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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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3-1-1985

### The Octofoil, March/April 1985

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Volume XXX V Number 2

Mar-April 1985

## Remagen Bridge



From the East Bank of the Rhine, the Remagen bridge at the town of Erpel, Germany. Troops and equipment cross the bridge to consolidate and expand positions. These pictures are in the files of the secretary. They were taken by a Sgt. William Spangel, Army Signal Corps who was attached to the Division for many months in Europe.

This past March 7th is a day anyone who attended the Dedication Ceremony in memory of the taking of the Ludendorf Bridge at Remagen, Germany in 1945, will never forget.

Art Schmidt, Scotty Hurst and I 9th Infantry Division men, were present and it brought back so many memories of that day that both the American and German Armed Forces were there in battle for a bridge over the River Rhine. Many a life was lost and blood shed to hold and destroy the bridge, yet here it is forty years later and all is in harmony.

### PLAQUE UNVEILED

A plaque was unveiled on the west tower of the Bridge that houses a museum, dedicated to the united that took the bridge and all who gave their lives to hold the Bridge. It collapsed the morning of March 17th, 1945 and in those ten days that the bridge was held it helped to shorten the war and saved many lives.

It was amazing to see how many people were at the dedication, both from the Remagen area and elsewhere and it will be a long time that so many again will assemble in Remagen. There were dignitaries from the United States and Germany, a United States Army Band and the colors of so many United that were involved in World War II.

Col. Engman gave a brief description of what really took place the morning of March 7th, 1945 and his surprise at finding the Bridge intact.

### FIRST MAN ACROSS

The honor of unveiling the plaque was given to Alex Drabik who was the first 9th Armored man across the bridge and David Keith, a Medic who had the misfortune of identifying the 41 bodies found at the Malmedy massacre.

The National Anthem was played and taps sounded for both countries and then the crowd began to disperse. There were so many cameramen around it was unbelievable and they were anxious to talk to anyone who was in the area between March 7th and March 17th, 1945.

After the dedication ceremony was over, all were invited to a new school auditorium, not the one the people used to visit, this one is brand new and aside of the Bridge approach. A light lunch was served courtesy of the people of Remagen and of course these people love their beer. The auditorium held way over 2000 people and the United States Band and German Band took over and there was plenty of chatter. I met a German Citizen who was a P.W. taken at Kalthenberg near Monchau and he said he was surprised by the treatment he got as a P.W. He said he could not complain, he spent all his time at Cherbourg at the embarking port.

### PLANS IN STORE

There are big plans in store for the area around the towers of the bridge on the west side - the plans are for a hotel and Pavillion to be built overlooking the river - the museum will stay and it gives you an idea of how many people visit the Remagen area concerning the bridge.

### TIME OF BRIDGE

There is a dispute as to the time the Bridge went down, between a Scottish historian and the Ludendorf German Military historians. If anyone was in the area at the time of the collapse it would help if you would send along a short letter concerning your approximate location and the time the bridge went down. The letters will be forwarded to the people concerned. Send them to the address below, it would be appreciated.

Adolph Wadalavage  
94-30 96th Street  
Ozone Park, N. Y. 11416

## Reunion Committee

The Florida Chapter Members have been hard at work these past months to make sure that all those attending will long remember the 40th Reunion held in Orlando.

Hopefully the 1985 reunion from the moment the attendees enter the lobby will see and feel an atmosphere never before experienced at a reunion, at least as far as I can remember. The big expense is the travel to and from Florida and I hope our members will plan for extra days after Saturday nite as we have other possibilities for group participation. Everyone who is planning an extended stay should fill out a form which will be available at the desk or better yet send me their plans.

### GOLFERS

For those interested and still able to hit the ball Bob Pappas has arranged for our members to get together for a round of Golf on June 6th starting time: 1200 Noon. For \$14.70 the members will be afforded 18 holes, including a cart, at Cypress Creek, located a few minutes from the Sheraton Hotel our Headquarters for the reunion.

### Surprises Galore

Bob writes that those attending the reunion will be in for a big surprise on Friday evening but it is a secret and he's sworn to keep it that way till they get together on Friday.

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

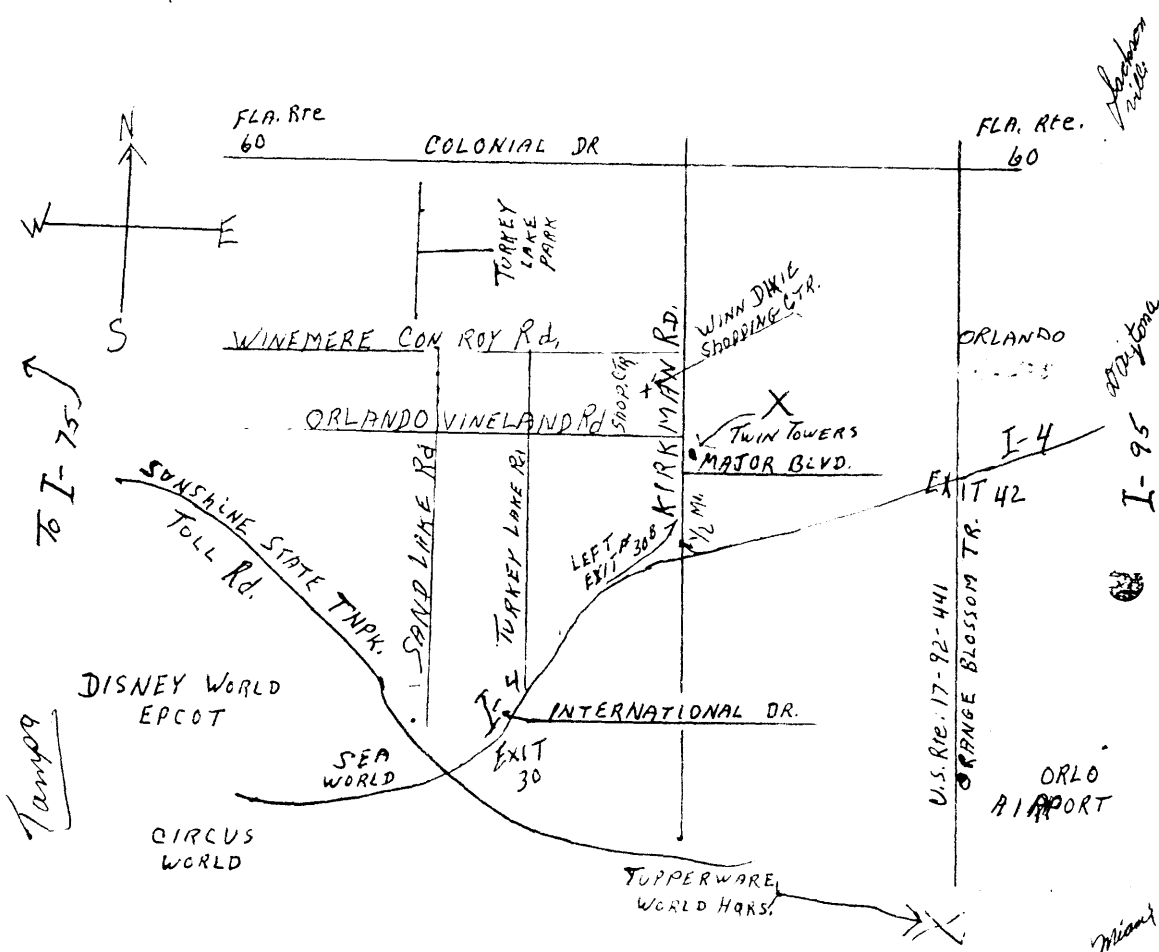


## Speaker at Reunion



General Lewis Maness was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army Reserve upon graduation from Clemson. He reported to active duty in June of 1941 and served as a Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Battalion Commander and Regimental Executive Officer of the 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division during World War 2. He participated in eight major campaigns with the 9th Division, starting with the landings in North Africa and ending with the historic meeting with the Russian Forces along the Mulda River in Germany. The Battalion that he commanded received two Presidential Citations, one for the fighting in the Hurtgen Forest and the other at the Ramagen Bridge. Shortly after World War 2 General Maness accepted a commission in the Regular Army. He retired in 1972.

His decorations include: the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Croix De Guerre (France)



THE OCTOFOIL

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

<b>National Officers</b> President Elmer Wagner 2833 Hotchkiss Rd. Bay City, Mi 48706  Vincent Guglielmino, 1st V.P. 114 Charles Street Floral Park, N.Y. 11001  Pete Radichio, 2nd V.P. 9415 Blind Pass Rd St. Petersburg, Fl. 33706  Ronald Murnhy, 3rd V.P. 44 Strawberry Lane Sittuate, 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	<b>Board of Governors</b> 1985 Thomas Boyle Sommerville, Ma Henry Santos Tampa, Fla. Dave Heller Highland Park, Il. Al Perna Philadelphia, Pa. 1986 Larry Ghore Tulsa, Okla  Robert Pannas New Port Richey, Fl. Ralph Car Cheverly Manor, Md. Elmer Wagner Bay City, Mi 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 Churhinton, Md
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**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 spirit 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.

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REJOIN THE INFANTRY! We're going to tour London, Southampton, Portsmouth, Cherbourg, Caen, Paris, Leige, Bonn, Erfurt and West Berlin. We're holding limited space, so get your deposit of \$100 per person in soon. Final payment is due by 7/10/85. Rates will vary, depending on the size of the group. The larger the group, the smaller the cost.

For complete details, write or call:  
Ann McDade  
COMBS  
TRAVEL  
316 City Centre Mart  
Middletown, Ohio 45042  
1-513-423-4131  
1-513-424-1014

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LADIES' AUXILIARY  
of the  
NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

I would like to become a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Enclosed is check or money order for 2.00 for 1985 dues. Please mail my membership card to:

Make checks or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail to  
Mrs Lillian Krasovetz  
107 USA East  
Gibbsboro, N.J. 08026

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name .....	Serial No. ....
Street Address .....	
City .....	Zone ..... State .....
I was a member of:	
Battery .....	Company .....
Regiment .....; 9th Div	
I wish to sign up for the following:	
Regular Member, per year .....	\$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
THREE-YEAR MEMBER .....	\$13.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Life Membership .....	\$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Ladies' Auxiliary Member .....	\$ 2.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Decals .....	\$ .50 <input type="checkbox"/>
60th Infantry History .....	\$ 2.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

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Please credit the following chapter:

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

TAPS SOUNDED

There is no Death!  
What seems so is transition  
This life of mortal breath  
Is but a suburb of the life  
elysian  
Whose portal we call  
death.

It is our sad duty to announce the passing of these "Old Reliables" and friends. May they rest in peace. To their families and loved ones we sympathize with you on your loss.

Anthony Giacobbe  
47th Inf Co. A.

Edward Goldstein  
60th Inf B Co

Marvin Bogart  
Hq Co 3rd Bn 39th Inf  
John Capozziello  
B Co 39th Inf  
William Jones  
709 Ord

Imogene Stroh (wife of Maj.  
Gen. Donald Stroh, deceased)

\*\*\*

MRS. ROBERT H STROH)  
STUMPF  
5840 Lowell ave.  
Alexandria, Va. 22312

I sadly write to inform you that my mother, Imogene F. Stroh wife of MG Donald A. Stroh, died on Valentine's Day.

