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The Octofoil, November/December 1986

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Volume XXX XI

Number 5

Nov Dec 1986

WORCESTER MEMORIAL FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END

The Father Connors' Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday November 9th, 1986 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, MA.

The Mass was well attended but smaller in size due to the loss of our Commander-In-Chief, but the comradeship and the dedication was just as strong as the first Mass was, and the loyalty to our 4,581 members who made the supreme sacrifice still remains the top priority within our association.

When Fr. Connors was assigned to St. Peter's Church in Worcester in 1945 he called a group of N.E. Chapter members to meet with him at the rectory for the purpose of having an annual Memorial Mass to pay tribute to our honored dead of the Division who gave their lives defending our Country and protecting our cherished freedom. The Mass continued for another 41 years because it became such a solemn occasion and our pledge to remain loyal and dedicated to our 4,581 members who died on the field of battle.

But as the years went on and the attendance increased it became a concern of Fr. Connors, and at the reunion at Ft. Bragg in 1962 he again asked a group of N.E. Chapter members to meet with him to discuss the future of the Memorial Mass. His concern was whether he should stop the Mass because he thought he was interfering with the annual reunion and he wanted us to make a decision. We made a quick one and the answer was to keep the Mass going and he did.

That same year Fr. Connors erected a Memorial on the Church grounds to our honored dead and placed a microfilm with the names of our 4,581 members into the top part of the Memorial, and across the middle of the monument it reads, "God rest the souls of our beloved dead"; also a bronze plaque listing the eight campaigns that the 9th Division played a tremendous part in.

In later years when age was becoming a factor in the life of Fr. Connors, he never wanted to think about reaching the age of seventy-five because that age meant retirement, the one thing in his life he didn't want to happen, but the law of the Worcester Diocese is that you must retire at the age of seventy-five. He said that he had no choice but to obey the laws of the church.

After retirement he was still a very busy man, visiting the sick in hospitals and nursing homes and giving him more time to spend at our annual reunions, but it was becoming more noticeable that the quick pace that he once had was now getting much slower.

Questions about his health was now becoming a concern among our members and the citizens of Worcester, and if you asked him how he felt he would tell you he was still tough enough to lick anyone that wanted to fight.

In September 1985 he was admitted to a hospital in Worcester and remained there six weeks before being transferred to a nursing home. He remained there until the N.E. Chapter members made arrangements to hire a medical van so that he could attend the 1985 Memorial Mass; this was his last Memorial Mass, he was seriously ill at the time of the Mass and he said that he was going to attend come hell or high water. He was taken back to the nursing home where he stayed until he was called to his eternal reward on the evening of January 28th, 1986. His death was a shock to the men of the 9th, his city and anyone that ever had any contact with him.

I had a chance to visit with him one day while he was in the nursing home and we talked about the many Memorial Masses that we had and he said to me that there would not be any need to bring the troops to Worcester anymore because he would not be here and his wish was that it should come to an end; but we continued it for another year to pay special tribute to him.

We held a meeting of N.E. Chapter members and decided that his wish should be honored, and the announcement should be made at the dinner on November 9th. This was a tearful and sad message to bring to the members who have been so faithful the last 42 years and the N.E. Chapter group extends its gratitude and thanks to each and every member. We did talk about plans to continue the Mass but the final decision was that his wish be granted.

We passed out Mass cards at the dinner that has his picture on the front, also the month, day and year that he died, and on the back it reads, "We loved him in life, let us not forget him in death."

Fr. Connors should be an easy person to remember, because most of us still have pencils, key chains and pot holders; you name it, he gave it away. This alone should be a daily remembrance of him.

Francis K. Maher
14 Davenport St.
Worcester, MA 01610



The Banquet Room at the reunion site holds over 1200 people and is shown above. All that attend the reunion will be seated in the banquet room, for the evening meals. Make your reservations as soon as possible with applications that appear on page 2 of the Octofoil.

While at the reunion visit the Amish Country

Lancaster County — which includes not only Lancaster, but also such oddly-named places as Bird-in-Hand, Intercourse, Smoketown and Paradise — has the second largest Amish population in the U.S. (the largest is centered in Holmes County, Ohio). From 14,000 to 16,000 Old Order Amish live in Lancaster County, and the Amish population has actually doubled over the past 20 years. That's because the average Amish family has seven children, most of whom opt to remain in Lancaster.

The Amish — and their closely-aligned spiritual neighbors, the Mennonites — were driven out of Europe in the 1600s for their religious beliefs. Many then emigrated to Pennsylvania where they set up farming communities and carried out lives devoted to a strong religious faith. Some of today's Amish and Mennonites (and there are 32 different sects in Lancaster County alone, all with varying beliefs and customs) still live the simple lifestyle advocated by their ancestors. In part, that means dressing in "plain" clothing

and shunning the use of electricity or automobiles.

Winter or summer, a good way to start an Amish country visit is with a walking tour of downtown Lancaster.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TOUR

Highlights of the tour include the 18th-century Deluth tobacco Store — the oldest tobacco shop in the country — and the Charles Demuth house. The watercolorist, who is known for such works as "I Saw the Figure Five in Gold" and "My Egypt," lived in Lancaster during the early 1900s. Reproductions of his works and intriguing memorabilia — such as letters to his good friends William Carlos Williams and Alfred Stieglitz — are on display.

Another must-stop is Lancaster's Central Market, a fruit and vegetable emporium housed in a red-brick Victorian building.

ENTIRE FAMILY

One of the nicest things about Lancaster County is that everything is geared towards the entire family. Two favorite stops are Wilbur Chocolate's, Factory Candy Outlet in Litiz

(46 N. Broad St.; phone: 717-626-1131) and Gast Classic Motorcars in Strasburg (Route 896; phone: 717-678-9500).

Wilbur's is a gigantic store/museum filled with calorific candies of all sorts — chocolate-covered pretzels, chocolate animals, chocolate cigars, etc.

Gast's is a large exhibition hall/gift shop. On display are about 50 vintage cars — all in perfect condition and including a 1903 Cadillac as well as the first and last MGs ever imported into the U.S.



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

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

A Christmas doesn't pass that I don't sigh,
When I relive an Eve spent on a day gone by.
'Twas on an Eve in December of '44,
At a place where I'd never been before.
I hadn't been invited, though I wished I had,
'Cause the absence of folks made it very sad.
In the town of Kalterherburg there wasn't a sound—
No voices, no singing — solitude all around.
The home we stayed in was cozy and dry,
But once in a while I'd give out with a sigh.
Until,
Was it a tiny ornament that I'd espied?
Did I wipe tears? Had I really cried?
Had that tiny figure inspired me so?
Was I experiencing a warming glow?
My thoughts began to flutter and fly,
And soon I was soaring through the sky!
I was soon to solve the mystery—
The answer laid in a manger beneath a tree.
In it was an Infant Child, the Prince of Peace—
It had to be. It was! CHRISTMAS, you see.



At the Worcester Memorial Service shown are Herb Olsen, Dan Quinn, President of the Association Carlos Esteva, Vince Guglielmino, and Fran Maher. (Photo supplied by Bill Canales)

1987 REUNION July 23-26
CAMP HILL, PENNSYLVANIA

60th Inf. K & Hq. Co.
JOSEPH RAPPAZINI
24001 Sherman Ave.
Oak Park, Mi. 48237

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

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

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

ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A person who wishes to apply for a scholarship must be descended from a man who served with The Ninth Infantry Division. Children of former members of the division will be given first consideration, but children of men killed in combat given first preference.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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

1. Send a letter of application, written in expository form, to the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following: name, address, age, and sex of the applicant; name, address, and occupation of the applicant's parents or guardians; the name and address of the secondary school the applicant is attending or has attended and graduated; the name and address of the college the applicant expects to attend; the vocational goal of the applicant; and the name of and degree of relationship to a former member of the division. The unit and dates of service in the division of the former member must be included.

High School Students:

2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include at least the first seven semesters of the applicant's record.

3. The applicant must have a counselor or principal of the high school, he or she is attending write a letter of recommendation to the chairman of the scholarship committee.

4. The applicant must submit the scores of the SAT of the CEEB. The scores may be included on the high school transcript or sent to the Scholarship Chairman from the College Entrance Examination Board. Scores of the ACT may be submitted in lieu of the SAT.

College Students:

5. College students must send a copy of their college record transcript. The record must include the grades of the first semester of the current school year if the student is currently enrolled in college.

6. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.

7. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.

8. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee, after the applications have been considered.

9. Recipients of the scholarships may apply for renewal of the scholarship each year. A copy of the student's college grades, and a letter requesting renewal of the scholarship should be sent to the chairman by March 15.

10. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, 1088 North Circle Drive, Crystal River, FL. 32629.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1987 REUNION
CAMP HILL, PENNSYLVANIA

July 23-26) 1987

All Reservations must be made on this form and mailed to the Penn Harris Inn and Convention Center, P.O. Box 2653, Harrisburg, PA 17105, and must be accompanied by a check in The amount of \$50 per room reserved.

The above-mentioned check must be made payable to the Penn Harris Inn and Convention Center.

All reservations must be received prior to June 29, 1987. Those reservations received after June 29, 1987, are subject to availability.

All changes must be made in writing, when practical and must be received by the Penn Harris Inn and Convention Center no later than July 10, 1987.

Refunds will be given only to those cancellations received in writing prior to 5 p.m. on July 10, 1987.

You will receive confirmation of your reservation from the Penn Harris Inn and Convention Center.

Check in time is 3 p.m. Check out time is 1 p.m.

All final payments must be either in cash or major credit card.

*Payment in full is required at check in (all major credit cards accepted).

*Special full American prices are available for early arrivals and late stayers.

PLAN I (July 23-26)

Single Occupancy: \$275 per person
Double Occupancy: \$200 per person
Triple Occupancy: \$170 per person
Quad. Occupancy: \$165 per person
Package includes three (3) nights lodging, 3 full breakfasts, 2 full dinners, 1 prime rib banquet, 2 beer parties and all tax and gratuity on a per person basis.

PLAN II (July 24-26)

Single Occupancy: \$202 per person
Double Occupancy: \$149 per person
Triple Occupancy: \$129 per person
Quad. Occupancy: \$118 per person
Package includes two (2) nights lodging, 2 full breakfasts, 1 full dinner, 1 prime rib banquet, 1 beer party and all tax and gratuity on a per person basis.

