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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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### The Octofoil, March/April 1987

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 XLII Number 2

Mar-April 1987

## SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

By Dave Heller, Illinois Chapter

It is now more than 41 years since the Ninth Infantry Division Association was formed. At the present time our organization is doing very well. Most of our chapters are holding regular meetings and running active programs. A new chapter was recently formed in Florida. Attendance at the annual convention has been increasing in recent years. We are now in a good position financially, thanks to the sound judgment of our Board and our Officers in recent years.

Still, it is clear that our Association keeps changing. Every issue of the Octofoil reports the sad loss of more of our members. Our main charitable activity is still the Scholarship Fund which was originally formed to help the children of those who served with the Division. The Fund has just about run out of such children, and it has already started awarding scholarships to the grandchildren. Next would come great-grandchildren, and even more distant relatives, if this is what our members decide.

Many of us feel that the time has come to take a good look at our present status and to make some new plans for the future. For these reasons a Committee on the Future of the Association was appointed. Under the chairmanship of Emil Langer, the committee includes Lew Gray and myself. As a member of that committee I am now asking for the advice and help of all the members of the Association. Hard decisions like the ones that face us must have the best thinking of as many men as possible.

This article tries to raise a lot of the questions that should be considered. It gives very few answers. What I am hoping is that our members will start discussing them. Our chapters and individual members should begin to send their ideas to the committee so that it can write a final report which could be voted upon at a national convention. I am suggesting that we start by aiming for the 1987 Convention, even though we may find that action will have to be postponed until the 1988 Convention. No one wants to rush, but we don't have all the time in the world either.

### Why Was the Association Started?

We can start by taking a look at the purposes of the Association, as they are published in every issue of the Octofoil.

"This organization is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order:

- (1) to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades,
- (2) to preserve the esprit de corps of the division,
- (3) to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities, and
- (4) to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division"

At least two questions could be asked about this statement.

How well are we carrying out our original purposes?

Now, after 41 years, should we be making any changes in our original purposes?

### What Will Our Membership Be in the Future?

If the average age of our members is now 65, which is a reasonable guess, according to the standard tables on the average they could be expected to survive for another 17 years and reach 82 in 2002. About 29% of the American population survive to reach 85. For practical purposes we can therefore assume that the year of the last national convention would be between 2000 and 2010. The youngest possible member of the Association will be about 60 this year. (Born in 1927, he would have been 18 years old in 1945. If he lived to be 100, forty years from now, the year would be 2027.)

### SOME DECISIONS WE COULD MAKE

1) We could decide that our association will naturally end with the last active members. If this is our decision, it would make sense to use up the Association's money gradually as the membership declines. There are a lot of ways to do this. Here are just a few:

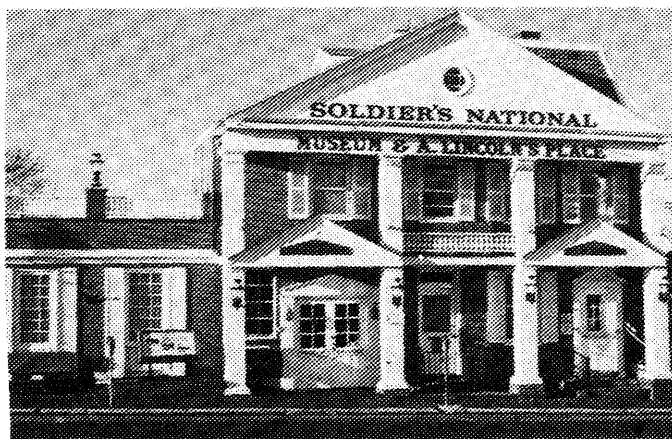
- The Association could start to pay part, or all, of the costs for members to attend our national conventions. (Not all of our members can afford to meet with us. Maybe we should be helping them. If we decide to do this, what would be the fairest and the best way to do it?)

- We could start to make national grants to make life better for the 9 Div men who are now patients in VA hospitals. (See NOTE below.)

- We could publish a directory of all of our members, past and present. (A simple directory would not cost very much, it could be easily prepared for us now by a computer company. If we decided to, however, we could make the directory more elaborate [and expensive] by including photographs and artwork. Is this something our members would really want?)

- We could make some other large expenditures in the near future. (For example, we might re-examine the possibility of building a major memorial monument. Or we could spend our money on something else. Any ideas?)

2) We Could Decide to Try to Continue the Association in Some Way. If we don't want the Association to die when we die, we would have to figure out how to continue it in some way after we are all gone. There are a number of things we could do. Here are a few examples:



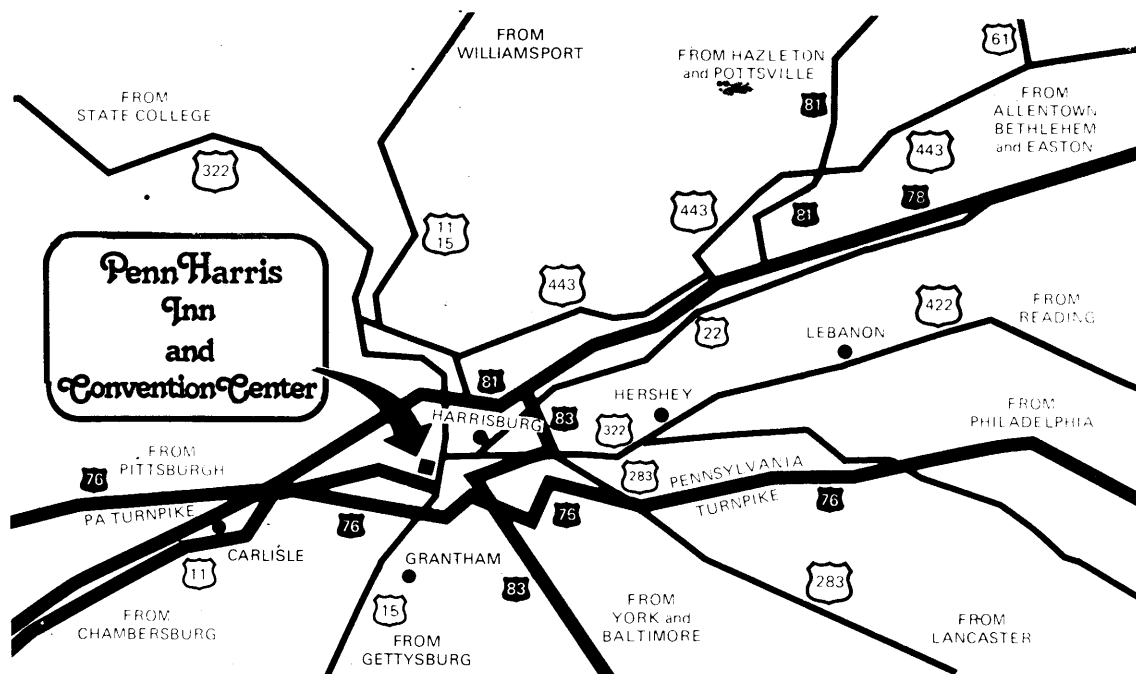
**SOLDIER'S NATIONAL MUSEUM AND A. LINCOLN'S PLACE** — "Showcase of the Civil War," displays 10 major battles of the Civil War with unbelievable realism and houses the largest private collection of battlefield relics in Gettysburg as well as a life-sized, narrated Confederate Encampment. Live performances by James A. Getty as Lincoln.

