Welcomes you to our 40th Annual Reunion

The Florida Chapter is quite busy finalizing plans to make your Orlando visit and attendance at the 40th Annual Reunion a most memorable affair. The 40th reunion will be held in the Sheraton-Twin Towers Hotel located close to Disney World, Epcot Center, Disney Village, Circus World and other points of interest. All of our members will have accommodations in one hotel and there will be plenty of parking space for those arriving by private automobile.

The Hotel will offer special rates two days prior and two days following the convention dates. It is suggested that you try to visit several of the points of interest located in Orlando area as follows:

Walt Disney World/Vacation Kingdom
Epcot Center
Sea World
Circus World
Kennedy Space Center
Disney Village

Many more attractions are located only a few minutes away from the hotel. Sheraton-Twin Towers is located in Southwest Orlando a 20 minute drive from the Orlando International Airport and free scheduled buses from the hotel to most of the attractions.

The Florida Committee extends to each member and family a warm personal invitation to join us for the 40th Annual Reunion in Orlando.

Committees

Host Chairman	Joe Williams
Co Host	Pete Radichio
Finance/Treasurer	Henry Santos
Registration	Bob Pappas and Bruce Johnson
Memorial Service	Hal Mullins & Max Umansky
Program Book & Journal	Henry Santos
Secretary/Correspondence	Phil Berman
Food, Dance, Welcome Party	Pete Radichio Chairman
Entertainment & Banquet	Art Coulon, Co-Chairman
Transportation	Richard Trahey Chairman
Ladies Auxiliary	Mrs. Robert (Beryl) Pappas
	Chairlady
Golf Chairman	Robert Pappas & Hal Mullins

Speaker at Reunion

The Florida Chapter Planning committee is pleased to inform you that our guest speaker for the Banquet dinner will be Brigadier General (Ret) Lewis E. Maness (Chip). General Maness participated in all of the Divisions Campaigns in WW2. He commanded Company G, 47th Infantry and 2nd Bn., 47th Infantry. He and his wife presently reside at Cocoa, Florida.

The Editors of the Octofoil are grateful to all those who sent the beautiful Christmas cards and wishes for the New Year. We would like to wish all the members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to our Jewish members and families a Happy Hannukah.

**Remember the dates
June 6, 7, 8, 1985
Florida Reunion**

(Continued on page 2)

THE OCTOFOIL

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

National Officers

President
Elmer Wagner
2833 Hotchkiss Rd.
Bay City, MI 48706

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114 Charles Street
Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

Pete Radichio, 2nd V.P.
9415 Blind Pass Rd
St. Petersburg, FL 33706

Ronald Murphy, 3rd V.P.
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, MA 02066

Harrison Daysh
Judge Advocate
4303 Carriage Court
Kinsington, MD 20795

Thomas Boyle Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Sommerville, Mass 02144

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

Honorary Member Emeritus

Father Edward Connors

The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are \$5.00 per year with \$1.50 of the \$5.00 earmarked for 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 of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

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

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

Volume XXXIV Number 5 Nov-Dec. 1984

Publication No. 402820

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

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

ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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

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

John J. Clouser,
Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division
1088 N. Circle Drive, Crystal River, Florida 32629

Board of Governors

1985
Thomas Boyle
Sommerville, Ma
Henry Santos
Tampa, Fla.
Dave Heller
Highland Park, IL
Al Perna
Philadelphia, Pa.
1986
Larry Ghare
Tulsa, Okla

Robert Pappas
New Port Richey, FL
Ralph Carci
Cheverly Manor, Md.
Elmer Wagner
Bay City, Mich
Harry Wax
Brooklyn, N.Y.
1987
Norman Caswell
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Gil Pernokas
Woburn, Ma
Richard Starr
Philadelphia, Pa
Robert DeSandy
St. Clair Shores, MI
Louis Connors
Churchton, Md

TAPS SOUNDED

With sadden heart we announce
the passing of these "Old
Reliables" and friends.

60th FA

Gene Welsh
Div Arty Band
Henry Meyer
47th Inf.

Hq. Co 2nd Bn
Anthony Brianyk

Hq 60th Inf
Joseph Tomko
L Co 60th Inf.
Ed Hylton

Vinnie Spendorio (Wife of
Vito Splendorio 9th Med)

May they rest in peace. On
behalf of the membership of
this association we extend our
heartful sympathy.

47th Inf.
MRS. MARIAN BRIANYK
704 C.E. Minnesota Ave.
Deland, FL 32720

It is with great sorrow and
sadness that I am writing this
letter. My dear husband, Tony,
passed away Nov. 21, Thanks-
giving Eve. He had been ill for a
long time. I am sure it was
service connected, but the VA
said "no". He was a POW for
over 2 years in Stalag 3B in Ger-
many and was captured in
Africa where they were after the
German Officer Rommel. Give
my regards to Art
Schmidt. He always sent
Christmas cards. I do wish you
all have a wonderful New Year.

continued from page 1

Board Meets

Upon a motion made by
Robert Pappas and seconded
by Henry Santos it was voted:
to accept the report and recom-
mendations of this committee.

Larry Ghare thanked the
members of this committee for
their efforts.

Tom Boyle made a motion
that was seconded by Robert
Pappas to have the President
appoint a chairman for this reu-
nion (1986) in order to have
continuation of the committee
when the reunion takes place.
Expenses (reasonable) to come
from the 84 reunion profits to be
used by this committee and
naturally be accountable.
(President Wagner asked
Secretary Quinn to serve as Co-
Chairman with Robert De-
Sandy for the 1986 reunion.)

A discussion was held regard-
ing the Marker Fund and this
matter will be Status Quo 'till a
future meeting (next summer
at the 85 reunion).

A motion was made by Gil
Pernokas that was seconded by
Harry Wax to: Forward \$500.00
to the Florida Chapter to open
an account for the 1985 reunion
for needed expenses.

Thomas Boyle made a motion
that was seconded by Ralph
Carci to: Have the association
appoint Michael Belmonte as
Corporation Agent in the State
of Illinois due to the demise of
Charles Koskie.

Robert DeSandy presented
an offer from United Airlines
for a special discount fare for
attendees of the Orlando reu-
nion. Upon a motion made by
Tom Boyle and seconded by
Harry Wax it was voted to: Ac-
cept the offer from United
Airlines in a helpful spirit to our
membership. The Octofoil will
carry the notice prior to the
reunion.

There being no other business
to come before the Board and
upon a motion made by Ralph
Carci and seconded by Richard
Starr it was voted to: Adjourn
the meeting at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

Advance Registration

Pre-Registration will be used for the 40th Annual Re-
union and it is requested that everyone use this procedure
which should make it much easier for you and the
registration committee.

Your check or money order should be sent as early as
possible to Robert Pappas, 738-C518 Colony Cove, Box
175, New Port Richey, FL 33552. Checks should be made
payable to: 9th Infantry Division Association Reunion.
Banquet tickets must be purchased not later than 1:00
PM, June 8th.

Strip tickets of \$46.00 per person includes: Registra-
tion, Thursday Night Welcoming Party, Friday Night
Dance, The Memorial Service Saturday morning-
luncheon and transportation and Saturday evening Ban-
quet and Dance.

Pre-Registration Form

Your name* _____

Unit***** _____

Chapter _____

Name of Spouse _____

Widow of: _____

Please submit with your request for strip tickets to:
Robert Pappas
738-C518 Colony Cove, Box 175
New Port Richey, Florida 33552

Refunds will be made to those who are faced with ex-
tenuating circumstances and unable to attend the reu-
nion. Deadline for cut off date for refunds will be May
25, 1985.

Cut off date for advance (Pre) Registration will be May
10, 1985

Request For Space In Souvenir Program

Full Page	\$50.00	Half Page	\$30.00
Quarter Page	20.00	Eighth Page	10.00

Booster Ads \$2.00 name and unit

Please make checks payable to 9th Infantry Division
Association Reunion (9th Inf. Div. Asso. Reunion is ac-
ceptable) and send together with Ad copy to:

Henry Santos, Treas.
9811 N Connechusett
Tampa, FL 33617

Booster and ad deadline is APRIL 27, 1985

9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
1985 REUNION
Orlando, Florida
June 6, 7, 8, 1985

Please Reserve Sheraton-Twin Towers Hotel Accommodations

Name _____ Arrival Date _____ Time _____

Unit _____ Departure Date _____

Address _____ Check in 3:00 p.m., Check out 12 noon.

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number () _____

Make check or money order payable to the Sheraton-Twin
Towers Hotel, send to Reservations Department, The Sheraton-
Twin Towers Hotel, 5780 Major Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819

Single (One person)	\$58.00	
Twin (Two persons)	\$58.00	Room rates are subject to 5%
Double (Two persons)	\$58.00	State tax and 2% Resort tax

Reservations must be received by May 6, 1985.

include first night's deposit to confirm reservation or use
American Express, Visa or Mastercard.

Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

(Refundable if reservation is cancelled 48 hours prior to arrival
with cancellation number from Hotel).