NAME: _____ STREET: _____

CITY/PROV: _____ ZIP _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____

PACKAGE CHOICE: PLAN I _____ PLAN II _____

I WILL REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING ACCOMMODATIONS:

_____ Room(s) Single Occupancy \$ _____	Enclosed
_____ Room(s) Double Occupancy \$ _____	Enclosed
_____ Room(s) Triple Occupancy \$ _____	Enclosed
_____ Room(s) Quad. Occupancy \$ _____	Enclosed

PLEASE LIST BELOW THE NAMES OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL OCCUPY THE ABOVE ROOMS:

Members can arrive before meals for \$53.00 per day per
Thursday and stay without room (two people).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING RESERVATIONS,, PLEASE CALL:
717-763-7117

INSIDE PENN: 1-800-772-PENN and OUTSIDE PENN: 1-800-345 PENN

TAPS SOUNDED

"Call out our names-
As the years go by-
Remember Us-

and we-will never die."

With sadness the announce-
ment is made of the demise
of these comrades.

D.C. Doyle
B Co 39th Inf

John Obermiller
47th Inf

Glenn Elliott
60th FA

Alexander Prosnick
47th Inf Hq Co

Cyriel Gelande

Harry Pavluck
39th Inf Hqs

George Stanko
M Co 47th Inf

Dr. Donald Roberts
Med 47th Inf

Joe Brady
26th FA

Glenn Elliott
60th FA

May they rest in peace.
To their families and loved
ones we extend our sym-
pathy.

REQUEST FOR SPACE IN REUNION SOUVENIR
PROGRAM BOOK

FULL PAGE - \$50.00 HALF PAGE - \$30.00
QUARTER PAGE - \$20.00 EIGHTH PAGE - \$10.00
BOOSTER ADS \$2.00 -
NAME AND UNIT

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
PHILADELPHIA-DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER
- 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION.

SEND TO NICK D'OGOSTINO
153 GRANT AVENUE
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08002

BOOSTER AND AD DEADLINE IS JUNE 1ST, 1987

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. ☐

FORTY TWO YEARS OF MEMORIES

On Sat. Nov. 8th, 1986, I found myself driving to Worcester in the rain and fog. Like so many other 9th division men, this would be my 42nd year of attending the memorial service for the deceased men of the 9th. This is the first year that Fr. Connors will not be leading us in prayer and for most of us this occasion of our 42nd memorial Mass will be filled with memories of the past 41 years. It was in November of 1945 that Father first called us together to remember our dead. Just think... most of us were under 30 years of age at that time. Memories of the war, comrades we had lost, fears that we had faced, friendships we had made, experiences both good and bad, that we had shared were fresh in our minds, and when we greeted each other in those early days, it was with a strong embrace. From then on, we met every year wherever Father was assigned, 5 years at St. Peters Church in Worcester, 2 years at St. Marys Church in N. Grafton, 6 years at the old Immaculate Conception Church on Grove St. and after that at the Immaculate Conception Church on Gold Star Boulevard. I'm sure there are certain parts of our Memorial Weekend that have a special appeal to each one of us. Maybe it's the march from the fire station with the band playing and the flags flying. Maybe it was when Father rose to the pulpit and his words embraced us, his family! Maybe it's the music of the choir that adds to the beauty of the Mass or when we sing the National Anthem and our hearts swell with pride and love of country or when taps are sounded and we fight back the tears as we remember the 4581 men who died in combat and the others who have since followed. To others it may be the beautiful service at our outdoor Memorial. Then again it may be just sitting with old friends at the dinner table and retelling old stories. Do you remember the years when Navy Chaplain Father Murphy attended the dinners? How he berated the Army and Father Connors belittled the Navy and we all laughed together. The first year that Father Murphy was not with us, it snowed heavily on Sunday and Father Connors remarked "He said he'd get even with us and I guess he has!"

There are some people who have been with us for so many years that I feel they are part of the 9th division family. Judge Mel McGrath who has always given us a warm welcome to Worcester and whose kind words each year make us proud that we fought for that elusive peace, we all desired. It is always a special occasion when General Westmoreland is able to be with us. He, too, is proud of his service with the 9th. We did forgive the General when he court martialed Father Connors and found him guilty of lack of respect for military procedure and Father pleaded "Guilty." Father Connors' love of God, country and his fellow man, his holiness, manliness, humility, charity, generosity and understanding of our many frailties made him a special priest and person to us and to many others. With all there is to say and remember about Father, it would be unforgivable not to mention his humor. How he loved a joke, whether he was telling it or listening, and each year we

NEW YORK CHAPTER NEWS

The new slate of officers for 1987 are as follows: Anthony Varone, Pres., Alfred Seeley 1st V.P., Marvin Levy 2nd V.P., Treas. Walter O'Keeffe, Art Schimide Secy., John Parisi Sgt.-at-Arms, George Apar Chaplain. On the Board of Governors are: Vincent Guglielmino 47th Inf., Anton Dietrich 39th Inf., Charles Libretto 60th Inf., James Haroutunian Div. Arty., Adolph Wadalavage Spec. Troops.

December 14th found the "old gang" at the annual Christmas party held this year in the Weehawken Elks Club overlooking the New York skyline and the 125 people in attendance were in agreement "that a good time was held by all". The New Yorkers meet the 1st Friday of each month in the Armory on 25th Street and Lexington Avenue, the home of the "Old 69th Regiment". The meetings start around 8:00 P.M., with refreshments served after the meetings. The only two months the meetings are postponed are July and August. Most organizations of our kind will tell you that attendance has fallen off through the years but the New Yorkers still get anywhere from 30 to 50 men at the meetings. A healthy sign. Come on down to the next meeting and bring a buddy.

Michigan News Notes

Once more TAPS has been played and the Michigan Chapter has laid to rest, John Obermiller. John was a faithful and loyal member of the association, present at National Reunions, Memorial services in Worcester and ever present at the Michigan Chapter meetings. John & Thelma were present at our Dec. 6th Christmas party and both appeared in good health. John was the 2nd winner of our Christmas cheer raffle receiving a half case of V.O. You can imagine our shock when we heard that he died. We did have a good turn out at the Christmas party, 42 members and guests enjoying a gala evening. The first prize going to Kenneth Creighton. The officers elected as reported in the previous Octofoil were installed by past National President, Robert DeSandy. We are looking forward to another active year under the guidance of Percy Hough, Pres.

Rodger Alsgaard, Secy.
Michigan Chapter

laughed with him. How he was the dirtiest basketball player at Holy Cross, how he never made Monsignor, how he was the worst dressed soldier in the army, and how he nearly creamed an officer who insisted on calling him Chappie! All these things are among our memories as is the sadness of last years Memorial Mass. The Green Major is gone and each year our ranks grow thinner. The strong embrace of our early years is now a handshake, but the bond that binds us together grows stronger with each year. May it always be so. I'm sure as we leave here today, an Irish blessing from above will take us safely home.

Ron Murphy
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, Ma. 02066



FLORIDA REPORTS

A very impressive turnout of about 35 members plus wives and family members attended the Florida Chapter's Fall meeting at the fabulous Park Suite Hotel in Altamonte Springs on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 - 2. Enhancing the meeting were at least six new members attending for the first time who I hesitate listing for fear I may miss one or two. One must assume the word got out about the complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cocktails each evening and all you can eat breakfast buffet but I seriously believe more members are learning that we really are an active and enjoyable group. Whatever the reason for the turnout of these fine men and family it was most gratifying to the old stalwarts. A few of the familiar faces were absent, to name a few is the best I can do. The cornerstone of our chapter Joe Williams was recovering from a quadruple by-pass, Richard Trahey cancelled and the word is that Milt McDaniel was out stalking some innocent bird or animal for Thanksgiving dinner. I know there were others but I was so busy I didn't make note. Also missing was my replacement as treasurer, Bruce Johnstone who to my knowledge had maintained a perfect attendance. Bruce passed away while I was away for the summer, may the almighty God look kindly on him, and to his widow Sue we extend our sympathy.

The C.P. was opened in early afternoon on Friday with plenty of happy "loosen the tongue" juice flowing.

The business meeting was called to order by Pres. Bob Pappas with about thirty members present with a moment of silence to remember our comrades called to their final reward. Berman's secretary's report was accepted as read. An abbreviated treasurer's report was read by acting treas. Santos accepted as read.

Pres. Pappas appointed a nominating committee to present a slate of officers for the next year. The slate presented was as follows: Pres., Phil Berman, Vice Pres. Hall Stansell, Sec./Treas., Henry Santos, all accepted. With no nominations from the floor the slate was unanimously elected. A suggestion by Pete Radichio to name a chaplain produced a very capable one in a few minutes, Art Schneider graciously accepted and asked that members inform him of any ill, in need or deceased members so he can act as needed.

Florida chapter's spring meeting site will be selected following site inspections and announced at a later date will be on the E. Coast on April 24 and 25. Suggestions or ideas are welcomed. Y'all come.

Henry Santos
9811 Connechuset
Tampa, FL 33617

Emphasizing that the surviving spouse and dependent children of a deceased veteran may be eligible for a variety of benefits, widows are urged to investigate all possible avenues of financial assistance.

Each individual situation must be subjected to professional analysis in order to determine if the veterans' survivors meet criteria established as the basis for entitlement to a specific benefit. Potential benefits include Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, pension, educational assistance and home loans.

First Memorial Without Father Connors

On Sunday November 9th as the members of the Ninth gathered for Church Services in Worcester and what appears to be the last of the annual pilgrimages to honor the departed men and Father Edward Connors. There was an electrical power failure in the area (caused by a storm the night before) and the church was in darkness. Father Gerry Rowan concelebrated the Mass with Father Kines (former chaplain) and as Father Rowan delivered the homily he said "One thing I am sure of is that he is having a chuckle seeing me trying to take his place here this morning. Well Father, I will do the best I can." With that the lights in the church came back on as if Father Connors had played a joke on the troops. It could not have been better timed. Father Rowan said "I know you are up there watching over us". There were many smiles on the faces of the members that seemed to wipe away the damp eyes.

The following is the eulogy given by Father Rowan.
My dear People:

Here we are at our first memorial without Father Connors. It does not seem possible. In one sense, it is a very sad occasion. Yet in another sense, it is a very happy occasion. Father is with the 4,581 who have been waiting for him these many years, and you may be sure he and they are having a wonderful time with Almighty God. Also, he is very pleased we are together once again with him and the troops.

One thing I am sure of is that he is having a chuckle seeing me trying to take his place here this morning. Well Father, I will do the best I can!

Going through my memorabilia, I found the little program that Father put out each year. This one happens to be the one he had for our 25th year. As I read it, the thought came to me to use it as the basis of my remarks today, for what he said on our 25th celebration rings so true, even now in 1986.

On that occasion, he said, and I quote:

"In memory of our Beloved Deceased of the 9th Infantry Division we have gathered for the 25th Annual Memorial Service! ... to pay homage to and to pray for the Lynch's, the Tepper's, the Talbot's, the Patterson's, the D'Orazio's, the Kaufman's, the Sweeney's, the Lunney's, the Thompson's, the McClatchey's, the Dwyer's, the Walden's, the Irwin's, the Costello's, the Flint's, ... the 4,581 gallant men ... God grant them all Eternal Rest and Peace. And we remember all those comrades who have entered Eternity since 1945."