## Reunion Committee All Set

Art McDougall Chairman of the 1987 reunion committee announced that all is set for the Penn Harris Reunion with the naming of Colonel Martin Andresen as guest speaker for the Banquet to be held on Saturday night July 25th. Colonel Andresen is Deputy Director of the U.S. Army Military History Institute of the Carlisle Barracks. A graduate of USMA, West Point in 1965 and has served in Korea and Vietnam.

MacDougall announces that following the Memorial Service which will be held indoors in the Convention Center on Saturday morning July 25th, the members and guests will board buses to take a trip to Gettysburg and tour the Battlefield.

## Roads Leading to Reunion



### Reunion July 23, 24, 25th

#### LADIES CORNER

**LAST CALL!** If you have not sent in your \$5 deposit for the ladies' luncheon to Mrs. Phyllis Perna, 2642 S. Juniper St., Philadelphia, PA 19148, please do so promptly. The cut-off date for luncheon deposits is July 13, 1987. **DO NOT** include your deposit with your husband's reservations - the money must be handled separately as the balance of the luncheon cost will be paid for by the Auxiliary.

Our meeting will start at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 24. Please remember to bring your wrapped Pollyanna gifts (white elephants). They will be raffled off before we go to lunch. If you are not a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary, you may join during the meeting; our dues are only \$2 per year. Our meeting and luncheon are held at a time when our husbands are in a meeting. Join in and meet a great group of women.

Wanda M. Preston, Pres.  
Ladies' Auxiliary

### Directions to the Penn Harris Motor Inn and Convention Center

Rts. 11 & 15, Camp Hill Bypass  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(717) 763-7117

P.O. Box 2563, Harrisburg, PA 17105

#### When Traveling By Car

**From Philadelphia Area**  
West on Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) to Exit 17. North on US 15 for 6 miles.

**From New York**  
South on New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 6. West on Pennsylvania Turnpike to Exit 17. North on US 15 for 6 miles.

**From Pittsburgh and Points West**  
East on Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) to Exit 17. North on US 15 for 6 miles.

**From York, Baltimore and Washington**  
North on Interstate 83 to Pennsylvania Turnpike entrance 18. West on Turnpike to Exit 17. North on US 15 for 6 miles.

**From Hazleton, Pottsville, Upper NY State & Canada**  
South on Interstate 81. Exit 21 (Enola Exit). South on US 11 - 15 for 5½ miles. Turn right at 3rd light.

THE PENN HARRIS CONVENTION CENTER IS ABOUT 17 MILES AWAY FROM THE HARRISBURG AIRPORT. AIRLINES COMING INTO THE HARRISBURG AIRPORT ARE:

U.S. AIR  
TWA AIRLINES  
UNITED AIRLINES  
PIEDMONT HENSEN AIRLINES  
AMERICAN AIRLINES  
FLORIDA EXPRESS

Continued page 3

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

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

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

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

Copy must be received on or before the 15th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th.  
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Publication No. 402820

Volume XLII Number 2 Mar-April 1987

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 ☐  
Decals.....\$ .50 ☐  
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.

60th Inf. H Co.  
WILLIAM BRADY  
162 N. Dover  
La Grange, IL. 60525

Would like to hear from  
anyone from H Co. after the  
Rhine crossing.

47th Inf. M Co.  
ERVIN WALTERS  
RR 2 Box 24A  
Watkins, Mn. 55389

Enclosed find dues for 3  
years. I enjoy reading the Oc-  
tofoil. Sure brings back  
memories.

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 lodg-  
ing, 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 lodg-  
ing, 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

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund was  
enriched by these members and  
friends:  
We salute you.

John Thornton  
Byron A. Angell, Jr.  
Anthony Madonna  
Joseph Gravino  
Donald Muhlenbruch  
Eugene Cronin  
Frank Crapanzano  
Edward Drabik, Sr.  
John W. MacIndoe  
Louis Gershenow  
Francis Donahue  
Adam Yanulis  
Phillip Maresca  
Herbert Stern  
Howard Brooks (in memory of  
Dante Ciatti & Gil Mazzia)  
Lillian Batelli (Memory of hus-  
band, Michael)  
Milton Cordray  
Fred Scott  
J.C. Dawson  
George Hulka (in memory of  
Nicholas Schwartz)

Life of Doctor Copleman

A story on the life of Dr.  
Hyman Copleman is being writ-  
ten and members who can con-  
tribute material to the author  
are requested to do so and send  
it to the Secretary's office, 412  
Gregory Avenue, Weehawken,  
N.J. 07087. Dan will forward it  
to the proper channels. Doctor  
Copelman served with the 1st  
and 3rd Bn., 47th Infantry from  
1942 to 1945 before he transfer-  
red to the 9th Medics.

Hyman was a well known and  
respected Doctor and human  
being who spent his life aiding  
others. Before his death he was  
honored for 50 years of service  
to Rutgers College in New  
Jersey.

Reunion

All reservations will be made through  
the Penn Harris Convention Center and  
those attending will check at the Penn  
Harris to pick up their reservations.

Strip Tickets for Reunion will be Available

Those attending the affairs and will not be staying at  
the Convention Center the prices will be:

\$60.00 a person for 2 party nights and Banquet.  
\$15.00 a person for each party night.  
\$30.00 a person for the Banquet.