JAMES BATES  
MEMORIAL  
FUND DONATIONS

James Bates passed away on February 17, 1985 and the Association acknowledges the donations made to the Memorial Fund in Jim's name by his family and many friends. Jim served with Company F 39th Infantry.

Fellow Workers  
Bates Family  
Highway Patrol Service Inc  
Florence Kraak  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sawyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Rushton  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Kramer & Michael  
Mrs. Hazel Schulhofer  
JoAnn Schmitt & Co-workers  
Mr. & Mrs. Mrs. Norman Cornforth  
Janet Wallace  
Regina Ader  
Bernice Richmond  
Shalimar of India, Inc  
Mr. W.S. Thomas  
Mrs. Olin Ray McFadden  
Mrs. J.J. O'Callahan  
Virgil Skipper  
Coleman E. Adler & Sons  
Carolyn & Steven Letellier  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mesa

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1985 Worcester Memorial  
The Worcester Memorial Mass will be held on Nov. 10, 1985 at 10 AM. Anyone wishing additional information, please contact Francis Maher, 14 Davenport St. Worcester, Ma. 01610, regarding room reservations.

39th Inf B Co  
CLARENCE REISINGER  
500 Orange St.  
Wrightsville, Pa. 17368

Here is my dues for 3 years. I'm proud to be part of the 9th, it's a great outfit. Hoping to hear from some of my old buddies that I was with through Africa, Sicily, England and France and part of Germany. Hope this note finds you and yours in good health.

Room Reservations should be made  
directly to the Hotel

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

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.

ALAMO RENT A CAR

In order to reserve your car, call toll free: 1-800-732-3232. You must request group I.D. No. 17031 and plan code G-Zero. An approximate 30% discount with unlimited mileage and air conditioning. Gas tax and optional insurance are additional.

Economy car is \$16 a day or \$45 a week  
Compact car is \$17 a day or \$65 a week  
Midsize car is \$18 a day or \$85 a week  
Full size is \$19 a day or \$105 a week  
Wagon is \$19 a day or \$135 a week  
Luxury is \$29 a day or \$179 a week

These rates will be effect in 1 week prior to the reunion and 30 days after.

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund was enriched by these members and friends. We don't believe that so many names ever appeared in this column before except perhaps for a special drive such as the Marker Fund placed at Fort Bragg in 1982. We salute you all.

John Rogher  
Lysle F. Kitchen  
Elvert H. LaBree  
E.B. "Tom" Abbott  
Harry B. Odom  
David Myers In memory of his dad, Arnold Myers, KIA)  
William Larson  
Raymond F. Berthiaume  
Jerome Klein  
Alvin Becker  
James S. Moore  
Harold R. Hokanson  
Richard F. Wolf  
Albert J. Napadano  
Joseph W. Bergin  
T.A. "Art" Meryweather  
Eugene Terry  
George Hulka

Felton Jones  
Stan S. Sailors  
Stanley J. Suwala  
Houston L. Meade  
N. Curtis Hoffler  
Andrew H. Crawford  
Flake Ford  
Glenn W. Gibbs  
Stephen G. Urbanyi  
Anthony F. Jakubiak  
Thomas R. Robertson  
Nathan Gaynor  
John W. DeVere  
Frank Machek  
William E. Moore  
John P. Farson  
Dr. Abraham Kaufman  
George Seifert  
Alex T. Forrest  
Raymond C. Parker  
Raymond Wolfe  
Thomas J. Billings  
Eamon MacDevitt  
Lewis E. Simons  
Paul Segal  
Paul Dillon  
Ralph Palermo  
Edward Winsch  
Benjamin Kovacs

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39th Inf G Co  
GEORGE SEIFERT  
Rtl Box 755  
Cochise, Az. 85606

Enclosed is a donation to the Memorial fund. As a former member of G Co and a new member of the Octofoil association I am delighted to have found a source for locating former buddies. Would like to hear from John Fasel, Olido Starro, Leonard (Chick) Davis or any of the many buddies who were in the service with me. I was on the Thomas Stone when she was torpedoed off the African coast on or about Nov. 7, 1942. Landed in Algiers the next day. Would like to hear from any who were also there. I

have the year book of the 39th Inf, Ft. Bragg 1941, the picture of G Co taken Aug 8, 1941 and the G Co picture dated 3-14-42. The pictures have been rolled up all these years and the faces are very clear, perhaps they could be reproduced if anyone is interested. Looking forward to the next Octofoil and news of old friends.

39th Inf Co A  
HARRY B. ODOM  
Monhegan Island, Me. 04852

I see it's time for my 3 year membership. Plan to make the Florida reunion and hope to see more Co A 39th men. Manley, Hord, Curley and Comber are still living, I hope. Would sure like to see others.

## Doc Copleman plans to take it easy



Doctor Copleman, center of photo taken at the New York Reunion (1970) with the late Barney Fritz on his left and Al Bravin on the right.

We acknowledge and thank the Sunday Star Ledger of New Jersey for the use of this story that appeared in their paper on April 21, 1985. It is in regards to "one of own" and we are grateful to the writer Charles Finley for the tribute to Doctor Hyman Copleman formerly with the 47th Infantry.

### 50 Years as Practicing Physician

During his 50 years as a practicing physician, Dr. Hyman B. Copleman of Monroe Township has found compassion and keen observation to be as important as medical knowledge.

"Just looking at a patient gives competent doctors insight into the problem at hand, and they never remain aloof from the overall concerns of the sick individuals turning to them for assistance," asserted Copleman, who has retired after a half century as team physician for Rutgers University and as a private practitioner.

"Any physician just out of school should go into family practice, with the primary aim of helping sick people get well, not making a lot of money quickly as a specialist, they need to experience that great feeling that comes from getting results through dedicated medical practice.

"Diagnosis through computerized medicine never can substitute for the impression the patient makes on the doctor in the office. The quality of that contact is what good medical practice is all about.

"I'm disturbed by many developments in medicine today, such as too quick referrals to specialists who often are very impersonal and only see the patient's specific problem. Many times a caring and sympathetic ear is all the medicine needed.

"I've seen bureaucratic and hospitals controls, and the malpractice situation, infringe even more on medical practice. But I'm pleased to see a growing trend back to the old family physician concept."

Copleman's "retirement" will not bring his career to a halt.

He will continue as the medical director for the Johnson & Johnson eastern Surgical Plant in New Brunswick, with its 1,400 employees.

Copleman estimates he has cared for nearly 10,000 athletes in the Rutgers athletic program, tending to injuries and conducting examinations.

He said the athletes in recent years differ in many ways from those he encountered earlier.

"They're bigger, stronger, faster, better-trained and more knowledgeable today, with many of them anxious to get started as professionals. They can't wait to succeed and that's probably because they're so well-equipped to succeed.

### "Dean of Sports Medicine"

Often dubbed New Jersey's "Dean of Sports Medicine" and affectionately known as "Copey" by generations of Rutgers athletes, Copleman graduated from New Brunswick High School at 15 and was only 19 years old when he earned his B.S. degree in biology at Rutgers, taking top academic honors.

He then attended Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago, graduating at 23, and went on to take post graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Surgery.

Copleman joined the Army as a first lieutenant, treating the wounded at the front in eight campaigns in North Africa, Sicily and France in World War II as a member of the 47th Infantry of the Ninth division, returning to civilian life with the rank of major. He received two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts and the Legion of Merit.

Copleman recalled that after his capture by the Germans, while treating wounded American prisoners, he was able to convince the enemy it was impractical to move them when the Germans retreated by telling them the prisoners had a contagious disease or by placing men in body casts unnecessarily. Later, Copleman led them to freedom in the French zone.

### Hates War

"I hate war, having seen so many young men dying and maimed on the battlefields. I can't envision the horrors of a nuclear war."

Copleman, who has held key posts in Federated Jewish Appeal campaigns, is a recipient of the Lehman Award from the State of Israel and the Torch of Liberty Award bestowed by the Central New Jersey Society of Fellows of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

He also has been given the Rutgers University Medal as "a respected physician, honored servant of the community and generous alumnus."

### Warmth

"His warmth, and the extra care he always gives to his patients, generates a feeling of security and confidence. Many students return to him for help long after leaving the university. The quality of his service will never be forgotten.

"He has provided not only excellent medical care, but the psychological support needed so often in the rehabilitation of an injured athlete."

Copleman can relax on a golf course. He and his wife, Rosalyn, also enjoy the opera and classical music.

But, he said, the emotional stresses in his profession are not easy to live with.

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

We do hope that our last column pertaining to: "Everything you've always wanted to know about Florida" - but were afraid to ask; will by the this time hasten your room reservations for our 40th Annual Reunion of the 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. in Orlando, Florida on June 6, 7 and 8th - 1985. - From all accounts this promises to be a very good reunion and we do hope that "BECO" attendance records will be broken this time. "BECO" members need not feel that they will be "alone" at this reunion. Once again we remind you that we have correct addresses of over 30 'B' Co 47th buddies that we have on record. To those of you who may be interested in contacting former 'B' Co 47th people we will gladly help if you write to either Art or myself at our addresses shown at the end of this column.

### WEATHER WAS FANTASTIC

Ann and I recently returned from a 6 weeks stay in Florida. Except for 3 or 4 windy, cool days, upon our arrival in early February, the weather was fantastic! Once again we enjoyed Madeira Beach which is on the West Coast between Clearwater and St. Petersburg Beach. Our Condo apartment facing the beautiful Gulf of Mexico, presented us with a beautiful panorama of Sail Boats, Fishing Boats, and on several occasions a water show of porpoises gliding by in unison as if they choreographed by the Good Lord as Leader. Sunsets on the beautiful Gulf of Mexico are a sight to behold!

### NEW YORKERS MEMORIAL

We had a nice time together once again with "BECO" Buddy Art Stenzel and his charming wife Grace, who reside in the very pleasant community of Bayonet Point located just above Tarpon Springs. - It is too bad that a "get-together" with "BECO" BUDDY Jake (Jack) DiSanto and his pleasant wife Kay was not possible. Perhaps we can all be together next year? We hope so! - Ann and I plan to attend Memorial Services for our departed comrades, at Long Island National Cemetery, N.Y. on May 18, 1985. Our N.Y. Chapter as usual will have a picnic at Bethpage State Park following the services. This will give us a good opportunity to meet again with "BECO" Buddies we haven't seen in quite some time.

### HAPPY TO RECEIVE LETTERS

We sincerely hope that all our "BECO" BUDDIES had a wonderful Easter! Our column could use a few additional comments from our "BECO" Buddies from time to time. Art and I will be only too happy to receive letters from any of you who wish to have their 'newsy' info, ideas etc. incorporated into our "B" (47th) column. How about it fellows?

Regards to all you guys and gals. 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

"I remember many times when I couldn't get to sleep at night because I was worrying about a particular patient. Devoted doctors always worry about the very sick people under their care.