"I wonder how many Divisions or Units have been gathering these many years in memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice. Men of the 9th, I congratulate you and thank you because you do not forget. By your remembering ... 25 years ... you have consoled our Gold Star people. You have inspired my parish ... yes, you have inspired the City of Worcester ... and you can be sure that, by your remembering, you have pleased Almighty God. It is consoling to all of us ... that in these days of so much wrong emphasis in the News Media ... that our Diocesan weekly paper, the Catholic Free Press and our secular papers, the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, have shown appreciation for your

coming here and remembering and praying together ... men of all Faiths — have given an interested and reverent publicity to what you are doing.

And this year, our 25th, after all these years, you have not ceased to remember ... this year, in fact, we have by far our largest gathering. God bless you, Men of the 9th ... and your families — for your prayerful remembering!"

And I can echo that same thing today 1986: God bless you for your prayerful remembering.

Father also enjoyed a little Nostalgia — 1942 - 1945 - 1986: "Landings in North Africa, Port Lyautey, Kasserine, El Guettar, Maknassy, Sedjenane, Bizerts, Sicily-Nicosia, Troina, Randazzo. England-Winchester, Barton Stacey -Southampton. Landings in France - Cherbourg peninsula, Cherbourg, St. Lo, Falaise Gap, the Meuse River, Dinant, Hurtgen Forest, Elsenborn, Duren, Remagen, the Ruhr Pocket, and on to the Elbe River - and then HOME ... thanks be to God! ... many dangers, many sorrows, much loneliness, a good share of suffering ... but many joys, close friendships -and, remember, Men, how grateful we were to be Americans! Love of God, Love of Family, Love of Country!"

Father had something on Peace and War: "At our Memorial Mass and Service, our prayerful intention is threefold ... to pray for the Men of the 9th, the living and the Deceased ... and their families ... to pray for our troops in Vietnam ... and to pray for Peace. War is terrifying, and no one realizes this more than you Men of the 9th Division ... through 8 campaigns of fighting, struggling, worrying ... you know what it is ... and I know that each one of you is praying for Peace ... a lasting and an honorable Peace. However, sometimes it so happens that an unjust aggressor is attacking, abusing, murdering innocent people ... commitments are made ... to protect and aid the innocent and weak ... and war becomes a terrible necessity. Pray that God's Grace may move the Communists back to God, and the ways of honesty and Decency and Peace ... that the Peace of God may reign among all Nations and in the hearts of all men. Pray, too, that all Americans, in seeking Peace ... may be patient with our Leaders ... may be grateful to the Men of our Armed Forces ... may honestly seek and pray for Peace, without hatred or violent demonstrations. We are demonstrating today ... Men of the 9th ... our concern and love for our Country ... our prayerful hope for peace ... and our gratitude for those men who are serving us in the Armed Forces and our Beloved Country."

He then would end his remarks with the statement, "Pray for one another and a safe trip home. Isn't it nice to have a day like this ... not a day of protest ... but a day of Dedication and Loyalty!"

"May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

★★★

FATHER CONNORS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dear Members:

During the month of May I received a call from Dr. Paul Connors, a relative of Fr. Connors, and who resides in the Washington, D.C. area, he told me that he received a letter from Mrs. Louis Craig, widow of Gen. Craig who was our Commander after Gen. Eddy had left. He told me that Mrs. Craig was interested in starting a scholarship fund at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., as a tribute to Fr. Connors who was our beloved Chaplain for many years. This fund will be in the name of Fr. Ed Connors Scholarship Fund. Father graduated from Holy Cross in 1927 and from there he studied for the priesthood. In selecting scholarship recipients, the College will grant preference to students at Holy Cross who:

- #1. Plan to serve in the Priesthood or a similar religious vocation.
- #2. Plan a career of public service, to include military service.
- #3. Veterans of military service or the survivor of deceased veterans.

Anyone interested in making this a lasting tribute to Fr. Connors can send their contributions directly to Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass. 01610 and your contribution should be marked Fr. Ed Connors Scholarship Fund. Members of the committee are: Gen. William Westmoreland, 107 Trodd St., Charleston, S.C. 23220, Fr. Paul O'Connell, Christ the King Church, 1052 Pleasant St., Worcester, Ma. 01612, Francis K. Maher, 14 Davenport St., Worcester, Ma. 01610. (Tel. 617-756-1803), Dr. Paul Connors, 6142 Chesterbrook Rd., McLean, Va. 22101 (Tel. 703-893-9866). I will keep the Octofoil informed about the progress of the fund.

Yours in Comradeship
Francis K. Maher

47th Inf. Med's
C.B. BAKER
2001 Oakland Ave.
Johnson City, Tn. 37601

Received the latest copy of the Octofoil this week, and have enjoyed reading it, but was sorry to read the long list of deaths.

Was especially saddened to read of Mrs. Randalls passing. Became acquainted with her in Orlando and talked with her at length. She was very easy to become acquainted with and was exceptionally nice to talk with. I have very fond memories of her.

Apparently none of Major Roberts' relatives have informed you of his passing back in July. I had been to see him just a few years ago in Elkins, W.Va. and had a very nice meeting with him. We also kept in touch before and after the meeting. We both served under him, so I am certain you will be interested in the enclosed copies of information that appeared in the newspapers in regard to his life and also his obituary.

Sorry to miss Nashville, but I had just been operated on and had stitches. My mother was also in the hospital at the time. Had reservations, but had to cancel. Must get busy and make them for Camp Hill.

I was near Camp Hill last August on my way to New England. Think I wrote you about seeing Howard Brooks (1st. Sgt. of C Company 47th) in South Harpswell, Maine. Had not seen him since 1945, but knew him the minute he walked in the Inn where we were staying in Brunswick.

Must close for this time.

TO BE (47th INF) OR NOT TO BE

Greetings again to all our "Beco" buddies and friends. As I gaze out in to our beautiful Cumberland Valley of Chambersburg, Pa., a beautiful snowy landscape reveals that Christmas is upon us, together with scenes of winter's wonderland. Our first snowfall has painted a beautiful picture for all to remember for days and weeks to come with the advent of winter, and the New Year of 1987! To those who attended the 42nd annual Memorial on Nov. 9, 1986, in Worcester for our 9th Inf. division buddies numbering 4581 who died in combat in World War 2, it was a service, we shall always remember. This was our last reunion in Worcester without our beloved Fr. Connors who passed away on Jan. 28, 1986. It was the good Father who conducted a Mass in Worcester every year on the Sunday before Veterans Day.

This time, respect and homage was shown also to Fr. Connors "who may be gone but not forgotten". As Fr. Jerry Rowan and fellow Priests were saying the Mass, a power failure, which turned off all the church lights, had been in effect for several hours. This necessitated the use of lighted candles at the altar, and for reading. During the reading of the scriptures, suddenly all the lights came on! Fr. Jerry Rowan looked up and said "We know who is responsible for this. He wants to make sure that we are all listening and paying attention!" All in church felt certain that this turn of events was due to the one and only, Fr. Connors! Yes, he may be gone, but he has made sure he is not forgotten. What a wonderful miracle was wrought that day on Sunday Nov. 9th, 1986. It is a day we shall truly remember.

This probably was our last Memorial pilgrimage to the Immaculate Conception Church. Fran Maher, Tom Boyle and Ron Murphy in eulogizing Fr. Connors, echoed our sentiments totally. The final word was given to all of us by Franny Maher just before the ending of our Sunday Banquet. Fr. Connors' wishes were that there would not be anymore annual 9th division Memorial Mass and Services. Franny Maher, his voice choked with emotion, told all of us that Fr. Connors' wishes will be respected. This ended the 42nd consecutive year for all members of the 9th (WW 2) who participated in these services each Sunday before Veterans Day. These are memories that will be cherished for years to come.

Beco members that were in attendance at Worcester this year were: John & Catherine Compagnone, Joe & Stella Chichocki, Dennis Canedy, Norman & Alice Caswell, George & Dorothy Apar, Pat & Ann Morano.

Mail received: We were most happy to hear that Bill Klauz is recuperating nicely and is improving every day. Norman Caswell is well and on the road to good health and wishes all of us the best and thanks us all for thinking about him. From Dennis Canedy: Thora (Dennis' wife) is having trouble with her mobility. We hope that her condition improves. Art Stenzel, our Beco columnist, is enjoying the good life together with his good wife, Grace, in Florida. Ed and Helen Sarnocinski have advised us that they will be moving to Rehoboth, Del. in Jan. 1987 and are enthused about their new home and location.

A Father Ed Connors Scholarship Fund has been established at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Ma. 01610. Further information and details are in this issue of the Octofoil. A Mass for the repose of the Souls of Father Connors and those with whom he served in the Army (WW 2) will be celebrated on the campus of Holy Cross College on the Sunday prior to Veterans Day in Nov. 1987 and on that Sunday annually thereafter. We would like to receive more mail from Beco buddies, so drop a line as time permits. Thank you!

Remember our next annual reunion, July 23-26, 1987 at Camp Hill, Pa. Make your reservations now!! To all our Beco buddies and families we sincerely hope that you have a Happy Holiday season and a wonderful New Year in 1987.

Pat J. Morano
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201
or
Art J. Stenzel
8705 Village Mill Rd.
Bayonet Point, Fl. 33567

47th Inf I Co
ELMER WAGNER
2833 Hotchkiss Rd
Bay City, Mi. 48706

It is with sadness that I inform you of the death of John Obermiller of H Co, 47th Inf on Dec. 10, at Midland Hospital 2 days after suffering 2 serious strokes. The funeral service was Sat. Dec. 13 at St. John Lutheran Church just 1 week after John and Thelma attended the Michigan Chapter Christmas party in Marine City. 26 Michigan Chapter members, wives and widows attended the funeral services. John will be missed by all his comrades, since John and Thelma faithfully attended Chapter meetings, National Reunions and Worcester Memorial Services. Enclosed is a donation to the Memorial fund in the memory of John.

HQ Co. 47th INF.
LAURENCE MELANSON
715 SW 16 ST #6
Loveland, CO 80537

Hate to put bad news in with a Christmas card, but I got a letter Dec. 4 from Sam Moscatelli of Chisholm, MN. Sam had written the letter Dec. 2 and had sealed it when he read an obituary in the Duluth paper. He cut it out, tore the envelope open, and enclosed it in my letter. So am enclosing the following for the Octofoil, if you care to use it. Taps sounded, at least.