Those are people asking what the price will be if they do  
not stay at the Penn Harris and are bringing their own  
mobile homes which there is plenty of room to park them  
at the Penn Harris.

The prices are for 2 persons - \$241.00; 1 person - \$126.00.  
This would be for all meals and affairs.

Please send checks for the above prices if anybody is  
just attending the party nights you can get your tickets at  
the door. If just attending the Banquet please send check  
in the amount of \$30.00 this we have to have for our Ban-  
quet Count.

Send checks to: John Sabato, 2743 Snyder Avenue,  
Philadelphia, PA 19145.

These tickets will be picked up at the 9th Division  
Registration Table at the Penn Harris.

We will be using 2 places for the Reunion, the Penn  
Harris and the Holiday Inn, which is about 4 miles from  
the Penn Harris. There will be a shuttle service provided  
for the guests attending the reunion. All that are lodged at  
the Holiday Inn will be able to get their breakfast there.  
All dinners and party nights will be at the Penn Harris.  
The Banquet Room holds over 1,200 people which we feel  
is adequate.

Children's Prices

Children under 18 will be admitted to room free with  
parents.

12 yrs. to 18 yrs old  
3 Breakfasts \$17.25; 3 Dinners \$54.63; Total \$71.88.

12 yrs old and under  
3 Breakfasts \$10.35; 3 Dinners \$20.70; Total \$31.05.

Shuttle service provided from the Airport to the Penn  
Harris Convention Center. Telephone number for the  
Penn Harris is 1-800-772-PENN. From the Bus and Train  
Depot it is short distance and taxi service is available.



Continued from page 1

## Future of the Association

- We could decide to make contributions to historical research projects which collect materials and prepare books about World War II. (Such a project at the University of Tennessee was described at last year's national convention. Maybe we could wind up with a really complete history of the Division in World War II. Parts for such a book exist, but they have never been collected and edited.)

- We could make contributions to maintain and improve the small memorials to the men of the 9th Division which already exist in various places in the United States and in Europe. The first step would be to make an official list of them.

- We could decide to set up a permanent Scholarship Fund foundation for our descendants.

- We could sponsor some new organization such as "Descendants of 9th Division Soldiers in World War II."

- We could establish a permanent fund for veterans in hospitals.

- We could establish some other lasting project.

### 3) The Last Alternative Would Be to Do NOTHING Now.

In my opinion this would be the least desirable decision of all. If we don't do something now while we're all here and still reasonably competent, when will we do anything? (If we do nothing now, our Association could very likely wind up in the position of a rich man who dies without a will. The usual results in such cases are squabbles, law suits, and general unhappiness. Sometimes the people who finally wind up with the benefits are the last ones the man himself would have chosen.)

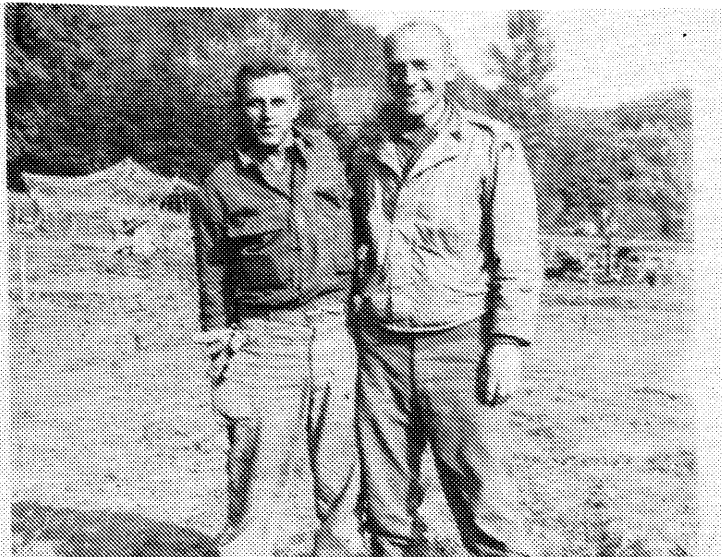
Anyway, these are at least some of the questions we ought to be thinking about. Please start talking with other members about the future of the 9th Division Association. Very likely you will come up with more ideas, better ones which just haven't occurred to us.

### NOTE: About 9th Division Veterans Now in VA Hospitals

Whether or not we decide to spend 9th Division Association funds for this purpose, right now our chapters ought to be trying to find and help the 9th Div veterans who are now in the hospitals. Some chapters may already be doing this (VA does not keep records of the units in which patients served, but they told us that there are now about 86,000 patients in the 172 VA hospitals, including general medical-surgical and neuropsychiatric facilities. It is estimated that more than half of them, or about 47,000 were in WWII. Altogether about 16,353,659 men served in WWII. About 60,000 of them, or 0.37% served in the 9th Division. If we use these figures to make an estimate, there may be as many as 175 9th Div veterans in the various VA hospitals at this time.) The best way to find them would be to get the help of the local service officers of the VFW, DVA, or American Legion, or similar organizations. We might have to get our own publicity into each hospital in some way. We should start with the veteran's magazines.)



Ralph DeForest, Hq 1st Bn 47th Inf supplies us with picture of some of the members of A&P Platoon. Shown l-r back row: Roborksi, Dymbronsky, DeForest. Bottom row: l-r: Potter, Tillman, unidentified and Wilkowski. The place - England? Story in Mail Call.



Curly Kremka shown on the right with buddy Andy Yankura of the 84th FA. Story appears in Mail Call. Like all guys called Curly it appears as though his curls are gone.

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

To all our "Beco" buddies and friends, greetings once again from Chambersburg, Pa.! Have you made your reservations for our 42nd annual reunion coming up July 23, 24, 25 which will be held at the Penn Harris Inn and Convention Center in Camp Hill, Pa.? Once again we remind you that this is a good location for our annual reunion. We have talked to people who have visited this site for other affairs and they speak highly of the Penn Harris Inn. Much to my surprise I have discovered that several former 9th men who live in our immediate area are planning to attend this reunion. 2 fellows are from the 39th, 1 from the 60th and 2 from the FA. Some of these fellows were not able to attend any of the past reunions. Since the Penn Harris is about an hours drive from Chambersburg and nearby points they are planning to attend the affairs of their choice, since they are not staying at the Penn Harris. Since writing our last column (Jan-Feb issue) I was expecting to hear from some of our "Beco" buddies pertaining to the reunion. Although you fellows haven't written, I am certain that most of you plan on coming. Our B Co group have always made it to most of the reunions and I'm sure our gang will be well represented once again. I would like to say that writing this column is not easy when we do not receive any correspondence. We like to be able to be interesting as well as informative for our Beco buddies. Most of you fellows are never at a loss for words when you "chew the fat" with each other at the reunion C.P.s.

