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The Octofoil, March/April 1986

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

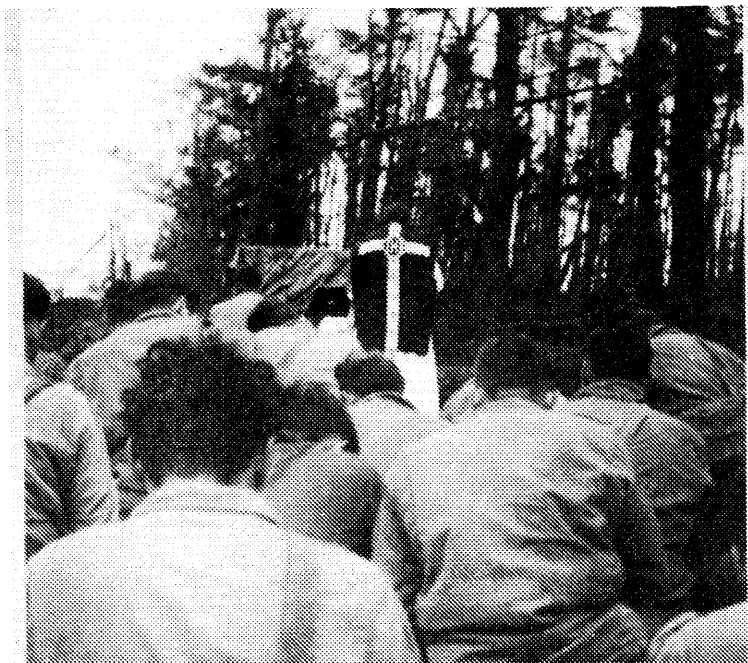
412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Subscription Dues: \$5.00 per year - \$1.50
with the order to pay for the Octofoil

Volume XXXVI Number 2

Mar-April 1986



John Slater sends this picture of Father Connors celebrating Mass for members of the 34 FA in the Huertgen Forest, 1944.

He was such a Nice Man

When it is time to put the Octofoil together it becomes a chore for this writer but I love it for it is my part of keeping the old "gang" together. Many of our members help more than they know by sending in stories or articles from their publications. Such was the case with my old friend from the 47th Marty Roach who sent two clippings from his local paper in Worcester. The bigger part of this job is to go over these articles as the Editor and tonight while sitting alone in my office (in the basement of our house) I was struck by these two stories and although I am an old knock around guy I was moved deeply by the tributes to "our" Father Connors. I believe you'll agree with me when you read the following tribute by a John M. Fotiades written to the Editor of a Worcester newspaper. The caption for the article read "He was such a nice Man". The second tribute was given as a sermon by Rev. James M. McCutcheon ESN senior minister of Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata, Minnesota.

HE WAS SUCH A NICE MAN

Back when I was a young man and dreaming of nothing much but basketball, I practiced a lot at a basketball hoop in the parking lot behind Immaculate Conception Church. It didn't matter what the weather was. If it had snowed, the man who lived in the house next to the church would gladly lend a shovel. On many an occasion, he would join us. He was always happy, smiling and cheerful. I suppose, now that I look back that he was part of the enjoyment of playing basketball there. He was such a nice man.

He had one of those old-fashioned two-handed set shots, the kind they used in the early days of basketball — before the advent of the one-handed shot — and was pretty accurate. He would play in his long black

uniform and shoes, sort of cumbersome and restrictive but it didn't matter. All of the kids enjoyed his laughter and encouragement. And he liked all of the kids, no matter their name or the neighborhood they lived in. He was such a nice man.

When the game finished, he would invite us for a cold drink and occasionally maybe a piece of fruit.

I used to cut through that parking lot on my way to school. It always made my day a little happier if I saw him as I passed.

In the last few years of high school, I didn't get over to play much at the church, but often when I did he would come out to see how the kids were doing. We liked that he was such a nice man.

A few years went by before I saw him again. It was a sad time, our much beloved mother had suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. Although she was not a member of his church, he came to the cemetery to lead and help us in prayer for her. That comforted and made Dad feel much better. It was so very nice of him to come.

Several more years passed before I saw him again. It was a much happier time, my sister's wedding. He performed the ceremony and came to the reception. My new brother-in-law was Irish. With relatives over from Ireland, they all had a grand time doing the jig and all.

I've not seen him since, nor will I. He was such a nice man, loved and revered by all. He will be missed so very much by all the people who were so very fortunate, as were we, to have him touch their lives. He helped so many people, in so many ways.

May God bless Father Connors.

JOHN M. FOTIADES
Worcester

Minister Pays Tribute to Father Connors

The following tribute to the late Rev. Edward T. Connors was included in a sermon on the Christian Communion liturgy by the Rev. James N. McCutcheon, senior minister of Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata, Minn. The Rev. Mr. McCutcheon was minister of Central Congregational Church, now United Congregational Church — UCC, 6 Institute Road, Worcester — from 1960 to 1970 while Father Connors was pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove St. The sermon was delivered Feb. 15.

I found out, quite by accident, last week that Rev. Edward Connors had died the previous week. He had been retired for some time, pretty much out of the public eye, and for the last few years, in rather poor health. But back in the 1960s, when I was living in Worcester he was pastor of that city's Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, and one of the most colorful and well-known clergymen in the state. Now his fame, for such it was, derived partially from three years that he spent, during World War II, as chaplain of the 9th U.S. Infantry Division, which fought through North Africa, Sicily, France, and to the end of the war in Germany, but even more, from the massive all-weekend reunions, held in Worcester, which were always organized around a memorial service of Holy Communion, that the survivors of the 9th Infantry Division insisted Father Connors celebrate every year.

You see, during the war, Father Connors had made it his practice to find out where the 9th Division's next assault was going in, and then, by hook or crook, he usually managed to get there some time the day before. So for three long years, under the stars in the North African desert, in rain-filled bunkers facing Joyne, among the shattered trees of the Ardenes Forest, hundreds of dirty, tired, anxious soldiers —

Catholics, Protestants, Jews, out of every religion and out of none — would gather, usually toward evening round a GI tin of communion wafers and a silver chalice filled with wine to hear Father Connors tell his "boys," one more time, that if they truly believed in him, "whose broken body and spilt blood they were about to receive," no matter what happened tomorrow, there was a place reserved for them in heaven.

"That's all I could do for them," he told a few of us, one night 20 years ago, after dinner in his rectory.

"... I let 'em know that God doesn't care what they've done, or who they are, or where they've been, or what they may or may not have previously believed. Just put your trust in what Jesus Christ did for you on the cross, I used to tell 'em, and by this time tomorrow night, you'll either still be here or safe in heaven. And I think most of them did believe that," he said, "because ever since the war ended, they've been coming back here every year, just to hear me tell them, one more time, to put their trust in him whose broken body and spilt blood they were about to receive, because if they do, whatever happens tomorrow, everything will turn out all right."

Someday I hope you'll get a chance to meet Father Connors, and that I'll see him again. But then, as he'd say, "Why not?" For, if the Gospel be true, all we really have to do is put our full trust in what Jesus Christ did, for the whole world, with "his broken body and spilt blood which we are about to receive", and, one day, in a far better place, you and I will set down at table, with our Lord Jesus Christ and the whole communion of saints, and "drink the fruit of the wine anew with him in the Kingdom of God." Amen.

To Father Connors

I read - I read - though I would not see
Yet, I knew it was as 'twas meant to be.
A tear did form as the words became clear
The "Old Reliables" had lost a friend most dear.
The clarion call had been sounded.
The last curve had been rounded.
What was there to this new celestial scene
Having by mortal eye never been seen?
Though its infinite beauty exudes allure
A rearward glance Father took, I am sure.
Without a doubt, he took a look back
Making sure the 9th was on the track.
There were buddies he'd met when there he arrived
But it was all of the Ninth in which he took pride.
Where he would alight, the "Octofoil" he'd find
But he wasn't forgetting those left behind.
Yet, he knew each man's voyage begins and ends
At a meeting place where a buddy greets his friends.

Joseph Rappazini
24001 Sherman
Oak Place, Mi. 48337
60th Inf. K & Hqs Co 3rd bn

Nashville Now Southern Charm with a Honky-Tonk Beat

Despite the enormity of Nashville's present music industry, one of the things that strikes a visitor is how accessible the whole scene seems. Minnie Pearl frequently joins her husband at the door to her museum, while fans at the Grand Ole Opry are free to come close to the stage and take as many pictures of the performers as they like.

Meanwhile, it's not unusual to meet Nashville-area residents such as Charlie Daniels or one of the Oak Ridge Boys in low-key local bars (see box), or out-of-town stars at some of the larger hotels.

Another thing that strikes an out-of-towner is how alive—although spread-out—Nashville's downtown area is. Unlike many other small American metropolises Nashville's inner city has never been abandoned or neglected. This is primarily due to an innovative "metro form of government, introduced in 1963, which allows for taxes collected in the suburban areas to be used for downtown maintenance and improvement.

A good place to start a tour of Nashville is with the Ryman Auditorium on Opry Place. Ryman, a splendid red and white brick building built in 1892, was home to the Grand Ole Opry—the nation's longest continuous running radio show—for 31 years (from 1943 to 1974).

The Ryman was originally built as a gospel tabernacle and it's filled with worn wooden pews reminiscent of a church.

Just around the corner from the Ryman is lower Broadway, currently in that wonderful state of transition between seediness and renovation. Dejected-looking bars with names such as Polees Rhinestone Cowboy line the street, along with classy stores such as Gruhn Guitars, a customized guitar shop.

Two must stops on Broadway are Tootsie's Purple Orchid Lounge, where Loretta Lynn and later Sissy Spacek hung out; and the Alamo of Nashville, where the country stars buy their sequined gowns and embroidered satin suits.

Country music attractions are really just the tip of the touristic iceberg as far as Nashville is concerned, however. The area abounds with historical sites. Southern mansions and scenic countryside.

Down at the end of Broadway is the restored Riverfront Park, a delightful breezy area overlooking the Cumberland River. Concerts are held here during the summer, and riverboats cruise from its docks.

June 26-28
Reunion in Nashville

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
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The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are \$5.00 per year with \$1.50 of the \$5.00 earmarked for the issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N.J. of any change in address.

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

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

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

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Publication No. 402820

Volume XXXVI Number 2 Mar-April 1986

1986 Nashville Reunion Program
Ninth Infantry Division Association

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th
REGISTRATION.....10:00 A.M. - ALL DAY
GOLF OUTING.....12:00 NOON
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING.....1:00 P.M.
OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION.....8:00 P.M. - 11:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27th
REGISTRATION.....10:00 A.M. - ALL DAY
BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS.....10:00 A.M.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.....11:00 A.M.
LADIES MEETING AND SOCIAL.....11:00 A.M.
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING.....3:00 P.M.
GRAND OLE OPRY THEATER.....9:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28th
REGISTRATION.....10:00 A.M. - ALL DAY
MEMORIAL MASS.....8:30 A.M. - 9:15 A.M.
MEMORIAL CEREMONY.....10:00 A.M.
AFTERNOON VARIETY.....12:00 NOON
EVENING MASS.....1:30 P.M.
BANQUET.....6:30 P.M.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name Serial No.