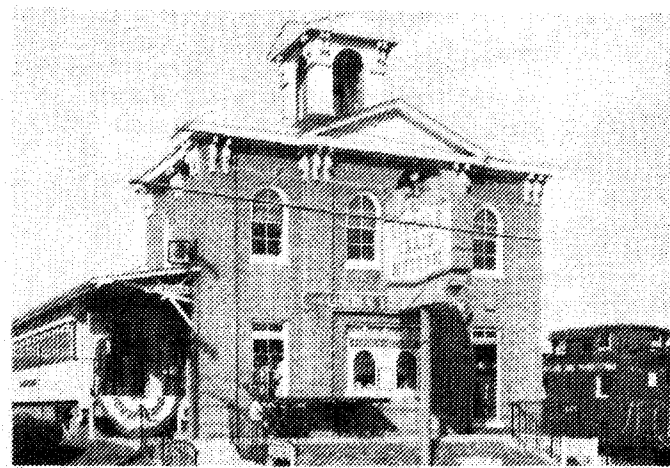
Alexander Prosnick died Monday, Dec. 1, 1986 at the VA Hospital in Minneapolis. Funeral was Wed. in St. Leo's Catholic Church, Hibbing, MN. Survived by a sister, Julie (Mrs. Frank) Squillace, 2101 12 Ave. S, Virginia, MN 55792. Alex and I went thru basic training and Radio School together in Camp Wolters, TX, and were sent to the 9th Div. in the late summer of 42. Alex was a Radio Operator in HQ Co. until he was reassigned near the end of the war to a Signal outfit because of broken eardrums.

Sam Moscatelli may have already sent the above info to you, if so, fine, as long as you get it in the Octofoil.

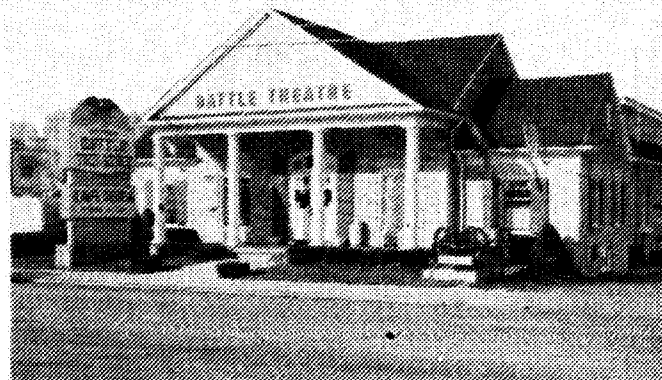
Was very glad that Charlotte and I got to the Memorial Mass in Worcester last month. Had never been to one before, as it was some little distance from ND and Colorado. Also glad that Tom Boyle had luncheon tickets at the last minute. Sat Down to lunch next to Marty Roach, who I had not heard of since the war. The retired life has some advantages!

Keep up the good work!

PLACES OF INTEREST WITHIN THE AREA OF THE REUNION



LINCOLN TRAIN MUSEUM — "Ride" with Lincoln on historic train trip to Gettysburg. Civil War Military Railroad. Board 1890 caboose. See 1,000 trains. A family experience in sound, sight and motion.



GETTYSBURG BATTLE THEATRE — Presents its All New Battle Orientation Program — **MULTI-MEDIA REENACTMENT — BATTLE RAMA** — Excellent home cooking and quick service in the **CAFETERIA** located in the museum.

Ladies Corner

LICENSE PLATES

I have just received a new supply of 9th Division aluminum license plates and they are available for a total cost of \$5.25 each, which includes shipping. These plates are white with blue lettering and border. A large red, white and blue Octofoil is at the center. The lettering is 9th Infantry Division Assn. Across the bottom are the 8 battle stars and invasion arrowhead like on our newspaper mast head. Send all orders payable to: Elmer Wagner, 2833 Hotchkiss Rd., Bay City, Mi. 48706.

Mrs. Phyllis Perna of the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter is making plans for our meeting-luncheon at the reunion in Camp Hill, Pa. on July 24, 1987 at 10:00 A.M. Please send your luncheon deposit of \$5.00 to her at 2642 South Juniper Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19148. Do Not include your deposit with your husband's order for strip tickets. The Ladies' Auxiliary is in charge of the luncheon and we must handle the funds separately from the strip tickets and hotel reservations.

Wanda M. Preston
President, Ladies' Aux.



Bill Miller of the 9th Signal sends this photo taken in Sicily

1943 showing Bill and Robert Massey and policeman.



Bob Epperly of I Company 47th supplies us with a picture taken of the 47th Message Center at **Kalterhalburg, Germany.** (New Year's Day 1945.) Bob

remembers only three of the men shown and their names were Wolf, Figgins and Howard.

Hall of Fame

47th Inf K Co
EVAN THOMPSON
2028 S. 11 St. Box 132
Niles, Mi. 49120

Evan writes he will see us all in Camp Hill as he already has his reservations made, but he is really happy to have received word he is about to be inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame on March 24, 1987! Congratulations, Evan!

Dear Mr. Thompson:

We are pleased to inform you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame that you will be inducted into the Hall in 1987.

Your remarkable achievements in the game have brought you this deserved honor, and we welcome you to an illustrious group.

You will be inducted in ceremonies at the annual awards banquet on Tuesday, March 24th. This event will be at the Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis. This annual affair has been sold out the last several years with over 1,100 in attendance.

Please do not make a public announcement of this until the public is informed via press release of this honor. However, we are certain that you will wish to quietly inform relatives and friends so that they can be there in person for your tribute.

Your banquet ticket will be furnished; however, you can purchase additional tickets at our office after the first of the year.

We will be sending you additional information concerning the reception prior to the banquet. The time and location will be announced early in January. Photographs and interviews take place at this reception.

We would appreciate knowing as soon as possible if you will be in attendance for both of these functions.

Again, congratulations on being selected as an inductee to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

INDIANA BASKETBALL
HALL OF FAME

Tom Carnegie, Chairman
Selection Committee

47th Inf. I Co.
WILLIAM HAWKINS
101 Gooseberry Rd.
W. Springfield, MA 01089

Robert A. Trauschke, 24 Capitol Road, Springfield, Mass. died on May 21, 1986. He suffered a massive stroke on May 6th becoming totally paralyzed and later in the day fell into a coma existing until his death.

According to his widow he was an infantry replacement in a B.A.R. Squad in the Ninth Division during the Battle of the Bulge, serving in the Division until sometime after crossing the Rhine River with his unit on the Remagen Bridge. He was subsequently evacuated to England for hospitalization with frost bitten feet.

Mrs. Trauschke does not find a record of the Regiment or Company to which he was assigned.

My wife and I have reservations for the Nashville reunion and will see you then.

47th Inf. M. Co.
WILLIAM MORKILL
1635 - 73rd N.E.
Bellevue, Wash. 98004

We really enjoyed the convention, which was my first. It was great to see all the "M" company boys after 41 years.

I talked to Mike Kauffman and Orion Shockley about having a convention more centrally, like Denver or somewhere else in the west. They, being westerners like I am, thought it a good idea.

MEMORABILIA

My travels this past summer allowed me to visit the Military Museum at Fort Lewis, WA. This was my 3rd visit.

Previously, I had assumed that it was a museum dedicated to the 9th Inf. Div. As such it was disappointing to find very little about our effort in WWII. On this visit I found that I erred in my assessment.

On my stop in September, I took time to inquire of the director and was extended much time and explanation of the museum's purpose. The director, Barbara Bower, pointed out that this was a "Military Museum" set up to honor all of the units which have had Fort Lewis as an active duty station. Our 9th is one of almost 30 such, since the Fort's founding in 1917.

No wonder that there was a paucity of the 9th as we know it.

Mrs. Bower is in the greatest need of 9th Division memorabilia. (She had a special name for such).

The museum has ample "generic" (her Term) items, e.g., M-1 rifles. The need is for actual items issued, carried and/or acquired by those of us who were in WWII. I have some maps we used which I will donate if we can get some coordinated effort. I have my old uniform which only fits half of me now. Letters, diaries, etc. . .

The museum was hoping to have funds made available to allow expansion to the 2nd floor. Mrs. Bower pointed out that if useable items could be received that a bigger emphasis could be given to the 9th.

I'd suggest that you and/or the national board consider addressing the need that I saw at Fort Lewis. Be sure to put Mrs. Bower on our Octofoil mailing list. It would be a good idea to send some copies the unit commanders could share.

Contact for donations may be made by individuals or the association: Barbara Bower, Museum Director, Fort Lewis Military Museum, Fort Lewis, WA 98433 PH 206-967-7206

I also suggest that the national convention committee investigate the post as a site for a future convention. Fort Lewis is about 40 miles south of Seattle, between Tacoma and Olympia. Ample motel/hotel accommodations abound. Places to see and visit are without number in the northwest.

I must say that it was a thrill to see a unit designation of "M" Co 60th and that enough remnants, even with the new TO, remain to bring a similar thrill to most of the others.

60th Inf M Co
COLE GRONSETH
PQ Bon 1904
Dunnellon, Fl. 32630

47th Inf. B Co.
GEORGE BENTLEY
P.O. Box 206
Conyers, Ga. 30207

We arrived home safe and sound with a lot of memories of the 41st reunion. Maybe there were some mixups for some, but we made do. We were staying at the Radisson so we could breeze up and down the elevator and me with my auto-graph book. The B Co. group surprised us with a large cake for our 41st wedding anniversary and we want to thank all! Also our new friends, Doris & Guy Lawrence (of Roanoke, Va.) met all from B Co.

Had a visit from Red Phillips and his lovely wife Lee. We spent an enjoyable Sunday in Bellevue and had a good session about the old days.

OUR LIEUTENANT

This is an episode over a 3 week period from the hills of El Guettar to the Sedjenane valley. It tells of our first encounter with a seasoned enemy and ends with our Lt. being killed in action. He was the first engineer officer to give his life for his country. Anyone who was at El Guettar will never forget it.

Part 2

El Guettar was behind us and we were heading north. The next day we stopped for a break and were told that Gen. Patton sent word that he was proud of our 9th Div. in the way we performed at El Guettar. The General said he would like to treat us to something we hadn't had since we got to Tunisia. The treat turned out to be fresh meat that one of our trucks went back for that same day.

The next morning it was back from "Constantine" and our cooks started frying the steaks. We all had at least 3 to 4 steaks, so our C rations got a rest that day. Early the next day we headed up to the Sedjenane valley. We bivouacked in a wooded area just north of the main coast road. This was to be a rest area for a few days before joining the 47th who was getting ready to push in to Bizerte. We felt fairly safe in this wooded area as it was dense with foliage. There was an open field on our left flank along with a stone building that the British were using as a depot. They were reclaiming equipment that was left behind as their troops were advancing in this area. We didn't have much to do but take it easy and write letters. Lt. Ware would go over to the depot at times and talk with the British officer in charge.