We are delighted that the annual pilgrimage to Worcester, Mass will continue. This annual Memorial Mass and Service was a reverent gathering of Father Connors' family for the purpose of remembering all of our comrades who are no longer with us. Now our beloved Chaplain Father Connors is no longer with us. Let us make every effort to pay tribute to Father Connors and our honored dead by meeting at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, Mass., on Sunday Nov. 8, 1987. This is a non-denominational Mass at 10:30 A.M. for all members of the 9th division association followed by an outdoor memorial service and then back to the Sheraton Lincoln for dinner. Please keep in mind the Father Connors Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in making this a lasting tribute to Father Connors, you can send your contribution directly to Holy Cross College, Worcester, Ma. 01610 and your contribution should be marked Fr. Ed Connors Scholarship Fund. We sincerely hope that all our "Beco" buddies had a wonderful Easter. Our column could always use comments from our "Beco" buddies from time to time. We will be happy to incorporate your "newsy" information, ideas, etc. into our "B" (47th) column. To all our "Beco" buddies and their families and friends, keep well and enjoy yourselves to the fullest each and every day.

Pat J. Morano  
2208 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201  
and

Arthur J. Stenzel  
8705 Village Mill Row  
Bayonet Point, FL. 33567

If you must carry a chip on your shoulder get a job in a lumber yard where it won't be noticed.



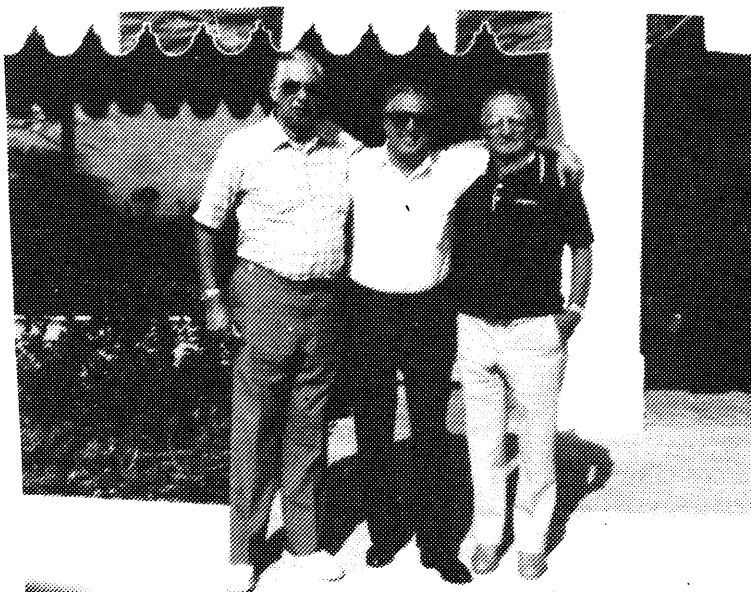
Hank Rauch sends picture taken in Elsenborn, German called "Buzz Bomb Alley." Some of the men of Company D 9th Med's - are pictured two weeks before house was destroyed (they had left). Shown are Gorny, Rauch, Fogg, Greco, Rybalec, Wagner, Friel. Others unidentified.



John Kimmerle sends this photo of left to right Don Anthony, Ohio, John, Florida, Bill Spencer, New York and George (Rocky) Merz, Jersey City, N.J. all of Service Co., 47th Inf., taken somewhere in Sicily? Story in Mail Call.



Alex Smith of Co D 60th Inf sends this pic of Charles Walker, Alex and Dewey Allen taken in Germany 1945? Story appears in Mail Call.



Jack Kargir of Brookline, Mass. and formerly of the 84th FA sends this photo taken in West Palm Beach, Florida this past March. Shown with Jack are l-r: Jack, Terry Terracola and Albert Phenix. Story appears in Mail Call.

60th Inf.  
LLOYD ANDERSON  
939 S. Ohio  
Salina, KS. 67401

Find check enclosed for 3 years dues. The 9th has the best paper out that I've seen yet!

\*\*\*

60th Inf G Co  
WILLIAM BONSALL  
345 Elmhurst  
Morgantown, W. VA. 26505

Enclosed are my dues for the coming year. I hope to be able to make the reunion at Camp Hill.

## Part Two REPLACEMENT

by Charles Silliman

John Caughey supplied us with this story written by Lt. Charles Silliman a former member of Company L 47th Infantry who wrote the story while recovering from his wounds at Valley Forge Hospital. The story appeared in the July 1945 issue of the now defunct Saturday evening Post. Caughey writes that the names were changed but claims the officer with the big red moustache is General Clayman (then Bn Commander and a Lt. Col of the 3rd Bn 47th Inf), Sgt Fairchild is Ed Hothschild the 1st Sgt of Company L 47th, Sgt Weston had to be Sgt. Wesley.

Lt. Silliman was a replacement officer. Would he make good? Rushed into action as a leader of battle-seasoned men, the green young officer faced the toughest test of his life. The last edition ended with Lt. Silliman arriving as a replacement and being assigned to Company L 47th Infantry by the Battalion Commander. It was in France (1944) when he met Company L's commanding officer and was being introduced to the staff of the company in a French farmhouse.....

I wondered how they felt toward us or whether they felt anything. You couldn't tell; their eyes weren't hostile, but they weren't friendly. They accepted you, but they were indifferent.

The captain introduced us and we stood around uneasily. Then the officer named Lester said, "Any dope from the old man about how long we're going to be here?"

"He doesn't know yet. He's going to let us know tonight."

A man came in the door with a bag of mail and, without a word, set it on the floor. Suddenly, men seemed to come from everywhere, all talking excitedly.

The man sitting on the steps lifted his face from his hands and called loudly, "If you don't all get out of here and get back to your holes, none of you will get any mail! Where do you think we are, anyway?"