Street Address

City Zone State

I was a member of:

Battery, Company, Regiment, 9th Div

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year \$5.00 ☐

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund ☐

THREE-YEAR MEMBER \$13.00 ☐

Life Membership \$50.00 ☐

Ladies' Auxiliary Member \$ 2.00 ☐

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐

Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐

New England ☐ Michigan ☐

Ohio ☐ Fayetteville ☐

Florida ☐ Fort Bragg, N.C. ☐

Out in Hollywood, if you don't have a psychiatrist people think you're nuts.

If you don't know how your spouse spends her evenings, maybe you should go home and find out.

Send Reservations for Rooms Directly to Hotel

Radisson® Plaza Hotel Nashville
Two Commerce Place
Nashville, Tennessee 37239

9th Infantry Division Association
1986 Annual Convention
DATES June 26-28, 1986
ALL REQUESTS FOR THE ABOVE GROUP MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 28, 1986

DON'T FORGET —
MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER
PAYABLE TO RADISSON PLAZA HOTEL
NASHVILLE
DO NOT SEND CURRENCY.

Please reserve accommodations for _____ Print or Type

NAME _____ COMPANY _____

LAST FIRST

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

SHARING ROOM WITH _____ NO. OF PERSONS _____

SIGNATURE _____ NO. OF ROOMS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

CHECK IN TIME 3:00 PM

CHECK OUT TIME 1:00 PM

MONTH DAY YEAR ARRIVAL DATE MONTH DAY YEAR DEPARTURE DATE

ACCOMMODATIONS WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED WITHOUT A CHECK FOR THE 1st NIGHT'S DEPOSIT OR USE YOUR AMEX OR DINERS CLUB CREDIT CARD # TO GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION. YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE 1st NIGHT IF RESERVATIONS ARE NOT CANCELLED 48 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

CREDIT CARD# _____ ☐ AMEX ☐ DINERS CLUB ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD EXPIRATION DATE _____

(PLEASE CHECK ONE)

PLEASE CHECK PREFERRED ACCOMMODATIONS

Single Occupancy	\$55.00	One Bedroom Suite	\$250.00
Double Occupancy	\$55.00	Two Bedroom Suite	\$325.00
Additional Person	\$15.00	Club Suite	\$110.00-\$130.00

ARRIVING BY _____ AIRLINES _____ FLIGHT # _____ AUTO _____ E.T.A. _____

IF RATE REQUESTED IS NOT AVAILABLE, NEAREST AVAILABLE RATE WILL BE ASSIGNED. THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 CHARGE FOR THE THIRD OR FOURTH OCCUPANT IN EACH ROOM. RATES ARE SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE TAXES. NO CHARGE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 OCCUPYING THE SAME ROOM AS PARENTS.

These rates will apply four days before and four days after the convention.

Tip of the Hat

Remembering the Memorial Fund and their departed loved ones and comrades we are grateful to the following members and friends.

John Maloney
Herbert U. Stern
Bernice Przybylski (In memory of her husband, Casimer)
James E. Miller
Anthony P. Forte
Frank Crapanzano
Louis M. Prince (In memory of Fr. Connors)
Joe & Molly Horvatis
Boardman Lockwood (In memory of Fr. Connors)
John F. Polhemus
Edward M. Stokan
Francis H. Wolman
Robert C. Spence
Walter Quigley
Thomas Robertson
Louis Gershenow
Oren M. Helle
James W. Barr
Harry Pegg
John J. Kowalski
Ralph Carci (In memory of Tony Chaconas)
Orville J. Wakeman
Herman Rahn (In memory of Fr. Connors & George McCarthy)
Ray Wolfe
Thomas W. Funkhouser
Camille Pelland
Albert Eisen

Advance Registration for Reunion

June 26, 27, 28, 1986 Reunion
The Ninth Infantry Division
Nashville, TN.

Pre-Registration will be used for the 41st Annual Reunion and it is requested that everyone use this procedure which should make it much easier for you and the registration committee. Your check or money order should be sent as early as possible to Secretary Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

Make payable to: 9th Infantry Division Reunion.

Strip tickets will be \$16.00 per person includes: Registration, Thursday night Welcoming party, Friday night at the Grand Ole Opry (and transportation) and Saturday evening Banquet.

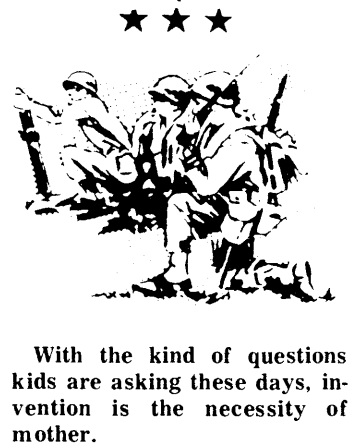
Name _____

Unit _____

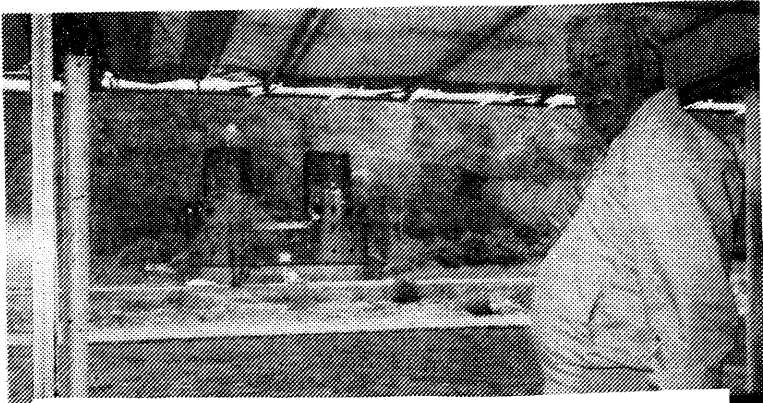
Address _____

Guests _____

Deadline for Advance Registration will be June 10, 1986. Refunds will be made to those who are unable to attend the reunion and the cut off date for refunds will be June 15, 1986.



With the kind of questions kids are asking these days, invention is the necessity of mother.



Larry McLaughlin shown in photo as the boat passed the remains of the Remagen bridge on trip he took last year. Story is in Mail Call.



Pete Wujcik sends this picture of C Company 47th taken while on a break hiking at Fort Bragg in 1941. Story in Mail Call.

FLORIDA GATOR NEWS

The Florida Chapter of the Ninth Division held their April meeting at Altamonte Springs, Florida. Our meeting was on the 4th and 5th at the Park Suite Hotel.

Every one of our 9th men and spouses seem to really enjoy this hotel. It is a very impressive spot. For the sum of \$52.50 per day, we were treated to hors-d'oeuvres, cocktails each evening and buffet breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. We would recommend this hotel to northern friends going to Disney world for vacations.

No Complaints

The room were not just bedrooms. Each member had a suite complete with wet bar, 2 TV's, micro wave and refrigerator. Try to beat that price anywhere!

There were 56 people in attendance this time, and we had to use 2 executive suites for our CP rooms. Our Friday night banquet was held in the Citrus Lake room and we were served a Prime Rib, chicken crepe, seafood dinner, buffet style. Salad and dessert were also on the menu and I don't think there was one single complaint. No problems with the rooms either. We would like to have had one large CP room.

The hosts who took care of all arrangements were Phil and Barbara Berman, who live near Ormand Beach. I must say that they did a terrific job, so on behalf of the Florida Chapter, I want to express my sincerest thanks for a job well done.

The Bermans also planned the Sat. night affair which was a trip to "Medieval Times," approximately 35 miles from the hotel. We shared the cars for rides and the turnout for this was also good.

Medieval Times

"Medieval Times" dinner tournament was the theme. All who entered the building were met at the door by a knight, given a colored crown, had a picture taken with the Lord of the Manor" and escorted to tables high above a sand arena. Each section was a different color crown. Each color represented a knight of the realm, and the color scheme was carried out later in the games for entertainment. Our entire group was seated together and had green crowns to cheer on a green knight. The knights engaged in jousting and hand to hand combat. Needless to say, our green knight won the evenings battles.

"My Lord and Ladies"

Dinner began with beer, wine or cola and a small relish tray, followed by soup. Main course was a small whole roasted chicken, flaming in the main arena just before serving, barbecued ribs and baked potato. Coffee and cake came as dessert. The food servers were busy constantly and seemed to have as much fun as we did calling everyone "My LORD" and "LADIES". No utensils were used, in other words it was a finger and hand way of eating. I, for one considered it a worth while event. Thanks again, Barb and Phil.

Chapter Meeting

Our Chapter meeting on Saturday morning was attended by all the men. Our committees were selected for Nashville. Attendance to Nashville from the Florida Chapter will be very responsive Bill Fleming from Jacksonville is a first timer, so welcome Bill and your lovely wife.

Jack Wilson was the winner of a mini-blender drawing. Gen. Maness & Col. Bryant were also with us from their respective Florida homes. General Maness honored us by being our guest speaker Friday night at dinner.

We missed General Randall and Mrs. Randall very much, as they rarely miss a meeting.

Our October, 1986 meeting will be held either at the same Park Suite Hotel, or a trip to Puerto Rico if all the arrangements can be made. Carlos Estevas is from Puerto Rico and a member of the Florida Chapter. Carlos and I will be collaborating on the event. Rates for October and April will be considered for the least expensive. All interested 9th Division members are welcome to sign up by contacting me at the address below or contact me in Nashville.

Thanks again for all the men and women who made this meeting very successful.

Robert Pappas, Pres.
Florida Chapter
738C 518, Box 175
New Port Richey, Florida
33552
Phone 813-847-6607

Michigan Happenings

"The Deadline for the next Issue will be April 20th."

With a notice like that in THE OCTOFOIL how can I be expected to report on a meeting of the Michigan Chapter to be held April 19th. Because the meeting is being held at the home of Bob and Flo DeSandy I know the setting will be the best and the hospitality will be top notch. The food will be delicious because we all married the best cooks in the world and they will all strive to bring their favorite dish. Fun will be had by all present as it always is when we get together.

Thanks Bob and Flo DeSandy for doing it one more time.

The Michigan Chapter is having their 13th Annual Memorial Service on May 18th. The Service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 960 E. Jefferson in Detroit, Mi. Billie Martin, Chairman, has made the arrangements and advises that a pre-program Brunch will be held at 11:00 A.M. at Elias Big Boy Restaurant located in the Ren Cen. The Ren Cen is within walking distance of the church.

As of this writing the two members of the chapter to be Memorialized this year are Harry Bushey and Ernest Schwartz.

Now to June and the 41st Annual Reunion in Nashville, Tn. Have you reserved a room? Have you Pre-Registered? Remember the number 41st means that it has been 41 years since you have seen your buddy.

Come along I know that he will be looking for you. I can't explain the feeling I had when walking into the F Co. 47th C.P. and seeing such men as George King, Stanley Putt, John (Smig) Tokarchek, Bill Buemi, Paul Giarraputo, Eddie Hopkins, Earl Wilkie, Otto Geyer and many others too numerous to mention.

Register. Don't put it off. Remember it has been 41 years and good men do die.