"But I also have found great rewards in medicine. The greatest feeling of all for me was being able to help people get well again."

### ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

The Illinois Chapter will hold its next meeting on Friday, April 19th at the Belmontes. Plans will be finalized for our Memorial Day Services and Outing.

Our last meeting was in March. We held it at the Arlington Park VFW Post where Bob Winkelman, a former Post Commander, was our host. We had a terrific turnout and enjoyed the food and company. The Winkelmans are preparing for their daughter's wedding this summer. We all wish Debbie much luck and happiness.

We are just recuperating from our daughter's wedding. Luann married Dale McCarrell on April 13. It seems like only yesterday she was our little first born and now has taken this happy step. We are very pleased with this marriage and wish them well.

### BEST WISHES

Mike will be coming to the Orlando reunion alone this year. My job will not allow me to take off at that time. I still have a few more years before retirement and will be sad to miss this reunion and miss seeing all our friends. Mike has many of his buddies coming for the first time and is anxious to see them. My thoughts will be with everyone and best wishes for a successful reunion. The Andersons, Clarks, Grays, Henemuths, Prestons, and Lipkas are going so far so they can all keep an eye on Mike for me.

### OUT STATE MEETING

This Michigan-Illinois Out-state Meeting will be in Angola, Indiana on October 18th and 19th. The Illinois Chapter will host the outing this year. It will be held at the Holiday Inn and there will be a sign-up sheet and cards for the rooms at the hotel at the Orlando Reunion. If you don't sign up then, you can contact the Holiday Inn direct for reservations and ask for the Ninth Infantry Division Reservations.

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

### 47th Inf.

JAMES E. LEOPOLD  
45 Barnard Lane  
Highland Park, Illinois 60035

Everytime I receive the Octofoil I think I ought to write you a note and I usually don't! This time I am writing because I sent out the attached letter in response to a letter you published last month and I hope that I can help Ms. Hoover.

I also saw several other letters that deserved comment and I will reply to them individually enclosing copies. You can pick and choose from my comments in any way you would like.

I am sorry I won't be able to see you in Florida this summer but look forward to being with you sometime again.

Ms. Lucille Hoover  
Route 2, Box 2448  
Porter, TX 77365  
Dear Ms. Hoover:

As a member of the 9th Division Association, I saw a copy of your letter asking for information about your brother. I don't remember him so I suspect that we were not in the same Battalion but I will tell you that in order to develop information about him you must know what Company he was in.

I was an officer in Company E in the 2nd Battalion of the 47th Infantry and was with my Battalion in France on August 8, 1944. (I remember very well

Mini Reunion - M Co 60th Inf.  
60th Inf Co M  
Robert Bovanizer  
14 Sabre Park  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Just a note to let you know that all signs are go for the 3rd Mini Reunion for the 60th Inf M Co to be held August 12-13 and 14th in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Allan and Mary Luce are the Hosts this year. This is an area of much activity. Dairy farms, museums, golf courses, shopping and water galore.

We will be headquartered at the Holiday Inn on Koeller Rd., right off US41, where they have a new Holidome Facility, complete with swimming pool, tennis courts and etc. We will have a block of rooms and a hospitality suite (open 24 hours a day). The rates are 36.00 single, 43.00 double, 47.00 triple etc. Please send first night rental with reservation or a credit card to guarantee arrival before May 1st.

Lucas are about 3 hours from Chicago, 1 1/2 hours from Milwaukee, 5 hours from Minneapolis and 1 hour from Green Bay, Wisc. Nearest airport transportation is Wittman Field in Oshkosh and the Holiday Inn will furnish transportation to hotel from there. Also an airport in nearby Appleton (Outagamie) where there are a lot of Eastern flights. Only 12 miles from Oshkosh. If we know when you are coming we can arrange pickup. Also Greyhound and Wisconsin-Michigan Trailways. Good superhighways all the way:

### Tentative program:

Mon AM get settled

Afternoon: 1:00 PM tour of Paine Arboretum and Art Center and the Public Museum (to see General Eddys things)

Evening: Dinner all together or as you wish, later gather in hospitality room till ?

Tues AM as you please:

Afternoon: 1:00 PM Travel to Winneconne to Lucas house on the lake for a 2 hr outing on lake on sternwheeler boat followed by picnic supper at Lucas at 6:00 PM. Return to hotel

Wed AM as you please:

Afternoon: 1:00 PM Tour of the Experimental Aircraft Association World Aviation Headquarters and Museum  
Evening: 6:00 PM Banquet at hotel. Hospitality room later

We will tour in our cars to keep costs down. We estimate at this time, the cost for 3 days will be \$25.00. This includes banquet, hospitality room, cruise and picnic. A letter in May to complete roster will give final arrangements and added information. Lucas says "Get Wisconsin in August Fever" and make your reservations early.

as I myself was wounded two days later near a town called Pierre ou Boufiese.)

I would suspect that no matter what Company David was with, that Company was in that same general area.

If you do know the Company he was with I may be able to get you more information as I am still in contact with several men from various other Companies.

I hope this note is of some help.

Kindest regards,  
James E. Leopold

Editors Note: The secretary checked the files and found David S. Brown listed KIA while serving with Company C 47th Infantry. And a big thanks to Jim Leopold for taking the time to write to the Sister of David Brown.



## 9th Recon Troops

Re your request for information as to deaths of first Ninth-men entering Belgium, in the Jan-Feb Octofoil.

As a platoon leader of one of the 3 platoons of the 9th Recon Troop, I can tell you that we lost no officers in Belgium. The article was correct as to the 9th Recon being the first to enter Belgium. The other two platoons were led by Lt. Harner and Lt. Lynch who both had been made officers from Sgt. when their officers were killed a short time before, in France. The 9th Recon at that time was under the command of Lt. Filmore Ortoff who had been moved up when the Capt. in charge of the troop had been killed back in the hedgerow country in Normandy. He was not made Capt. until later. We had two other officers in the troop and I can assure you that we all made it through the few days it took us to cross Belgium and into Germany.

This citizen of Belgium aptly describes how we looked and were greeted when we entered a town not occupied by Germans. We were kissed, given wine and buried in flowers. When we had to fight through a town the story was different. All the citizens were hidden and we went out the other side without having seen them. This had been the story after we got east of Paris all the way to the German border. Love or fight. Lovin sure beats fighting.

The mission of the Recon Troop was to keep the division commander informed as to where the enemy was, what his strength and armament was and the road and bridge conditions. To do this it was necessary for us to be several miles in front of the rest of the division. We would fight through light resistance and work our way around heavy stuff. We would have reported this German unit with the "88's" so the rifle companies, coming later, wouldn't be surprised by it, and then by-passed that strong point. Our information didn't always get to the rifle companies in time. Some times they were too close behind us.

We learned, early in France, to get all the flowers off the vehicles as soon as we left a town. We appreciated the love shown us, but the bright colors could be seen by the German gunners for miles. We would never have kept them on for 7 km. This officer (probably a Lt.) and his men must have been a combat unit of the division, not as experienced in liberating villages as we were. I had heard that an I&R platoon got into some real good trouble somewhere when we were first in Belgium, but this doesn't sound like the incident. Besides, I would think I&R would have had enough experience to get the flowers off their jeeps so as not to make a target for "88's."

By the way, the picture of a light tank going through a road block on page 236 of "Eight Stars to Victory" was in Harze, Belgium. It was one of a platoon of the 746 tank battalion which was attached to me to give me more punch. It wasn't the first tank through the block. The first one was buttoned up as it had to break a hole through and was expecting enemy fire. You don't see any flowers on the tank and no civilians, as we had to chase elements of an "SS" panzer division out of Harze. This took us quite some time, giving the photographer time to catch up and take pictures.

I wish I could tell you who those poor souls were, who died there, but Ninth-men were dying every day so it would have been no "big deal" at the time. Some of Colonel Bond's 39th combat team went out through Hirsion at about the right time on the 2nd of Sept. to have been involved in the incident. It must have been some of them. Some elements of the 3rd Armored were in the area as the Ninth & First Infantry divisions along with the Third Armored division made a team from Paris into Belgium. It could possibly have been Third Armored infantry. Our division and the Third Armored were the only units in the area at the time.

I look forward to each copy of the Octofoil, but seldom see anything in it from or about the 9th Recon. Keep it coming.

JAMES M. EGAN  
Box 6433  
Duluth, Mn. 55806

376th A.A. A.W. BTL.  
HERBERT (Hap) LASTRA  
925 Val Park Ave.  
Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580

In the New York Times Magazine of Dec. 16, 1984 was a story written by Drew Middleton called "The Battle That Sealed Germanys' Fate." Forty years earlier Mr. Middleton covered The Battle Of The Bulge for the New York Times. At that time he served as the newspapers military affairs correspondent, and at present is now a columnist for The Times news syndicate.

The article was so very well written, pertinent and factual that I would hope if it is possible, all members of the Ninth Infantry Div. try to attain a copy. Perhaps, by writing to him, via The New York Times an arrangement of some type could be brought about, and back copies could be had, even if for a nominal fee.

If I may digress for a moment I would like to call attention to the fact that a great deal more is known about the battle today than in its immediate aftermath. Surviving German Generals and others that were involved in division, or even a higher level wrote many detailed accounts, which ultimately came into the hands of the Allies. Nazi documents which were studied by members of both factions have also shed new light and insights after careful study.

On the American side, the Battle of the Bulge have produced a number of books and studies. One of the books, published 15 years ago, was "The Bitter Woods" by John S. Eisenhower, a young officer during the war who later became United States Ambassador to Belgium; his father, Gen "Ike" Eisenhower of course was the E.T.O. Supreme Commander. One of the most recent is "A Time for Trumpets" by Charles B. MacDonald, who was a veteran of the battle and a former deputy chief historian of the U.S. Army. I also recall being told by our illustrious friend and comrade Danny Quinn of still another book he recommended highly, called "The Battle of The Hurtgen Forest." All of this is well and good, and we do have authentic facts and reports to read and dwell on today, but have you ever considered what might have happened if the Germans had only a few more divisions and, perhaps 200 more aircraft. It can certainly boggle your mind. I wonder, how many of us reading this account in the Octofoil would be here?

In Mr. Middletons article, he makes a statement that I have not seen in any other publication concerning the Bulge. I feel it is high time that our Ninth Infantry Division can be justly proud of its important participation in that our Ninth Infantry Division can be justly proud of its important participation in that memorable battle. In essence it is a simple accolade. May I quote from his writings, "The massacres were episode in a developing battle that continued to go badly for the Americans. The only favorable developments were on the breakthroughs northern shoulder, where the First and the Ninth Divisions, two of the armys most experienced, held in fast against the Germans in stubborn, bitter fighting, in snow and mud."