The above special \$58.00 rates apply 3 days prior to and 3 days
after the convention, subject to availability.
Children under 18 stay free when sharing room with parent.
Free Airport Shuttle bus.
Free Scheduled Buses to Most Attractions.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
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 ☐

Mini Reunion

Company F 47th Infantry
November 16, 1943 we had been eating C and K rations in the mud and water filled foxholes just outside Safi, Morocco. The evening of November 16, 1984, we were eating by candlelight, off tables covered with immaculate white tablecloths and decorated with a profusion of cut flowers in elegant vases. The banquet consisted of a seafood cocktail of shrimp, crab meat, scallops, and lobster followed by a crisp salad and delicious lobster bisque, and some of the most tender prime ribs of beef that most of us have ever had the good fortune to encounter, all prepared with TLC. Decanters of red, white, and rose wines were at each table. A choice of three desserts and beverage topped it off. The banquet was preceeded and followed by an open bar. Instead of calls for grappa, calvados, vin rouge, vin blanc, vin any color, eau de vie de vin, cognac, the orders were now for martinis, manhattans, old fashions, scotch, rye, bourbon, and beer. The men at this feast at Tony Repetti's Pat's Riverview Diner were the same men that ate cold C rations out of a can forty-two years earlier, members of Company F, 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. The same man who had handed out the rations forty-two years earlier, Tony Repetti, was the man who directed the preparations of the banquet, so ably prepared by his sons, Anthony and Paul. What a credit these two young men are to their parents, Tony and Ted (Theresa) Repetti! The Repettis' certainly went all out on this one — but then we have come to expect nothing less from Tony. Tony had gone all out in any task he set his hand to: soldiering, leading a rifle squad, delivering hot food up to the very foxholes when even the ambulances were having trouble getting through, making decent meals out of the British rations we received at Kasserine. We are certainly richer in many ways for having our lives touched by the Tony Repetti's of this world.

Some ten to fifteen men spent the night at the Belmar Motor Lodge, also owned by Tony.

Everything Was

Complimentary

When Lou Slatnick and I planned this affair with Tony, and I asked him how much I should tell the men it would cost, his reply was, "Just tell them the cost will be reasonable." Tony's idea of a reasonable cost is ZERO! Everything was compliments of Tony and his family: the accommodations, open bar, dinner wines, banquet, and decorations. When I was making the arrangements, I suspected this would happen, and when Tony told me that he would pick up the tab, I objected most strenuously — but to no avail. He silenced me with, "I want to do it this way. Next time I'll charge the guys, but this time we'll do it my way." Well, I'm sure there'll be a next time, but I'll have him sign an ironbound contract that stipulates that he must accept an agreed upon amount. This will probably be unique in the annals of law, forcing a man to sign a contract that insists he be paid. But with some people we must be firm. It was a most generous gesture, done with a minimum of fanfare, Tony's way of saying "I love you guys." The feeling is mutual: very few men of the Ninth Infantry Division commanded any more trust, respect, and love than did Tony Repetti.

Forty Two Years

Some of the men at this reunion hadn't seen one another in forty-two years, men such as Yosh Ryncavage and Chris Argyris, the former who left us at Bragg to join the paratroopers and jump in New Guinea, the latter who left us also at Bragg to go to OCS and I understand he jumped into Greece where he worked with the Greek underground. His story is yet to be told.

Others who answered the roll call at this happy gathering in addition to Tony and me were George King, Smig Tokarchek, Lou Slatnick, Ed Netta, Dan Quinn, Vinnie Guglielmino, Ken Yennie, George Gaynor, Rud Hoffman, Jack Finnegan, Paul Giarraputo, Pop Zucker, Al Yanushefsky, Milt Zucker, Joe Bergin, Bill Larson, Harry Metta, Al Munatore, and Warren Lane. Wives were with everyone except Googy and Milt who both lost their devoted wives within these past twelve months.

In a recent phone conversation with Dan Quinn, he informed me that he had received a letter from Eugene "Shorty" Mann. Many of you will remember him as about one hundred pounds of fury in combat in Africa. He is now living in Tampa after an army career and a civil service career. I just know that he'll be in Orlando in June.

Missed The Gathering

One of the men who did not attend the dinner was Frank Gilsenan. His wife called me that week to tell me that Frank had been looking forward eagerly to meeting us all after these many years, but he had had a heart attack the previous week and was then in the hospital. He is now home and recovering nicely. He was keenly disappointed at missing the gathering. Some ten years ago Frank had a by-pass, and he has had a couple of heart attacks since then. But he's a tough one, as he proved, on a number of occasions at El Guettar, in France and in the ring in England (raw courage).

Jack Finnegan and I sipped a three hour lunch yesterday at Fridays in Woodbridge while his Betty enjoyed some Christmas shopping at the Woodbridge Center Mall. We had a load of laughs recounting the numerous humorous incidents that took the sting out of war. Jack, Lou Slatnick, and I are going to try to set up a luncheon date with Frank Gilsenan for next week. I'm tempted to bring my tape recorder to that one. Can you imagine the stories that will be told? — The litany of names that will be recited — The laughs that we'll have?

Last month I discovered Milt Zucker living about eight miles from my vacation place. I discovered his name in the phone book and Lucy and I invited him to dinner, and subsequently he came to Tony's with us.

Good To See

It was good to see Bill Larson, Harry Metta, and Chris Argyris after all these years. The three of them had been in a few business ventures down through the years, and I understand that they were highly lucrative. Wouldn't you love to have that trio working for you. I understand that they are seriously thinking of offering to eliminate the national debt. President Reagan is mulling over their offer right now.

Others whom I hadn't seen in many years, too many, were George Gaynor, Warren Lane, Slat, Finnegan, Al Yanushefsky, and Pop. Now that we have

found each other I hope we'll be seeing more of them.

Really A Pleasure

George and Mary King were our house guests for the better part of a week. It was really a pleasure having them stay with us. When they expressed an interest in going to Atlantic City, I was quick with advice on how to win in this notorious gambling mecca. I didn't want our country cousins from the tiny farm community of Phelps, N.Y., to be taken by the city slickers of Atlantic City. I carefully outlined the odds of winning at the various games, quoted percentages, etc. However, this little lady didn't do one thing I advised her to do, played the slots which I had warned her against, and consequently ended up winning four hundred fifty dollars at the slots, while I was losing just over two hundred dollars at the craps tables. Anyway she ended up picking up the dinner tab for George and me at the Bayberry Inn. I couldn't let her leave New Jersey with all that money.

The day after the affair at Tony's many of the gang came to my summer place which is about 35 miles from Belmar. Not as many showed up as I had hoped for, but it was good to enjoy some laughs with Smig and Marie, the Kings, Slatnicks, Quinns, Googy, Repettis, Hoffmans, Giarraputtos, Milt, and the Finnegan's.

Regular Affair

We hope to make a dinner like this a regular affair. Everyone seemed to enjoy it immensely. Even the reporters and photographers who covered it were caught up in the spirit and emotion that permeated the room.

CP In Orlando

We are looking for a big turnout from F Company at Orlando. We missed all of you who could not come to the affair at Tony's and hope to see many of you at our CP in Orlando. Also, I am now accepting checks for the CP fund (I say that as though there were a time when I wasn't accepting checks). I've already received a donation of fifty dollars from the New York Chapter of the Association. It was quite generous of them. Ed Netta just sent me his contribution, and I am glad he will be there.

I almost failed to report one of the highlights of the festivities of November 16th, was a film of happenings at Fort Bragg in '41 and '42. Bill Larson had taken shots of the activities, mostly of the fourth platoon, during those early years of our training. They brought back many memories and some oh's and ah's as various men recognized friends or themselves in younger and slimmer years.

See you in June in Orlando.

Ed "Hoppy" Hopkins
110 Hollywood
Meutchen, N.J.

**June 6, 7, 8 1985
Reunion in Florida**



Ed "Hoppy" Hopkins supplied us with this picture of the men attending the mini reunion of Company F 47th Infantry. Left to right seated: Rod Hoffman, Irvin "Pop" Zucker, George King, Ed Hopkins, Paul Giarraputo, and Tony Repetti host for the evening. Second row (l to r) John Ryncavage, Vince Guglielmino, Joe Bergin, George Gaynor, Dan Quinn, Jack Finnegan, Ken Yennie, Harry Metta, Lou Slatnick, Chris Argyris, Al Yanushefsky. Back row (l to r) Milt Zucker, Ed Netta, John "Smig" Tokarchek, Warren Lane, and Al Munatore. Bill Larson was not present when pictures were taken.



Shown at the New York Chapter Christmas Party held on December 9th in Weehawken are: Adolph Wadalavage, Jake Lasku, Emil Langer, Norman Caswell, Joe Rzesniowiecki and their better halves.

NEW YORKERS
FINISH YEAR

We've just finished the year of 1984 with some heartaches and real joys. Looking back since our days were served with the division, isn't it great to see how loyal our comradeship has been since our war days. Each affair we have a few first time faces show up and they are amazed at the warm welcome they are given and can't believe that all these years we have been together. An example, at the Memorial Mass held in Worcester, Fr. Connors asked those attending for the first time to rise and there were quite a few, also at Lake Placid for the June reunion. So to those who are saying maybe next year did you ever look back and say maybe next year will be too late! Ask some of the fellows you keep in touch with. There seems to be a lot of interest in our division history "Eight Stars to Victory." If anyone has one they would care to part with, let me know, we can put you in touch with someone from the division that would appreciate a copy. Send your name to Dan Quinn. To give your friends an idea of what the bridge over the Rhine River

was and meant, N.B.C. will be at the Ludendorf Bridge at Remagen, Mar. 7, 1985 and will be aired here in the states either Mar. 7 or 8. Who knows it may make you homesick, you may even see a face or two that looks familiar to you. What did you all think of the Christmas Party that was held in Weehawken, N.J. at the Elks Club overlooking the New York skyline? Everyone had a great time and about 135 people attended and was just like a class reunion, slapping each other on the back and shaking hands. Come to think of it we did graduate from the varsity... the 9th Division. All you New York Chapter guys, we miss you at our monthly meetings, 1st Friday of the month at the Armory, 25th & Lexington in New York City at 8 PM. Come on down! As Art Schmidt says "refreshments are on the house." If you know of any former 9th man who is not a member, tell him of the association. I'll bet he'll thank you for it.