Have a pleasant summer.
Rodger Alsgaarn, Secy.
Michigan Chapter
2834 Wynes St.
Saginaw, Mi. 48602

Sends Thanks

Once again, I would like to thank the 9th Infantry for granting me a scholarship for this past year. I would also like to let you know a bit about my education. I am currently a Paralegal Studies major and a History minor. I have attended Eastern Illinois University for the past three semesters. During each of those three semesters I have been on the Dean's List. Next year, I am transferring to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale to further my education in Paralegal Studies.

Furthermore, I want to express how grateful I am for being chosen as a recipient of one of the 9th Infantry scholarship awards for this past year.

Sincerely,
Rebecca M. Wolfe
Granddaughter of Raymond Wolfe
709 Ocoola St
Effingham, Il. 62401

Mini Reunion B Co 39th

Company B 39th Infantry will hold their 33rd mini reunion in Newark, New York at the Hotel Sheraton, on June 12, 13, and 14, 1986.

Write to Joe Gravino, 10 Center Street, Macedon, N.Y. 14502.

M Co 60th Inf.

Mini Reunion

We are having a Company "M" 60th Infantry Reunion, here' in the Shoals area June 23-25. To be more specific; at the Holiday Inn, in Sheffield, Alabama. This of course is the exact spot we had it some two years ago. Thus far we have 36 registered; namely they are: coming in June 21 Buchanan, and Pembroke; coming in on the 22nd are: Bosko, Bishop, Chew, Luce, MacDonald, Sagner, Snyder, Singleton, and Stansel; then too W.C. Hornady has changed his from the 23rd to the 21st, so as to make all the preliminary changes for quite a success; he being my secretary for the event and Stansel also being a co-ordinator. Then coming in on the 23rd will be: Ackerman, Brum, Brady, Chandler, Chicvara, Daniel, Englese, Frasure, Gronseth, Gilbert, Gedde, Gargie, Hale, Hoover, Lubrano, Lipka, Newell, Smith, Shettig, Streetsel, Thornton, Tyska, Waddell, & Zimmerman. The least I can say; I am surprised with such a wonderful group that I often wonder how in the world it has all happened. As most of you know the site for our national reunion is Nashville, which is only a 120 miles from here and a nice and wonderful place. We visit Nashville quite often as my son is a resident there and Barbara Mandrells preacher.

I need to send Brum especially, a small dictionary of our southern lingo so he will now where yonder is, who y'all are, and what you do when you tote something.

All who have not yet made their reservations; remember time is getting shorter & closer by the day.

My regards to all,
Curtis Buchanan
2914 Alexander St.
Florence, AL 35630

P.S. And may I add after stamping and sealing my original envelope that, along with the 36 fellows, there will be 34 wives; making a total of 70 right now, and I expect 3 or 4 more; nice isn't it?



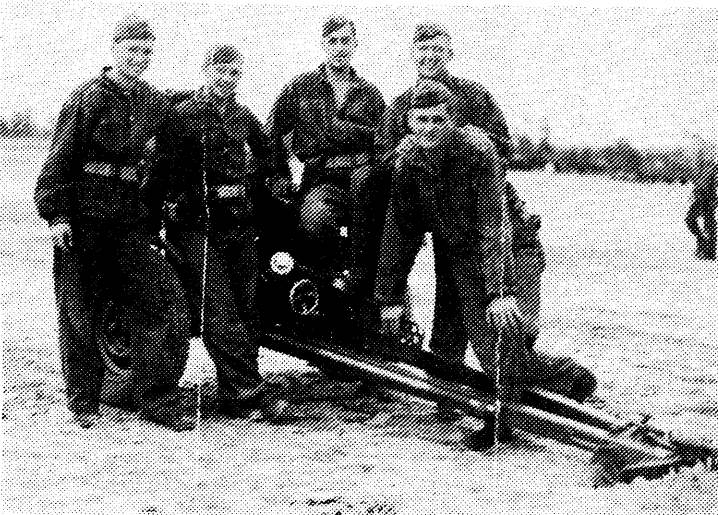
Ben Murrel (39th) has been active in sports since his days with Uncle Sam. He lives in Hudson, New York and he recently was honored for 30 years of service to the community. Ben is shown with clock-plaque that was presented to him.



Larry McLaughlin sends photo taken on trip "back" that he made last year. This Quonset Hut where members of the 1st Bn 47th were billeted at Tichborne Manor is the last remains standing in the area. Story appears in Mail Call.



Walt Quigley sends this photo taken on the Carolina Maneuvers - October 1941 - members Bty A 60th FA. Left to right back row: Joe Zubba, Buck Elliot, Fred Del Verde, Big Joe Smith, ? Warner, Joe Rabouin. Kneeling l-r: Ed Osowski, B. Mysterka, ? Billy Rhoades, Ed Wardzella, William McTaggart, Eugene Skoczylas and front row-Julia Merlan.



Pete Carozza sends photo of AT Company sqd of the 39th Inf. taken at Fort Bragg in June 1941. Left to right: Harry Silverman, Pete, John Cassetta, Sidney Burnstein, and Ken Albright.

Deadline of copy for new issue will be July 20th

Laugh and the world laughs with you, moan and you sell a million records.

June 26-28
Reunion in Nashville

To "B" (47th Inf) or not to "B"

After years of refusing to do the Beco news letter, both Pat Marano and Art Stenzel have finally convinced me that it was my duty to do at least one of the columns. Since both out ranked me there was nothing I could do but obey their orders. Besides both are bigger than I am so here we go.

There must be a million things I could write about, but putting it in logical order is very difficult for someone of my limited talents. First I must write about the many fond memories of the good times that we have had over the years — both during the war and the years after. As we became older some of the memories fade and others became more vivid — the memories of the hardship we endured during combat are easy to forget. Especially since that time, more than forty years ago, we have lived the good life — have married — have had families and most of us are grandparents. Many of us are retired and in our declining years, appreciate more and more what a great country we live in. Regardless of political persuasions (I'm a dedicated and active Democrat) we have just about the best system of government possible in the world.

Unfortunately with old age comes the inability to do what you want to do and sometimes the grim reaper takes advantage and someone close and dear to you goes. In particular, taps has sounded for three of the finest men it has been my pleasure to know, Steve (Old Sarge) Lelak, Luke Savage and David Grow. All were from the 1st platoon of Beco and because of this I felt particularly close to them. We were together in the days at Ft. Bragg and went through the war sustaining various wounds and injuries but at least we were alive at the end of the war. Now they are gone and I shall never forget them. May God in his infinite wisdom provide them with places in heaven they so richly deserve.

Mail from our buddies received by Art and Pat were sent to me for inclusion on this letter. Joe and Elly Taubner both expressed their deep sorrow of the loss of our buddies. They plan to attend the reunion at Nashville and also write that Helen and Lou Pettorini, who has now retired, though Nashville sounded good and they hoped to attend. Stella and Joe Cichocki wrote that they have had some problems with various illnesses but indicated that all is well now. They are the proud grandparents of a 10lb 10z. boy, name Joseph, born on January 27. Congratulations. Both were aware of the death of our buddies and since Joe is an old first platoon man I'm sure he feels as badly as I do. They both plan to go to Nashville. Bill Klaus, our company commander, has written and though he was not with the company that long he did remember that Luke and Steve were two of the finest men he ever met. At the time Bill wrote, he was not aware of the death of Dave Grow. Bill will try and make Nashville but is not certain. He expressed happiness that Norman Caswell, an old Beco man, is the National Commander and sends his best wishes to all Beco buddies especially Joe Taubner.

Kay and I spent February and March in Florida, in the St. Augustine area and enjoyed our stay very much although we

could have been a little warmer. We were at a place called Crescent Beach and liked being able to walk the beach. On cooler days we had many historical sites to visit in the St. Augustine area. We did not have the opportunity to visit Art and Grace Stenzel this year because of the time factor but I'm sure we will see each other sometime this year. Art and Grace plan to attend the Nashville reunion and will fly since driving long distances at this time is out of the question for them.

I have not mentioned Art's recent illness but perhaps I should. He had a stroke coupled with a heart attack last November, and for a while it was touch and go. However, because of some very fine treatment at the local hospital and a great wife, he is well on the way to full recovery. Art told me that the treatment he received at home, both from Grace and daughter Gertrude-Ann was the real reason for his fine recovery. Both ladies are beautiful people and I love them for taking such good care of my buddy. I know Art is feeling better because his last letter was much like his old self — full of good information and of course how things could be better in the association. I agree with him and often wonder about things like the memorial fund extending its generosity to "grandchildren." I'm sure the money could be better spent for more useful purposes like taking care of needy members of our organization if there are any. Also, since I am an old accountant why isn't there a full disclosure of the financial condition of our organization published annually so that those of us who do not attend every reunion can have an opportunity to see what happens to our finances.?

Pat and Ann Morano have written and of course I am always happy to hear from them.

Both were in Florida and did pay a visit to Art and Grace Stenzel. Ann had a minor illness while in Florida but in the last letter Pat indicated that she was doing fine and that they were enjoying their Florida vacation. Pat has been very kind to furnish me with much of the information in this letter. It makes writing it a lot easier.

Recently I received a letter from Joe Metscavage who said that it was the first letter he had written in thirty five years so I'm very proud to have received it. I should probably frame it. Joe and I, last year exchanged gifts. He sent me some of the most delicious pickled herring I have ever tasted and I sent him wedge of fine Vermont cheese. Anytime he wants to make another exchange I'm ready, willing and able.

At this writing, Kay and I do not plan to attend the Nashville reunion. There are some conflicting dates but I know you will all have a grand time, so have one for me.

Fondly,
"Jack" Di Santoi
Art Stenzel

8705 Village Mill Row
Bayonet Pt., Fla 33567

Pat Morano
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201

PS: Sam Moscatelli of Chisolm, Minnesota wrote and was wondering if the Association would consider having a future reunion in his part of the country. Sounds like a good idea. I for one would love to visit that area. Please, whoever makes these decisions, why not consider Minneapolis as a future reunion site.

Company F 47th Inf

ED "HOPPY" HOPKINS

110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

Well, we are just months away from the Nashville Reunion. For those of you who haven't been in touch, the dates are June 26-28, and it is to be at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Nashville, Tn. 37239, and rates are \$55 per night for single or double occupancy. Send your checks directly to the hotel, being sure to mention that you are part (an important part) of the 9th Infantry reunion.

To date I have heard from the following men (in the form of contributions to our CP Fund): Felton Jones, Frank Smith, Ken Yennie, George Brown (an honorary member who sends a generous donation every year), Earl Wilkey, and Jack Finnigan. I know that there will be many more of you in Nashville as I have heard from you during these past few months, either directly or indirectly.

Bob DeSany and his lovely Florence enjoyed a leisurely trip to Florida last month. They were entertained by Earl and Miriam Wilkey in Rome, Georgia, by Felton and Wilma Jones in Alapaha, Georgia, and by Otto and Gerry Geyer in St. Pete. He reports that Earl is ailing, in fact at this writing he is in the hospital. I know you all join with me in wishing this great guy a speedy recovery. I'm certainly looking forward to seeing him in Nashville. Get well, Wilkey, we all love you!

Bob also reports that Felton and Wilma were celebrating their forty-fourth wedding anniversary. That's a long time to be together, isn't it? I remember when I had weathered over twenty years with the same woman — and then Lucy found out! Bob didn't report anything unusual happening at the Geyers', so I guess Otto outshot him on the golf course.