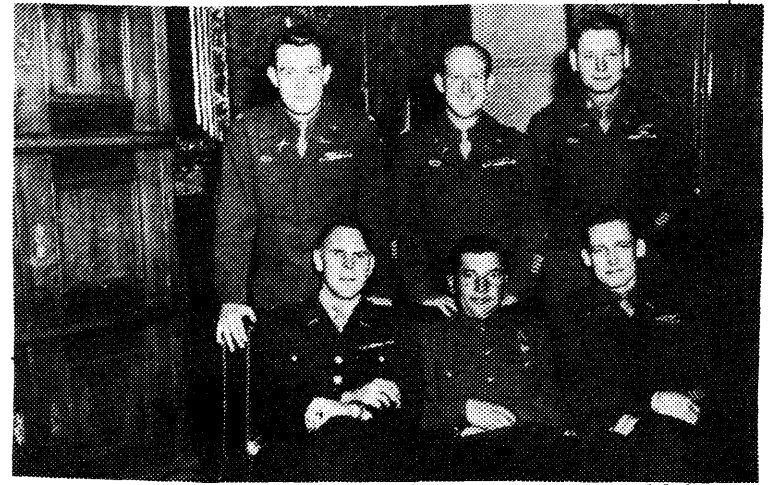
As you recall it was a very serious time for all of us. Each and every G.I. who was involved should be proud of themselves, for the manner in which they conducted themselves. A silent prayer, for those who made the supreme sacrifice is in order, whenever our thoughts go back to that date in time. Of course all these things have been said time and time again, and justly so, but I have a point to make and it is precisely this. We, who made up all the component parts of our great Ninth Infantry Division, along with the equally great First, were the only favorable development during those worrisome days, which was a bane to the freedom of the entire continent of Europe, if not the whole world. Basically a hand full of men, were responsible for containing a drive by the enemy, if successful, could have changed the course of history.

The Fourth Armored, from pattons Third Army. The 80th, the 26th, the 99th, along with the 101st Airborne have been, through the years, continually cited and mentioned in articles, books and film depictions of this world famous battle, but never did I ever remember reading or seeing how effective the Ninth was, from the inception of fighting, until the outcome was not any longer in doubt.

I, myself do remember that fateful day so very well. My wire crew and myself were constantly out, repairing and laying new lines to our gun sections and to Divarty, because of the constant shelling, which if I recall correctly started the day before, the 15th and continued on during the night until the attack came early in the morning of the 16th. We finally were forced along with the 84th F.A. to move back to positions, almost identical to those we occupied in Belgium, some weeks earlier, under very tough conditions.

My recall of future events from that day on, are still vivid in my mind, but didn't or better yet, don't we still remember, each one, with his bag of memories wound tight with a golden cord, so as not to let any of them be lost: Of course the turning point was when the Eighth Air Force could send out its bombers and pursuit planes, and loosen the German lines. It was always a fact that we, much like grains of sand on the beach, in our respective units, never knew too much of the overall picture. In fact we were among the last to know, usually finding out from some back issue of Stars and Stripes.

In retrospect, it seemed that generally speaking, the whole was lesser than the parts, basically because individuals and their heroic deeds played



Ed Scherer sends this picture taken May 1945: Seated left to right Colonel Ward C.O. 47th Infantry, Russian Division Commanding Officer, Major Boland. Standing left to right: Colonel Lewis Maness, 2nd Bn Commanding Officer, Colonel Jim Allgood 1st Bn Commanding Officer and Major Raymond Inzer 3rd Bn Commanding Officer.



J.C. Dawson, Company I 39th Inf is a proud grandfather and sends this picture of his granddaughter marching with her high school band of Bridgeport, Texas in Disneyworld, Florida. Story appears in Mail Call.



Bill Emmons and Bill Dallas of the 15th Engineers are shown in photo taken in May 1945.



Eugene Edwards, 2nd Bn Hq's Co 60th Inf, sends this photo taken before the Bulge-December 1944: left to right Schoettle, Hammond, Hinton, Painter and Wazylewski (H Company Mechanic)

such an important role in the final solution. The United States Army per se prevailed, if I may, the whole beach, ah but the grains of sand made terrific component part(s) of the whole.

We, in reality, members of the Ninth Infantry Division, made a contribution that has rarely gone unheard. The Bulge was always recounted in accounts as a heroic stand by members of every other unit that was involved, without mention about the men who held the onslaught in its sector. This in itself is no real big deal, because that was the past history of the Division from

the beginning of its participation in combat. In this battle the Germans suffered 100,000 killed, wounded and captured; The Allies, 81,000, 77,000 Americans. That was the heaviest battle toll in the history of our country.

I hope that, after forty years, some of The Old Reliables who were there will receive as much pride as I did, reading the few sentences. I knew that we were in the thick of the fighting, but I never read or heard a word about The Ninth, consequently, I was of the mind that our contribution was of a minimal effort. A pat on the back to each one of us who were part of the division that held.

## THE OCTOFOIL

### Mail Call

39th Inf B Co  
ALVIN BECKER  
410 Berkshire Rd.  
Ridgewood, N.J. 07450

Very embarrassed to see my name in red ink.

Here's check to cover dues for three years and put the balance into our Memorial Fund.

Enjoy the Octofoil very much and I'm always on the lookout for mention of 39th Infantry, Company B, in Mail Call.

So proud of the Ninth and best wishes to all.

39th Infantry G Co  
ARMON DAVID POPE  
3036 Bay Tree Drive  
Orlando, Fl. 32806

I joined the Ninth in the Huertgen Forest and lasted through that battle and the Battle of the Bulge. We were on the move again when I stopped a burp gun bullet on Jan. 31, 1945. Results: a paralyzed left hand. I was shipped back to England, then to the States. The "Million Dollar Wound", a lengthy operation at Atlanta Army Hospital, and months of recuperation, and I was discharged in Dec., 1945.

I am originally from Mississippi, but have made Orlando my home for the past 25 years. I wish to welcome all of you to the Orlando Reunion. This is a fun area, and I hope you plan on spending some extra time in the city. There's a lot of things to see and do here. My personal choices in order of preference are: Sea World, Epcot Center, Disney World, Cypress Gardens, Busch Gardens (Tampa), Clearwater Beach (but not on Sunday), Kennedy Space Center, Daytona Beach, Silver Springs (Ocala), and many others. Take time for golf (many beautiful golf courses), and time for fishing (Bass and fresh water-license required; salt water fishing, no license required). Great shopping malls available too.

You could use two weeks doing all the above. Caution: A half hour of midday sun can burn the skin. Get your sun early morning and late afternoon. Use a good sun screen. Don't over exert yourself. Don't drink and drive — this area is tough on D U I. Suggest you try the bus night club tour.

See you at the Orlando Reunion, and I hope to renew acquaintances with all my buddies of the 9th.

Co A 15th Engrs  
RAYMOND BERTHIAUME  
355 Ferry St.  
New Haven, Ct.

I found my name in the "red", sending dues and a donation for the Memorial fund. I am doing very well for a 77 year old "duffer," keeping very active in senior citizens Bingos and dinner theatre groups. If possible will make Orlando in June as I have relatives in that area. Hello to all the engineer gang.

Hqs 39th Inf  
PAUL DILLON  
Rt. 1 Box 164 D  
Hardy, Va. 24101

Thanks for your prompt reply to my request. I am sending a check for dues and a little donation for the Memorial fund. I would enjoy hearing from any of the men who remember me. I landed in N. Africa, June 1943, as a replacement and joined the 9th at Mt. Etna. I stayed with them until the end. I was wounded Oct. 12, 1945 and was gone for awhile in the hospital in Paris. I enjoy reading the Octofoil and I think it's great to read anything concerning the 9th.

9th Signal Co  
STAN SAILORS  
2421 Crook St.  
Falls City, Ne. 68355

Thanks for sending me the Octofoil for January and February, 1985, with the information concerning the June Reunion.

I am enclosing my dues for two years, plus a small contribution to the Memorial or Scholarship fund.

My wife and I are making plans to attend the Orlando reunion.

47th Inf C Co  
DANTE CIATTI  
5925 Kenilworth  
Dearborn, Mi. 48126

The Octofoil arrived and it reminded me I had not sent in my dues, so enclosed find mine for 1985. I hope to see all of you in Florida if everything goes well. Hello to all the boys from the 9th, a good bunch.

47th Inf D Co  
NATE GAYNOR  
1004 Gabel St  
Silver Spring, Md. 20901

Enclosed check for dues and Memorial fund. My deepest gratitude to you for your devotion to the Octofoil and the association.

709th Ord  
JOHN KOWALSKI  
451 44th St. Apt 902  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15201

Sorry to see my name in red, enclosed are my dues. These old bones are not the same anymore, my memory loss amazes me. Other than spending forty days in the hospital this year, things are pretty good. William Jones from the 709 Ord passed away in March of this year. He was with them from the beginning. Hope to see you in Orlando.

9th Med C Co  
COY MARTIN  
Rt B Box 15  
Flippin, Ar. 72634

I'm enclosing dues for 1985. After the Pigeon Forge, Tn. mini reunion in April 1984, I can't afford to drop my membership. I'm hoping to attend the meeting this year.

60th Inf M Co  
CARLTON CHEW  
3436 Greenhill Dr.  
High Point, N.C. 27260

I look forward to receiving the Octofoil. I was in the 9th from July 1944 to Oct. 1944 at which time I was wounded and sent back to England and was hospitalized for 3 months. Still having problems with nerves and go to the VA at Durham for treatment.

39th Inf A Co  
R. W. SCHOENEKASE  
821 Cheshire Blvd.  
Quincy, Ill. 62301

I enjoy every issue of the Octofoil. Most of the events are 40 years old but they seem like yesterday. Keep up the good work. Hope to read more of the 39th in future issues.

84th FA  
OTTO GANSCA  
412 Meek St.  
Sharon, Pa. 16146

Sure as "shooting" there was my name printed in red! I guess time goes by so fast you don't realize it. Sorry about my being late. I enjoy reading the Octofoil and read every letter that's published. Heard from about 5 or 6 of my comrades that served together, it was one of the greatest thrills of my life to hear from them. God bless and keep you and yours.

15th Engrs Hq & A Co's  
ALEX FORREST  
241 N. Vine St.  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

Olive and I have our plane and hotel reservations made for Orlando and look forward to seeing many of our friends once again, particularly those 15th engineers.

9th Med BH  
ABRAHAM S. KAUFMAN, MD  
Cedarbrook Hill Apts  
Bldg 3 Apt C 804  
Wyncote, Pa. 19095

I am still practicing medicine and feel fine but I am retiring soon. Regards to all my friends of the 9th Med Bn. It was a great unit, just like the remainder of the division. Good health to all. Enclosed dues and something for the Memorial fund.

39th Inf K Co  
AL NAPADANO  
PO Box 7102  
New Castle, Pa. 16107

I am in the best of health and getting ready for the warm weather. I see it is renewal time again, I can tell by the red ink. I wish all members of the association peace and prosperity. My mother just turned 89. I wrote to Peter Janus in Pittsburgh but he never answered. I hope the reunion in Orlando is a complete success. God Bless you all and regards always to you and Marie. P.S. Also something for the Memorial fund.

A businessman who really agonizes when he makes any kind of a mistake calls such suffering a "mybrain" headache.