On the third day a large convoy came up the coast road and turned in to the road leading in to our area. This was a new quartermaster outfit and they pulled their trucks up near us, bumper to bumper. We told them to space their trucks out but they said they didn't have enough room to do it. They said they would continue to their destination as soon as it got dark, as they were afraid of enemy planes. Around 2 o'clock I saw a plane off in the distance. I couldn't tell if it was one of ours since it was too far away. About 20 minutes later we heard a plane's motor whining towards us. Looking up through the trees we saw a plane coming right at us, its guns firing away. We all jumped off the high ground we were on in to a dry stream bed about 8 feet down for cover. The plane dropped 2 bombs while it kept firing its guns. Another plane came right behind him and dropped more bombs while shooting up the area. They circled around and gave us another strafing while we took cover on the opposite embankment.

When it was over we heard the cry "Medic!" and we found out it was Lt. Ware who was hit. He was lying in the open field midway between the building and our area. He had been visiting the British Lt. and when he heard the planes he ran out of the building. One of the bombs hit right in front of him, wounding him severely. As they carried him out to a 9th Medic jeep he was unconscious. Late that night we were all milling around waiting for some news when a jeep pulled up. It was Lt. Wardrobe who called us all together and told us Lt. Ware had died and he was taking command of the platoon. The rest of the night no one slept. All you could hear were guys either talking to someone or to them-



Ed Webber Jr., sends photo of his father (Co L 47th) and fellow squad members taken in Germany (May 1945): Kneeling l-r: Ed Webber, Gerry Wayrauch, Garland Dezern, Standing Arnie Hoffmeyer, L. Beacom, S. Sydore and Tom Mescato.

In the Aug-Oct. 1982 issue of the Octofoil, I wrote an article of my late father, Ed Webber, who served as rifleman in this grand division. Dad was stationed at Augsburg, Germany after the war and started a journal using the company records. The story was the exploits of Co L called "The Raiders". He recorded many incidents, dates and names of towns they went through. Dad joined Co L a few days before they crossed the Rhine at Remagen, Mar. 9, 1945. After the article I received many requests for a copy of this story, but couldn't afford to reprint it, maybe someday I will be able to. So I will write a few excerpts from the story, maybe some of you may be interested. First of all, let me say I've read much of WW2 but little is written of the war after the Rhine crossing when you boys had the Germans on the run. It seems to me some of the hardest fighting of the war took place in this period. The house to house fighting, the ambushes, etc. Dad said they rode tanks, and coming through some of those little towns, the Germans would set up machine gun ambushes and knock men off like flies. A fellow who was in Dad's squad, now living in New York State and a member of your association sent me a general history book of the 47th. At the back of the book is a casualty killed in action list and I counted 492 names killed in Germany alone. I'm sure the 60th and 39th had as many. The regiments of the 9th must have been shot to pieces.

Here is a little story from Dad's journal of a very brave Polish man who has probably been all but forgotten. I think things like this little incident should be remembered. "We ran for the nearest houses in a little town called Mervien and crossing the 250 yards was terrible. Enemy fire from town cut several of our men down. Most of the machine gun fire came at us from the cemetery to our left front. Houses in Germany are often separated from each

other by rock or brick walls, especially in small villages. Our tanks had knocked 2 holes in a wall but getting through was very slow and men were still getting hit from fire coming from the right of us. With the 1st platoon on the left side of the street and the 3rd on the right we started advancing. After taking 2 houses and the courtyard we faced an open lot about 60 yards across. Enemy fire came heavy, sweeping the vacant place. We could not leave the courtyard. A machine gun was called in by phone and set up in the rear of the courtyard. It raked the cemetery continuously, thus keeping the enemies heads down while we made the crossing.

A G.I. was killed here and a Polish slave laborer took his rifle and ammunition and helmet. He alone attacked the cemetery! Had he been an American soldier, I'm sure he would have been recommended for the Medal of Honor. Without regard for his own safety, he dashed to the cemetery and took cover behind the tombstones. He had something personal to settle. All I saw after this was the results which were plenty. Not a Jerry was left alive in the cemetery and 2 machine gun nests, consisting of 5 jerrys were wiped out. The Pole had both feet and legs riddled by machine gun bullets but still alive. We rushed him to the nearest medic with the story of his courageous deed. I'm sure he was well cared for but if either leg was saved, it was a miracle!" This little incident happened April 16, 1945, 41 years ago, but like thousands of other little happenings of the war, ought to be remembered by somebody. I was 2 months old then but when I left in 1967 for Vietnam, my Dad stood at the airport and cried like a baby, because he had seen war. I'll probably do the same if either of my 2 sons ever have to go.

47th Inf Co L
EDDIE W. WEBBER
4929 Strickland
The Colony, Tx. 75056

selves. It was always the same question. Why did the Lt. leave the building since no one else got hit? Lt. Wardrobe walked around the area and stopped at each group trying to cheer us up. After speaking a while, he left, but not before he told us the answer to our question. He said "Lt. Ware left the safety of the building so he could be with his men for whom he had the highest regard." No one said a word after that and we tried to get some sleep. Lt. Ware was brought back from Africa and buried in the family plot near Glassboro, N.J. One year, while the 9th was having its reunion in Philadelphia, we visited with his family and paid our respects at his grave. Four

engineers and three men from the 47th stood there and said a prayer. Lt. George Ware will always be remembered by his men as a brave soldier who served his country and the 9th division to the highest degree possible.

Charles Hoffman
91-43 - 81st St.
Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421
Co. B, 15th Engrs



ENGLAND IS STILL THERE:

After 42½ years I made it back to England. My earliest recollection of the Country was when we debarked in Liverpool after a sea trip from Sicily. After our sojourn in North Africa and Sicily, it was wonderful to say "Hello" in English and hear some reply, 'Ello' Yank, how goes it? And then on to Winchester, a wonderful English town.

How black the "Blackout" was especially when accompanied by that thick English fog. Remember? England was a very pleasant interlude after Gafsa, ElGuettar etc. and before we made that "No passport necessary" trip across the Channel.

Sooo, on the 17th of October of this year I went back, had a reunion with people I had not seen since we sailed across the Channel in June of 1944. Toured the Country from "Hadrian's Wall" in the North to the site of the Battle of Hastings in the South, from the English Channel to the Atlantic Ocean on the west. Saw Stonehenge, many castles, stately mansions and Cathedrals including Winchester Cathedral where we had Easter services in 1944.

Yep, spent a whole day in Winchester revisiting old spots. Found the old brick building where we MP's were billeted plus the Pub we took over as our own. People kept buying me unwanted beer until I nearly reached the state of inebriation. The Cathedral was as fascinating as I remembered it from so long ago. Bought a lot of postcards as my photography leaves a lot to be desired. (For you New York fellows, see my good buddy "Jake" Wadalavage as I sent him everything I had on Winchester plus a picture of a plaque on a house 7 miles from Winchester, identifying that house as Headquarters of the 47th Infantry Regiment.)

47th Inf. C Co.

PAUL REEL
2701 N. Lamer St.
Burbank, Ca. 91504

I have recently been reading some of the Combat accounts at the West Wall, in fall of 1944.

Which reminded me of when C Co. was dug in and holding position through Nov. 16, along that forest road near the German town Krewinkle, at the corner of Buzz Bomb Alley. I should say in reality the Twilight Zone.

If the area is still intact, was wondering if anyone has tried to revisit this same area. I have read accounts of others that have revisited their area and their personal dug Fox Hole still existed after 40 years, these being at the West Wall. I would like anyone to respond with your comments.

Any of you guys of C Co. hoping you are still around, would be more than glad to hear from you. Such as Lt. Langley, Sgt. Bobb, Moorehead, Ehrlich, Shapiro, Duprey, Joe?, Moorehouse, Tolento, and forgive me for all the names I fail to remember.

I would like to direct this statement to anyone who was ever in the 9th Inf. Div. Cannon Companies. Were there any of you, that received your basic training on the M3 105 MM Howitzer at Camp Roberts, California in the 84th Inf., Training Battalion, time period mid. January through May 1944. If so please contact me, would be much appreciated. I lost all contact from anyone from those days.

1987 Reunion in Camp Hill, Penn

Being a tourist, I also went up to London and saw the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, the Changing of the Guard of the Queens Household Mounted Cavalry, went to dinner in the 'big' town a couple of times and even attended the Theater. What a time this old country boy had.

As to my whereabouts after the end of the war, I went back to Akron, Ohio; got married and went to work. However, I found civilian life dull so in 1949 I went back into the Army and retired in 1973 as a Command Sergeant Major. During those 24 years I served in Korea as 1st Sergeant of a rifle company in the "Heartbreak" ridge area, a tour in Germany from 59 to 62, back to Korea as Sergeant Major of the 1st Squadron of the 9th Cavalry inside the Korean DMZ in 64-65, and on to Vietnam in 69-70. In "Nam" I had the honor of being the Command Sergeant Major of the 4th Bn, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division (Mobile Riverine Force) in the Mekong Delta. In its own fashion, the Mekong Delta was as rough to us as was Gafsa, ElGuettar of a previous era. (Believe me, I know as I was at both places.)

Came back from "Nam" in 70 and in 71 was on the move again, this time as Command Sergeant Major of the 3rd Squadrons of the 14th Armored Cav. Regt. and then the 11th armored Cav. Regt. on the border of Germany. In 73 I was sent Stateside and retired for a bad heart so I retired and went to work for a large hospital in this area. After 13 years with the hospital I am about to hang it up and retire fully. If Jim Bruner, Nailor, Stillings, Father Rowan, other MP's, Bob Lynch, Roger Shaeffer, etc., see this, set down and dash me off a line. Incidentally, my dues will be on the way shortly.