Jack and Betty Finnigan were our guests for a weekend at the "Joisey" shore early this month. In fact, they took us out to dinner in celebration of Lucy's birthday. She won't let me say how old she is. I had spent Super Sunday with Jack and Betty at the Tropicana in Atlantic City. We didn't bring each other any luck at the tables, but we did have a good visit. I have been getting together with Jack about once a month for a long lunch (about four hours). Slatnick had also been coming with us, but lately he has been having some problems meeting with us. Last couple months his effervescent war bride has been somewhat incapacitated, thus curtailing their activities. Now Lou is in the midst of his annual fund drive for the Jewish Old Age Home in Rahway, a drive that Lou so ably chairs every year. (And this is a guy who convinced Oran Tucker that he should have a pass so he could march in the St. Patrick's Day parade in 1941). Both the Finnigans and the Slatnicks will be in Nashville.

Last Saturday Finnigan called me from Atlantic City to inform me that he had just run in to Whitey Waskywicz (excuse the spelling, Whitey). Many of you will remember Whitey as one of the crap-shootingist soldiers of the regiment. It is fitting that they should have encountered each other at a crap table in Harrah's Marina Casino. . . Whitey is now living in Toms River. I left his address at my shore place, but I will sent it to Dan Quinn, so he can send him a copy of The Octofoil.

34th FA A Btry

JOHN SLATER

8 Elfland Ct

Oyster Bay, N.Y. 11771

I recently cleaned out an old foot locker and found some old photos. This one might be of some interest to the Octofoil. It is of Father Connors saying Mass for the men killed in our unit in the Huertgen Forest just outside of Vossenack at the spot 1st Sgt Americo "Ricky" Dorazio was killed in a mine field as we were trying to get a wounded man out of the barbed wire he had caught in and tripped the mines tied to it. Several others were wounded as we lifted him. Ricky Dorazio was a wonderful man and soldier.

15th Engrs A Co

ANTHONY SOPRANO

713 Delaware Ave

Norwood, Pa. 19074

I am sorry to inform you of the death of George Tsiknas of A Co 15th Engrs on April 13 in Hyannis, Mass. I was up to visit George last October and glad I made the trip as we had a nice weekend reminiscing our army days with the 9th. Hope to see the gang in Nashville. To Hugh Slucher of Roanoke, Va., make sure you make the reunion.

84th FA Bn Serv Bty

FREDERICK TALARICO

503 Elm Street

Pittsfield, MA 01201

I am finally getting around to write an article in the Octofoil.

I attended Father Connors funeral with John Hennelly from the 39th. If I hadn't stopped in the Fire Station where I used to work I wouldn't have known about it. While having coffee in the kitchen, I came about the obituary in the Springfield paper. That was on Thursday, January 30, 1986. I called John O'Donnell from Div Arty and John Hennelly from the 39th. O'Donnell was in Florida on vacation. John Hennelly and myself went to the funeral on Friday morning, January 31st. We are only two hours drive from Pittsfield to Worcester.

I also attended the Memorial Mass in Worcester last November and it was a very emotional affair.

Sorry to hear about the passing of Anthony Chaconas.

Frank Baker Jr. from Swansea, MA and John Grassi, from Middletown, Conn. came to see me. We had an enjoyable reunion. I am retired now, will be four years in July. Regards to all the boys in the 84th.

Hq 47th INF

BOARDMAN F. LOCKWOOD

242 Trumbull Street

Hartford, Conn. 06103

How sad to read the notice that Father Connors has answered his final Roll Call. I know that he will have been received with respect for his life of devotion to his fellow-man of all faiths and for the bond he has created for the 9th Infantry Division Association. Assuredly he has been a tremendous factor in holding us all together. I enclose a contribution to the Memorial Fund in his memory.

At the same time I enclose an item from AUSA News which may be of interest to our members. Extract from it in any way you see fit or put it in the OCTOFOIL as is; it is self-explanatory and may provoke some replies. Also you will find a copy of my letter to Randy Bryant, again you can edit it any way you like, but the first paragraph is pertinent to our members. If you haven't read or seen it it is well worth the effort to get it...it is in paperback.

I can't make Nashville as it conflicts with our summertime in Maine, but I hope Worcester continues and that I will see you there. Best wishes to you and Marie.

Col. Randall H. Bryant, USA-Ret.

15640 SW 85th Avenue
Miami, FL 33157

Dear Randy:

You are much on my mind at the moment. As I am reading OVERLORD by Max Hastings with great interest, particularly as you are quoted, our Bn is mentioned and your photograph is included. I think he has done a fine job on the book with a lot of useful background for future, and younger, readers and for those of us who were there but did not realize, at the time, the many different facets of the conflict and the factors to be considered in the decision making process which had to be gone through before any of us went ashore.

I see AUSA News through another Co. USA-Ret who is a friend of mine and perhaps you do as well but in case you are not a subscriber I enclose a clip from their February 1986 issue which is self-explanatory. Completely aside from the foregoing, have you read Lindsey Nelson's book HELLO EVERYBODY I'M LINDSEY NELSON. It is very good. He is quite lucid on his World War II experiences and his domestic situation (which must have been quite a burden) and of course his experiences as a sports commentator.

Florida does not appear on our itineraries somehow but perhaps our paths will cross again somewhere. Keep in touch sporadically.

Cheers,
Woody

47th Inf. Co. L.

CARLTON HALEY

Rt. 9 Box 123R

Reidsville, N.C. 27320

I have never attended a reunion and hope I can be with you all. I am 100% disabled and require some one at all times. The last time I wrote the Octofoil I was in pain and despair. I must have showed it in my letter that Dan published as I received so many cards and letters from so many kind hearted Reliablys, that I cried, and it made me feel so good to know that I was not alone. I know that none of us are ever alone, just look up above and pray. Why I was spared I cannot say. I served with the 47th in 1940, Tent City till we moved in to the barracks. I will never forget the rifle range and that awkward strap on that old springfield! I was a country boy off the farm in Virginia, age 16-6'3" tall and the corporal put me in the position that I scored "Maggie's draws" most all that day! I hated that strap. It was made to carry the rifle on the shoulder and not to wrap it around your arms and when it went off the hammer would hit you in the nose!

I love to laugh, plus I love humor. I respect my fellowman and I try with all my best to treat everyone like I would like to be treated. I have followed the history of the Octofoil and we owe an awful lot to Daniel. I don't think anyone could do a better job plus all the other things he has done to keep things going about the news of the 9th. I would like to say this much, we are all getting older or we have had too many birthdays and we do deserve to have a good strong veterans administration and be treated as faithful about our health problems as we were faithful to our country during WW2.

Taps Sounded

With profound regret and remorse we announce the passing of these "Old Reliabilities" and friends.

David McQuiston
3rd Bn 47th Inf
Cas Przybylski
Hq Co 39th Inf
William O'Shea
Hq's Co 47th Inf
Francis P. Morrissey
60th Inf
Theodore Siniscalchi
15th Engrs
Ernie Schwartz
John P. Francis
9th QM
Anthony Gangone
39th Inf
Maurice Tougas
15th Engrs
Michael Lisa
39th Inf
George Tsiknas
15th Engrs A Co
Joseph Kuhar
39th Inf 1 Co

May they rest in peace. To their families and loved ones we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Thank you for remembering us at this time of loss, Bill would be so proud to know. He wore his special Ninth Division pin and always spoke so highly of all of you. We are grateful for your remembrance.

Louise O'Shea & Family
693 River Dr.
Elmwood Park, N'J' 07407

DAVID M. MCQUISTON
133 W. First Ave.
Malvern, Pa. 19355

This is to inform you of the death of my father, David McQuiston who was a member of the 47th Inf 3rd Bn. He passed away on Oct. 2, 1984. I regret the delay in notifying you, but I only recently learned of the Octofoil. My father enjoyed reading it and in keeping in touch with some of his old friends from the 9th. Perhaps you may want to make note of his death in a future edition.

With a heavy heart I wish to inform the 9th Division Assn. that my beloved husband, CASIMER J. PRZYBYLSKI, HQ. Co., 3rd BN., 39th INF. passed away in his sleep of a cardiac arrest on February 16th, 1986.

Cas had a massive stroke in 1970 and was disabled for fifteen years.

He corresponded with many of his buddies, including John Kocay of New Jersey, Art MacDougall of Philly, and Robert Farrell of Wisconsin.

I am enclosing a check for the Scholarship Fund in Cas' memory.

Thanking you for sending us the Octofoil, and I hope you may continue to send it to me.

Sincerely yours,
Bernice Przybylski,
1042 Dewey Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60202



9th Med Det 1st Bn 60th Med Bn
R.M. HUMMEL, M.D.
2411 Lommel Ln.
Marion, Ind. 46952

Once again no excuse for being late with my dues. However, this was the day that income tax was due and I guess I was lucky to have a little left over to send. Best wishes to everyone as usual. I keep wondering what exciting news I might send and come up with nothing. However, I might tell you that for over 12 years I have been privileged to drive my car with license plate No. 9 in my county in Indiana. This was arranged when Dr. Otis Bowen was governor of Indiana. I was in Medical School with him and obviously I voted right. I enjoy all the news and letters in the Octofoil. Keep them coming.

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

I attended a memorial Mass for Fr. Connors this morning (April 13) at Immaculate Conception. The Mass was requested by Richard McGrath of the 15 Engrs. Francis Maher was the lector. Wishing the association a grand and successful reunion at Nashville.

60th Inf. E. Co.
JOSEPH MCCLINTOCK
8 Jersey Ave.
Mahwah, N.J. 07430

The last time I wrote I mentioned I had been overseas a few times. A buddy from C Co. 47th from Cheektowaga, N.Y. wrote and asked for some information about Monschau and other places. His name is Joseph Horvatis and I sent him a few maps and pictures. He has written to me and thanked me for my help. If Joe reads this, I hope to get a line off to him soon. Writing is not one of my best hobbies. Sorry to hear about Fr. Connors. I am sure he is in a quiet and peaceful world taking care of his flock. PS. I did go by the nickname of Jim in the service.

Hqs Co. 47th Inf
EMIL DE DONATO
3650 S.W. Nosswood St.
Dunnellon, Fl. 32630

Last month I received two copies of The Octofoil. My guess is that the mailing address had the old "Route" number. About 18 months ago, the Postal Service went to the quadrant system and changed our addresses here in the Dunnellon "Rainbow Lakes Estates" sub-division.

Audrey and I were up North for a couple of months (March, Apr. & May '85). During that time, I phoned Bill O'Shea only to learn from his wife that he wasn't feeling well. I stopped at the golf course where he worked but they didn't know the extent of his illness. (Editors note: Bill passed away on Mar. 31st of this year.)

Audrey and I enjoy our Florida living and are content to be away from the ice and snow during the winter. We were blessed with two grand daughters... Our oldest and youngest son's wives both had girls... one in Nov. 1984 and the other April '85. We get to see the one down here quite often. They live about 60 miles away from our home. I have taken a leave from my Real Estate selling chores but may go back into it later on this year. We are fine and trust that you and your family are enjoying good health and all the good things that go with it. Best regards to all.