47th Inf H Co  
FRANK MACHEK  
Box 51 Rt 1  
Pleasant Mt., Pa. 18453

I've been going to write the last couple of weeks so here goes. I keep busy these days with a few sheep and lamb to take care of. I saw the reunion notice in the Scranton paper and cut it out and had it put in the local paper. I plan to make the reunion in Orlando. Did I read in the Octofoil where someone has a mess kit or maybe I was dreaming. I had one missing before we came home and had all the places etched on it with my name and serial number on. I would like to receive it back. Hope to see you in June.

60th Inf Hq Co  
GEORGE HULKA  
106 Eggleston St  
Corinth, N.Y. 12822

Enclosed find check for dues, etc. Sorry I'm late. Would like to hear from some old buddies that I lost track of 1942-45. I keep seeing Al Seeley's name but don't know how to reach him. I expected him at Lake Placid.

60th FA Serv Btry  
LARRY ROSENBERG  
2553 N 40th Ave  
Hollywood, Fl. 33021

Sorry about the red name, enclosed find dues for 3 years. I would like to hear from anybody who served in Serv Btry from invasion of N. Africa Port Layouty to end of Sicily when I was transferred to 83rd motar btn. Regards.

39th Inf B Co  
NOEL CASCIO  
2738 A Sherbrooke Ln  
Palm Harbor, Fl. 33563

Enclosed find dues for 1985. The Octofoil keeps me informed of what's happening and I enjoy all the letters sent in by the members. Looking forward to seeing and visiting with everyone again in Orlando. I'm sure that all who attend will have a wonderful time as there are so many attractions to visit and enjoy. Be sure to bring your camera as the shows are spectacular and you wouldn't want to miss getting some wonderful shots of these great performances. We heard from Edna Capozziello, formerly of Brooklyn, N.Y. Her husband, John, passed away in January. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Edna and family.

47th Inf Hq Co. 1st Bn  
ANDREW CRAWFORD  
Box 27  
Burke, N.Y. 12917

Very sorry I was tardy in my dues, put the rest in the Memorial fund. Feeling fine and enjoy the Octofoil. Received Christmas cards from several of the old gang. This sure peps me up. My oldest son, Archie, has been in the service nearly 10 years and seems to enjoy it. Keep up the good work. Dan.

39th Inf Hq Co  
NEWELL COLE  
1850 W. Orangethorpe #63  
Fullerton, Ca. 92633

It is with great sadness that I'm writing you this letter. My buddy, Marvin Bogart, was killed instantly on Feb. 28 when a speeding car cut him down. He and his wife were visiting me at the time. He saved my life in WW2 at the crossing of the Muse River in Belgium. Went all the way from the States to the end of the war. Hope to see you all in Orlando.

34th FA Hq & Hq Btry  
ALBERT J. WILLINGHAM  
2226 Wilcox Dr.  
Greensboro, N.C. 27405

Enclosed is Check for 3 year dues. I joined the 9th on Sept. 6, 1940 and assigned to Hq & Hq Btry 34th FA and remained with them through Nov. 1945. Hope to be in Orlando.

9th QM  
HAROLD HOKANSON  
99 Dustin St.  
Brighton, Ma. 02135

Saw the red on the Octofoil and knew it was time to "re-enlist". Enclosed is dues and some for the Memorial fund. Thank you for the excellent job with the Octofoil. I don't see much from the 9th QM, but as I don't write, I can't very well complain. Since retiring, I don't seem to have time enough for anything. Can't figure out how I did so much before. Thanks again for a terrific job you do with the Octofoil.

39th Inf Co G  
WILLIAM WOLF  
5704 Westgate Rd.  
Lanham, Md. 20706

I have not been able to attend any of the reunions and regret that I will be unable to attend the one this year. I understand that next years will be in Nashville, Tn. If this is so, I will definitely try to attend that one.

9th M.P.'s  
LEONARD SWADOSA  
31 Oliver Rd.  
Manchester, Ct. 06040

You're doing a great job and thanks for reminding me with my name in "red" on the Octofoil. I'm looking ashamed. Have a nice holiday.

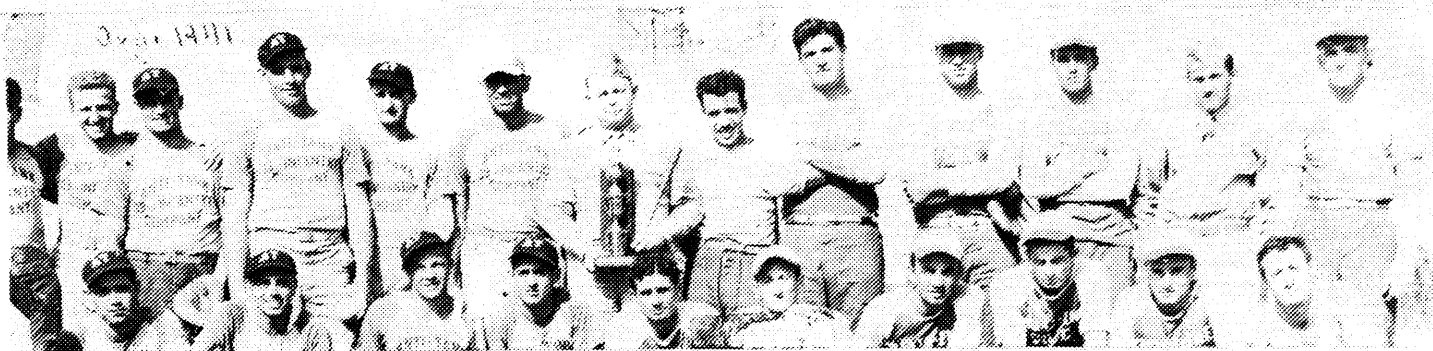
60th Inf M Co  
H.F. Stansell  
217 River Beach Dr.  
Ormond Beach, Fl. 32074

I am sure we will have a great time at the reunion in June, a very big and pretty hotel. We hope all of you will make an effort to come. All of us will enjoy a wonderful time together. Curtis Buchanan, John Elichko and I especially want 60th M Co to make a big showing. All you 9th men get your reservations in for a good time in our sun shine state. There are many things to see and do around Orlando. It will be interesting for you. We have made our reservations for the M Co mini reunion to be in Aug. at Oshkosh, Wis. Am looking forward to seeing all my old buddies again at that time.

B Co 15 Engrs  
TONY MADONNA  
40 Orient Way  
Worcester, Ma. 01604

Here it is time again to pay my dues. I would like to mention that I plan on going to the reunion in Orlando. I received a card from Simon Garber and he plans to attend also. He has been living in Florida for a number of years and would like to join his buddies of B Co 15th Engrs. Enclosed is a clipping from the local paper in Worcester, I thought it would be of interest to the members. Wishing you and yours the best.

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



Frank Lorito sends this picture taken in 1941 when Anti-Tank and C Company played for the Softball Championship of the 39th Regiment.

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



## mail call

39th Inf  
TONY JAKUBIAK  
63 Arcadia Ct.  
Albany, N.Y. 12205

I want to thank you for your rapid response to my letter and I am enclosing dues and Memorial fund donation. I was drafted Jan. 8, 1941 and sent to Ft. Dix for induction. After 2 weeks we were shipped to Ft. Bragg, where I was put in Hq Co. I was there for 2 months, because at that time they were having auditions for the band. I passed the test and was finally made a member of the band. I had 11 months of service completed and then Pearl Harbor which extended my tour for quite some time. I went all thru Africa and Fance, Belgium and Germany and was discharged Sept. 23, 1945 on the point system. I have always had a deep concern in my heart for the 9th. The VFW magazine just gave me a good shot in the arm to get back in the groove. If there are any members in the band who belong to the association, I would be happy to hear from them. I cannot make the reunion as I am going in the hospital to have a hip replacement.

47th Inf. A.T. & Hq Co  
FRANK VENEZIA  
17 Kingsbridge Dr.  
Burlington, N.J. 08016

Enclosed find check for dues. The last several months Lawrence Melanson, Leon Robins and I have located many former Hq. members that either weren't aware of the 9th Div. Assoc. existence or let their memory lapse. A mini reunion is in the planning stage to be held in the tri state area, New York, New Jersey, Pa. this summer for members of the Hq. radio section. The following have indicated interest in attending: Jim Pettis, Jim Schultze, Charles Steele, Raymond Osborn, Wayne Shelley, Capt. L. Terry, Leon Robins, Lawrence Melanson, Bill O'Shea, Joe Trout, Chick Wollrich and several others in the contacting stage. Most should be considered as candidates for the Assoc. membership, we are working on it. Forrest Cobb and Alex Prosnick may not attend due to ill health. Leon Robins and I toured the eastern Pa. Pocono Mt. area around the 1st of March for a location, Charlie Steele is exploring the lower N.Y. state resort area and Leon is looking into the Great Gorge area in northern N.J. The three of us should get together soon to compare notes on all the locations and pick one that will be satisfactory to most.

Hq 60th Inf  
JOHN BEDINGHAM  
523 Spruce St.  
Manistee, Mich 49660

Send all correspondence to above address as we were only on vacation in Tucson, Az. Enclosed is 1985 dues. I enjoy reading the Octofoil and especially Mail Call. Some of us went in to Normandy at Utah Beach and joined the 9th when they came back from Cherbourg. However, I ended up in a field hospital just before the bombing by our air force and the breakthrough at St. Lo. I was assigned to the 60th Hdqs Co. 1st Bn, Combat Intelligence Unit. If any of the fellows were in that area before or by July 19, 1944 when I got hit, I would like to hear from them. Donald Buckhout who now lives in Waterville, Ohio at 25-2nd St. was with us and I also met a fellow from Amsterdam, N.Y. Keep up the good work.

60th Inf L Co  
BOB BURKY  
#8 Whispering Meadows  
Joshua, Texas 76058

Once again I am writing to mail call as yet I have not heard from any one from old Co L 60th Inf 9th Div that fought in North Africa. I don't know if they belong to the association or survived the Tunisian Campaign. I pray that they did. I did get a name of one feller who joined Co L before jump off to Sicily, a Mr. Edwin Brewer who lives in Maryville, Mo. whom I wrote to. He called via telephone and we had an enjoyable conversation for about 20 min. and we promised to correspond with each other. He did mention a name that seemed familiar. A feller named Flores. The fellers called Mex but he passed away 2 years ago. I plan to write of my war time experience with Co L to add to my 9th Inf Div memorabilia to be passed on to my son to be passed on to his family and sons.

If any fellers who have heard of me or know me please let's hear from Y all. Any information will be greatly appreciated. Feel free to call or write 817 645 9464 #8 Whispering Meadows, Joshua, Texas 76058. I plan to renew my membership with the association and to attend the 1986 convention good Lord willing, and the creek don't over flow. If any one has a copy "Pawns of War" or "8 Stars to Victory" and can loan them to me I will pay postage and return them. I understand only one publication was made.

26th FA  
BEN ATKINSON  
5401 Pineland Rd  
Richmond, Va. 23234

Just received the Octofoil and was sorry to see the list of ones that have passed on. I knew some of them and was shocked at the news, but time waits for no one and time is going by so fast. Have seen some of the guys from the 26th FA this year and am planning to see you all in Orlando.