Adolph Wadalavage

President N.Y. Chapter

94 30 96th St.

Ozone Park, N.Y. 11416

Children are deductible, but they're also taxing.



A group of former M.P.'s at the Worcester Memorial weekend left to right front row: Wadalavage, Nailor, DeGennaro. Standing left to right: Morky, Tujague, Harvey, Hughes, Maloney and Vivolo. Wadalavage sends the picture along with the story that appears in Mail Call.

Michigan News Notes

Story of The Year

When you read this we will be well into 1985.

1984 is gone but it will not be forgotten. The top story of the year has to be the 39th Annual Reunion held at Lake Placid, N.Y. I can't picture a more beautiful setting for any event.

The low spot of the year being the death of so many of our beloved brothers in arms. We pray that their souls may rest in peace and our thoughts go out to their families who suffered the loss of their dear ones.

The Michigan Chapter had a full year of meetings. Some not too well attended but we realize that illness keeps many close to home. Our October Out State, at Grand Rapids Michigan, was a success. Eighty three members and guests were at the banquet. We were honored with the presence of our National President, Elmer Wagner. Also in attendance was Matt Urban our Medal of Honor winner.

Elect Officers

A short business meeting was held for the purpose of electing officers for 1985. Floyd Hennessey was re-elected President, Leonard DeBell elected 1st Vice President, Percy Hough elected 2nd Vice President, Rodger E. Alsgaard Secretary, Elmer Wagner Treasurer, Don Lewis Adjutant, Everett Tapp Chaplain and Billie Martin Historian. Those elected were installed in office at the December 14th meeting held at Walli's Supper Club in Flint, Mi.

Thirty four members and guests were present at the December meeting. The food was first rate and more than plentiful. Jim and Audry Bruner hosted the party. A fabulous Buffet Table that would be hard to find anywhere else.

The first prize winner of our bottle raffle was Thomas Verbist. The second prize went to Robert Torrent.

So now the year has been wrapped up and given to our Historian. Be it found to be good or bad only time will tell. All we can do is look forward to 1985.

Rodger E. Alsgaard Sec'y
Michigan Chapter
Ninth Infantry Division
Association

Illinois Chapter

At this writing we are a week away from Christmas. Although it will be in print at a later day, the Illinois Chapter wants to wish all the members of the Ninth Infantry Division a Belated Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The Mini-Outstate reunion in Grand Rapids with the Michigan Chapter was a huge success. We were sorry we weren't there so we can't report first hand. We did hear that those who went had an enjoyable time. We understand Paul Clark went alone since Lorraine went to the aid of her son in New York, her daughter-in-law gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl and Lorraine was needed desperately. Both mother and twins are doing well.

The Grays recently had a wedding in their family. Their son Don was married in November and reside in Oak Park, Illinois. Congratulations to the newlyweds.

We heard from Larry Ghare and his wife. They are slowly getting settled in Oklahoma. We sure miss them.

Since Larry has moved we have elected temporary officers. Mike Belmonte will be the President of the Illinois Chapter and Bill Hennemuth has taken over as treasurer due to the death of Chuck Koskie.

The Christmas Party was held this year at our home instead of the Koskies where we have held it for several years. The weather cooperated and we had a tremendous turnout. The Clarks travelled from Indiana while the Grays and the Prestons came in from Wisconsin. We were pleased to have the Elmers join us as well as the Hellers, The Anderson, Hennemuths, Lipkas, Wilma Radic and her sister, Irma Koskie, and the Paulies. It was different without some of our regulars and they were missed dearly.

Many of the Illinois Chapter members will be making plans to attend the 1985 reunion in Orlando.

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

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

To all our BECO Buddies greetings once again from the Keystone State of Pennsylvania! By the time our BECO buddies will be reading this column, we will have attended the 40th Annual Memorial Mass and Memorial Service which was held at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, Mass. on Sunday November 11, 1984. We have been attending this beautiful and most inspiring Memorial Service and Annual Pilgrimage for many years — missing a few only when we absolutely could not travel due to Health reasons. We would feel that something was missing in our devotional prayers and thoughts for our 4581 departed comrades and buddies, if we did not attend this reverent occasion.

Our "BECO" Buddies who attended these services with their wives were: Joe and Stella Cichocki; John and Catherine Compagnone, Dennis and Thora Canedy, Norman and Alice Caswell, George and Dorothy Apar, Pat and Ann Morano.

"FATHERS HELPERS"

Congratulations are in order for "Father's Helpers — Tom Boyle, Franny Maher and their group for arranging a very good Buffet Dinner together with a great "Jazzy" Group who played for our dancing pleasure on Saturday Night's Get-Together at the Sheraton-Lincoln Hotel. Father Connors looked great and as usual greeted all in his most ingratiating manner. We sincerely hope that his 'Swan' Song will be postponed for a while yet! We love you Father — so hang in there! — We were delighted to read "Jack" DiSanto's letter in the previous issue of the 'Octofoil', advising us of a change of address and now lives in a Condominium Townhouse in So. Burlington, Vermont. His comments pertaining to his 1945 overseas experiences with Art Stenzel as to which of them has the better memory we found hilarious. We have another budding writer for our "BECO" Column; how about it "Jack"? "BECO" buddies who wrote to our co-reporter Art Stenzel recently:

Sam Moscatelli (4th Platoon) saying that he expects to attend the Florida (Orlando) Reunion in June 1985, and that Joe Podany (4th Platoon) and his wife Edith plan to be there also. A letter from 'Bill' Lovejoy (1st Lt) from Tucson, Arizona with a general greeting, was looking for some addresses particularly Joe Taubner's (Hqrs) which Art has since sent to him along with a strong inducement to attend the Florida Reunion!

CURRENT ADDRESSES

For the convenience of "BECO" members we have the current addresses of over 30 buddies. To those of you who may be interested in contacting former "BECO" people we will gladly help. Write to either Art or myself at our addresses shown at the end of this column. We were sorry to learn of the illnesses of Bob and Anna Edie which caused them to cancel their Lake Placid reservations. Hope all is well with both of you and that you will be able to attend the Florida Reunion in June. Art's column in tribute to John J. Reilly in our Octofoil Issue of Aug-Sept-Oct 1984 was a masterpiece. To those of our

"BECO" family who did not get to know Johnny Reilly, as I had the privilege knowing him, and sharing time with him when we went to Sunday Mass; missed a true honest individual who always had a good quip or joke to tide us over while we were out in the field or during maneuver exercises. Johnny always had time, regardless where he was, to sit up against a tree, take out his note-book to correspond with his beloved Mary. He was a very devout person who always had compassion for his fellow buddies. Yes, Johnny ('Ripples' was Art's way of calling him) Reilly has "left us" — however we too feel that he's keeping them laughing 'up there'.

PLAN NOW

On June 6, 7 and 8th — 1985, our 40th Annual Reunion of the 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. will be held in the beautiful City of Orlando, Florida. The Sheraton - Lincoln Tower is the Command Post for the Reunion. We have no doubt that this will be one of the best reunions we've had. So give yourselves and families a well deserved vacation treat by planning and saving now to attend this great 40th Reunion. Our "BECO" buddies have always been able to have a large attendance at these reunions and Art and I sincerely hope that "BECO" will set a record for attendance at these reunions and Art and I sincerely hope that "BECO" will set a record for attendance this time. So let's make the 40th Reunion the biggest and best yet! We hope that all of you have a Very Merry Christmas, and a Healthy and Great, Great, New Year in 1985!! Hope to see all of you in Orlando, June 6, 7, and 8th. God Bless all of you!!

Pat J. Morano
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201
and
Art Stenzel
8705 Village Mill Row
Bayonet Point, Fla. 33567



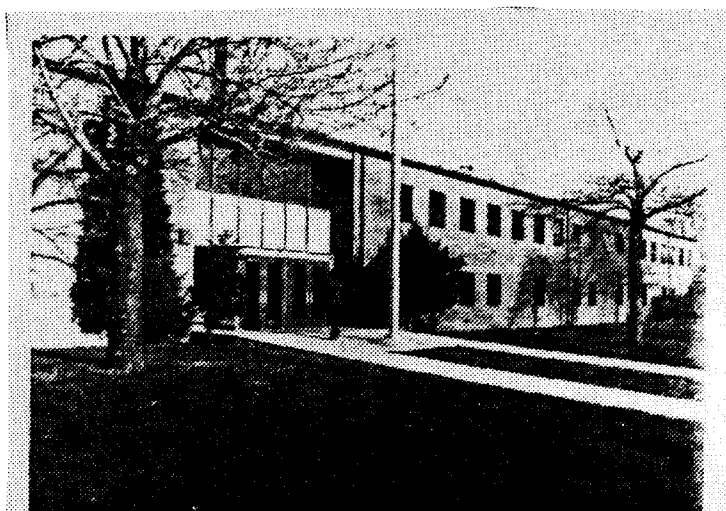
Eugene Mann supplies this picture taken in Fort Bragg in 1941, (Company F 47th). Shown are Eugene, Martin Kolar and John Ryan.