June 26-28
Reunion in Nashville

34th FA
RICHARD KEEGAN
66 Coventry Ct.
Merrimack, N.H. 03054

Just a few lines to say hello and hope all is well with you. I just got over a serious operation and am luck to be alive. But the Doctor says I'm going to be okay. So with that I retired, also I'll be 69 come this coming Sept. So I figure it was time to throw in the towel and enjoy what ever time is left.

"Poor" Father Connors is gone and I guess there won't be any more trips to Worcester in the fall. Sure going to miss them. Will miss Father Connors most of all. He was quite a man. And we all loved him very much. I couldn't get to the funeral as I had just come out of the hospital and didn't know any thing about his death until he was buried. Not much more to tell, will close for the time being. All the Best.

9th Qm
MARVIN BALTHASER
800 Whitner Rd.
Reading, Pa. 19605

I enjoy the Octofoil, it brings back many memories of the 9th. I'm still working at the newspaper, Reading Times. My wife and I have done some traveling in Europe and the British Isles the last 2 years. On May 3, 1986 I will be 67 years of age. I'm still going to school, taking Spanish.

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

Sorry about the red ink, looks like the older we get the more things slip our mind. Enclosed are dues for the next 3 years, and a small donation in memory of Fr. Connors. He was a great man and we'll never forget him. May he rest in peace. Sorry I'll not make the reunion this year.

84th FA
LEO E. SMITH (REBEL)
215 Geary Dr.
Montgomery, Ala. 36108

I was sorry to read about Fr. Connors. He was a good man. I'm glad some men from the 9th stood at the head of the coffin. He will long be remembered by me and many others. I'd like to know if any of my old buddies will be at the reunion in Nashville so I can come up and brag about how many deer I bagged in deer season. Now that turkey hunting season is here, I'd even brag about that. They sure grow big here in Alabama. Wishing you all health and happiness.

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

It's time for all veterans to stand up and be counted. They want to give the hostages \$66 a day for being in Iran. How much did our POW's get when they go back? I got through the war without getting wounded but I still want our veterans to be treated like they should. I don't want anything taken away from them. They even want to stop monies for burials plus cutting hospital care plus having the veteran pay for some of their keep. I believe all veterans with honorable discharge should get hospital care with out paying anything as they fought to preserve this country. Hope to see you all in June.

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

47th Inf. Cannon Co., C Co. 39th
FRANK J. LORITO
RD 4 Box 1499
Honesdale, Pa. 18431

I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the reunion in Nashville. Florence & I will be moving into our new home at Beach Lake, Pa. just about that time. Being on the subject of reunions, I'm wondering if it would be possibel to consider changing the time of the year the reunions are held? Now that the majority of members are retired or have enough seniority on the job to get vacations whenever they choose, wouldn't it be more convenient to have reunions around Sept. or Oct.? This time of the year has its advantages as far as availability of sites, hotel rates and weather. I read in the Octofoil that the Philly-Delaware chapter had suggested the Pocono Mountains for the 1987 reunion. Now in the last issue of the Octofoil I read that it has been changed to Camp Hill, Pa. Being a fairly new resident of Pa., just 5 years, I'm wondering what the points of interest are in this area?

47th Inf. Hq. Co. 1st Bn
LINUS DZIEMBOWSKI
381 Providence Rd.
S. Grafton, Ma. 01560

I have been unable to attend 9th division functions in recent years because of ill health. Although I was unable to attend Fr. Connors funeral, I do visit his grave which is in a cemetery only 3 miles from my home. Enclosed are my dues for another 3 years. Best of luck and health to all.

47th Inf. Cannon Co.
BILL COEN
3322 SE 24 St.
Okeechobee, Fl. 33474

I am in Washington, Pa. now, but will be returning to Florida in a few days. I received my Octofoil in red so thought I'd better send in the dues now. I usually take care of it at reunion time but with advance reservations, it's better handled in advance. I saw Frank Loritos letter about Tony Pellechia and in looking through Taps I see my old buddy Harry Greenberg has also gone on to a better life. Harry came to Cannon Co. by way of anti-tank. A real swell guy and had many friends in both companies. Harry carried the flag in a parade in Philadelphia a few years back. Cannon Co. had about 4 or 5 men in the first few ranks. Capt. Sieminsky would have been proud of his "clowns" that day. See you all in Nashville.

60th Inf. Co. I
LELAND JACKSON
PO Box 294
Batesburg, S.C. 29006

I am an original member of the 9th landing on D Day in N.A. commanding Co. I. I was injured last day of battle, sent to the states, patched up and joined the 76th until the end of the war. Pleased to find my original outfit.

GARY CRAVIOTTO
5806 Moffett Rd.
Ceres, Ca. 95307

I would like to submit the following to the Octofoil Mail Call column:

This is my first attempt to communicate with the men I served with so long ago. There were so few of us left actually, on VE Day, that we were mustered out with The Tenth Armored Division. But if anyone remembers Pfc. Garry Craviotto (also known as Screwsy), I would enjoy hearing from him and corresponding with him.

Enclosed is a check for dues in The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

26 FA
WILLIAM LEWIS, JR.
54 Hopewell Dr
Struthers, Ohio 44471

One year ago since Bill had his 1st stroke. He was brought into the hospital this week after 2 small seizures. He can talk and is good yet although paralyzed from the first one on the left side. He kept telling me to watch for red on his Octofoil. Thanks kindly if you think of him once in a while. Enclosed are his dues.

60th FA
LOUIS M. PRINCE
3520 Traskwood Lane
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

I'm not sure I'll get to Nashville but I will try. Chuck Alcorn (60th) is stopping here in Cincinnati on his way down from Detroit. Hope anyone else will call me if they come through. Enclosed is a small check for the Memorial fund in memory of that beloved friends of all 9th members, Fr. Connors. I remember him saying mass at our Btry positions many times, especially in Tunisia and Sicily.

47th Inf. F. Co.
LEE GRIMWOOD
P.O. Box 32
Sedgwick, Kans. 67135

When I received my Octofoil on Mon., Mar. 31, and it was addressed in red, I realized that another 3-years had passed!

My check for another 3-years dues is enclosed herewith; I wish that I could deliver it to you in person in Nashville, in Juen. I had plans to be there, but, as often happens, my plans have been shot down.

I am anxiously awaiting word on the site for the '87 reunion, for I am planning to be there, whenever it is located!

As I am now semi-retired, working just ½ days, 4 days per. week; my retirement will be effective 12/31/87, and then I won't have to work around vacation time to schedule trips to the reunion. Just hope that I won't be too old to enjoy them by that time.

Keep up the good work on the Octofoil and the Association.

60th Fa
ROBERT SPENCE
3271 Birch Ave.
Allentown, Pa. 18103

Enclosed find dues for 3 years and a little something for the Memorial fund. My best to all the great guys of the 60th FA and the 9th Div.

60th Inf D Co
FREDERICK V. JOHNSON
819 Ridge Rd.
Ashland, Ohio 44805

I have been watching for the red ink and will send my dues in now. I enjoy the Octofoil and read it from cover to cover. Being a replacement I seldom see a name I can remember. I was captured the night of Sept. 25, 1944 in the Huertgen forest. Was helping our medic get a man in to the pill box. The Germans came in under a mortar barrage and had already taken both pill boxes. We were attached to Co A, so A Co and parts of our section lost a few men that night. I often wondered what became of our medic. I do not know his name but would like some information if anyone can help.

39th Inf C Co
HERBERT L. EHRICH
12117 Topaz St.
Spring Hill, Fl. 33526

Enclosed is my check for 3 years dues. Most appreciative being a member of the association. The Octofoil is a favorite periodical of mine and look forward in receiving each issue. It makes me feel more than 40 years younger. Please continue with the wonderful work you are doing.

84th FA
PETE RICE
4425 McEwen
Farmers Branch, Tx 75244

Have had a couple of wonderful letters from Adolph Wadalavage, who sent me a tape and some wonderful photographs taken by the Signal Corp of the Ludendorf Bridge, and the tunnel we slept in on the other side, and so forth.

Do any of the fellows in Hq. Battery 84th Fa Bn. have the correct address for Danny Britza's family? I believe his brother was Mike, and I had an address years ago, but they moved from there and my letters have been returned in recent years.

Also I would love to hear from some of the guys — Milhans and my wire crew for so long "Finstermacher," "Mauldin" — and my driver for so long Jimmy Nolan. And, of course, everyone's favorite "Pfc" Wakefield — I can laugh right now thinking of his dry wit. Like saying to Danny Britza one time "course I'm proud to be a PFC — Britza, you ought not to order me around so . . . I've had more ssss (delightful stutter) s strips than you have — one at a time."

On the two day break at Camp Elsenborn, Wakefield was shaving to get ready to go into town with the first bunch — I believe we had drawn lotteries and half the guys were going one day and half the next. As usual the bigger guys had pushed him aside from the one mirror in the house and so he was shaving by his reflection in a dirty window. At that moment a buzz bomb landed nearby and the window flew all over Wakefield. When I saw him I thought he might be badly hurt - but fortunately the cuts were not deep - but his face looked a little bit like hamburger meat. Doc Sating tried to get him to wait until the second bunch went in the next day, but Wakefield insisted on going in with the "lucky bunch" so - Doc patched him and he got on the 6x6 truck with maybe twenty pieces of tape on his face. Wakefield leaped out the truck and said to Rypka (or was it Nick) "Capn - you've seen me come back from pass illooking like this, but this is the ffirst time you've seen me illleave this way." Wakefield was a tonic to us all.

My memory is so poor - what was the name of the jolly "forward switchboard operator" that kept dyeing his hair with dyes his sisters sent him — Fredrickson or something like that? He was a delight also.

Hope to be in Nashville.

Co's K & Service 47th Inf.
JOSEPH D'ALEO
2104 Fairmount St.
Allentown, Pa. 18104

Here's my check for 3 years. Maybe one of your readers can fill out details of my leaving the Ninth. I was Third Battalion supply Sgt., up to the time we were about to cross the Remagen Bridge when I was shot in the leg by an American cook, as I returned and had dinner at Company K's kitchen. It was an accident and I'm afraid the cook was court martialed, mostly for having an unauthorized pistol. He discharged same as he sought to remove it from a blanket-covered cot I was sitting on.

Who replaced me as 3rd Bn Battalion supply Sgt.? Was it some one else from Service Company? It was many years later when I caught up with the Ninth through the Octofoil, which I enjoy.

47th Inf, A,C & F Co
LARRY MCLAUGHLIN
82 Gould St
Wakefield, Ma. 01880

Finally decided to stop being among those many delinquents who do not write to Mail Call. I confess also that I usually only half read the issues, usually focus on things pertaining to the 47th. However, the last issue I sat late at night and read every item. It was a revealing experience and prompted this correspondence. Ron Murphy's letter on front page in tribute to Fr. Connors was a classic. It said what we all felt about that fine soldier/priest. Wilton Taylor's letter on last page concerning his exchange of correspondence with the CG 101st Airborne relative to the air crash which took so many lives was also a fine gesture. I wish I had been as thoughtful. Murphy and Taylor are an indication of what was so special about our division. Its people! God was surely instrumental in directing the good soldiers to our unit. Our members at the reunions is a timely time to say Joe Williams and the Florida chapter deserve a pat on the back for a job well done at Orlando. Many people who have never been a part of a reunion committee may not know how much work and effort goes in to preparations and presentation of these affairs. Just think about even the small details like balloons and markers for the tables, the Arab signs and costumes. All these things contribute to a successful affair. I'm going to wind this letter up now, but I'm enclosing a picture of the only Quonset hut still standing at Tichborne Manor where the 1st Bn 47th Inf rifle company's were billeted in England. As you can see it's in rough shape. The area it was located in was behind the main house and I believe it was near the mess halls and cooking areas. I took this picture last year while on a trip to Europe. During this same trip we took a Rhine River cruise (3 days). The other picture was taken as we passed the Remagen area. The old soldier (me) is pointing to the towers on east side of river where the Ludendorff bridge was adjacent to before it collapsed. I'll try to write to Mail Call more often. Keep up the good work. Stay healthy and give our regards to your outstanding, wonderful helper (?) Marie.