MP's
KEN MEYER
1200 Magnolia Rd.
Belton, Tx. 76513

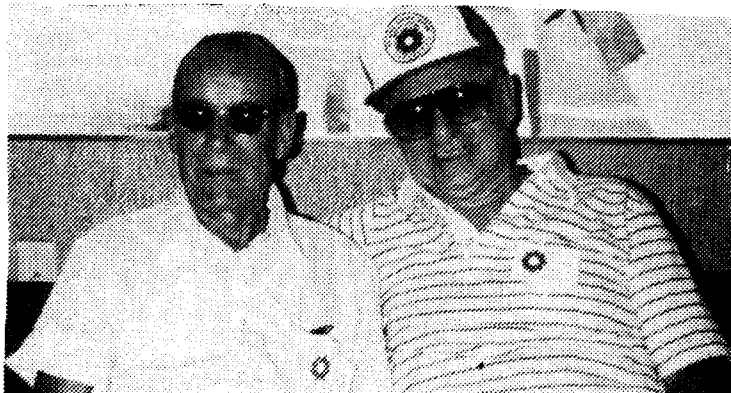
47th Inf Co C

CHARLES AYERS
2349 Woodland Terr.
Ft. Myers, Fl. 33907

Enclosed is an article that appeared 9-9-86 in local newspaper. I found it quite interesting for the following reason, C Co 47th pulled guard duty their dates. However displaced Jews, Poles, etc. were still there. Compound was packed with SS P.O.W.'s. The crematorium (3 ovens) still had human bones in them. The room directly in the rear of the oven, down stairs had 3 barrels full of human ashes. I personally guarded 3 SS POW's to clean the room (holding room) for bodies waiting to be cremated next to ovens. When drain in room plugged up, SS POW's cleaned it out. We were there very fast and I never heard of G.I.'s killing SS troops, maybe Sgts. Richard Starr and Cole have some knowledge of this, they were there. GIs killed Nazi guards, witness reveals in book

47th BUDDIES MEET AGAIN

For the 5th time since 1978, Emil and Audrey De Donato, formerly of New Jersey and presently living in Florida, met with their friends Richard and Lillian Manfredi of Sanger, California. Emil and Richard served with the Regimental Message Center, Hq. Co., 47th Infantry. Richard Manfredi joined the 47th just before the fighting in Sicily and remained with the unit until a month before hostilities ceased in Germany when he was taken sick. Emil "Dee" Donato was one of the 'early birds' Ft. Bragg boys



Richard Kress Co L sends photo taken at Nashville reunion; with Kress is Marty Shankman on his right. (39th Inf)



Carlos Ward Co C 39th Inf sends photo taken at Nashville reunion. Left to right: Charles Venson, Walter Jackson, Curtis White, and Carlos Ward and Lawrence Mapes. All former Company C men with the exception of Walt Jackson who was in Company A.

inducted into the Army in January 1941 (prior to Pearl Harbor) and remained with the 47th throughout the 8 campaigns.

De Donato and Manfredi kept in touch with each other since their discharge in 1945. Richard went on to become the Postmaster of Sanger, California Post Office while Emil De Donato pursued his pre-war work in the Advertising and Marketing Industry. In 1948, De Donato started his own business in New York City and remained in the business until his move to Florida

Throughout the 40 plus years since their Army discharge, these two war time buddies from opposite sides of the U.S.A. kept in touch with each other. Emil introduced "The Octofoil" to Richard many years ago. As a result, Richard joined the Association and is able to keep up with its news. Richard was born and raised in Sanger, Ca. He and his wife Lillian have 2 sons, Ronald and Russell. Russell lives in Fresno with his wife Patricia and their 3 children, Nicole, Travis and Laurel. Russell and wife Elizabeth have 2 daughters, Erin and Ashley. The Manfredis spend much time baby sitting for their grandchildren and enjoying their retirement job immensely. Richard retired from his Postmaster's position in 1977. He is now active in many Civic Duties and Fraternal Clubs. Upon his separation from the Army in 1945, De Donato continued to work in the Advertising Business until 1975 when he decided to move to Florida. "Dee" hasn't quite accepted retirement. Upon his move to Florida, he studied Real Estate at Central Florida Community College in Ocala and has been selling Real Estate since 1979. He and his wife Audrey live in Rainbow Lakes Estates, a sub-division north of Dunnellon, Fl. They have 3 sons ... Ralph, Robert and Richard. Dee is a member of the Florida Chapter of the 9th Infantry Division.

The Manfredis and De Donatos now find time to renew their war-time friendship and to meet for several weeks whenever possible. The 3,000 mile cross country distance separating them appears to be no obstacle.

Emil J. De Donato
Hq. Co., 47th Inf.
3650 SW Mosswood St.
Dunnellon, Fl. 32630

Company F 47th Inf

ED "HOPPY" HOPKINS
110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

Lindsey Nelson spent some time at our CP. Among the honorary F. Company men there were George Brown, and Walter O'Keefe.

Two weeks ago while on my way to the Shore I stopped off to see Tony Repetti's widow. She looked good and had started back to work at the motor inn for three days a week. She said that aside from being lonely she felt fine. Did you get the chance to talk with Frank Smith's boy Marsh? What a fine, bright, young man, a student in the Law School of the University of North Carolina and a member of the North Carolina National Guard. I know how proud Frank is, and justifiably so.

Our old first sergeant from Fort Bragg days to the end of the war in Germany, Felton Jones, made it up from Alapaha, Georgia, where he is former mayor and semi-retired businessman, married to retired post mistress, Wilma. Also present were the pulse, bloodstream, and heart of the company, the grunts: Earl Wilkey, Jack Finnigan, Vinnie Guglielmino, Charly Williams, Rud Hoffman, Paul Giarraputo, Rodger Alsgaard, and Ed Johnstone, F Company's contribution to the Federal Circuit Court where he sits in Paducah, Kentucky.

Bob DeSandy was his usual helpful self around the CP.

Wasn't Lindsey Nelson a riot? (I missed, Dan Quinn's speech, but I heard that Johnny Carson has been very nervous since he performed). Rodger Alsgaard managed to get a hold of a copy of Lindsey's book for me. Have you read it? It's terrific. Every member of the association should read it and pass it on to their children to read. I am going to send him my copy with a request that he autograph it for me. I guess you thought I was going to omit Smig Tokarchek from my roster. How could I fail to mention F Company's most decorated soldier? Most of the men had their ladies with them, and as I look down the list of spouses, I think, "Even in love we were a successful bunch!" Ken Yennie is another of our officers who showed up with his own platoon of his wife Olive, their beautiful daughter, and three beautiful grandchildren.

Tip of Hat

We wish to thank the following members and friends for remembering the Memorial Fund.

Andrew Kopach
William Koumanilis
Boardman Lockwood (In memory of Mrs. Randle and Col. Bryant)
Mrs. Kathryn Edgar (In memory of husband Col. Ralph Edgar)
Hermon Rahn (In memory of all his buddies)
Wanda Lelak (In memory of husband Steve)
John E. Thornton
Edwin E. Brewer
Elmer Wagner (In memory of John Obermiller)

We salute you.

R-E-F-L-E-C-T-I-N-G

1986, a year of mixed emotions, many happy, a few sad-der ones. For my wife and I what follows were the highlights.

January thru April we were very fortunate in having hosted some of our family, 9th family and an array of friends the good Lord has blessed us with over the years, we were honored. A few we sort of expected chose to fight the elements or hibernate in their northern teepees, they shall be duly court-martialed.

All went quite well till 28 January when we heard the shocker, the Challenger & crew lost and tho many of us knew Fr. Connors was a gravely sick man the news of his passing on the same day saddened us all, his troops whom he drew from all over the U.S. with his magnetism, to honor our dead, left behind and who died after the war found that pill hard to swallow.

Of interest to those few who have ventured into "HENRY'S DIASTER AREA." One of our engineers, a doubting Thomas, having doubts as to my veracity made a special effort to see for himself my claim to fame. Bud Newheart with wife Alice as testant, was so awed that he set the press to work as soon as he got home, the certificate sent via express mail indicates my version of the clutter was grossly understated and that my den/office was indeed a hazard to intruders. Alice must also work the press as she sent Eva a certificate for being a hostess with the mostest.

In early June it was load and true to G.I. style, unload the M.H. several times in preparation for what was to be a 3 month 8,958 Mi. trip with Nashville the first destination followed by Indiana, Wisconsin, N.Y. and R.I. visiting family and friends before our rendezvous in New Brunswick to caravan thru N.B., P.E. I., Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. We were wined and dined throughout the trip but the "Newfies" were extra super hosts. I didn't particularly enjoy kissing the dead cod fish a prerequisite to becoming an honorary "Newfie." To relate all the interesting and amusing things we saw and did would take a special issue of the OCTOFOIL. An 18 hr. cruise landed us back in Nova Scotia on 6 Sept. a 2 day drive to R.I. to pick up mail, pay bills, service & repair the M.H. shop and say bye to a few relatives and we were on our way home in nick of time for medical appts, and it's been go, go, go, since trying to catch up with so many chores that had piled up.

Our reservations are made at the Penn Harris and we hope 2 C U all.

15th Engrs. Co A
HENRY SANTOS
9811 Connechuset Rd
Tampa, Fl. 33617

mail call

Co M 47th Inf
ED LITTLE
233 Schuylkill Ave
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

It sure is odd that a paper as good as the Octofoil is not known by more of the 9th division "Rascals". I remember a letter of commendation I received upon my discharge calling us "Hitler's Nemesis". The letter was destroyed in a fire but I remember it very well. Along with the rest of the fighting 9th, we created a lot of trouble for Hitler and his gang. It is with heavy words and feelings I send this to you about Cyriel Gelande. He and his wife sat at the same table with us at Nashville, at the Banquet. Maybe some of his buddies will remember him. Wishing you and yours the best and keep up the good work and will see you at Camp Hill (I hope). Also sending some pictures of our squad taken somewhere in Germany. Maybe some one of them will see it and get in touch with me.

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

All's well in Washington Heights. Had a bad phlebitis on the right foot but improving nicely. Rough 2 weeks staying in bed but all set for Christmas party. Fr. Connors will never be forgotten. Holy Cross Scholarship Fund set in his name by Mrs. Craig. Our Grandchild got her first report card in 1st grade, everything satisfactory and excellent in reading. She reads at 3rd grade level. God bless her and all grandchildren of 9th division men and women. Got letters from Melanson, 47th radio whiz and Ed Combs E co's runner and cook. The only cook in the army that knocked out a German tank! George Bako, G co's mess sergeant is still his own pleasant self and enjoying retirement in San Diego. He sends best regards to all members of the New York Chapter. On to Camp Hill! Happy Holidays.

9th Signal
WILLIAM MILLER
507 Eskridge Dr
Wilmington, DE. 19809

December has many memories for the men of the 9th Division, Fort Bragg (Tent City), Pearl Harbor, First Christmas on foreign soil (Africa), Winchester, England and finally Battle of the Bulge. I recall many other memories as well and am sure other comrades do the same. The reunion in Nashville was great. It started out very bad but ended one of the best. I felt sorry that all members could not attend the banquet for lack of room. I hope we do not have the same problem at Camp Hill. I hear the facilities are quite large and can handle us nicely.

15th Engrs
BILLY DALLAS
PO Box 712
Pinehurst, N.C. 28374

Just finished reading the October issue of the Octofoil which I always enjoy. I am still living (retired) at Pinehurst and playing golf almost every day. I joined the 9th at Ft. Bragg, 30 minutes from here, and was with them until the war ended in 1945. Could anyone give me the list of casualties of Hq Co 15th Engrs when the bomb dropped short at St. Lo? I was up on the line at the time with my CO and just happen to be out of range of it.

39th Inf. Co B
FRANK RUSSO
140 Valpeck Ave.
Raritan, N.J. 08869

On Jan. 9, 1987 I am going to the hospital for eye surgery on my left eye and have a lens implant. I have had this cataract for about 5 months and it came on quite sudden. I will have the surgery in the morning and go home in the afternoon. I won't see now til the March meeting.