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

I had major surgery and was in and out of the hospital for a long time, but now I'm able to get around pretty good. I go to church at the Veterans hospital on Sunday and we take some of the patients down for church and it gives me great pleasure to be able to help.

9th Signal  
EVERETT SPINK  
Box 15 Stonebrook  
Cosby, Tn 37722

Things came up red again. I'm sending dues. I will not make Orlando this year. Has the convention committee ever considered a fall convention? Now that most are retired it would seem that summer heat conventions should be out. Also I would like to suggest Gatlinburg, Tn. or Niagara Falls be considered as future sites in Sept. or Oct. as both have a lot to offer. I am glad to see that the association as buried the application for membership of the present 9th division.

60th Inf C Co  
JOE FOYE  
PO Box 445  
Auberry, Ca. 93602

Dues enclosed and I will get a letter off to the Octofoil in the near future. Being a Scot in Africa and the invasion of Normandy I have a few good ones to mail in. Our flag of this great country flies 24 hrs a day with a light on it at night.

47th Inf D Co  
RONALD FRANK  
RD 1, Box 82  
Leechburg, Pa. 15656

Enclosed check for 3 yrs. dues. Enjoyed Lake Placid reunion. I also enjoy reading the Octofoil and letters written by the men and what they are doing. I've also had the experience of going back to Europe just to reminisce. My wife and I took this trip on our own. We flew to London went to the place of Cheriton, England where the 47th, D Co spent time waiting for the invasion and old memories returned. It still looks the same as then. After viewing several places in Wales we took a boat and crossed the English Channel from Southampton to Cherbourg and the Normandy Coast area. While in Port Bail we couldn't find a hotel to stay in as it was May 30 and the French were on holiday also. We saw a sign along the road "Campground" thinking we could sleep in our car. It belonged to a farmer. We had taken the 8 Stars book with us for reference as we communicated by book and pictures. As it turned out he had a bed for us. We wanted to pay for our lodgings, but they wouldn't hear of it. He said we paid them a long time ago by freeing them from the Germans. The father was 13 years old at the time and he remembered the 9th patch. It was the highlight of the trip. We also went to Monschau and in Dinant, Belgium, saw the church that is in the 8 Stars book, Dachau prison camp, one barrack left using it as a museum, the rest of the barracks are torn down with the foundation there. Crematories are still there. Went to Garmish, Linderhof and Newshawstein castles in to Austria back up to Frankfurt and home. A 21 day trip which will remain in our memories as long as we live. Reason I'm writing this is hoping this will make another GI go and enjoy it as we did.

84th FA Hqs Btry  
NEWTON FIELDS  
521 John Rolfe  
Monroe, Mi. 48161

Enclosed find dues for 3 years. We plan to make the reunion in Orlando. How nice it was to visit and chat about old times with army pal Clarence Lagore in Florida in January. He plans to attend the reunion also. Shelby York and I enlisted together 9-7-40, I see him quite often. I appreciate the Octofoil and the good job you are doing. See you in June.

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

Enclosed find check for dues. Sorry it slipped my mind. We enjoy reading the Octofoil and would miss getting it. Best wishes to all.

9th Med Bn C Co  
RALPH PALERMO  
223 Barbera Dr.  
McKees Rocks, Pa. 15136

Received my Octofoil addressed in red ink which informs me my dues are due. I enjoy reading all the articles in the Octofoil. If my health permits I'll try and make the Orlando reunion. Would like to see some of my old buddies again. Hope you all had a happy Easter and thanks again for the tremendous job you are doing.

60th Inf Ser Co  
R. J. VASSAR  
706 Woodlawn Ave  
Newpoort, Tn. 37821

Hope to see you all at the 1985 Orlando reunion.

47th Inf AT Co  
JIM CORCORAN  
2111 W. Market St.  
Pottsville, Pa. 17901

Enclosed is check for dues. I would like to make it to Orlando but I'm having a problem to get 1 or 2 of my old buddies from AT. There are a few guys around here but can't get them off their "butt" long enough to go along. Best regards to all AT guys and hope you have a great reunion.

47th Inf E Co  
JOSEPH HASENFUS  
3570 Union Ave.  
Pennsauken, N.J. 08109

When I get around to retiring and move to Florida will advise. Saw Art MacDougall, back to work, looks great. Enclosed find dues.

60th Inf B Co  
EAMON MacDEVITT  
1824 Primavera Ct.  
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405

Sorry I'm late with my dues. Also a little extra for the Memorial fund. Enjoyed Lake Placid and will try and make Orlando. Anxious to hear anything of Plt Sgt Ferguson of B Co. I was a platoon leader in that co from Sicily to Normandy.

39th Inf K Co  
ART MERYWEATHER  
10 David St.  
Dover, N.J. 07801

Enclosed find dues and a little extra for the Memorial fund. We won't be with you in Orlando but will be thinking of you. If there are any of you who are from K Co 9th who were in Africa, Sicily and Normandy I'd like to hear from you. May all of you stay healthy and God bless you all.

15th Engrs B Co  
A.W. COLLINS  
221 Jackson Ci.  
Tulahoma, Tn. 37388

Enclosed is membership dues and I enjoy the Octofoil very much. I had lost all contact with my co. and friends in the 15th Engrs. Looking forward to a big reunion. After Remagen Bridge crossing, operated bulldozer for B Co.

47th Inf K Co  
BILL STOKAN  
992 Dorchester Ave.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15226

Sorry I neglected my dues so enclosed is check for same. Great seeing you at Lake Placid and will see you in Orlando with brother Ed from K Co 60th Inf. Hoping to see many from K Co 47th especially Capt. Simpson, believe he lives nearby. I presume, Max Uman-sky, my old buddy will be there, he will make my trip!

60th Inf A Co  
RAY WOLFE  
RD 1  
Collins, Ohio 44826

Enclosed find dues and a little something for the Memorial fund. Had hoped to beat my name appearing in red! Been reading "Kasserine Pass" by Martin Blumenson and wish I had it before we went to Africa in 1983. I'd like to know if there are any of my old buddies from A Co still out there who went through Africa and Sicily with me. If so drop me a line, or better yet, come to Orlando to talk. Does anyone have the book "8 Stars to Victory" they would like to sell? Thanks to everyone who does such a great job with the Octofoil and the reunions. God Bless you all!

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.

47th Inf I  
WILLIAM LARSON  
7 Clinton Ave.  
Montclair, N.J. 07042

Enclosed find dues and something for the Memorial Fund. It was great to see you at the Hopkins/Repetti dinner and only hope our paths will cross again before too long. I greatly admire your dedication and years of hard work on behalf of the association. Still hope to be able to make Florida, especially to see my great "1st Sgt" Joe Williams along with many others.

47th Inf F Co  
FELTON JONES  
P.O. Box 7  
Alapaha, Ga. 31622-0007

We have reservations for June 5, 6, 7, 8 and are looking forward to the reunion in Orlando. Despite the fact we live in the deep south, this will be our first visit to Disney World. We are anxious to see all the warriors of the 9th and wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all those who work so diligently to make the reunions such unforgettable occasions.

47th Inf F Co  
RAY SCHMADER  
3757 Northview Dr., NW  
Canton, Ohio 44709

I noticed the address label on my Octofoil is bleeding! Time marches on. Enclosed are my dues. Looking forward to seeing you in Orlando. Perhaps we can get together for golf again as we did at Lake Placid. It would be fun if we could. Do you suppose there might be some improvement in our game this year? I seem to recall threshing around in the timber and searching along streams and ponds while that youngster, Joe Bergin and his lovely wife waited patiently for us out in the fairway. We'll get 'em this year. Dan. Stay well.

47th Inf F Co  
RUD HOFFMAN  
1831 Whiskey Hill Rd.  
Waterloo, N.Y. 13165

I haven't gotten my red notice yet, but I decided to send my dues anyway. Please note the address change. Our politicians didn't have anything to do one day so they decided that we should use a number and road name instead of RD2. A few years before, they took down all the road names and replaced them with numbered roads and then they put back all the names again! That was quite an evening we had last fall in Belmar. I talk with Tony about every month and he is doing pretty well. I see so many things in the national press about people getting together after years of being apart since WW2, but I never see anything that equals the number of people from one company that showed up that night! Here are my dues, I know I should pay more than 1 year, but if I do, I'll never write.

Co A 15th Engrs  
JERRY FASANO  
Rd #1, Box #305  
Ringing Rocks Road  
Upper Black Eddy, Pa. 18972

Just received the TEL. TALE RED INK. Enclosed is a check for the next three years. Finally left the concrete jungles of New York for the rolling green hills of Bucks County, Pa.

Looking forward to Orlando and all my old ENGINEER buddies.

## mail call

60th Inf 2nd Bn  
MIKE KAUFFMAN  
4466 Abinadi Rd.  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84124

I saw red and realized my dues for the next 3 years were due. Two new members, Karl Ingebretsen and Irving Scott are joining me for a mini-reunion this August in Park City, Utah. There are many old timers out there who are not aware of the existence of the 9th association. I suggest we members mount a recruiting campaign to let our old buddies know that they can keep many memories alive by getting the Octofoil and attending the reunions. Sorry we can't make Orlando as we are committed for a visit to family in the northwest. Best wishes to all.

Co K 17th Inf  
JOE KILLACKY  
Bolingbrook, Ill 60439

Just finished an excellent book on the 28th Infantry Division in its battle for Vossenack, Kommers Heidt and Schmidt in November 1944. It is called "Follow Me and Die", by Cecil B. Currey, Professor of Military History at the University of South Florida. Stein and Day, Briar Cliff Manor, New York published it in 1984. Anyone who went through the Ardennes will really enjoy reading it. The author comes down hard on Generals Hodge, Collins and Cota for the plans and execution of the campaign. See you in Orlando. Editors note: A book along the same order we recommend highly is called the "Battle of the Huertgen Forest" by Charles MacDonald. A third of the book is about the Ninth and the remaining pages about the other Divisions that followed the Ninth into the Huertgen Forest. Write to Jove Book Mailing Service, PO Box 690, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. The cost of this book is \$2.95 plus postage — \$1.00.

60th Inf H Co  
JOHN DeVERE  
119 Ellison Rd.  
Charleston, W. Va. 25314

Thank you for reminding me about the dues, also something for the Memorial fund enclosed. I enjoy reading the many letters sent in and I absorb everyone. I have corresponded with several that had to leave the 9th on Sept. 5, 1944 when we were captured after crossing the Meuse river. At the age of 67, I still have 2 goals, 1 is to retrace my steps in England and France, Belgium and Germany. 2, to find the jeep driver who went with me on July 25th after we had reached our objective and locate and bring up to our area headquarters company who were considered at that time lost. If this letter brings a response from this buddy of mine and he will be in Orlando, I'll be there!

39th Inf Co I  
J.C. DAWSON  
Box 622

We look forward to reading each issue of the Octofoil. I won't be able to make the reunion this year, but I know everyone will have a good time. My grand-daughter went in March. She is drum major for the Mighty Marching Maroon High School Band of Bridgeport, Texas. They were invited to march (and play) down Main St. USA. She enjoyed Epcot Center most of all.