60th FA Btry A
WALTER QUIGLEY
PO Box 1094
Lake Elsinore, Ca. 92330

It's never too early to get the bills paid, so my wife and I want to make our advanced registration for the '86 reunion, pay my dues and make a donation to the Memorial fund. It's been some time since I've attended a reunion, in fact it was the 33rd in Philadelphia. Years sure fly by. One thing or another comes up and prevents our attendance. However, we are anxiously awaiting June 26, 27 & 28 this year. Keep up the good work and the newsy Octofoil. We plan to travel by motor home, take our good "ole" time (no limitations when you're retired) and stop off here and there and visit buddies and folks along the way, then on up the east coast to our old "stomping" ground, Massachusetts. Lots of friends and relatives there and want to catch up on news and notes. I want to say hello to all 9th comrades especially Btry A, 60th FA buddies.

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

I noticed my name was in the "Tell-Tale Red ink" this time and so have enclosed dues for the next 3 years.

My physical condition prevents me from attending the June Reunion Nashville but I sure would like to hear from anyone who was in my machine gun platoon when most of us were captured on Sept. 24, 1944 in the Hurtgen Forest. I promise to answer every letter.

All my best to the Octofoil and 9th Div. Association.

39th Inf Hq Co 2nd Bn
WILLIAM DOUTHIT
9024 Mettler Dr.
El Paso, Tx. 79925

Enclosed is my check for membership in the 9th Infantry Division Association for three years. However, if the dues have been increased, please let me know and I will send you the difference immediately.

I went overseas with the unit and remained with them until the war ended.

I am really interested in the division reunion in Nashville, Tennessee this coming June 26, 27 and 28th. Please send me the information regarding this as soon as possible. My wife and I are seriously thinking of attending. We have never attended one of these reunions.

Thanks for sending this information. I deeply appreciate it.

26th Fa
CARROLL S. CHESSON
1608 Sycamore Drive
Garner, NC 27529

Read the notice of the reunion of the Ninth in the April issue of the DAV Magazine is the purpose of my correspondence. I can't attend this celebration; however you guys will forever be in my mind.

I had service with the 26th Field Arty as it was being formed in Fort Bragg in 1940-1941. I contacted Rhumatic Fever from exposure during the 1941 Carolina maneuvers and was hospitalized in January 1942 and later sent to Stark General Hospital near Charleston, SC. It is from here I was discharged in October 1942. I believe that my unit left for overseas while I was in the hospital. I made many friends during my time in service and would like very much to know something of the status of this unit. Is there anyway I can obtain addresses for any of these men?

The Division itself was reactivated and organized on August 1940 and our first Division Commander was General Jacoby Devers.

I volunteered for 3 years just as the first selectees began to arrive for training in Jan. 1941. My 1st 6 or 8 weeks of training was in Tent City.

I realize many of these fellows may not be alive now and have often wondered about their welfare. Maybe sometime I will be more able to attend your reunions.

60th Inf F Co
JOHN W. MILLER
1511 Cochise Dr
Arlington TX. 76012

I read with deep sorrow the passing of Fr. Connors. He was a great priest and soldier that all men of the 9th division loved. Enclosed find my dues for the next 3 years. I doubt that I'll be at the reunion this June because of our planned trip to Alaska at that time.

June 26-28
Reunion in Nashville

39th Inf K Co
C. E. BLANKENSHIP
2725 Dorset Rd
Richmond, Va. 23234

Hey, all you guys from the 39th, especially "K" Co., 1st Platoon. I am really bugging my doctors to let me make the trip to Nashville. I am really hoping they are going to let me go, and am looking forward to meeting all of you fellows that have been so kind and took the time to write me. The nice letters from ALL of you have really been a big help!

Last week I even got a phone call from (Capt.) E.B. Bailey from way down in Demopolis, Alabama. He was my Capt. in the good old Huertgen Forest. He was hit and put out of action there in those woods, and seemed to remember me being there. I was very proud and pleased that after all these years he thought enough to take the time to call me. Since I started writing to the Octofoil though I have had many nice surprises and many letters. God bless all you fellows from the 9th, especially the 39th. I do appreciate hearing from ANY and ALL of you. Drop me a line anytime you get the chance. Hope to see all of you at Nashville.!!

15th Engrs A Co
CARROLL DeVOID
40 White Birch Lane
Williston, Vt. 05495

My last Octofoil was in the red again so here's my dues for another 3 years. Looking forward to Nashville in June, so come on 15th Engrs, let's have a big gathering.

60th Inf Co L
BOB BURKY
8 Whispering Meadows
Joshua, Tx. 76058

I see by the red ink it's time to renew my membership, don't want to miss any of the Octofoil paper. I look forward to receiving it, it makes my day! I want to thank some fellers for their courtesy to me in helping me to make some contacts and helpful information in locating fellers of Co L, 60th. Thanks to Ed Brewer, R.L. Robertson, Jim Schauf, and also special thanks to Red Phillips (Heavy Weapons), Bill Fleming, Florida, Art Schmidt of N.Y., Bill Krey / Pawns of War). Also still awaiting answers to my letters from Mike Patti, Mr. Haley of Va., Kenneth Powell of Texas. God willing I hope to see y'all in Nashville this coming June. Let's make it a good one. God bless, good luck to all.

47th Inf M Co
JOHN KNIGHT
65 Yorktown, Rd
Mountaintop, Pa. 18707
November 8, 1942 the 3rd squad of the 2nd platoon Co M participated in the invasion of Morocco, North Africa. Perhaps someone can help me in locating James King of Concord, N.C. and Cecil Palmatier, address unknown. I located other squad members, thanks to Red Phillips, author of "Heavy Weapons". I have been in touch with Ray Haire of Tenn, a special forces trooper who left us in Sicily and went to the mountains of Italy. I also heard from Eddie Littler of the 81 mortar platoon. See you in Nashville.

9th MP
PRESTON STILLINGS
Rt 1 Box 2BF
Daphne, Ala. 36526

I don't remember names too well, but I have fond memories of the 899th and the 746th Tank Bns. I joined the 9th in Sicily, because I was flat footed and big I was assigned to MP's.

When the war was over, I only had 79 points. The 9th was going to stay for the occupation so I was transferred to the 746th for the trip home. To me they were just like family. Our paths crossed so many times. The post of an MP in a combat zone sometimes got a bit scary. During the battle of the hedge-rows, my post was at an intersection, we had a tank as a backup. One night I was awakened by my MP fellow workers and told that they heard movement in the bushes. I alerted the tank and then one of their crew and myself investigated. Results: one hungry cow! How she survived is a miracle? At Huertgen Forest it was the 746th that was involved in the pill box that got covered up. I was there, a lonely place at night but tanks were there too. Before Remagen there was one cross road that the Germans thought a lot of. They left one of their broken down wagons loaded with ammo, then they tried to hit it. While handling a convoy of all types of vehicles the Germans began to shell this cross road again. Some tank commander assigned a tank to protect me from a direct hit. He stayed as my cover until all traffic had passed. I made many friends in the war and I consider the men in those tanks high on my list. Hope to see you in Nashville. P.S. Try stopping a tank at night and asking for a password!

60th Inf K Co
ABRAHAM STROM
38/1 Keren Hayesod
Ashdod 77421 Israel
Thank you for sending me the Octofoil. I enjoy it very much and it always brings back memories. The "Taps" list is getting bigger all the time. However death is part of life. I've been living in Israel over 4 years and enjoying it here. Anything outside the norm becomes an experience. My health is status quo, whatever that means. What can one expect at 39? Rob Rucker keeps me informed about the group and the old company. Hope you are all well. Regards to all.

84th FA B Btry
SAM ROBINSON
400 Paradise Rd
Swampscott, Ma. 01907
I was in Florida at the time of Father Connors passing. I was reading USA Today when I spotted the obituary in it and was saddened to say the least. Also the death of my friend, and many others, Tony "Smoke" Chaconas was a shock. They both will be sadly missed! Glad you put me in mind of my dues. Enclosed is check for 3 years.

60th Inf Co M
ROBERT R. BOVANIZER, SECT.
14 Sabre Park
Niagara Falls, NY. 14304
Would you please put our reminder in the Octofoil for the 4th Mini Reunion of the 60th Infantry Co. M in Sheffield, Ala, at the Holiday Inn on June 23, 24 and 25th. Hosted by Curtis and Carolyn Buchanan. It is shaping up to be the largest reunion we have had. If at all possible, M Co. men should try and join us.

Help Needed

Hq Co 60th Inf-James Vincent Russo is seeking witnesses to verify a claim when wounded in the St. Lo area in France. This notice appeared in the American Legion Magazine and if you can help write to CID 1040 American Legion Magazine, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, In 46206.

mail call

60th FA Hqs Co (end of war 805th FA)
JOSEPH MAHONEY
4 Marguerite Rd
Walpole, Ma. 02081

Just came back from Myrtle Beach, S.C. after the 2 stomach operations that I had in latter part of Oct. '85 and early part of Nov. '85. Would like to hear if any of the 805th FA men are still living and remember me, if they would write me a line or two. I will be 70 on July 8th. Just noticed my name in red so enclosed find check for 3 years. If luck will have it, I might be in Nashville. Would like to hear from Earl Sullivan of Mass. and John Morris of Hicksville, N.Y.

9th Med Bn Co B
GEORGE STEIN
8747 E. Girard Ave
Denver, Colo, 80231

Sorry I won't be able to make the reunion this year as I am now in California with my R.V. Expect to go to the one in 1987 as we intend to make the east coast next year. Regards to all.

39th Inf 2nd Bn Hqs
MYRON CARPENTER
129 E. Taylor St
Cottage Grove, Wi. 53527

Enclosed check for Life membership. Will not be at the reunion this year as I will be at the V.F.W. convention.

9th Signal
NEWELL ANDERSON
PO Box 442
China Grove, N.C. 28023

I keep in touch with a lot of 9th signal members and I enjoy the Octofoil very much. I have only been a member for a year and sorry I didn't become one sooner. Keep up the good work.

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

Father Connors will be missed by all the 9th division men. I had the privilege of shaking hands with him and talking for a few minutes. I'm proud that I did. I feel he has graduated to a higher position. We lost another G Co buddy, George McCarthy. He was the same always, a good soldier, smiling and friendly. Last August my buddy, Frank Crapanzano from Caldwell, N.J., visited with my wife, Elizabeth and myself. We enjoyed having him in the Blue Ridge & Smokey Mountains of N.C. We showed him how we live here which is different from N.J. I like the way my friend and buddy Jerry Shapiro put it. Although we are different we can pray together and live together anyway. We fought together didn't we? I read Lindsey's book "Hello Everybody I'm Lindsey Nelson" and enjoyed it very much. Enclosed is a check for the Memorial fund in memory of Fr. Connors and George McCarthy.