39th Inf 1st Bn Med Det
EARL DUNCAN
623 Walker Rd
Jackson, Tn. 38305

I enjoy the Octofoil very much. I joined the 9th on Dec. 26, 1943 at Barton Stacy, England. I was with the 1st Bn Med Det 39th Inf and Co. aid man for Co D machine guns. Although I was with the machine gun platoon, I did have the honor to treat and take care of many wounded brave comrades of the rifle co and tank Bn and FA units. Sometimes it's hard to believe that I made it all the way from Normandy to the Elbe River. I was wounded in the Huertgen Forest and received the Silver Star for heroic action and I remember almost getting captured one time in France. I got separated from my platoon taking care of some wounded and got lost. All at once I heard some Germans and I had to hide for awhile. I remember our machine gun Sgt got wounded somewhere in France. The Germans made a counter attack and shot us up pretty bad and the Sgt almost got his foot shot off. The platoon Sgt wanted me to try and get the wounded Sgt out, somehow we made it to safety. I believe the wounded Sgt's name was Grady or Grauer. If anyone can help me or know if the Sgt is alive, let me know. With sadness I inform you that a dear friend and combat buddy of mine passed away this year, D.C. Doyle. He was Co. aid man for Co. B. and lived here in Tennessee for 30 years.

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

It's time for me to renew my subscription to the Octofoil. Sorry I couldn't make the reunion in Nashville. I thought when I retired I would have plenty of time on my hands but I don't! I thought I would see some letters from D Co more often in the Octofoil but I guess my old buddies are like myself, they are not very good at letter writing any more. I see Jack Clark quite often at the flea market. I go quite often to walk around and get some exercise, since it is not a season for gardening. Thank you for doing such a swell job with the association and keep up the good work.

47th Inf Hqs 1st Bn
VIRGIL DINGMAN
6 Clark Ave.
Fort Plain, N.Y. 13339

Received the October Octofoil and thought I had better look at my membership card. Found out it ran out in November so sign me up for another 3 years. I think Nicholas Stancewicz was a Sgt. in our group. In my address book, he signed it Midge, that's what we called him.

Federal aid to education should begin by teaching arithmetic to Congress.

The man who brags about running things at home usually refers to the lawnmower and the furnace.

Battery A 60th F.A.
WALTER T. QUIGLEY
P.O. Box #1094
Lake Elsinore, Ca. 92330

It's been a while since I've sent in an article to the Octofoil. First off I'd like to wish all my 9th comrades and all those connected with the 9th Association a most Happy and Joyous holiday season, combined with a most Happy and Healthy 1987.

My wife and I attended the reunion in June, in Nashville and had a most enjoyable time. We traveled by motorhome, taking our time and circling the United States. It was good to see my comrades, and meet new faces at each reunion. Sure wish more 60th men could make it but, it was great to reminisce with Buck Elliot, Mike Belmonte and his wife Ann, the Grecos, Grays, and a few others. It was a pleasure to meet and converse with Lee Goin, Warren Dixon, Jerry Teachout, Alfred Hause, and W. Rockwood. Those we didn't see at the reunion, we were happy to enjoy personal visits with them at their homes. Those were Jim and Loretta Myers in Zephyrhills, Florida, Pat and Tess Passarello, in Staten Island, N.Y., and with the Passarellos' spent an enjoyable day at a barbecue, with Tiny and Marie DeRosa in New Jersey.

I'm getting a little ahead of myself in my letter, but, do want to mention that after leaving the reunion site quite early on Sunday morning, we carried out our plans of making a visit to 'old' FORT BRAGG, since I was there from the beginning. It had been changed so much, that I had to drive around and around to re-orient myself. We spent the night on the base and woke up in the morning to the sound of "double" timing, and the fellows jogging to their sing-song verses. From there we headed North on our trip visiting friends and relatives on the way. Oh, while at Fort Bragg we visited the memorial dedicated to the 9th Div., and the memorial dedicated to the servicemen of the 101st Airborne, killed in the plane crash of Dec. 12, 1985. We took many photos wherever we visited. Both memorials were in a beautiful setting.

In closing I would like to say I phoned and talked to Glenn Elliot (Colonel) some time in April when I knew I would be attending the '86 Reunion. He was ill at that time and could not attend. I had planned on a visit to see him on my return, with photos of the reunion. However, it was sad to finally be able to get word from his wife Peggy, that he had passed away on June 17, 1986.

I do hope we will be able to attend more of the reunions, and see the old faces again.

Again, the very best to all associated with the 9th Division, and will keep in touch.

9th QM
JOHN JAGLING
41 Willow St.
Reading, Ma. 01867

Enclosed find dues for the next 3 years. I was unable to make the Memorial service in Worcester as I was recuperating from open heart surgery. Hope to make the next one.

GREEN: What are you doing tonight?

WHITE: Celebrating my wife's fifth anniversary.

GREEN: Wedding anniversary?

WHITE: No, fifth anniversary of her fortieth birthday.

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

Our permanent address is still Texas but travel has been on our agenda most of the year, followed by weddings; one in Virginia and the others locally.

Our trip to Alaska started by flying to California and an auto trip through the wine country and along the coast to Washington. We stopped to visit friends, the Pavlichs, along the way in Eureka, CA. What a way to see the Redwoods and go fishing. The Hale family welcomed us to Tacoma, WA, taking us to see Mt. St. Helena and all the local sights. The Glendenings, from Berne, Indiana met us there and we all flew to Alaska in May, enjoying travel throughout the state before the tourist rush. Seeing the trees come out overnight, the midnight sun, all the moose and bear made it a most memorable excursion. We almost entertained thoughts of moving up there until we thought of those long winter days and nights.

Immediately upon returning home we started renovation of our kitchen. That was an ordeal of eight weeks instead of two, but we're so delighted with the results.

During deer hunting season Ed Pavlichs and wife visited us from California. You should have seen Walter Bryson's face when we arrived at the Bryson ranch. Ed, Walter and I were in Co F 60th Infantry during WW II and they had not seen each other for 43 years. Hunting was great. We bagged two and missed two. A few days after returning from hunting Bill Nichols, Co F paid us a visit en route to Phoenix, Arizona.

I recently talked to Bob Kriz formerly CO of Co F 60th when we made the invasion of North Africa. He is a successful businessman now retired and living in Grand Island, Neb. He has joined the 9th and hopes to make the reunion. May you look forward to the New Year with great expectations.

RICHARD O'CONNOR
9567 Bulford Ave
Whittier, Ca. 90605

Best wishes for the Holidays. I'll send you some sunshine if you send me a little snow. I went back to England in October for 3 weeks. Saw my old friends in Andover. I also went to see what Weymouth looked like in daylight. I expect to see you at Camp Hill.

Div Hqs
PAUL ACETO
54 Strickland St.
Manchester, Ct. 06040

Always look forward to the Octofoil. It's interesting and informative. While looking through an issue some time ago, I saw 2 familiar names. I gambled they were some I had known from the 9th and lost track of. I wrote and was happy to hear from them. Ted Curry the 9th division postal officer and John Kimmerle from the 47th. I enjoy the Octofoil very much. Keep up the good work.

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

Just a few lines to wish you and the rest of the 9th division men and their families a healthy year. I recently had a physical checkup and still able to walk 2 to 4 miles a day. Have a loving wife who checks my diet as I am a diabetic but in good health otherwise. Keep your chin up. One more hill to take.

47th Inf M Co
JOHN B. KNIGHT
65 Yorktown Rd.
Mountaintop, Pa. 18707

I wonder how many of our comrades remember the 1st Christmas in N. Africa? May God bless you and all the survivors of the 9th. The enclosed written by Harold Werner of Copperas Cove, Texas should bring back memories. See you at Camp Hill.

COLONEL RANDLE'S PROMISE

Day after day we slugged along on the long foot march from Safi to Port Lyautey. In a company formation in the early morning, Captain Johnson would announce the length of the day's march. Usually, 15 to 20 miles more or less. On this particular day, it seemed as if we had passed more than the usual number of kilometer posts. Our feet were aching and the breakfast of corned beef hash had expended all of its nourishment.

Colonel Randle, smoking his pipe, stood on the side of the road in his daily reviewing position, sensed our low state of morale. As we passed, he spoke in a voice of encouragement and promise as he announced: "two miles to the bivouac area; chicken and hot biscuits for dinner". For a second I had a vision of golden fried chicken and light fluffy biscuits on the dinner table of a Texas farm home. Just as quickly my mind came back to reality as a loud response sounded from the G.I.'s - "Yeah Spam". The noon meal had already been prepared as we arrived in the bivouac area. The chow was not what Colonel Randle had promised, but we were assured that it would be served in the evening meal.

As we passed through the chow line in the evening meal, we were served chicken as promised, but it turned out to be canned chicken. A far cry from fried chicken, but it beat spam by a day's march, but the only way I could associate the hard tack biscuits with hot biscuits was with the body heat that was generated in the process of chewing and digesting them.

"Chicken and hot biscuits" became a common quotation in the second platoon from that day forth, through the duration and always created a laugh. The last time I met Harold Venem in Minnesota in 1978, we still joked about it. In all of my visits with John Watson while he was a patient in the V.A. hospital in Waco, Texas, we always had our laughs about Colonel Randle's promise of "Chicken and hot biscuits".

9th Med
ANDY ANDRIOLA
33 Clover St.
Nutley, N.J. 07110

Let's hope we don't have to pull K.P. this New Year's Eve. It seems only like yesterday we were at Fort Bragg, talking about Christmas back home. Enclosed is a shot of me making cough syrup for you fellows just before the snow at the Huertgen Forest.

47th Inf I Co
ROBERT EPPERLY
Rt 4 Box 109
Blacksburg, Va. 24060

Bob would like to hear from anyone from I Co and will answer them. He sends along a snapshot taken on New Year's Day 1945 at Kalterhalburg, Germany, of the 47th Message Center people. He remembers only 3 names, Wolf, Figgins and Howard.

Deadline for next issue of the Octofoil will be Feb. 20th

MAIL CALL

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

I am doing pretty good for an Ole GOAT of 78, kind of wearing out here and there. Well, here it is the Holidays with us again, this makes us all a year older also, even me. Do hope the coming year will bring and keep WORLD PEACE and good conditions in all departments to everyone. We just celebrated the 46th anniversary of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7th, day & date. I was a Security Guard at the Tribune then. The Tribune got out a 4 page Extra that day. Let's hope and pray nothing like that ever happens again. Must sign off for now, so keep well, hope you have a real nice Holiday season, and this goes for all members of the 9th division. Let's all of us count our Blessings and God Bless America.