Men mumbled under their breaths and slowly backed out of the house. The mailman sorted out the mail by platoons and handed a juicy stack to one man sent in from each platoon.

The captain gestured to the man on the steps and said, "That's Sergeant Fairchild, the first sergeant."

I looked at him with some surprise, as he wore no rank at all. Nobody did up at the front, I learned — that is, where you could see it.

The captain must have sensed my surprise, for he added, "You'd better take those bars off your shoulders, lieutenant. Snipers, you know. Lester and I just wear them on our collars. Most of the sergeants don't wear any stripes at all. And, incidentally, it might be a good idea, when you get to your platoon, to tell them to call you just by your last name or your first. Most of the jerries can understand English." He took off his helmet and scratched his head.

"Let's see. Are most of the platoon sergeants here now?"

Sergeant Fairchild looked at the group of men outside the door. "There's Weston and Trumbauer," he said. "Just a minute." He rose wearily and went over to the door and yelled, "Hey, Kreech! Run down and send up all the platoon sergeants, will you?" Then he returned to his seat on the steps and sat down and put his head in his hands again.



Brig. Gen. Donald C. Clayman (then a Lt. Colonel) is shown right foreground as he checks a map. On his left an officer with his back to the camera and not identified, Maj. Gen. George Smythe (then a Colonel) and General Eddy of the Ninth Infantry. The photo is dated August 13, 1944 - the place Beauvain, France.

The captain spoke again to us. He didn't look at us. He didn't look at anyone, I noticed — just a glance and then he'd look away. "Might as well introduce you to your platoon sergeants now, so you can go back with them and get your foxholes dug before it gets dark. No telling what may happen tonight." He went over to the mantelshelf and took down a map. "While we're waiting for the platoon sergeants to come, I'll orient you."

He spread the map out on the table and we looked over his shoulder. He pointed to a road marked by a dark line on the map.

"That's the road we just walked up," he said, "and here's the house we're in now." He pointed to a little rectangle. Then he ran his finger along the road past a couple more rectangles into a patch of green which represented woods.

"This woods is about a hundred yards up the road," he said. "The first platoon is along the edge of that woods. On the right of it is a high hill" — shown by circular brown lines on more green — "I've got the second and third platoons deployed up there on our flank. As far as we know, there are no units on our right. Therefore, if we get a counterattack tonight, it will most likely come from that direction. K Company is on our left, tied in with our first platoon, and beyond them the first battalion is supposed to be moving up, to get on line with us." He pointed to a little open spot just this side of the woods. "My Sixties are set up in there."

While he was talking, his words raced through my mind: open right flank ... counterattack ... 60's in the little open spot this side of the woods. Mortars were my speciality; I'd have to get to know that little open spot.

The captain went on talking. "Jerry's somewhere out there." He pointed to the area outside our positions. Then he straightened up and sighed. "That's all we know."

"One question, captain?" I asked. "How've you been firing your mortars?"

He ran his fingers through his black hair and sighed again. "Well, lieutenant, to be perfectly frank with you, we haven't been having too much luck with our mortars. The procedure has been to attach them individually to platoons, but Lester and I have been talking it over with Weston, the mortar sergeant, and we think it would be better if we fired them in battery." He paused a minute, glanced at me and glanced away, and said, "I understand you've had some experience with mortars. That right?"

"Yes, sir," I replied. "A little."

"Well, I'm going to put you with the weapons platoon. You can try firing them in battery, and let me know how it works out. Incidentally, the colonel likes his mortars and uses them all the time, so you'll have your hands full."

"Yes, sir," I said, and grinned awkwardly. There was a commotion at the door, and four soldiers ambled in, whom I presumed to be the platoon sergeants. They were very dirty and had a few days' growth of beard on their faces. One of them had a very black mustache. Their uniforms were almost white with dust, and their collars and necks were black with grime. They all carried carbines. They assorted themselves about the room.

One of them went over and sat down beside Sergeant Fairchild on the steps, and asked, "What's the matter, sarge?"

The sergeant raised his head from his hands, looked at the man beside him and then resumed his first posture.

The captain swept the four men with his gaze, lifted his right leg and placed his foot on one of the chairs. He leaned forward with his elbow on his knee.

"Here's the situation as it stands. I think we're to be here for the night. I want fifty per cent of the men awake. First battalion is on our left, and, as far as I know, nobody but Jerry is on our right and front. The old man didn't tell me this, but I'm telling you — you can expect anything tonight, even a counterattack." He indicated us. "These are two new officers. I'm putting one with the weapons platoon and one with the second." He turned to me and said, "The little fellow over there with the black mustache is Sergeant Weston, of the weapons platoon."

The sergeant grinned and stuck out his hand. I shook it.

The platoon sergeants started filing out of the room. Sergeant Weston offered me a cigarette as we turned to the door.

"Thanks. I've got one of my own," I said, but he insisted that I take one of his. He lit a match and held it for me, and I noticed that his hand shook badly. Our eyes met for a long minute; then he lowered his to light his own cigarette.

"You've been with the outfit a long time?" I asked.

He took a steady drag on his cigarette, blew out the smoke with a sigh and smiled faintly.

"Ever since I left the States, almost two years ago. Made the landing in Africa, went through Tunisia, landed in Sicily, fought through those hills, landed in Normandy a few days after D day. We cut the Cherbourg

Peninsula, captured Cherbourg, and now here I am, still going. Yes," he added as an afterthought, staring out the door at the distant horizon where the sun was going down, "I've been with the outfit a long time." Then he looked at me. "How about you, lieutenant? How long have you been in?"

"Little over a year. Graduated from OCS last December; then I was assigned to a unit training in the States. They put me on the battalion staff as S-Three. All I did was make up training schedules. Then they broke us up. Sent us all out as replacements." I hesitated. Then I said uncertainly; "I never had any real experience with troops. All I know about the infantry is what I had in school and what they taught us in basic."

There was a slight pause. Then he said, with a friendly smile, "Come on and I'll show you where the platoon is and introduce you to some of the boys. Then you can pick a spot and dig your own foxhole."

We walked out of the house and up the road a little ways; then we turned off and started for the woods. It was very quiet now. All the men had gone back to their positions. The sun had gone down over the trees and night was descending rapidly.

"It's about time for the shelling to start," the sergeant said. "It always does about this time of night."