15 Engrs Hq Co
CAMILLE PELLAND
152 Keith Hill Rd
So. Crafton, Ma. 01560

Enclosed are dues for the next 3 years and a little for the Memorial fund. Always look forward to receiving the Octofoil and also thanks for a job well done. Attended Fr. Connors wake and burial as I live 10 miles out of Worcester and 7 from Whitinsville. Best of health to you and yours and regards to all.

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

We have purchased our airline tickets for Tennessee and are anxious to see our old friends and meet new ones. We keep in touch with Norma & Domer Miller and also talked with Flake Ford who was visiting them. Frank received many get well wishes from his buddies from the 60th when he was in the hospital for surgery in August. We would like to thank every one who remembered him. Keep up the good work.

26th FA B Btry
ARNOLD WATSON
PO Box 741 2433 S. Austin
Pearland, Tx. 77588

Enjoyed reading my first copy of the Octofoil. I did not join the association when the war ended. I was in the cadre that came from the 2nd Div. at Ft. Sam Houston to the 9th division at Ft. Bragg on Aug. 10, 1940. I served with the 26th FA from 1940 to June 1945 and was in N. Africa, Sicily all the way to Elbe river at Dessau, Germany in 1945. Have 8 campaigns of service with the 9th. I would like to hear from any of the boys that were there that I remember from Hq Btry or C Btry as I was also in them. Sorry to hear that Fr. Connors passed away a he was a soldier's friend. Have been back to England and France but they are quite different from when we were there. Will close and leave some space for someone else. Hope to make the reunion this year.

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

Enclosed find check for dues and a little for the Memorial fund. A special remembrance for Rev. Connors our beloved chaplain. May he rest in peace. He will be missed by all. I am looking forward to this years reunion and meeting all my buddies from the 9th medical bn. If all goes well, I'll be there with my wife, Nellie. I have already mailed in my reservations. Enjoy reading the Octofoil and keeping up with the members of the 9th. Hello to all my buddies in the 9th medical bn.

39th Inf C Co
THOMAS FUNKHOUSER
328 12th Ave c/o Mrs. Susan Carr
New Brighton, Pa. 15066

My address is in red so here are my dues for 3 years and a little for the Memorial fund. My last letter was written from the VA Medical Center in Butler, Pa where I spent 11½ months learning to walk with a walker. I cannot bend over to put my shoes, socks or pants on or off, so I need help. Still go back for checkups. I am living in a resident care home so keep my Octofoil coming. Had a visit from Leroy Wires who was a replacement to the 9th Recon in Africa. He came to C Co in England & was wounded in Normandy. Spent the rest of the war driving a truck. All for now, will write later.

60th Inf AT
FRANK CRAPANZANO
4 Orchard Sq.
Caldwell, N.J. 07001

Enclosed find dues and a little extra for the Memorial fund. I am feeling fine. Was sorry to read about Fr. Connors. I am planning to attend the reunion in Nashville. Hope to see you and many others.

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

Enclosed are my dues for 3 years. How time flies! I received my Octofoil and saw that I was in the red. As long as I can keep my head above water I'll be OK. Keeping up with the VA administrations cuts on veterans benefits will take a lot of doing. It is the wrong place for our government to save money. Say hello to my buddies from D Co 1st Bn and those who served with the 9th. I will not be at our next reunion as traveling is becoming a chore. God willing I will see my friends next year.

AT 47th Inf - Med's
ROGER GARTLAND
706 Lake Marianna Rd
Auburndale, Fl. 33823

In a few days we will be leaving for Watertown for the summer. We've had a pretty good winter and now when our neighbors are leaving, Florida is becoming beautiful. Fruit is forming on the trees and the flowers are beautiful. We took a boat trip through the Chain of Lakes in Winter Haven, passed the ball diamonds of the Boston Garden Sox and on to Lake Eloise where the last part of the Cypress Garden ski show was seen. We are sorry to hear of the passing of Fr. Connors. From reading the accounts in the Octofoil, he was a 9th division man all the way until the end. Enclosed is a little something to the Memorial fund in memory of Fr. Connors. If everything stays in normal fashion, we hope to attend the reunion.

HELP

47th Inf D Co & 2nd Bn
WILLIAM H. FUSON
9143 W Reeves Rd RI
Spencer, Ind 47460

Bill is seeking information about the wreck of a jeep in Germany, 1945. He received a back injury and would appreciate anyone remembering to get in touch with him. Will be in Nashville to see old buddies and friends.

B. Bat. 84th F.A.
CHESTER S. MIKUS
220 Fellowship Rd.
Morrestown, N.J. 08057

The "red address" sure made me realize how time flies.

I certainly regret that I was not able to pay my last respects to Father Connors, our beloved chaplain. In my estimation he walked right into heaven with St. Peter saying, "I have been waiting for you Father, I have heard so much about you from your boys." I know that he made my life richer for having been associated with him for forty five years.

God willing Ayn and I will make the 9th Reunion in Nashville, Tenn. in June.

I also want to take this opportunity to say a sincere "thank you Dan and Marie" for your many years of service. We all look forward to the Octofoil and you two have made it so interesting.

47th Inf 2nd Bn
LOUIS GERSHENOW
3400 Morlock Ln.
Bowie, Md. 20715

Sorry will not be with you at the reunion and wish all of you the best reunion yet. Say hello for me to all the members.

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.

B Co 47th Inf
SAM MOSCATELLI
401 2nd St NW
Chisholm, Mn. 55719

I want to thank the Michigan Chapter for expressing the views of the men from Minn. and the south and western states. Thanks to Mr. Alsgaard and all who were at the Christmas party for the notes in the Octofoil. Most of us didn't have the foresight to organize years ago when quite a few were still alive in the western states. Now we are scattered here and there. With the help from Illinois and Michigan, a reunion in Minneapolis or St. Paul would be possible. The weather in the summer is perfect. There are golf courses, fine hotels and restaurants, lakes and a zoo in both cities. At Lake Vermilion, about 280 miles north of Minneapolis, there is a vets resort which is free for 10 days. They offer free meals and free fishing. I think the man to spearhead his reunion would be Lawrence Melanson of North Dakota. I believe if the powers that be would look at all the goods the states west of the Mississippi have to offer, we would be more convincing. Best wishes to Art Stenzel, Pat Morano and others of B Co and all the men of the 9th. Most of us are in our golden years with a hurt and there like an old car. The 9th will always be in my heart.

39th F Co
ED MCNAMARA
Church St
Brookfield, N.Y. 13314

While going thru my "war trunk" I found a copy of the news vol 1 #3 printed in Germany July 6, 1945. On the front page is a picture of the show "You've Had It" put on by F Co 39th through the efforts of Lt. Firestone Commander. Let's hear from F Co 39th.

9th Med's
CHARLIE DUNCAN
1034 Haledale Rd
Memphis, Tn 38116

Sorry to be late with my dues, here's enough for 3 years. I have sent in my reservations to the hotel in Nashville for this years reunion. I hope to see some of the men from Company C & Hqs Det 9th Med Bn., its going to be a busy month for me as I will just be getting back from a Carribean cruise, compliments of our children on our 50th Wedding Anniversary. I hope the old man can hold up for it all. Regards to all.

Co E 39th Inf.
BILL (OLIDE) STARRO
3 Springs Rd
Yonkers, NY 10705

I have been trying to locate a Frank Trani or Mike Pascarella, both from New York, for many years. I've called every Trani's and Pascarella's in New York and could not locate them. If any one has information of any one of them, I sure would appreciate it. If you want to phone call collect 914 476 7861.

Co B 47th Inf
GEORGE BENTLEY, JR.
PO Box 206
ConTERS, Ga. 30207

Sorry that the red ink caught me. Hoping that you are both well. We are hoping to make the reunion in Tenn. if all goes well. Our 41st Wedding Anniversary will be June 21st and it would be nice to attend the 41st Ninth Division reunion. Will be in contact later-regards to all.

3rd Bn 60th Inf
JOHN O'ROURKE
914 Canton St.
Orlando, Fl 32803

Sorry to learn that we have lost Father Connors and Colonel John Dilly. They will be missed by all members of the Association who served with them.

P.S. Received a copy of Lindsey Nelson's book for Christmas. Can recommend it to all.

15th ENGS COA.
EDWARD J. BOYLE
463 School St.
Lowell, Mass 01851

Please send Octofoil to the above address. Heading back to Lowell, Massachusetts. I have been living in Fort Pierce, Florida but can't wait to get back up North. Very saddened to learn of the Passing of Father Connors. A great priest and soldier. I know we will all miss him. Also Bob Gibson and Ralph Renna of Company A 15th Engrs. Please let me know if my dues are due. I want to thank you, for your many years, helping with the Association.

Co C 15th Engrs
LUCILLE TOUGAS
111 Aetna St.
Centerfalls, R.I. 02863

It is with sorrow, that I am informing you that my husband Maurice N. Tougas of Company C 15th Engineers Bn., passed away on February 27, 1986 at the VA Medical Center in Providence due to respiratory arrest and diabetes.

I was proud of his service record, he trained at Fort Bragg, NC., fought in Africa, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France and Germany. Some of the men who were with him, Ed McGrath, Ronald Murphy, Fran Maher, I met also their wives while attending the Memorial Mass and Services in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Maurice and I learned about Father Connor's death from one of the "Social Workers" at the VA hospital. He told us he lived in Worcester. We were saddened by the news. Wishing all of you the best of health.

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

My check for dues is enclosed, I wouldn't want to be without the Octofoil as I enjoy receiving it and read every word. Best wishes to you and to all men of the Ninth.

Co B 60th Inf.
JOHN CELLER
48 Grant Ave.
Stamford, Ct. 06902

Just like a drop a few lines in case some of the boys from Company B of the 60th Inf. are still around who remember the hell of the Huertgen forest, the buzz bombs in the Camp Elsenborn rest (?) area and crossing the Rhine under the fire at the Remagen Bridge.

I enjoy the stories and the Mail Call section in the Octofoil and keep looking for a familiar name.

Thanks again, keep up the good work and have a good reunion.

Hq. Btry Div Arty
RALPH FULBRIGHT
Rt 3 Box 341
Vale, N.C. 28168

Enjoy reading the Octofoil. Hope to make Nashville and see many Div Arty men. I hear from some of them regularly.

Children don't need aptitude tests. These days, they're apt to do most anything.

June 26-28
Reunion in Nashville

MAIL CALL

15 Engrs B Co
A.W. COLLINS
221 Jackson Circle
Tallahassee, Fla. 32308

When I receive the Octofoil I read it over and over. You are putting out a wonderful paper! I enjoyed the Florida reunion and met a lot of new friends. Am looking forward to the Nashville reunion and hope the weather won't be as hot. I would like to hear from any 15th Engrs men or anyone from the 9th division who would care to write. Looking for all of us to have a good reunion.