47th Inf C Co (Med)  
C.B. BAKER  
2001 Oakland Ave.  
Johnson City, Tn. 37601

It has been some time since I have written, and I also ran across an old photo made in Sicily of four C Company 47th men that you might want to use in the Octofoil in the future.

I don't think you have had this picture before. It is one that Otto Sirovy sent to me many years ago. He is now deceased. I gave him first aid one night in France after he had both legs severed with fragments from one of those Anti-Personnel bombs dropped right in his fox-hole. It was so dark I could not see what I was doing, so I had to feel his wounds to find what to do for him. I still have a letter from him written in 1947 thanking me for caring for him that night.

Some Frenchman came through our lines the day before all this happened dressed as a clergyman. Later we found he was in contact with the Germans by radio, and had given them our position. This explained why they dropped the bombs right on us.

We had a funeral service this week with a Rev. Bob Vickery, who was a former chaplain in Viet Nam with General Westmoreland. He retired recently as a Lt. Colonel and is living here. Told me he knew the General well.

We plan to be in Orlando in June, and are working to that end at this time. This should be a good meeting, as several have retired and are now living in Florida.

Had several cards at Christmas that I enjoyed very much. One from Major Sordill. Have not heard from Major Roberts in a long time. Also had a card from Captain Larimer and several C Company men. I do hope that they can make the Orlando meeting. It would be good to see them again.

Co A  
BEN BLETHEN  
6102 5th McNutt  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

I was reading about the reunion in June. I have a very good chance to make this one, that is if my health don't stop me. I am now retired from the Rail Road. In the past I never could come to any of the reunions before because of my work, now that I am retired nothing will stop me this time.

Looking forward to seeing some of my old friends in the 9th. I have some photos that were taken at the Co. A reunion in New York City the last part of 1940. I think it was about 1947 or eight I don't know if you were there or not. I do hope I caught you on film if you were there. My wife and I have spent our vacations in Florida since 1969. I could never get a vacation the same time that the reunion was held, sure I will be able to make it this time. I will close for now hoping and praying to be there in June.

Best wishes to you and your family.

9th Recon Troop  
ALBERT FULLERTON  
42 Froehlich Farm Rd  
Hicksville, N.Y. 11801

I would like to express my appreciation to you and the others on the executive board for the excellent work you have done in making the association the fine organization which it is. The reunions I have attended have been outstanding. My wife and I plan to attend Orlando and are eager to meet old friends again.

60th Inf Co A  
JAMES JENKINS  
Hwy 431 N Box 89 Rt 7  
Albertville, Ala. 35950

I joined the 9th in Sicily on July 1943 and left them in 1944 in France when I was wounded in action. Looking forward to seeing some of my old buddies at the reunion. Thanks to the people who publish the Octofoil.

60th Inf Hq Co  
GLENN GIBBS  
4875 Todd Rd  
Franklin, Ohio 45005

Well, it happened, I'm seeing red, on my Octofoil! I had planned to attend the reunion in Orlando but we have a wedding at that time. I enjoy reading the Octofoil and am constantly searching for names that I knew. I have been in contact with Charlie Willsher, Jack Snoddy, John Bass, Maurice Sestrich, Ben Thielitz, Carl McQueeney and Freddie Fredrickson. I'm still working just to keep busy. Last May my wife passed away so just not to look at 4 walls all day, I go to work. Keep up the good work.

39th Inf E Co  
BRAYTON P. WILLIS  
10602 Hutton Dr.  
Sun City, Az. 85351

Company E, 39th Inf. where are you? Especially those in the unit from Tunisia to Troina, Sicily. A short tour halted by a Purple Heart. One letter from Kenneth Hill in Texas since my letter over 2 years ago and no letters to the Octofoil from this unit, ever. Home was Taunton, Mass., until 1976. Wouldn't be much of a reunion if no one was there from E Co. 39th. Let's hear it from our fine company.

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

After 40 years I can no longer recall names of men who are still important to me. Some may remember me from a ranger battalion in Wales, from there to France, Belgium and Remagen. Can we ever forget Remagen and the winter of 1944? Have attended 2 reunions with my wife of 38 years but have neither seen nor heard from the old outfit. Plan to be in Orlando and want to hear from you.

60th FA Hq Btry  
HUGH GOODMAN  
1502 Edmeyer NW  
Canton, Ohio 44708

I enjoy reading the Octofoil but don't find many from my outfit in it. I was with the division from beginning to the end. Got out on points. Are any of the old gang left? Would like to hear from you. Would like to go to the reunion but my wife has to do all the driving.

Cannon Co 47th Inf  
JOHN (TARHEEL) ROBBINS  
2213 Panola St.  
Tarboro, N.C. 27886

Looking forward to the reunion in Florida. We have 7 members and their wives here in eastern N.C. and we meet every 3 months. They are Joe & Mavis Parks, Bill & Mary McLaughlin, Melvin & Doris Stroupe, John & Jesse Davidson, William & Jess Arnold, Frank & Etta Jenkins and John & Ida Robbins. Keep up the good work. We enjoy the Octofoil. A big hello to all the guys of the 9th.

60th Inf  
CASIMIR PAKISZ  
Box 397  
Slovan, Pa. 15078

Please renew my membership. I enjoy reading the Octofoil and look forward to receiving it.

39th Inf G Co  
CARLOS ESTEVA  
Box 968  
Arecibo, P.R. 00613

Just got back from Orlando, Fla. where I attended a most productive and informative Chapter Meeting I have ever attended.

The agenda of this gathering was all made up in relation to the Annual Convention of our Great Association. Without reservations of any kind I must say that the Florida Chapter is going out of their way to make this Convention the best ever and is preparing for all of us a great program, there will be many surprises for all, thus, I suggest that the members mail in as soon as possible their hotel reservations as well as their Pre-Registration, do it NOW. If you miss out you'll be sorry you did.

Congratulations are in order for Joe Williams, the Chapter President for the excellent manner in which he conducted this meeting, he has leadership and the ability to surround himself with persons who are willing to work and accomplish the work they have been assigned, this is also a sign of successful Convention, well done Joe.

I must take this opportunity to thank Max Umansky (47th) for his courtesy shown to me in inviting me to share his 'fox hole' on Saturday night, much obliged Max, muchas gracias.

Once again let me remind you all SIT DOWN RIGHT NOW MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND SEND YOUR PRE-REGISTRATION FEES.

Warmest regards from Bright and Sunny Puerto Rico, an excellent place to hold a Chapter Meeting or Annual Convention, I am, yours for a strong Association.

60th Inf  
JOS. PERELLA  
1179 W. Woodcrest Dr.  
Vineland, N.J. 08360

I met Marty Gill in Trenton and we shot the breeze about the good old Ninth. I live about 35 minutes from the Atlantic City casinos! So if any of the old gang from E Co 60th or A.G.'s office in Div Hqs come to the casinos, call me and I will come down to see you. I am a whisky salesman.

60th Inf 2nd Bn Hq Co  
EUGENE EDWARDS  
112 National Ave.  
Langhorne, Pa. 19047

My wife and I are looking forward to attending the Orlando reunion. I'm enclosing a couple of photos. If my memory is correct, I think these photos showing a road built by the 15 engineers in the Huertgen Forest. We relieved the 28th division. The photo of the car was taken at Cherbourg. I drove Col. Mike Kauffman to a cemetery dedication in this vehicle. It was a German command car he found on his travels on the Cherbourg peninsula. The vehicle had to be pushed when we were ready to go back to the C.P., the battery went dead. Looking forward to seeing many of my buddies at Orlando.

47th Inf. G Co  
IRVING POSNER  
9440 Sunrise Lakes Blvd  
Sunrise, Fl. 33322

It is a pleasure to receive the Octofoil. Enclosed is my check for the next 3 years. The last 3 went quickly. No complaints. My wife and I enjoy retirement in Florida.

9th MP & E Co 60th Inf  
BILL BATEMAN  
550 Leisure World  
Mesa, Az. 85206

Enclosed is my check for \$13.00 for a three year membership.

We will not be at the convention this summer as we plan to spend most of the summer in Idaho and Montana. In Aug. We plan to spend two weeks at Dillon, Co.

Since we have moved to AZ. We have met and become good friends of Ben and Carol Johnson. Anyone that watches western movies has had to see Ben. He won the Oscar for his part in the Last Picture Show. He was also in Sugarland Express with Goldie Hawn. My wife and I have just finished five books (Scrap books). We had a print shop print them and bind them into book form. He is in the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City and also in the Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs. We have hopes of Louis L'Amour writing a book about his life.

Suppose this is about all for now. Nice to read about the old 9th gang. Keep up the good work.

39th Inf L Co  
C.E. (BUCK) MILLER  
216 Bissell Ave  
Oil City, Pa. 16301

Imagine my surprise when I opened my last issue of The Octofoil and saw my name in red ... here's my dues for the next three years. I'll try to watch this matter closer in the future.

Just a line to all my former buddies of L Company, 39th Infantry.

What's the matter with you guys? Can't you write any more? Or have you allowed your membership in the Ninth Infantry Division Association expire as I almost did? Let's hear from you ... I promise to answer any and all letters and send pictures too if you are interested in seeing what the retired life can do to a person's shape.

I'm going to be in Germany and France this summer. My son in law is an officer in the Air Force in Frankfurt. He has planned side trips to Berlin, Paris and Amsterdam. I'm going to schedule some visitations also to some of the towns we saw in a little different form over forty years ago.

Come on you guys ... drop a line ...

47th Inf G & Serv Co  
HARRY G. WALLS  
Rt 3  
Cumming, Ga. 30130

I received my Octofoil addressed in "red" so I am enclosing dues for 3 more years. I was in G Co from the 1st replacement in France until October 1945 when I left for the USA from Dachau. I was 3rd platoon runner until Remagen when Cpl. Edsel Martin arranged a transfer for me to Serv Co driving truck #21. Cpl. Martin is now deceased but his wife lives in Cumming, Ga. I am now retired (due to serious coronary problems). Look forward to seeing all my buddies in Orlando.

60th Inf B Co  
THOMAS L. BELK  
116 N. Everett St.  
Bennettsville, S.C. 29512

Sorry I'm late with my dues, enclosed 3 yrs. payment. I don't hear anything from old friends except George Bentley in Monroe, Mich. I enjoy reading Mail Call very much and keep up the good work.

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



## MAIL CALL

B Co & Hq 15th Engrs Bn  
R. C. MCGRATH  
2856 W 85th St.  
Chicago, Ill. 60652

Once again my thanks to you and all who are responsible for putting out the Octofoil. I look forward so much to the paper that it seems a long time between copies. In the last edition there was a welcome letter from our 1st Sgt. Howard Granger who was our topkick in Hqs company. It was good to hear he's doing so well and hope to see him at Orlando. Howard and our old 1st Sarge Glen Bowman were good examples of professional soldiers. They with some other regular Army men added a lot of class to our division. They were admired for their appearances and tried to make soldiers out of pretend soldiers like myself.