John O'Donnel sends this photo of some members of Division Artillery Headquarters Bty., getting spruced up for Christmas in England in 1944.

REDEDICATION CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 18, 1984



On November 18, 1984 a Rededication Ceremony was held to honor the late Major General Donald A. Stroh by naming the United States Army Reserve Center Detroit, Michigan in his memory.

Attending the ceremony were his daughter Mrs. Robert (Jenice) Stumpf widow of Colonel Robert Stumpf, (3rd Bn 39th Infantry). Her sons Robert and Donald were also in attendance. The General's widow was unable to attend as she is "very frail". Major General Donald Stroh had served with the 9th Division in North Africa. He later commanded the 8th Division through France into Germany. He was in command of the 106th Division at the war's end.

Forty years later

Words cannot explain the feeling one gets when he tries to retrack his war days in Europe. The Mayor of Nutley, N.J., Harry W. Chenoweth, and myself left Kennedy Airport Sept. 24, 1984 and flew to Luxembourg, where we picked up a Hertz rental car and started our sentimental journey of 40 years ago. I drove the car and Harry did the map reading. I also took over 200 snapshots which I must say came out very clear, even though the sun never came out and it rained every day of the trip, which took about 3½ weeks. Our trip from Luxembourg was to Hamm, the cemetery, where we paid our respects at the graves of Gen. Patton and the men of the Battle of the Bulge and the advance to the Rhine River. You get a chilled feeling and all the hardships of the past goes thru your mind.

Bastogne

The following day we went to Bastogne where there is a large memorial with all the names of the divisions that fought there. High up on one of the pillars holding the monument is the 9th Division and its insignia and inside the round shape memorial is a brief description which explains what took place. Inside the memorial building are pictures and wax figures of soldiers showing what each unit did. Harry found his outfit, the 8th Armored division on one of the pillars. After leaving there we felt like 2 old proud army Sgts. for a job well done by our respective outfits.

A few days later, we drove to Luxembourg thru Bonn up to Kolon, where we stayed a few days. One day we drove to the Remagen bridge, which is now gone and the large pillars or towers which held the bridge entrance are made into a memorial and museum. On one of the floors are the same pictures that are on pages 355 & 359 of 8 Stars to Victory book. I also saw a picture there of myself and some other 9th Med. Bn. men trying to help get the wounded and dead out of the wreckage and water. It also brought back many memories. Nothing has changed much around the bridge area. There are a few new roads. The tunnel is still there, the holes in the mountain, the river and the cross like figure at the top of the ridge is still there, but barren now. The house we had our medical supplies in is still there also. Remagen is peaceful with a park like area. Harry asked an older man if he was there during the crossing and when the bridge went down. He said he was and tried to explain with hand gestures how the bridge went down. But when Harry told him I was there that day, his whole attitude changed and he walked away. On the Memorial it reads: "Let us every day work for peace with our mind and heart. Each should begin with himself."

We drove to the town of Nennig to the German border where Harry was wounded. The German border guards gave us a hard time and sent us all the way back to Luxembourg Airport to the Hertz car people to get better credentials for the car and when we drove all the way back again they still wouldn't let us through. After arguing with them, they finally sold us special car insurance to only go 4 miles into Germany! Harry wanted to see this town and we were willing to pay any price to get there. It was very emotional for him to show me

where he got wounded. A couple of days later we drove to many places we were during the war, then stopped at Cherbourg for a few days. We covered 1000 miles to get there. We stopped at St. Mere Eglise where we visited the cemetery. There is a museum about the 82nd Airborne also.

Utah Beach

Then on to Utah Beach where we landed D plus 4, and took some pictures. During our drive to Utah Beach the sun came out for a few minutes and it began to thunder and lightning and hail came down like golf balls hitting the car. Harry said maybe the dead German pilots are trying to get even with us and stop us from seeing the landing sights on the Beach. The concrete bunkers are still there. Here and there you see a tank, half-track or landing barge. After driving over 4000 miles and seeing many cities we dropped off the car and flew to Rome where we relaxed for 5 days. From Rome we flew to London where we spent a week. Went to Winchester where the 9th had its headquarters. There is now a British army outfit stationed there. Then on to Crawley Court where the 9th Med. Bn. was stationed. As soon as I saw the little pond many memories came back to me. I was a little disappointed as the only thing left is the bridge wall entrance. The building, barns and chicken farms are gone but there now is a park like surrounding with a big building which is an independent broadcasting company. The town of Winchester is the same except more gas stations. Then we took a plane to Shannon, Ireland and toured the country for a few days then back to the States. Anyone in good health and can afford it should take this trip before it is too late.

All The Suffering

I never wanted to go back to the battlefields because my mind was blocked out from seeing all the suffering of the people and the destruction of buildings and children begging for food. Now that I have been back and see how things have changed and all the towns built up and the children are neatly dressed and people are living in freedom I feel like a good Catholic who has gone to Confession and received Communion (which Harry and I did on our trip) and come home with a clean conscience. You feel like a different person knowing that the time of little over 5 yrs., 3 of which were in combat, that all the rough life you had was not in vain but spent for a worthy cause to see that most of us can now live in freedom. God bless all the men of the 9th.

Andy Andriola
33 Clover St.
Nutley, N.J. 07110
47th Inf.
9th Med. Bn.



Anthony "Andy" Andriola is pictured at the road sign leading to Ste. Mere Eglise.

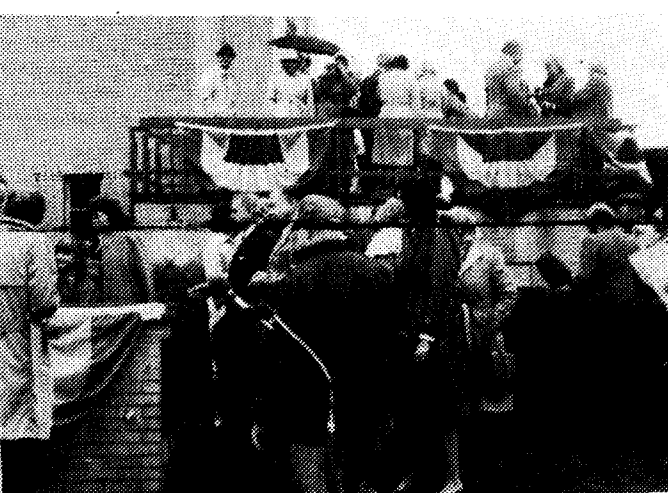
Worcester Memorial



Dan Quinn, Fran Maher, Mrs. Miriam Craig, widow of General Craig and President Elmer Wagner at the placing of the wreath at the Worcester Monument for the men of the ninth. (Photo by Bill Coen)



President of the Association Elmer Wagner addresses the gathering at the 40th Annual Memorial Service in Worcester. (Photo by Bill Coen)



Part of the group that attended the Memorial outside of Church. (Photo by Bill Coen)



Adolph Wadalavage supplied us with this picture taken at the luncheon of the 40th Annual Memorial Service held in Worcester.

MEMORIAL-SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Memorial Fund was enriched with the generosity of these members. The association salutes you.

Boardman Lockwood
Boleslaw W. Kowalczyk
Peter Janus
Harry Kish
Edward Drabik
George B. Shaw
Edwin E. Brewer
William A. Miller

Express Thanks

We received a copy of the Immaculate Conception Church bulletin with Fr. McKiernan's thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for their generous donation.

OUR PARISH HAS RECEIVED A DONATION OF \$250.00 from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ninth Infantry Division. We express our thanks to all the ladies of the Auxiliary. "This active group gives thanks to all the members of Immaculate Conception for the care, prayer and love extended to all the men of the Ninth from beginning to present, and of course, our love for Father Connors", writes Ms. Lily Krasovetz, Secretary-Treasurer of the Auxiliary.

Trip to Europe

Ed Combs formerly with E Company 47th Infantry has plans for a 16 day trip to Europe in September of 1985. Starting with 3 nights in London, 1 night in Southampton, 2 nights in Caan, 2 nights in Paris, 1 night in Liege, 1 night in Bonn, 1 night in Erfurt, 1 night in East Berlin and 2 nights in West Berlin.

For information contact:
Combs Travel Service
316 City Centre Mart
Middletown, Ohio 45042
513-424-1014

47th Cannon Co
WILLIAM COEN
Rt. 3 Box 246
Supply, N.C. 28462

Enclosed are pictures from the Memorial service at Worcester. It is always a high point for me and my wife. The Octofoil was waiting for me when we got home after spending Thanksgiving in Pa. Tom McGinley and I got together for a night on the town at the Legion Post Washington, Pa. We really don't get much of a chance to talk at the Memorial as he spent some time with cannon co as a radio operator. Surprised to see a letter from Mike Foley. Too bad he never saw fit to make any of the reunions as I would like to have seen him. Happy holidays. We will be in Charleston with my son or Florida with Dora's family.

**Orlando, Florida
Reunion in '85
June 6, 7, 8th**



Charles Lewis sends this picture of Headquarters Company of the 15th Engineers taken in 1942. He did not identify any of the men but we believe Charlie is in the front row third from left.

The Avenging Ghosts of the Ninth

Several members have sent copies of the following story written by one of the great War Correspondents of our time, Thomas R. Henry. It appeared in the 1946 July issue of the Saturday Evening Post. Charlie Hoffman writes "after reading a few of the letters in Mail Call complaining how the Ninth never was given credit for the great job they did it would be a good idea to reprint this story."