"You mean the Germans — Jerry?" I asked innocently.

"Both," he replied. "Theirs and ours."

Almost as if he had ordered it, there was a shrill whine in the air. I started to duck nervously. The sergeant kept on walking.

"That's one of ours," he said, not paying any attention to me. "It's going right over our heads. When they sound like that, you don't have to worry about them. It's when they get louder and louder, you start taking cover."

The shell crashed somewhere far to the front of us. Then, like the beating of a big brass drum, many guns opened up to our rear: "Boom! Boom! Boom!" A pause, then: "Boom! Boom! Boom!" again. We could hear shells whine overhead, one after another, then the explosions as they hit in front of us, and dimly, above the sound of the explosions, the guns could be heard still going off: "Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!" Suddenly, above the shrill whistle of our shells, I heard a more strident sound. It was getting louder. I glanced quickly at the sergeant; he was on his way toward the ground. I think I got there a full ten seconds before he did. The shell exploded in a field across the road. Shrapnel sang through the trees. Then all was quiet again. The sergeant looked over at me and grinned from ear to ear.

"Now you are getting the idea, lieutenant."

I grinned back, but this time I didn't feel awkward. It was sort of a feeling of relief. I knew the sergeant understood about me and, more than that, I felt that somewhere in the last few minutes he had become my friend.

"Come on," he said, getting to his feet. "It's not much farther, and there'll be more of those. I guess you'd better sleep with me tonight. You won't have time to dig a hole, and I've got a fairly big one."

We walked rapidly on and soon came to the edge of a clearing. There were a few small trees in the center of it. On the right was a high bank, at the top of which were more trees, and above that rose a very steep hill. Along the edge of the bank and just in the shelter of the trees, I saw a man sitting on the edge of a foxhole, eating out of a C-ration can. As we got closer, I could see more foxholes in a zigzag line among the trees, with the men putting camouflage over them, and some had even piled sticks over the top and dirt on top of that. The sergeant pointed to the clearing, which had two or three scattered trees in the center of it. The three mortars were down there, he said. I looked and couldn't see a thing.

He must have understood, for he said, "We've got them pretty well camouflaged, even to the ammo, which has the correct charge on it, pins pulled and all ready to be dropped down the barrel of the mortar. I'll take you down later to look at them. The men are all dug in around here to be near the guns," and he pointed to the holes.

We walked over to the man eating from the can.

Weston said, "Biggs, this is our new lieutenant." Then he explained to me, "Sergeant Biggs has the first squad."

Sergeant Biggs stood up and shook my hand. He was a nice looking fellow, short, with a serious face, and I guess about twenty-three years of age.

"Where is Mills?" Weston asked.

Biggs turned his head and called, "Hey, Mills, come here a minute, will you?"

A tall blond-headed youth of about nineteen sauntered over. He talked with a Midwestern drawl.

"Whatcha want, sarge?" he asked.

Weston introduced me to him, saying, "Mills is our wire man." Then, to Mills, he said, "Did you get that wire laid up to the first platoon? Also up on the hill to the second platoon?"

"Shore did, sarge," he replied lazily. "As a matter of fact, just got back."

Continued next issue



The town of Schevenhutte, Germany shelled frequently by the Germans in an attempt to dislodge the 47th Infantry (2nd and 3rd Bn's) from their positions. Sept-Oct-Nov 1944.



# mail call

**39th Inf**  
**REV ROBERT CURTIS**  
 Ave Maria Convalescent  
 Hospital  
 PO Box 1977  
 Monterey, Ca. 93942

Saw in the last issue that they would have the Memorial Service in Worcester this November . . . as we did in the past.

Am at the other end of the country, but will try my best to be there for the occasion. A wonderful memorial to Fr. Connors and the rest who put their lives on the line.

Saw Col. Bond twice in the past down in Tennessee. Looks fine . . . quite a few birthdays . . . mind seems very clear and just as kind as he was years ago in the 39th Infantry . . . I never worked for a better boss.

In Texas I stop in and see Erwin Marek . . . once my driver in the 39th . . . lives in Schulenberg, Texas on his farm. In Florida . . . I see Sam Miceli . . . also from the 39th . . . retired in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida. I have many pleasant memories of their friendship.

After Easter I hope to start out visiting once more. This time via the northern route . . . Seattle . . . then east . . . Toledo for my 51st anniversary as a priest and most of the next three months visiting quite a large and scattered group of friends of other days . . . Please pray that I travel safely and do some good as I go.

My Mass each Sunday, wherever I am, is always for our families both the living and the dead. Hope God takes good care of all of you.

Best wishes,  
 PS Present plans are to be at the Reunion this July. Would be happy to be a part of the memorial service there. Was impressed by the one we had at Ft. Bragg a few years ago.

**9th Recon**  
**BOB LYNCH**  
 2103 11th St  
 Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

First of all, congratulations on another fine reunion at Nashville, with one exception, another foul-up with the golf tournament, which I hope will be better organized at Camp Hill.

We wish to inform all members of the old 9th. Recon. that we will hold a Recon. mini-reunion at the national reunion. Nick Capobianco and Jim Harner are working on recruiting those Recon. people living in the east to attend and at this time had firm commitments from nine, while I am contacting those here in the midwest and know of three. Jim Egan, Charles Neal and myself will attend and have hopes of word from Vic Zotta, Arnold Ronnfeldt and Merle Rath.

To all other old cavalry troopers, "Recon. Reunion, Camp Hill, 87"

I recently learned that Oscar Rosenberger and Leroy Wires passed away last year, two good Recon. men that did their duty and are hopefully receiving their just reward.

**47th Inf. A Co.**  
**EDDIE BLECK**  
 16870 Bardbury Ave.  
 Middleburg Hts. Ohio 44130

I want to thank all the officers of the Association past and present for keeping this wonderful organization together. I enjoy reading about all you wonderful guys of the 9th. I keep looking for a Co. A 47th buddy to write to but very seldom that happens. Where are you guys? I want to thank the Octofoil for getting me in touch with my old Exec Officer Larry McLaughlin, it sure was nice to hear that cheerful voice again.