I had a very enjoyable time at my first Memorial reunion in Worcester. As Charlie Hoffman and others told me there is a lot more to like about the Memorials than the summer reunions. Saw a few more of our old comrades such as Tom Reith, Armand Divito and Matty Mulholland. I was saddened to hear of Matty's death. The people responsible for the Memorial really do a good job. It was good to see Fr. Connors. My thanks to Franny Maher and his wife for inviting me to their home for the post memorial party. One good time after another. Also met Fr. Rowan there. Went back to Boston with Fred D'Amore and they showed me why Boston is one of the most progressive cities. Thanks to the D'Amore's, I'll remember it forever. If Ron Murphy is listening that lawyer never caught up with this freeloader. I knew anyone from the east would have a hard time finding Chicago.

Congratulations to Elmer Wagner and all the newly elected officers. I hope they have the same success in guiding the association as the past officers. The reunion in Orlando is in good hands and I have had fast replies to my requests for those Florida commitments. My condolences to the Marty Connelly family. Marty and I shared a few K rations in Africa. Looking forward to the Orlando reunion and may we have a good turnout of 15th men. Good luck and good health.

60th Inf Serv & M Co  
GENE CRONIN  
185 Bronx River Rd  
Yorkers, N.Y. 10704

I missed the deadline according to my calendar, better late than never. Enclosed find another year's dues plus something for the scholarship fund.

My 1985 activities will be limited to a vacation trip to Ireland, my second trip in 36 years. I immigrated from there in 1929. So I will have to pass up Florida and the great reunion.

At this writing, I would urge the "Old reliables" to write, and write again and again to their representatives in Washington D.C. in protest of the proposed Social Security cut backs.

I have personally prepared and distributed letters for signature and mailing.

It is high time we told the bureaucrats in Washington D.C. "Let us enjoy the fruits of our labors in the remaining years left to us."

Best regards to all

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

All you MP's and other 9th division men that were anyplace near the Ludendorf Bridge when it went down, Mar. 17, 1945, how about a few lines saying the time the bridge went down and your approximate location. A letter would help a Scottish Historian on the Ludendorf Bridge and the German Military Historian, there is a big difference in the time the bridge went down. A 9th Armored medic by the name of Herbert Rossiter treated quite a few 9th division men that were wounded in the Winkel and Erpel area. He has asked if anyone recalls being attended by him, he would be more than pleased to hear from you. He has a soft spot for the 9th division men he treated and would be grateful to hear from some of them. Send along the bridge information to me at the address above, also the Medic info.

84th FA  
EDWARD WINSCH  
8 - 7th St  
Carle Place  
Long Island, N.Y. 11514

Received your Red Letter Warning. Sorry to be late. Enclosed is my check.

I enjoyed my visit to Worcester in November. I don't know about Orlando just yet but I do hope to make it.

With all good wishes.

47th Inf M Co  
JAMES WINGATE  
409 Gardenia St  
Biloxi, Miss. 39531

I have not written for some time as my health has been on the downhill. Two years ago just before Christmas the Octofoil had a letter from Gen. Don Clayman (Ret.) giving his whereabouts. I was very surprised to read he was living in Virginia Beach, Va., since that is where our daughter is located. We were planning to visit Virginia Beach over the holidays. After arriving there I got in touch with the General and spent some time with his hashing over old times (he was our Battalion C.O.) many will be glad to know he is just the same.

My daughter was my taxi and when she came to pick me up, the General and she started talking up a storm as my son-in-law is a Captain in the Navy and anything with the service the General is willing to talk. He asked her where she lived and she told him the place, he said his daughter lives in that neighborhood, my daughter said it wouldn't happen to be so and so, the General said yes that was her name. As it turned out my daughter and his daughter had been friends for some time and our grandchildren have been playing in school activities together. Small world after all. I hope to see you at the reunion, but will have to wait until the last minute to make sure I will be able to come.

I would like to say hello to all former M. Company boys.

47th Inf Hq 3rd Bn  
BEN KOVAC  
Silvermine Ave.  
Norwalk, Ct. 06850

Enclosed is check for dues and something for the Memorial Fund. I keep in touch with Al Bravin of Fort Lee, N.J. also with Lyle Kelly in Dearborn, Mich.

47th Reg M Co  
JOHN B. KNIGHT  
65 Yorktown Rd.  
Mountaintop, Penna. 18707

This is the first time I have written to Mail Call and "The Search for Ira Rosenfeld" inspired me to write.

I enlisted in the Army in Oct. 1940 and was sent to Ft. Bragg. While there I was assigned to Co. M-47th Reg., 3rd Bn. I clearly recall the company streets lined with Pine needles and branches. The latrine was at the very far end of the company street, quite a stretch at three in the morning. The canteen was a welcome sight after a day of basic training. I remember so well the fall-ins, raincoats and helmet liners and also the burning tents. I know it was 45 years ago, but it seems like yesterday.

Some of the men I served with and would love to meet were Joe "Wimpy" Gaultier, Lloyd Graf, Jimmy King, Cecil Palmatier, Harold Kitchen, Howard Link, Adam Fela, Tony Russo, Dewey Siddens, Paul Clark, Bill Kuminelis, Dominick Melle, Wilton Taylor, Shecko, Bencik, Jones The Cook), Bienick. There were many others. I can remember their faces but not the names.

I also remember proudly serving under Col. Alex. Patch, Lt. Col. Edwin Randle, Col. Coffin, Major Babbitt, Lt. Colton Dieppe), Lt. Byerly, Red Phillips, Murphy later Captain), Ira Rosenfeld, Rackstraw, Atkins, 1st Lt. Johnson, 1st Sgt. Barnhill, Sgt. Somyak, Sgt. Hon, Talley, Saunders, Callaway, Mullins, Elliott, Reid, Cpl. Derrick and Sharp.

The sad part is remembering those who didn't make it. Just a few that I remember were Henry Via, John Alonzo, Lou Kalsas, Sam Millazo, Paul Scott, Russel Cripe, Sgt. Elliott and Col. Paddy Flint.

I went from Ft. Bragg to the break thru at St. Lo and wound up at the field hospital with Col. Paddy Flint AAA-O. The nurse told me that he was hit by a sniper and later died.

My wife and I attended our first convention at Lake Placid last summer and enjoyed it very much. Although I didn't meet anyone from Co. M. I certainly enjoyed talking with men who fought in the same areas as I did. After seeing some of the Old Reliables last year, I don't think many of them, including myself could climb Green Hill or Rhineros Hill as we did in "43". I guess you could call us 1942 Killers and 1984 Pussycats.

God Bless You All  
P.S. Enclosed is a photo of Tony Russo and myself in Fayetteville in 1941.

39th Inf Co F  
MICHAEL RACIN  
2685 Comet Rd  
Clinton, Ohio 44216

At this writing we aren't sure if we will go to Orlando in June. I just had surgery on April 10 for a good size kidney stone and am still in Barberton Citizens Hospital in Barberton, Ohio. Can't work or drive a car for a month after release from hospital. I do enjoy the Octofoil and the very best to all.

D Co 9th Med  
EDWARD MACHOWSKI  
5931 NW Circle Ave  
Chicago, Ill 60631

It was good to see the article on Andy Andriola. Hoping all is well with you and hope to make the Florida reunion. Nothing would be better. God bless you and all the 9th Medics of our division.

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39th Inf K Co  
RAYMOND BRUGGER  
2501 W 49th Terr  
Shawnee Mission, Ks. 66205

Enclosed is a check to keep the Octofoil coming to this same red address label.

I had intended going to the Orlando reunion, but a previous commitment has interfered so I will be out of the country at that time.

Next year I hope to do better and will look forward to perhaps again seeing the people from "K" Co. with whom I enjoyed visiting so much in '83.

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

Possibly many of the members of the Association have read the book, "Silent Missions" by Vernon Walters, but I feel not many know that he was with the 47th Infantry when it landed in Safi in 1942. I didn't either until I read the book. I found that he was attached to my S-2 Section but I can't place him. Can anyone else? If so, will they please write me?

This is not to say that he was not with us for in the book he described the landing well and that he was in the office of the phosphate plant on the docks of Safi. That, I do doubt for only a few of us were there. But, no doubt, he was using an author's license. I wrote to him after reading his book but he failed to answer.

His background shows what can be accomplished based on the knowledge of a few foreign tongues, maybe more of us should learn some foreign tongues. Beginning with his use by Nixon as a translator and interpreter he went straight up; was Deputy Director of the CIA.; Special Asst. to Kissinger; a roving ambassador for the President and now he has been selected as Ambassador to the United Nations. We ought to make sure he joins the Association. By the way he states he went to Safi on the "Lyon" wasn't our 3rd Bn on it?

It's still a mystery to me for I knew my two interpreters quite well, an Olson from Chicago and a New Orleans Frenchman whose name I do not remember — but Walters I can't place.

We are all sorry about General Westmoreland's trial but I am particularly upset for the two who "did him in" I know well. McChristian was my boss in Hawaii in 1963-65 and Gains Hawkins was my Chief of Order of Battle. I'm surprised that Westy accepted either one of them. I hesitate to put in writing how I felt about either of them when I was in Hawaii but I'll be glad to tell someone in person.

Looking forward to Orlando in June.



34th FA B Btry  
AL BENOIT  
156 Harris St  
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

Enclosing my check for payment of dues - three years. Noella and yours truly are fine at this writing, hoping this note finds you and Marie enjoying the very best of everything, as it should be, righto. We vacationed in Orlando, Florida two years ago, therefore, will not attend the convention this year. We saw all the sights of interest.

We just returned from a 17 day tour of Portugal, Spain, and Tangiers, Morocco - a real nice vacation - 17 days of sunshine. Noella rode on a donkey in Spain, and a camel in Morocco - very interesting, to be sure.

We will look forward to next year's reunion, however, we shall see you and Marie in Worcester, come November. God Bless.

60th Inf  
NORBERT J. HENNEN  
4130 Washburn Ave. N.  
Minneapolis, Mn. 55412

Enclosed is my check for membership dues which I hope will obliterate that tell-tale red ink on my address on the Octofoil.

Once again, my congratulations and thanks for the wonderful job you have been doing in holding together the association through publication of the Octofoil.

We plan to be with you in Orlando in June.

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

It's time for us veterans to get a law passed to keep conscientious objectors like Max Kampelman (Chief honcho of Pres. Reagan's new arms control team) out of government jobs and also to keep them from services. The Marines were looking for a few good men but I think they slipped up when they took this guy in to the service. We have a poor Commander in Chief who lets such a man keep a commission in the Marine Corps. I don't want any man like that to make any agreements with the Russians so I hope you all will write and try and have him removed.

Hq 34th FA  
SHELDON B. STODDARD  
122 Meadow Rd  
Portsmouth, N.H. 03801

The weekend in Worcester was just great. Wonderful getting together with old buddies of the 34th FA, and they were all represented.

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

Hope you and yours are fine. Miriam and I are looking forward to Orlando. Tired of paying dues . . . please sign me up for Life Membership. See you in June and bring your golf clubs.

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June 6, 7, 8 1985  
Reunion in Florida