Nobody ever knew where they were or what they were doing, but these veteran infantrymen always popped out of the night to surprise their own commanders . . . as well as surprising the krauts.

By THOMAS R. HENRY

For thirty months an American mystery division fought from Morocco to the Elbe in fire-streaked darkness, always unhonored and unsung — until the top brass counted results and totted casualties. It left its dead strewn from the black kasba of Port Lyautey to the bewitched forests of the Hartz Mountains. Only three or four times did its riflemen, wearing on their left shoulders the mystic blue, red and white octofoil of medieval heraldry, walk briefly with fixed bayonets across moonlit rifts.

Maknassy to Remagen

From Maknassy to Remagen the 9th Infantry Division emerged from the invisible in hours of crisis, struck four or five of the hardest blows suffered by the Axis in the west, and vanished again into obscurity. The 9th swooped across North African mountains in blinding snow to save the day at El Guettar. It captured Bizerte. It flanked the German army in Sicily. It pushed the first holding force into Cherbourg and thus established the first firm American foothold in Normandy. It poured through and held the first break in the Siegfried Line, it rose like an avenging spirit in swirling snow to blunt the first spearhead of The Bulge. It established the first American beachhead east of the Rhine.

Always the ghostly 9th materialized out of darkness in time of need and performed far beyond the expectations of the armies of which it formed a part. Its losses were heavy — between 300 and 400 per cent in the course of the war. Nearly 50,000 men wore its shoulder patch. But it seemed always the role of the 9th to be the hole ace in the poker game of war.

Integrity of Leadership

One advantage the 9th enjoyed — integrity of leadership — for it was commanded by Maj. Gen. Manton S. Eddy, of Columbus, Georgia, from the first landing in North Africa until it reached the Belgian Border. Its chief units were the 47th, 39th and 60th infantry regiments, all Old Army organizations with proud histories. The 60th made a fighting landing to capture the walled Arab quarter of Port Lyautey in a short, murderous battle — one of the first fought by Americans on the soil of Africa.

Within three months came the first of its avenging exploits. Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps broke through the Americans at Kasserine Pass. Prospects for stopping the three-pronged drive were dim—the situation was frankly desperate. The most serious American deficiency was in artillery. The 9th was bivouacked at Tlemcen, in Algeria, nearly 800 miles away.

All its artillery and the cannon companies of its infantry regiments were ordered to the battle front in Southern Tunisia.

There followed one of the outstanding heavy-gun movements in history. The great convoy — 411 vehicles and 2,170 soldiers of all ranks — left Tlemcen in a blinding sleet storm of a late February afternoon. Through snow and mud, and over narrow mountain roads often covered with ice, it moved 777 miles in eighty-four hours. There was no halt, except for fifteen-minute stops for refueling. As the convoy, commanded by Brig. Gen. S. LeRoy Irwin, approached the American headquarters at Tebessa, it found the one road jammed with ambulances and service vehicles streaming toward the rear. This was essentially a routed army. Vehicles loaded with soldiers warned, "You are too late. Rommel is moving forward and we haven't got a chance."

The clogged road was a river of mud. Heavy guns slipped over banks and rolled down the mountain-sides. One battery commander lost every gun in this way. But the surviving guns went into position and plastered the Germans with a completely unexpected torrent of howitzer and mortar fire. General Irwin brought to a cold stop the most dangerous prong of Rommel's three-pronged drive.

Two regiments of Goums

The 9th ten shifted northward to Sedjenane Valley. Attached to it were two regiments of Goums — fiend-faced, brown-turbaned Moroccan highlanders. They went into battle wearing black-and-white-striped, goat-wool robes. Between their teeth they carried long, sharp, curved knives. They were pre-eminently throat cutters. Silent as cats, they crawled through thistle-filled gaps among the speckled rocks in the eerie blackness of desert nights when hyenas were howling. Then they would fall on enemy outposts, leave behind them a dozen throat-slashed corpses, and depart as silently as they came. The tactics of the Goums added immensely to the aura of mystery which enveloped the 9th as its regiments seemed to materialize out of darkness and vanish into darkness again.

Gen. Matt Eddy was engaged in moving the division along a twenty-eight-mile front through extremely difficult mountain country, with the object of outflanking the Germans and cutting them off on the north and northeast — that is, getting between them and the sea. There were no roads. The maneuver was hampered by almost complete lack of communication.

Success required that an entire division be moved around the flank of a hostile army without detection. Complete silence, invisibility and Goum operations on sentries were essential. Eddy was completely successful. The campaign was over when the 60th Infantry marched into Bizerte on the afternoon of May seventh.

Scene shifts to Sicily

The scene shifts to Sicily. There the wearers of the octofoil arrived in time for the 39th Infantry to take the desperately held mountain city of Troina, the key to Messina. But history will record the "march of the 4000 silent men" — Col. Frederick de Rohan's 60th Infantry — as probably the most colorful episode of the Sicilian campaign.

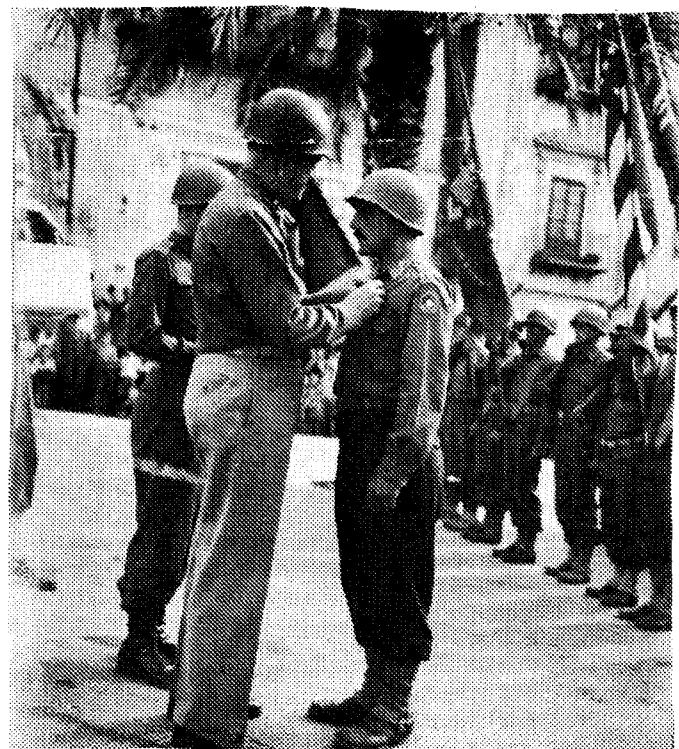
For nearly 100 hours the regiment moved over mountain slopes thick with thorn bushes and across stony mountaintops capped with thin clouds in what essentially was absolute silence. It was a masterly tactical move to cut the one road supplying the city of Randazzo from the northeast. The movement required that 4000 men with all essential supplies and equipment slide through inhabited mountain country without being seen or heard. The march covered approximately forty miles. Where short roads were marked on the map, it was necessary to avoid them. About the closest approach to roads which could be followed at any time were goat tracks.

Only a minimum of equipment was carried — one blanket and a few rations by each man. Nights were bitterly cold in the high ravines and among the clouds. All progress was at night. A brilliant full moon made concealment much more difficult. At one time, Col. de Rohan recounts whimsically, the whole strange line was led most appropriately by a "ghost," a role filled by Capt. W. H. Barnwell, of Burlington, North Carolina. The night was very cold. Barnwell preceded the leading company by a few yards, an olive-drab blanket draped over his head. Clouds gave the blanket an ectoplasmic appearance. The captain took slow, measured steps, so as not to knock loose a stone. The idea that the line was led by a supernatural figure seems to have come simultaneously to everybody.

Achievement of nearly complete silence of 4000 marching men for four days and nights is still considered a tactical miracle. The men had to move without disturbing the scenery familiar from childhood to all the local farmers, and also without disturbing the ordinary rural sounds, such as the singing of birds in the bushes or the tinkling of cowbells. The latter, by the way, were a serious problem. A favorite ruse of German scouts in the mountains was to wear cowbells. Thus any noise made while moving through the bushes would be attributed to cattle. Day after day the soldiers, hidden motionless in brush patches, had to listen to these tinkling bells without daring to shoo the cows away, and not knowing whether they were bovines or Boche.

Before starting, every bit of equipment was examined to make sure there were no loose parts which would rattle. Selected scouts went ahead of each platoon, feeling every step to make sure of not breaking a twig or kicking a loose stone. The others, in single file, stepped precisely in the footsteps of the scouts. All orders were in low whispers. Hardest of all were the necessary halts through more than twelve hours of daylight. The men, already cramped by the cold of the mountain night, had to crouch in cramped positions, almost motionless. Wagon wheels were wrapped in Army blankets. Colonel de Rohan was forced to use relentless discipline.

Never once was there the slightest suspicion, in this hostile countryside, that a reinforced regiment was passing through. Perhaps never before or again did the 9th Division demonstrate so well its speciality. After the fall of Messina, the anonymity which had veiled the mystery division since it landed



General Eddy decorates Lt. Col. Michael Kauffman, CO 2nd Bn 60th Inf., in square in front of cathedral, Cefalu, Sicily, September 1943.

in Africa was lifted for a few days. There was no other rift in the blackout until Normandy.