**9th Signal**  
**RAYMOND CONNOLLY**  
 11 Dunstable Rd.  
 Vincentown, N.J. 08088

We have made our deposit at Camp Hill and are awaiting conformation. While vacationing in Florida in March we called and visited a former signal company man and his wife whom we had seen for over 30 years. Temple and Florence Stafford would have liked us to stay but time interfered. Another signal company member, Bill Miller of Wilmington, Del., has been in touch with me and expects to be at Camp Hill also. I have a lot of friends in the Philadelphia area (my hometown) who I look forward to seeing again. Will get in touch with John Sabato and Nick D'Agostino in the near future. Regards to all

**60th Inf M Co.**  
**WILFRED THORNTON**  
 515 E. Dubail St.  
 Sound Bend, Ind. 46613

Just a note to let my buddies of M Co know that Doug Ackerman passed away in Feb. He had suffered with cancer for several years and was at our M Co reunion in '85 in Wisconsin. I was unable to attend our M Co reunion in June because of colon surgery. I was in the hospital during the time the reunion was taking place. That was followed by a blood clot in my right leg, then in Aug. to Sept. I took 25 radiation treatments and as of now I have a clean bill of health. Thank the Lord for that! My wife and I will be unable to attend the M Co reunion in Mobile this year because of health problems with my mother in law, she is 88 and needs care 24 hours a day. I hope they have a great reunion in Mobile and plan to see them all another year. I have heard from a few Ft. Bragg buddies this past year. Dave Alberts and Ernie Chandler. Chandler was my first squad leader and we started out in tent city before our barracks were completed. They both live in Illinois and maybe I can get to see them sometimes this summer. Good luck and good health to all my buddies.

**47th Inf. F. Co.**  
**PHIL MARESCA**  
 Erica Dr.  
 Saylorsburg, Pa. 18353

How are you, and all my buddies from the ninth division.

Say hello to my buddy Vince (Guggie). I am glad to see he is the Vice President.

I have moved from Clinton, N.Y. to the above address in Pennsylvania.

This is the third time I have moved in eighteen months. It's not because I am getting kicked out of all these places.

I have sold my home in Bedminster, N.J. and have built another one here in Pennsy.

We are only here 1 month. So you see I have a lot of work getting settled again.

I see you made the front page of the Octofoil with President Carlos Esteva and Father Robert Curtis.

Enclosed is my check for 1987 dues and donation for the Memorial Fund.

I hope to see you and all the buddies at Camp Hill in July.

P.S. Don't forget to change my address to the above, as I will be looking for the Octofoil. Thank you,

**60th Inf AT Co**  
**FRANK CRAPANZANO**  
 4 Orchard Sq.  
 Caldwell, N.J. 07006

Am planning on being at Camp Hill and hope to see you and a lot of others. I want to thank my buddy Herman Rahn for always thinking of me and mentioning me in the Octofoil. Was sorry to read that James and Beatrice Johnson may not be there. Will miss them.

**47th Inf E Co**  
**ORVILLE PHELPS**  
 2780 Piney Grove  
 Somerset, Ky. 42501

I'm still reading the mail call in the Octofoil hoping to recognize someone from E Co. So far I have had contact with 3 members. Bill Larson who was company commander during my time with the 9th, that was from North Africa to France, where I was wounded bringing my service with E Co to a close, 25th of June 1944. I also had a letter from finance officer, James Leopold and former machine gunner, Walter O'Keefe, who was a squad leader in the 4th platoon, E Co. Sure was nice to hear from these three and to know some are still around. We had some good times and some that were not so good while serving with the 9th. If there are anymore of the old reliables of E Co I would like to have a letter from you and promise to answer fast. Best regards.

**47th Inf Co C.**  
**HOWARD BROOKS**  
 PO Box 141  
 S. Harpswell, Me. 04079

The Jan. - Feb. issue of The OCTOFOIL 'made me see red'. My dues are due! Always a sobering thought. More sobering, was to read that Dante Ciatti had passed away. I spoke with Dante, on the phone, just before last Christmas, and while he didn't sound well, I had no inkling that he was as ill as he evidently was at that time. I have written to his wife and family, of my sadness at his passing. I knew him from the time he joined the company, and after we were discharged we kept in touch.

Along with my dues for 1987, I am also sending you a contribution to the Memorial Fund, in memory of Dante, and also Gil Mazzia, my outstanding company clerk, in Europe, a friend and buddy, whom I shall always remember with affection and gratitude.

The ranks thin as the years pass, but most of us realize that we have been living on 'borrowed time,' especially those who returned from the major campaigns in Africa, Sicily and continental Europe, relatively unscathed, physically and mentally. Why we should have been the lucky ones is not for me to be able to explain. I'm just thankful, and grateful.

Thanks again for continuing to make The OCTOFOIL a source of information about those who made our war-time, shared experience something most of us regard as the most rewarding and memorable time in our lives.

**60th Inf**  
**WYETT COLCLASURE**  
 RR.  
 Kinmundy, Il. 62854

Another 60th faithful joined the ranks of the silent army, Col. Charles T. Fort, and long-time regimental s-3, died 14 Mar. 1987. Charlie joined the 60th Inf in Dec. 1940 as a 1st Lt. and continued with the regiment until being wounded in Belgium. He looked forward to renewing friendships at the reunions. His widow's address is 111 Granada Ct., Winston Salem, N.C. 27105. Let's close ranks and treasure our memories. See you at the reunion.

**39th Inf**  
**WM. C. TERMINI**  
 2716 Turnagin Pkwy  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99517

I had to move back to Alaska after 3 months in Louisiana. Four operations needed forced me to come back. I'm doing OK now. Please note my new address. Thanks and good luck to all.

**M.P. Platoon**  
**PRESTON STILLINGS**  
 Rt. Box 2BF  
 Daphne, Ala. 36526

Recently I found a copy of Ernie Pyle's book "Brave Men" in our local library. There was no record of it ever having been checked out. The librarian was a friend of mine so I asked her if she would consider selling me the book. I gave a dollar donation to the library. I met Ernie Pyle somewhere in Normandy when he was attached to the 9th. He describes the St Lo bombing as an eye witness, as so many of us were, the capture of Cherbourg and so many other events before we got there. He mentions Lindsey Nelson and Gen. Eddy often. I am sure this book is out of print, but the local library or a used book store may have one. It is a book worth having. The following are some names that he mentions from the 9th: Lt. Orion Shockley, Lt. Lawrence McLaughlin, Sgt. Joseph Palajsa, Pvt. Arthur Greene, Pvt. Dick Medici, Lt. James Giles, Pvt. Arthur Slagetter, Pvt. Robert Edie, Pvt. Ben Rienzi, Sgt. Robert Hamilton, Sgt. Joe Metscavage, Cpl. Martin Kennelly, Sgt. L. Wortham.