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

I would like to add my thanks for the great job you are doing. I look forward to each issue of the Octofoil especially the letters which enabled me to contact old buddies, Morry Oleander and Francis Ferrise. On our way to the Orlando reunion we had an enjoyable visit with Al and Mabel Hodge in Savannah, Ga. It was good to see Tex Sanders make it, shared a day with him and his wife, Mildred, at Epcot. Want to say hello to Paul Drummond and J.G. Bomberger and all the regulars, J.W. Engel, John Kocay and Al Hodge. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Nashville. Enclosed are dues for the next 3 years.

47th Inf H Co
ERNEST BOTELLA
571 Radiance Dr
San Antonio, Tx 78218

Dr. Ollie Langland of the 39th was nice enough to put me in touch with you. Enclosed are my dues. I was a Pfc in 1st platoon H Co 47th Inf from Jan 1944 thru Jan. 1945.

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

It hasn't exactly been a good year for me, to lose my friend of 43 years, Tony Repetti last October takes a lot of getting used to. He had a great time the last time he visited in June. We went to his favorite restaurants here and to the horse races. I never handled so much money in my life as what he won that day. I wonder if the boys from the 47th who came to the dinner at his restaurant have any idea of how many years he had wanted to have that dinner and never could quite plan it because of his health. He did it that year on will power alone. Maybe this year I will get to the reunion. We went to Alaska last year so I couldn't make Orlando. If I come, I will have a little something special for the members of F Co. So all you guys make plans.

60th Inf Hq
REV RALTON SPEERS
5 Patricia Ave
Albany, N.Y.

Enclosed find dues for the next 3 years. Planning on going to Nashville for the reunion and hope to see our many friends there.

26th FA
KIRBY SCROGGS
Rt1 Box 249
Grand Cane, Pa. 71032

Kirby is looking for any information on Benjamin J. Kane of Penn. and Sgt. Burns of Mass. both were in the 26th FA.

39th Inf Hq Co
JAMES E. MILLER
RFD #1 Box 138
Londsdale, Mn. 55046

It was a good feeling to hear from you and thanks for the Octofoil. Enclosed is a check for dues and something for the Memorial fund. What a great way to remember those who gave their lives. I joined the 9th on the Carolina maneuvers and was with them until the end of the war. I plan to attend the reunion and would be happy to hear from some of my buddies. Tennessee is my home state, so anyone who knew Jim Miller from Tennessee, I am now in Minnesota. With the best of regards to all.

47th Inf D Co
MILTON SCHNEIDER
1804 Roosevelt Ave
M. Bellmore, N.Y. 11710

Enclosing dues for the next 3 years. Sorry to read about Fr. Connors. I always wanted to attend a reunion but something always came up. I want the fellows of D Co to know that I think of them and miss them especially Sgt. Brusic, Sgt. Quinn, Dusty Rhodes, etc.

47th Inf Hq 1st Bn
HAROLD SCHRAMM
497 Boulevard
New Milford, N.J. 07646

You sure caught me short when I received my Octofoil printed in red. I thought about it several times and can't imagine my forgetting something that means so much to me. I look forward to reading the paper. Enclosed is check for 3 years.

60th Inf K Co
WILLIAM DOBBINS
78 Rogers Ave
Lockport, N.Y. 14094

Enclosed dues for 3 years and always enjoy reading the Octofoil. I'm sorry not to make the reunion this year. Hope it might be held in Niagara Falls sometime.

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

The tell tale red ink address on my Octofoil reminded me that my dues are due, so enclosed find my check. Wouldn't want to miss any copy of the paper. My wife and I enjoy reading all the latest news from my former buddies from the 9th. God Bless you for all your efforts.

60th Inf K Co
ED STOKAN
4747 Plummer St
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Enclosed find dues for 3 years and a little something for the Memorial fund. It makes my day everytime the Octofoil comes. The Orlando reunion was great. My brother Bill from K Co 47th was with me and we met some friends of his and only 6 men from the good old 60th. I would like to see more. WW2 was more than 40 years ago but the guys look the same except for the gray hair, and extra pounds. All the guys talked about their old company, but I was fortunate enough to be in the best good old K Co of the 60th. We got along like family, a great bunch of men. Here's hoping to see you old retired dog faces from K Co in Nashville. We can all sit around and reminisce about the good times we had together.

THE OCTOFOIL

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

Where are you? Isidore Lehman, E Co 47th; Arthur Gardiner (nee Goldberger) G Co 47th. Does anyone know? On to Nashville! Pay vobiscum to all 9th division men. Special hello to Doc Rishel and Ed Combs.

39th Inf D Co
RICHARD TEES
1019 Maryland Ave
Cape May, N.J. 08204

How's everything up in North Jersey? Everything is fine down here in Cape May. I wish I lived closer so I could attend some of the meetings. Looking forward to Nashville. I'm trying to get information from the Coast Guard base to try and make contact with some of the Coast Guard personnel that were on the Samuel Chase that operated the landing boats to attend the reunion in Nashville, at their expense of course. Hope this finds you all in the best of health.

39th Inf E Co
KENNETH HILL
3210 Maxwell
Midland, TX. 79705

With trepidations and misgivings I retired a year ago. Now I wonder why I didn't do it sooner. I am still in touch with a number of E Co men, many of whom plan to make the reunion in Nashville. I'd like to take this means to convey a message to the E Co raiders: Let's make this one a big turnout for E Co 39th! See you in Nashville.

47th Inf C Co
PETER WUJCIC
61 Berkshire Dr
Farmington, Ct. 06032

Enclosed is my check for a Life membership. Thanks for the Octofoil. Enclosed is a picture of the 4th platoon C Co 47th taking a break at Ft. Bragg. Reading left to right: Ervin Jokinem, Peter Wujcik, Frank Twardasky (Foxie), Joe Karotis, Leonard Weizer.

9th Med Bn C Co
COY A MARTIN
HCR 64 Box 256
Flippin, Ar. 72634

Received my Octofoil addressed in red ink so this time I'm sending dues for 2 years. All of the letters are interesting and as I read each one I relive some part of the army life. Those days were serious for all of us. We were from all walks of life and were grouped together from all parts of the good old USA and were trained for a worthy cause. Some of us had never been more than a few miles from home. Some had never ridden a train, a ship or a plane but we had the fortitude that it takes to defend our country. I had the opportunity to attend a reunion of C Co in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. in April 1984. This year I hope to be in Nashville.

26th F.A.
WILLIAM A. LEWIS
54 Hopewell Dr
Struthers, Ohio, 44471

Bill had 2 strokes in April 1985. He is paralyzed on his left side but he can talk and is taking therapy. I cannot take care of him so had to put him in a home. He often talks of his army buddies. I visit him daily. Would appreciate anyone sending him a card or snapshot. He enjoys the Octofoil. His address is: Westwood Rehab Medical Center, 7148 West Blvd, Boardman, Ohio 44512. Thank you kindly, Mrs. Dorothy Lewis.

JOHN CLOUSER
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CRYSTAL RIVER, FL 32629
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39th Inf 1st Bn Hqs
WILLIAM H. SOLLIDAY
40 W. 8th St
Lansdale, Pa. 19446

Enclosed are my dues for 3 years. Time goes so darn fast, then comes the red ink, doesn't look good. I have been keeping so busy with my brothers service station business, I wander as I wonder. No doubt you are kept very busy with the Octofoil and secretary work. Here's to you for the many years of good work.

47th Inf Co A
JOHN POLHEMUS
403 Alder Ave
Middletown, Del 19709

Enclosed find dues for 3 years and a little for the Memorial fund. Sorry to hear about Fr. Connors. I did not know this great man, but he was truly a big 9th division man. I have M.S. and am homebound, therefore can't get to any of the reunions. That's what makes this paper so important. It allows the fella's like myself to keep with the news. Keep up the good work!

60th Inf AT Co
LAVERN CLARK
3291 Tangerine Way
Riverside, Ca. 92506

Enclosed dues for the next 3 years. Last summer my wife and I took a trip from Cal to Florida to New York to Wis. and then back to Cal. On the trip I saw Tarz Bersette AT Co at Fort Walton, Fl. Then to Key West and north up the coast to Wilmington, Del. Saw Louis Netta and Alvin Thorp there. Then on to Haddon Heights, N.J. to see Al Toperzer, all of AT 60th. It was great to see my friends after 41 years. I also stopped at Ft. Bragg and Fayetteville and needless to say the Town Pump has been torn down. I didn't know about the association until I spoke with Lou Netta and Al Thorpe. To top it all off I have been getting the Octofoil paper this past year compliments of Lou Netta. How's that for a buddy! I was one of the first to go home on furlough in 1945. I hope to see you all at Nashville.

47th Inf M Co
TED MOODY
HCR 2 Box 670
Hackensack, Mn. 56452

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Henry Phillips, he has sent me a list of former members of M Co 47th. We landed in Normandy in June and was wounded in St. Lo and lost track of the 9th until I heard from Henry. I was a gunner on 81 mortars.

60th Inf L Co
OREN M. HELLE
205 E. Driffill Sp 21
Oxnard, Ca. 93030
Sorry I goofed! Forgot to send in my dues. Enclosed is a check for 3 years, and a little something for the Memorial Fund. Hope sometime they have a reunion on the west coast.

60th Inf D Co
JIM BARR
11 Sunset Rd
Lynn, Ma. 01904

I'm enclosing dues and a little something for the Memorial fund. Sorry about the red print on my Octofoil. The one paper I look for is the Octofoil! Heard about Fr. Connors passing and am truly sorry. They say in your lifetime you will meet some outstanding person and never forget them and I'd say he was one of them. I saw a car with the 9th division plate and it was Sam Robinson from Swampscott who was a member of the 60th also. We chatted for awhile before we had to move on as we were in traffic. I'll try to be on time next time with my dues. God Bless you all.

47th Inf B Co
JOHN MORGAN
1534 Hubbard St
Pittsburgh, Pa 15212

Time sure rolls along, enclosed are my dues. I'm in fairly good health but slowing down. I enjoy receiving the Octofoil and I've written to a few of the fellows and received replies. Have to pass up the reunion this time as I've been to Nashville 3 times, maybe next year. Hope Art Stenzel is enjoying better health now and also Sam-Moscattelli. I should write to them one of these days but I have to push myself to do it.

60th Inf M Co
James Snyder, Jr.
Box 258 RD #3
Tarentum, Pa. 15084

Enclosed are my dues for the next 3 years. I enjoy the Octofoil and read every word from front to back. My wife and I went to M Co 60th Inf mini reunion in Oshkosh, Wis. last year and met men that I hadn't seen for 41 years! The word "buddy" took on a much greater meaning. Hope to see them all each year. Thank you very much. Proud to have been a part of Co M 60th Inf.

60th Inf Cannon Co
CHARLES J. O'CONNOR
APDO #573
San Miguel de Allende
Guanajuato, Mexico 37700

Can someone within our organization inform me which medals we are entitled to on a unit bases. I'd appreciate knowing which ones they are as my foster son would be very proud to have one. Regards to all my buddies.

60th Inf At
MERTON OPPENHEIMER
720 S.E. Fallon Dr.
Port. St. Lucie, Fl. 33452

Recently found out about the association through Jack Wilson of Canal Point. I joined the 9th at Ft. Bragg in Jan. 1941 and was assigned to H Co 60th and after Africa, Sicily, England and France, I was captured on the Meuse river in Belgium.



June 26-28
Reunion in Nashville