In the Gethsemane of the Normandy hedgerows, the division reached true greatness. For nearly a month the American 1st Army clung to a barely tenable toehold, for the most part less than ten miles deep. With the single exception of the 1st Division, General Eddy's men were the only American battle-seasoned veterans in France. They were given the all-important job of cutting the Cotentin Peninsula and taking Cherbourg.

The 47th and 39th Infantry regiments swept into the old port city from the west and north in one of the most brilliant military maneuvers of the war. General Eddy was his own leading scout. Several hundred yards ahead of his own most advanced troops, the 9th's commander crawled over the slate roof of a French house to survey below him the red-roofed Villa Maurice, set in a rose garden on a hilltop. Here, according to intelligence reports, was the command post of the German general, Von Schlieben, commander of the city.

Seeing no signs of life, Matt Eddy and a couple of newspaper reporters went through every room of the elaborately furnished villa. All the time Von Schlieben and 800 men were hidden in the tunneled hill under their feet. Two hours later, the krauts were driven out when tank destroyers were drawn up before the tunnel entrance and poured in fire from three-inch guns. The Germans came crawling out with white flags, and soldiers of the 39th Infantry entered to find themselves amidst stores of fur coats, silks, cosmetics and cognac beyond their wildest dreams.



October 1943 at Termini Airfield, Sicily, a 9th Division review. Front row, l to r: Brig. Gen. Reese M. Howell, General George Patton and General Manton Eddy. Back row: General Patton's Staff.

(Continued next issue)

For a few days after Cherbourg the men of the 9th were the most publicized division in the American Army. General Eddy was hailed as probably the country's most brilliant division commander. Then once again the octofoil-wearing infantrymen marched forward into the cloud of anonymity, not to emerge until the end of the war.

St. Lo breakthrough

The division was part of the infantry spearhead of the St. Lo-Perriers breakthrough. It skirted south of Paris and raced across France. The 60th Infantry crossed the Belgian border, the first Allied troops by twelve hours to bivouac under the black, gold and red glag of the hungry little kingdom. Through the hole in the Siegfried Line punched by the 3rd Armored Division at Roetgen the regiments of the 9th pushed into the Eifel Mountains in early autumn.

Green American troop

In the pine-scented dusk of the Eifel valleys the men of the 9th remained hidden until, just before Christmas, out of darkness filled with swirling snow and the roar of falling waters, the division again materialized for one of the most dramatic single actions of the war. Von Rundstedt's storm troopers had smashed against the thin lines of the 1st Army. Directly in their path was the ill-fated 106th Division, composed largely of green troops fresh from the United States. Few of them ever had heard a shot fired in anger.

Most of the facts which followed are from the personal recollections of Colonel Rossberger, Von Rundstedt's chief operations officer. Much nonsense has been written about The Bulge and some quite synthetic heroes have emerged from the confused picture.

mail call

9th QM
JOHN SAYLER
2140 Martin, SE
Grand Rapids, Mi. 49507

It had occurred to me that some of our 9th division people might be interested in the development of Morocco during the past 42 years. In this past month I revisited this strange land, Casablanca, Fez, Rabat, Port Lyauty. The landing (gang plank soldiers) at Casablanca at dusk Christmas eve 1942 in a sub tropical country palm trees and all, strange sights, sounds and smells was a most dramatic time we will never forget especially after wandering around the Atlantic Ocean and our band playing "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas." I had fully expected that Morocco would be much as it was in 1942-43, a country where time had passed it by. Not so, they have a young King in power who I would presume is largely responsible for the advance in development of this country. Roads although not super highways are in good condition.

The tour guide gave Eisenhower credit for many of them. Also a U.S. Airforce base there now. Agriculture is a very active industry with well maintained crops and modern farm machinery. No beasts of burden in the fields. About the only use of camels are for picture taking for tourists astride. The little burro continues to be in common use by the less prosperous inhabitants to transfer their goods to the markets. Casbah sections in the bigger cities did not seem to be prominent or perhaps we were steered around them. The streets and roads had much traffic with trucks and sub compact cars all the same size and none made in America. About the only familiar U.S. product was coca cola and this of course was bottled. There are well tended farm crops of grapes, olives, sugar cane, sugar beets, wheat, oranges (the best orange juice I ever had) and cotton. The coffee in Morocco (Spain & Portugal) also the best. Drinking water was a real problem. Diarrhea was our constant companion.

We each had to keep a bottle of mineral water for drinking and even used it to brush our teeth. The 15th engineers would sure have come in handy. Casablanca in 1942 was a city of about 500,000, now is 3,000,000! Our bivouac area near Casablanca is now a prosperous residential area and known as the Beverly Hills of Casablanca. No lady of the night came by with her donkey cart soliciting in a loud voice and using the only word she knew, commonly understood in our language, but not in the dictionary. The French garrison next to us then has long been gone. Although not in Tangier in WW2 I had the questionable honor of being solicited by a man with the opportunity to either go to his pad or mine! We had a shocking experience while enroute from Marrakesh to Fez. A little boy about 10 suddenly dropped his pants completely exposed, sans undergarments and pointed his you-know-what at us. We assumed he was acting as the welcoming committee for that region and was probably giving each of the tour busses this questionable welcome gesture. I always enjoy receiving the Octofoil. When a convention site is again considered for the midwest I would like to put in a plug for Grand Rapids. Detroit is not on my list as a good convention area.

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

It's been quite a while since I have written to the Octofoil. We enjoyed the reunion at Lake Placid. My wife, Mary, and daughter, Faye and her 2 daughters came along and all of us had a good time. That was beautiful country up there. We took in all the rides they had and did a little shopping in the store. But the best enjoyment I had was just being with the old troopers of the 9th especially B Co 39th Inf. We had our own little party the last night of the reunion and we talked and some of the men had pictures of Co B at Fort Bragg and the wives took pictures of us in a group. We had 2 fine C.O. Commanders then, a Capt. Thompson who now lives in Atlanta, Ga. and Capt. Jack Dunlop who lives in California. They were great leaders. After we left Lake Placid, we went up to Niagara Falls and had a good time there. Took the boat ride up the falls and that was really something. Had a good trip back to Richmond. Sure would like to hear from any Kentucky men who were in the 9th. Keep up the good work you do on the Octofoil. God bless you and all the men of the 9th. Hope to see you all in Orlando.

47th Inf.
THOMAS SCIOLA
10143 43rd Trail S.
Boynton Beach, Fl. 33436

After putting an ad in the DAV magazine where I attempted to get in touch with old friends from the 9th I got 3 responses from members of your organization. I am very happy to join. I would like to hear from men who served with me in the 9th Scouts and Raiders, 1944-45 especially Vincent Walker. The last I heard from him on May 30, 1945 while recuperating at a hospital in England. He mentioned at that time there was an organization such as yours being formed and that he was about to join. At the time he was overseas, his original home location was Dearborn, Mich. I would appreciate any help locating Vincent.

60th Inf L Co
EDWIN E. BREWER
222 Park Ave.
Marysville, Mo. 64468

Enclosed is my dues for 1985 and something for the Memorial Fund. Am trying to talk my wife in to coming to Orlando with me in June. Hoping this find you and yours in good health and may the New Year ahead bring happiness to you all.

9th Signal
W.A. MILLER
507 Eskridge Dr.
Wilmington, De. 19809

Enclosed is my dues and something for the Memorial Fund. At the reunion last June, a fellow soldier was seeking help in proving his whereabouts at a certain time. I have a list of the complete roster when the 9th signal received a citation at Remagen, Germany. If this information will help any member, I will be happy to supply.

60th FA
WILLIAM ROCKWOOD
7310 Andorra Pl.,
Captina Villas
Boca Raton, Fl. 33433

Perhaps the word has not reached you that Gene Welsh of the 60th FA died in Sept. 1984 survived by his lovely wife, Ida. Her address is 9 Country Lane, Mendham, N.J. 07945. Hope to see you all at the June reunion in Orlando.

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

I enjoy reading the Octofoil and am always looking for some of my old buddies from A Co. I remember my first night in tent city, Sept. 1, 1940 which was my 21st birthday. It was raining and Sgt. Culp told us to get a blanket and find a cot, what a night! I received a Christmas card from McClary, old A Co buddy. My wife and I spent some time with Lee and his wife, Eleanor this past spring, they live in Phoenix, Ariz. and they had a nice visit with Zane Grey and family in Illinois last summer. We hope to get together again soon.

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

Sorry I missed Worcester. I heard from a lot of the men from B Btry and they all enjoyed the good attendance from our battery. Due to an angina attack in July and another in August, it set me back a peg! As of this date the doctors told me I can go about my regular chores. Belle and I plan to move again in Feb. to a condo which will give us a little easier life, I hope. My mail can still come to me at the above address as I own the building. Sorry I missed Bill Mauser at the reunion. Maybe I'll catch him in Lake Worth. Sorry to hear about Walter Miazza. He attended the 1983 reunion and looked good. Got a lot of Christmas cards. "Bounce" Huysman was sorry he could not attend. That's all for now and keep those letters coming.

47th Inf C Co
STANLEY POLLINGER
2317 Washington St.
Allentown, Pa. 18104

Enclosed are my dues for the next 3 years. I wish to keep in touch with some of the old boys from the 9th and the good paper. Received Christmas cards from some of the boys from C Co., but no doubt our ranks are getting thin. I plan to work for a few more years, then retire, as the years go by I slowed down faster than I believed. Will keep in touch and hope to hear from some of the boys.