47th Inf.
GEORGE SHAW
702 E. 5th St.
Metropolis, Ill. 62960

A note along with my dues for the Octofoil. I have gotten in touch with a couple of guys that I trained with in the states thru letters to the Mail Call. We helped activate the 78th Div. at Camp Butner, N.C. in 1943 but left in early '44 for England as replacements. It seems as if most of us wound up in the 1st and 9th. I noticed a letter in the Octofoil from a person in England inquiring about his father, Leroy Roman Angel, who was KIA in Normandy. I am not quite clear as to whether he is buried in France or the States. The letter mentions Evansville, Ind. as his home town. I worked and lived in Evansville sometime back and might make a trip there soon. If I do I will attempt to locate some of his relatives and write to this person later.

60th Inf. 3 Bn Hq. Co.
ALTON BEEBE
1150 Riverside Dr.
Painesville, Ohio 44077

A few weeks ago my wife and I visited an old army buddy, Peter Timko and his family in Monongahela, Pa. Pete showed me several copies of the octofoil and told me about the reunions. I enjoyed reading the newspaper very much. I made the 1st initial landing at Port Lyauty on Nov. 1942 and fought in all the campaigns which ended in St. Lo. Am enclosing dues in the Association.

60th Inf. F Co.
JOSEPH SKERTICH
415 E 7th St.
Staunton, Ill. 62088

I am sending dues for the year. To all the fellows and wives that signed the card while they were in Nashville, Norma and I want to thank you very much and also wish them a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. Sorry we had to miss it. If all goes well we will be going to the next one. I hope I will be seeing all of you there. Sorry to hear about Roy, Les and Flake. Feeling good and have been doing a lot of hunting. Also was glad to hear from Elton Harrell.

1987 REUNION
CAMP HILL, PENN

B Co 15th Engrs
RICHARD MCGRATH
2856 W 8th St.
Chicago, Ill. 60652

It was another good Memorial at Worcester and if it is the last, I for one will be sorry. Thanks very much to Fran Maher for all his work in putting the Memorial together, also many thanks to the New England guys, such as Fred D'Amore, Tom Boyle, Ron Murphy and anyone else who did the work. They do more than is realized and don't get as much credit as they should. In the 1st edition of the Octofoil, I enjoyed Charlie Hoffmans write up about the campaign in Tunisia. I look forward to more of his recollections in future Octofoils. Hope there will be more mail call from the gang from B Co 15th Engrs. I am sorry to see that the Taps sounded column is getting larger. May we could make note at future reunions to memorialize those who have answered the last call. Along with those who made the supreme sacrifice during the war, our 4581 comrades that we will always remember, maybe we could find time for a roll call and a prayer for those who have joined Fr. Connors since our last reunion. Thanks to Dan Quinn who always keeps us laughing. I have noticed that the most popular people we have in the 9th are the ones that had us smiling when we met them and laughing when we parted. The likes of Dan Quinn, Lindsey Nelson and remember people like Fr. DeLaura and Fr. Connors. There is a great gift to make people laugh and were always generous with their time. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. On to another great event at Camp Hill and may we have another great get-together.

60th Inf
LES RONAY
18210 Sherman Way
Reseda, Ca. 91335

Just a few lines to say Hi and wish you both a very pleasant holiday.

Knowing how proficient you are I'm sure you had forwarded my check and request for the 87 convention booklet.

Will probably come into New York City for few days prior to the 23rd and make a short visit, if you know anyone who will be driving from the City to the convention let me know and just might make some arrangements for a ride and share the expenses, anyway hope to see you in Camp Hill.

Still enjoying California living, not doing much enough to keep me busy to help the days go by and enjoying being a grand-pa.

Very best regards to you both.

60th Inf. Hq. Co. Bn
HALVOR O. GJERDE
Box 1116
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Enclosed is my check for 3 more years dues. I have been a member of the 9th since it started back in Ingolstadt, Germany, so like to keep my membership up to date. I live in S.E. Alaska and one busy time is in the summer (I am a fisherman) and unable to attend a reunion. I want to wish all the members of the 9th a good reunion and the best of everything for the future.

Co E 47th Inf
JOSEPH W. HESENFUS
3570 Union Ave.
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Read with interest Sept.-Oct. issue. Pleased as punch to see Photo of Father DeLaura and Captain John Petty of Little Rock, Ark., I recall? or am I getting senile?? I'll never see 60 again. He was one hell of a man and Commanding Officer of Easy Company 47th Inf "Raiders". Always in lead! With M/1 rifle slung over his shoulder! Never forget when I signed in - he asked me if I had heavy weapons training. Sez yeh - at Ft. McClellan, Ala., said "we'll attack in the morning so teach these guys how to be machine gunners in my squad and other squad in 4th platoon. I said how do I do this in 10 hours what took me 17 weeks to learn. It was a bitch on wheels but they survived... Cap'n Petty respected by us all always - out in front - never at CP rear. When he needed a radio man and runner - no one broke their nose volunteering as he was out in front.

Plan to make the reunion - maybe see the Captain and buy him a drink, as he boggled my mind. Never forgot the day he had machine gun crews set up forward - Capt. Petty said zero between us and enemy. Who in the heck comes poppin out of the woods but Father DeLaura. I had my M1 zeroed on him. Thank God with pressure on trigger it did not go off!!!! Never forget the day Father DeLaura came poppin down the road with Hitler mustache with arm raised going Sieg Hiel! A real man. I too am a Catholic, Mothers name was Jane Malarkey. All my uncles Philly Cops and priests. Once asked Father DeLaura since I violated (age 18) commandment "thou shall not kill" if I buy the farm - do I get express elevator to hell? He said no. Never bothered to get any medals from the WW2 Krieg -due me. Till my daughter saw some literature on my desk -sez get em! I said why - she retorted for she and 2 grandsons so with her help - got em, except they also sent me a Bronze Star for gallant action?? Told daughter it was a mistake - never awarded to me so I sent it back and then some Colonel remailed it back to me stating - since I have the Combat Badge automatic, I checked it out at DAV Post in Woodbury, NJ who verified - yea O.K. So she and kids have it. I am having a problem with Vets Administration on medical treatment - they say lost my records on gun shot wounds can't treat me no more. I guess Pres. Reagan cut back? I get a compensation for my wounds since discharge. Was curious if any one else having these difficulties? Last time at VA for check up other guys getting more than me and they never heard a shot fired in anger over them.

I don't fault em or call em rear echelon as all served - I don't want a dime I made it. Lots of my buddies did not. At least I am alive and kicking so far and got back to meet my wife.

Trust you are in good health. Saw Art MacDougall at Northern Shipping and he looks like a million since he got out of the hospital.

Best regards to all.

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

THE OCTOFOIL

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Inf L Co
EDWIN BREWER
222 Park Ave. 5
Maryville, Mo. 64468

You are hearing again from the old man who lives in Jesse James' country, in Northwest Missouri. Enclosed is a check for 1987 dues and a little for the Memorial fund. Still think about the wonderful time in Nashville and seeing Herman Rahn, Adolph Wadalavage, Bob Robertson, Alvin "Pop" Heidebrecht, Jim and Beatrice Johnson, John and Louise Lewis, Mike Patti, Reed and Linda Vassar, Frank Crapanzano, Walter O'Keefe and forgive me for leaving out some other names. It was a joy to talk to them again. Want to tell you, Dan, it was a pleasure as we sat together on the bus, from the Radisson to the Grand Ole Opry, talking about past reunions, etc. Will not forget the Irish jig you did in the aisle at the end of the show, you entertained us for a few minutes. Wish you could have seen him, Marie, he was good! Happy Holidays to all.

39th Inf C Co
and
47th Inf Cannon Co
FRANK LORITO
RD 1, Box 283
Beach Lake, Pa. 18405

I realize this letter will be printed after the holidays, nevertheless I want to wish old buddies happy and healthy holidays. As for myself, I can't complain too much, considering the time of life I'm at. I feel pretty good except for my 2 broken down knees which are arthritic. For that condition I can thank 1 to the German 88 that got me the day the big breakthrough started and the other to an injury when I was an iron worker. I guess the fact that I later became a letter carrier and carried mail for almost 20 years in Floral Park, N.Y. didn't help the situation. I won't be able to play shortstop at the family picnic next year. Speaking of playing ball, I want to apologize to Joe Gravino for not coming to the B Co reunion after he was good enough to invite one of the enemy C Co men. Joe, at the time I was in the process of having a new house built and moving in to it. We got rid of the chalet we had on the hillside, too many steps and slopes for these old knees. We now have a little ranch house with 1 step. If all goes well this coming year, Florence and I hope to spend a few weeks traveling around Florida and then in June get to the reunion and hopefully see some of my buddies. I recently received a Christmas card from Capt. Sieminski and he mentioned that he would like to hear from other "cannoneers" and get their addresses. If any of you are interested get in touch with me and I will send you his address. Happy Holidays to all and hoping to see some buddies at the reunion.

39th Inf
MRS. KATHRYN M. EDGAR
984 Cross Country Dr., Ext.
Westerville, Ohio 43081

I enjoy reading the Octofoil and especially about the 39th. I would like to make a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of my husband, Lt. Col. Ralph G. Edgar.

39th Inf L Co
RAYMOND TUJAGUE
552 Latham Rd.
Mineola, N.Y. 11501

I am disappointed that the Annual Memorial Pilgrimage to Worcester, Mass. will be abolished. It is difficult for me to understand that our beloved Fr. Connors would want us to abandon this very special gathering.

We should not let this event of 42 years be forgotten. This is not only my sentiment but also that of many 9th Division men I spoke with. It not only allows us to pay homage to our heroes but also to keep the living of the 9th together.

Our New England Chapter should seriously consider the continuance of this event.

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

I am not sure but I believe it is about time for me to pay my dues. Since I do not want to find out the color of your red ink, I am sending them in for 1 year and the rest to go for the Memorial Fund in memory of all our buddies who have passed on and also the ones who are living. My regards to all the soldiers of the 9th division.

60th Inf E Co
EZRA CLARK
301 W. College St.
Narrows, Va. 24124

I enjoy receiving the Octofoil and read about the old buddies in the 9th, especially the ones in the 60th Inf E Co, and the ones I was with thru North Africa, France and Belgium. I was captured in Belgium. I'm sorry I haven't written sooner but I lost my wife this year and haven't been able to write very much. I would like to hear from all of my buddies and I will try to answer you. I heard from 2nd Lt Lawrence Emmerich. He was a nice guy to serve under. I wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ED SARNOCINSKI
246 Estate Dr., Camelot
Rehoboth, Del. 19971

Retired June 1st and celebrated 40 years of marriage to my lovely wife Helen on June 2nd. Can't remember a most joyous moment other than getting out of El Guettar! Also seeing all the buddies at the reunions. Would appreciate an item about new residence. In the process of moving, where did all the junk come from!



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