60th Inf. 2nd Bn & Bn Hq
CARL H. HULL
1022 S. Eli Dr.
Tucson, Ariz. 85710

Enclosed find check for 3 years dues. I want to inform you of the death of Henry Meyer a member of the 9th Army Band from Fort Bragg days whom I met at the Soldier's Home and kept in contact ever since. He was instrumental in getting us to move to Benton Harbor, Mich to work at Whirlpool Corp. He was Supt. of the porcelain plant. He served on the front line as a medic in battles in N. Africa and in the European theater getting 2 purple hearts himself and helped get THEN Maj. Matt Urban out after being wounded a couple of times. Henry died Nov. 2, 1984. I wish you and all the very best for the Holiday Season and the coming years.

AT 47th Inf
GEORGE REMALEY
Box 437 A RD 1
Natrana Heights, Pa. 15065

We had a nice time at Lake Placid. It was one of the best reunions I have ever attended. I met some new men and their families there. I met a man from Hershey, Pa. and one from Bangor, Pa. and I did not give them my address before I left. If they care to drop me a line or call 412-224-1309. Hope to see you all in Orlando.

Co A 9th Med
VENARD DEAN
1860 Edgehill Dr.
Hueytown, Al. 35023

I want to thank you for publishing my letter and inquiry in the July issue. It brought a good response. I've received several letters from old buddies-Capt. (Dr.) Butler, Sgt. Andy Andriola and Robt. Bobbitt. Dr. Butler is living in Kalamazoo, Mich. and Andriola in Nutley, N.J. You guys up there do a good job of holding this thing together. Speaking of Andriola he just returned from a trip to Europe, accompanied by the Mayor of Nutley. They flew to Luxemburg, rented a car and drove to different spots where we had been in battle. In one of the letters in mail call in Aug-Sept issue someone asked about a memorial at Remagen. In Andy's letter, he said there is one and it is inside between the bridge pillars. He also mentioned seeing a couple of pictures of 9th medics removing boxes and debris from the river after it collapsed. If my memory serves me right, Sam Levy of A Co, mail clerk and his truck were dumped in the river. I believe both survived. I enjoy the many letters printed in the Octofoil. The one from Boleslaw "Bill" Kowalczyk of the 47th intrigued me and I can relate to it. At that time of the war, GRS wasn't organized and I was "volunterred" as a litter bearer to go up front at night and pick up the dead. I'll never forget a young infantry Lt. telling me to "watch out for mines" That did a hell of a lot for me! One of my buddies of that nite, I believe his name was Joe Crane, was awarded a Silver Star. The last reunion I attended was in Philadelphia. The good Lord willing I will attend the one in Orlando. All the best to Scotty Hirst for seeing to it that the monument in Barneville was corrected. Andriola probably saw it while over there. Enclosed is payment for my dues and few bucks for the Memorial Fund. All the best and keep up the good work.

39th Inf. K Co
PETER JANUS
1112 Gladys Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15216

I want to thank Anthony Forte of the 39th for calling me when he came to Pittsburgh in June to his niece's wedding. Did he sell his home and move to Florida? God willing I will try to make my first reunion. Good luck and good health to everyone.

47th Inf Hq Co
HARRY KISH
82 Duncan Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15205

I am sending my dues and some for the Memorial Fund. I have attended the last 6 reunions and enjoyed them. I hope to attend the next one in Orlando and look forward to seeing old buddies and friends that I have made. I always hope to see some buddies for the first time. Homer Dixon and his wife, Helen, were in Pittsburgh to attend a wedding and we showed them around for a couple of days. I would like to hear from other men from Hq Co especially the A & P platoon. I retired 2 years ago and I like it very much. Time really flies. See you in Orlando.

60th Inf B Co
JACK CRAIG
Rt. 3 Box 56
Aubrey, Tx. 76227

I plan to attend the 40th reunion and would like to encourage as many of my mates in B Co. to attend.

Seeking Help

47th Inf. D Co.
SAM FERGUSON
Rt. 6 Box 486 D9
Greensboro, N.C. 27405

I am writing this letter in distress. I am trying to locate some men that were with me around Nov. 18, 1944, during the battle of Gressnich, Germany and the hills on either side of the town. I was severely shell shocked along with Kooperski, a hit which took his life and came very close to doing the same for me. I have never forgotten that incident. As a result I am still shocked as the heavy concussion from the shells came very close to killing me. Sgt. Frederickson was our section leader at the time. I am trying to establish a claim for service connected disability. I sincerely hope that you and some of the 9th men can verify the fact that I was there with Kooperski when he was killed. I am writing some names from Co D: Major McLaughlin, 9th Med Bn; Sgt. Frederickson; Pfc. Folk; Pfc. Soldier; Pfc. Fennell; Sgt. Forman; Pfc. Fuller; Sgt. Maylo; Pfc. Blackman; 1st Lt. Shields, Co. Commander. I do hope someone can be of help to me. Thank you.

47th Inf H Co
GEORGE B. SHAW
702 E 5th St.
Metropolis, Il. 62960

It has been many long years since 1944-45 in Europe but I want to say that I remember some names, but some I don't. Such as Vernon Johnson of Long Island, Frank Fazio of New York, Podlogas & Mele of Minn., Quincy, Stelle & Pappa of Ill., Traynor of Mass., Frankovitch, McDonald, Buck Hayes of Idaho, Ogden of R.I. and many others. I have always been proud to have known the good men I served with, they were a credit to the human race. If any of you read this. I wish you good luck and calm waters in your journey and always a thought for the ones who have ended their journey. To all former members of H Co 47th and the rest of the 9th I say hello and good luck.

60th FA Bn
LOUIS M. PRINCE
5580 E. Galbraith Rd
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

It is great that Scotty Hirst found the error at Barneville Carteret and had it corrected. I wrote to him adding my thanks to the many he must be receiving. I also wrote to the Mayor, as suggested.

About 5 years ago I took my wife to Barneville-Carteret, where we stayed for a few days and drove all around the Cotentin peninsula. Even though I talked to some of the citizens of Barneville, I never saw the monument. I'm sure I would have been very upset if I had, and I most certainly would have tried to do what Scotty did.

Of course I remember very well the night we cut the peninsula. I was not at the battery positions, I was on temporary duty at G-3 in Division Headquarters. It was a glorious achievement.

Best wishes of the season to you and all members of the Association.

34th FA Btry A
CARL BUNYAK
5705 Livernois St.
Detroit, Mi. 48210

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I joined the 9th on Sept. 3, 1940 and went to Tent City and am one of the old timers. They discharged me June 27, 1945. By the time anybody reads this letter in the Octofoil, I will be 67 years young!

MAIL CALL

EMIL J. DEDONATO
RT A2 BOX 429
DUNNELLON, FL. 32630

THE OCTOFOIL Publication No. 402820
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Hq Co. 15th Engrs. Bn
BILL (SWAMPROOT)
DALLAS
PO Box 712
Pinehurst, N.C. 28374

I enjoy the Octofoil very much and I recognize a lot of names and places in each copy I receive. I joined the 9th in Ft. Bragg in 1942 and was with them until I came home in 1945 from Munich, Germany. I am enclosing a snapshot of Major Bill Emmons and myself as we were leading our battalion into Ingolstadt just after the war ended and the picture was taken outside Nurnberg. The jeep was named Swamproot and was well known with the division as we used it. Maj. Emmons, Col. Gray and Maj. Forrest. Speaking of Ft. Bragg, my wife, Bettye and I have retired from Virginia and are living in Pineburst, N.C., (the golf capital of the world!) which is only 30 minutes from Bragg. We've just gotten back from a western trip last month and tried to get in touch with my former boss, Mjr. Alex Forrest, but he was on a tour of Greece and other parts of Europe. He lives in Salt Lake City. We are also traveling more now so if I can have any names from guys from Hq I would appreciate it. Had a card from Malcolm Otts who lives in Maryland. A lot of our Hq Co soldiers were killed at St Lo when one of our own 1st flight bombers dropped one short and hit our demolition truck, that's one day I was glad I was up with the line company. We enjoyed the Ft. Bragg convention, let's do it again.

39th Inf C Co
CHARLES BILELLO
8941 E. 25th St.
Tucson, Az. 85710

It has been 6 years since I dropped a line. Just want all to know that I am still alive and on the go. Haven't left Tucson very much in 7 years. I came here from New Jersey to retire but am busier than ever, mainly volunteer work. Any of my old friends who wish to visit are more than welcome and I will take them on a tour of our city. Recently read a letter from Frank Lorito in our paper. I am not one to think of yesterday, tomorrow is more important. If anyone wishes to contact me call 602-885-7895, best time 8 a.m. Arizona time. God bless one and all.

9th MP
ADOLPH WADALAVAGE
94 30 96th St.
Ozone Park, N.Y. 11416

All you former MP's start writing to your buddies and getting to some of the affairs. It would be great to sit down and hear each other gabbing. We did OK up at the Memorial Mass in Worcester. 16 of our group came and we spoke of all of you that didn't come. To those who were able to make it and didn't attend "eat your hearts out" we said jokingly. I need help in locating one of our jeep drivers, Hugins. If anyone has his address I would appreciate it, same as Henderson's. Have a great year.

**June 6, 7, 8 1985
Reunion in Florida**

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

47th Inf Co G & Hq Co 2nd Bn
JEROME SHAPIRO
739 W. 186 St. Apt. 2B
New York, N.Y. 10033

The New York Chapter Christmas party in Weehawken was fun. I brought my wife, son, and grandchild (Jackie) and all had a good time. The last time I was in Weehawken for a Christmas party my son William attended and he was 7 yrs old (30 yrs ago). Jack Scully was the Santa and my boy went up to him 3 times to get presents and Scully, God rest his soul, gave him presents, 3 times! My son is the safety head engineer at Volvo and gives other children presents. At the party was George Gaynor, F Co 47th's runner who I had not seen for 40 years. It was a great thrill to see him again. G Co was well represented as usual, Irving Feinberg, that dynamic radio man, Marty Gill and Joseph Rezniewicki, that excellent infantry sergeant and Vincent Guglielmino, who was just as excellent. We all enjoyed ourselves and as we were leaving, Jackie my grandchild (4½) said "Poppa Jerry, I want to come again next year." See you all in Orlando. God Bless.

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

The one beautiful thing about being a senior is that you have memories. On one of our rainy days which are rare out there, you can sit home and dream of the past. I do hope these few lines finds you and yours both well and happy. We are in the pink of the moment. God is good. Best regards to all at the New York Chapter. May the good Lord keep you in the palm of his right hand. Have a good holiday.

Editors note: George was on sick call-back in the hospital for a lung problem. Drop him a get well card.

60th Inf D Co
JAMES CANADA
PO Box 434
Shannon, Ga. 30172

Sorry I couldn't make the reunion I know that it was a great success. Saw a letter in the last Octofoil from a guy that was my CO for a while in D Co. Once in a while I see letters in the Octofoil from guys that were in my outfit. I hope you and yours had a great Thanksgiving and have a Merry Christmas. I know this is a little early but have a nice time. I have been retired for 8 years and am enjoying it very much. Thanks for a good job well done and keep up the good work.

B Co 15th Engrs
ALBERT FERRANTE
35 Cove Ave.
Framingham, Ma. 01701

Enclosed find 3 years dues. Keep up the good work. Hope to be in Orlando in June.

39th Inf. AT Co
PAUL E. DAVIS
988 4th St.
Beaver, Pa. 15009

We were at the reunion in Lake Placid and hopefully will be in Orlando. By the way, Dan, thanks for helping my wife with the luggage at Lake Placid. We really enjoyed seeing old friends again.

47th Inf. M Co.
BOLESZAW 'BILL'
KOWALCZYK
30 Marlborough St.
Chicopee, MA. 01020

In the last issue of the Octofoil I wrote about the crazy things that have happened in my life. — Well, it happened again and the Worcester Re-Union was a complete fiasco for me. To attend the 10 o'clock Sunday Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church, I checked out my map and at 9 a.m. I took off. Arriving at the Worcester turnpike exit, I pulled out my wallet to pay the toll charge. I found only one five dollar bill and three singles. — Then I remembered that I shopped for clothes the day before and forgot to replenish my wallet. — What should I do? — Retreat? — no way! I attended Mass and found my way to the Sheraton-Lincoln, hoping to see some familiar faces. Seeing none, I decided to leave, (since I couldn't afford to pay for the brunch). Then I met Dan Quinn who recognized me from the pictures in the last issue of the Octofoil. Dan told me that he had some advanced copies in his car, so I decided to stay until the ceremonies were over.

I guess things like this happen in the best of families. But why me? — I don't even have a family! I must retrace my words 'complete fiasco' because I did enjoy meeting and conversing with Fr. Connors, Dan, and many interesting veterans.

Before I forget to pay my dues, enclosed please find my check which will cover dues for three years, plus something extra for the Memorial Fund.

60th Inf F Co
GERALD TEACHOUT
1600 W Struck, No. 165
Orange, Ca. 92667

The 40th reunion of the 9th on June 6, 7 and 8 1985 at the Sheraton Twin Towers in Orlando, Fl. could be one of the largest in recent years. However it could require a little effort. I am hopeful that F Co 60th can have the largest turnout ever at a reunion and that it can have the largest turnout of any unit. To those boys who regularly attend the reunion, call, write or visit your reluctant buddies and get them out to our 40th reunion. So to those Co F boys Allen, Anderson, Arnold, Berman, Bryson, Castner, Caron, Dennis, Drust, Etue, Filetti, Ford, Geagon, Hogan, Herrin, Harrell, Ingle, Johnson, Lindner, Lombardo, Lees, Maher, Malone, D. Miller, J. Miller, MacDougal, Nichols, Nehr, Pope, Pavlich, Painter, Preston, Pappas, Paquin, Ruzga, Saunders, Schriffen, Savakinas, Salzman, Salisbury, Savoy, Skinn, Skertich, Urban, Wallen, Wagner, Welch, Waldvogel, Worth, Wilhelm and Young, make your reservations early and come on along. I have current addresses on all F Co boys listed and anyone wishing an address has only to drop me a postcard. To all other units of the 9th, let everyone make a special effort this year to get as many as possible out to what can be a grand reunion. Let's see which unit can get the most men out this year. Best wishes.

60th Inf. Med Det
EDWARD ROSE
29 Ladue Meadows
St. Louis, Mo. 63141

I was a member of the above outfit from Jan. 1941 to July 1942 after which time I left for Kelly Field as an Aviation Cadet. If you remember me please write.

47th Inf G Co
HERMON RAHN
5599 New Hendersonville Hwy.
Pisgah Forest, N.C. 28768

Is there anyone from K Co 60th Inf who remembers William C. "Pete" Mann? I have known Pete a long time and talked to him a lot, but for some reason we never talked about the war. A while back we got to talking about the middle east then Africa and Europe. He mentioned the Hartz Mountains and I felt sure he had to have fought in the 9th. I asked him about it and he said he was in K Co 60th Inf. I told him I was in the 47th then he noticed the Octofoil on my cap. I told him about the association and promised I would get him started in it, so here I am enlisting Pete in the association. He would be glad to hear from anyone in the 60th, especially K Co. I took a trip out to see Tex Byers in Camp Verde, Ariz. I drove alone instead of flying for I love to see this lovely country. Tex is not getting along so good. I must not be a good companion to travel with because my wife won't go with me anywhere. I never could get her across the Mississippi River, she would have to wait for me in Memphis. I received a letter from Jerry Shapiro and was glad to hear from him. I did not mean to say McDaniel had heart surgery, I meant to say a heart attack. Best wishes to all the 9th men. I always read all the letters and everything in the Octofoil over and over.

C Btry 84th FA
RICHARD W. EAGLE
2302 Dawson St.
Kannapolis, N.C. 28081

Enclosed find a check for dues and Memorial Fund. I did not know the 9th had a reunion each year, but saw an ad in my home town paper. I went in the service Sept 11, 1940 and was in C Btry 84th FA. About 2 years later I went cadre to the 88th but I have good friends in the 9th and hope they are still around. Would like to hear from anyone who was in the outfit in 1940-1941. I will answer all letters. Hope to see some of them at the reunion. If anyone from the northeast or anywhere else goes south on I85 please stop in Kannapolis and give me a ring. I will buy them a steak or fish dinner. So long for now and hope to see many at the reunion.

Hq Det 9th Med Bn
JAMES RICHARDS
401 E. 5 St.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218

Enclosed is dues for the next 3 years. I am an optimist, made it to 72 this past August. Note new address. Sorry I couldn't make it to Lake Placid but hope to make it to Orlando next year. Congratulations to my good friend Pete Radichio on being elected 2nd Vice Pres. He will do a good job.

47th Inf.
ROGER GARTLAND
255 Charles St.
Watertown, N.Y.

We enjoyed Lake Placid very much. The climb up Whiteface Mountain was very enjoyable as the weather was just right for such a venture. The Memorial service was very colorful and the response was gratifying. Our summer was a busy one with several unexpected and unscheduled events taking place. The week after the reunion Esther and I flew to Mayo Clinic. My brother-in-law underwent heart surgery and about 3 months after returning home he passed away, in the local hospital. Please sign me up for another 3 years and send the Octofoil to Florida.

47th Inf
GEORGE MERZ
1422 Oak Tree Rd. Apt. 2M
Iselin, N.J. 08830

I hope all is well by you and your family. Seems like ages ago that we were together. Been in and out of the hospital, kidney problems, stones all over the place. I keep in touch with Bill Muldoon. He is the best. As a letter writer, I make a good shoemaker so please forgive me. All the best to you and yours for the coming holidays. God Bless.

47th Inf, E Co & Hq
CHARLES E. GANNON
708 Birch St.
South Charleston, W. Va. 25309

Sorry for the delay on dues so I am sending a Life membership. My wife and I enjoyed the reunion at Ft. Bragg very much but have missed the past two. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Florida. We enjoy the Octofoil very much.

Co C 9th Med Bn
WESLEY ROACH
Rt 5, Box 359-2
Danville, Va. 24540

Enclosed find dues, hope I beat the red ink. Sorry I had to miss Lake Placid but heart attack over a year ago kept me from coming. I was afraid to go too far from M.D. He said I am doing just fine. Hope I can make Florida. Andrew Kopach letter to mail call gave several names I was glad to see. Hope all can make Tenn. next April. Out 1st Sgt. Al Cook should come and see his old apple knocker (he called us boys from the south). After 40 years changes have been made but after you meet all comes back to you. What a wonderful time! Thanks to Frank Kalich's letter to mail call, reporting of any activity concerning the 9th at Utah Beach or the many other places of battle. The men of the 9th still have their pride. I did not know it was that way. Only Barneville, France. Thanks to those people who were thankful enough to put the marker there for the men of the 9th who set them free. Men of the 9th can still hold their heads high!

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.