**47th Inf. M Co.**  
**JOHN KNIGHT**  
 65 Yorktowne Rd.  
 Mountaintop, Pa. 18707

The Octofoil gets better with age. I am sending you a direct quote from an ex M Co. 47th Inf. Machine gunner, Dewey Sidons from Sandy-hock, Va. I enjoyed it very much and I know Red Phillips will also. See you at Camp Hill.

"Jack, do you remember getting pinned down by machine gun fire during the push for Bizerte? This was just before the ending of the North African campaign. We were moving up when a Kraut machine gun opened fire, we, along with the rifle platoon were pinned down. The German machine gun was located about 400 yds. to our front. I could see the smoke. We went into action with our 30 cal. M.G. I gave them about 100 rounds, the Krauts ceased fire. They abandoned their gun, 2 ran across the field. Our Lt. pulled his 45 and started firing at them. His aim was about 250 yds. short of target. I really got a kick out of that. Anyhow we overtook the m.g. position, the German crew long gone but the sauerkraut was still cooking. We then moved out, got pinned down again by another m.g., we finally made it to the crest of the hill and dug in (deep). Later I went down the hill to get the squad drinking water, on the way back I was again machine gunned. The Krauts were cutting grass, just above my a\_\_\_. (backside). Man, did I keep it down! I finally got back to the emplacement when off to our far left came a tiger tank, the 88 was looking down my throat. I kept watching it, but it never fired. Then after an eternity, they moved on. Jack, it wasn't funny positioned behind a 30 cal. water cooled m.g. looking down the wrong end of a Jerry 88. We then moved on to the outskirts of Bizerte and after that it was all over for Rommel's African Corp. For us, it was the beginning of the Sicilian Campaign."

**15th Engrs Co A**  
**HUGH SLUSHER**  
 3431 Ashmeade Dr. S.W.  
 Roanoke, Va. 24018

I was a member of the 15th engrs from Dec. 1941 to Aug. 1945 and was once a member of the association but let my membership expire so I would like to reinstate myself. Enclosed is my check.

## HELP

Have a comrade in distress. Seeking anyone who served in France and Germany with Delbert Prophet to substantiate claim. Delbert was with the 39th Inf Co B., 1944 to 1945.

Yvonne Prophet  
 Gen Del  
 Buffalo, Oklahoma

**39th Inf. M Co.**  
**CHARLES GILL**  
 434 Old Trail  
 Baltimore, Md. 21812

It's been quite awhile since my last note to you and the Octofoil but after going over last issue, I find 39th Regt. needing more response. I noted somewhere that the 39th is a training outfit at Ft. Dix. Thought this strange. Also noted but not surprised that the "last Call" list keeps getting longer.

After 67 years I finally hung 'em up and about a week later felt I made a mistake, because they took me off to St. Joe's hospital with a mild heart attack. I had one of these 10 years ago, same kind and thus another warning. As if this wasn't enough, my wife Cass came up with Mr. "C" but fortunately she is responding nicely to treatment. Noted that Bill Termini has problems down that path. He was an officer in Co. M. 39th and an excellent one also. Terribly sorry we had to give up Father Ed. but am sure he is watching over us from above.

Best of health to you, your family and to all the families and friends of the 9th Division.

**60th Inf.**  
**JOHN MACINDOE**  
 1806 N. Hancock St.  
 Arlington, Va. 22201

Thanks to the prodding of John Alley, here is my check for a three-year membership and something for the Memorial Scholarship Fund.

I started out as S3 of the 1st battalion of the 60th and after the Hurtgen campaign, I took command of A Company which I had until the end of the war. When General Westmoreland came down to command the regiment, I became his S3. I held that job until late 1945 when I took command of the 3rd battalion. Later I moved to be assistant G3 in Division headquarters and stayed there until the Division folded in early 1947. I have kept in touch with a few old chums like Jack Coulter who was S4 while I was S3 of the 60th, Tom Maskin, my old Exec, Dick Vestecka of D Company and Travis Muirhead who was my first sergeant in A Company. Travis was with the FBI in Oklahoma until he retired a couple of years ago. He died last summer of cancer.

I'm sorry that I will not be able to attend the reunion this summer but at that time I will be in the Canadian Rockies. Maybe I can get to the next one.

**47th Inf. 3rd Bn Med Det**  
**ERNEST LONG**  
 517 Bayfair Dr.  
 Bay Village, Ohio 44140

Discovered I had better send in my dues before I get the red tag. Martha and I will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary Apr. 25th. We would like to attend another reunion but I don't think we could take the pace. We do jump in a plan and fly to Atlantic City for a day. I look forward to receiving the Octofoil. We hope that you and the rest are enjoying good health.

## July 23-25 Reunion in Pennsy

It's not good for your health to think of yourself too much...you might die laughing.

**Deadline for next issue will be July 20th**

## 1987 REUNION PROGRAM

THURSDAY - JULY 23, 1987

REGISTRATION - 10:00 AM ALL DAY  
GOLF OUTING  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING - 4:00 PM  
OPENING NITE RECEPTION - 9:00 PM to 12:00

FRIDAY - JULY 24, 1987

REGISTRATION - 10:00 AM ALL DAY  
BUSINESS MEETINGS - 10:00 AM  
GENERAL MEETING - 11:00 AM  
LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING & SOCIAL - 10:00 AM  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING - 3:00 PM  
PARTY NITE - 9:00 PM to 12:00

SATURDAY - JULY 25, 1986

REGISTRATION - 10:00 AM ALL DAY  
MEMORIAL MASS - 8:30 AM  
MEMORIAL CEREMONY - 10:00 AM  
EVENING MASS — 4:30 PM  
BANQUET - 7:00 PM

60th Inf D Co  
ALEXANDER SMITH  
10 S Rogosin St  
E. Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Would like to say hello to all the guys of the 9th Division, especially those of D. Company 60th Infantry. I had some very dear friends in Dog Company and would love to hear from all of them. Here are listed some names and a picture of Charles T. Walker (Pop), myself and Sgt. Dewey L. Allen. Some of the others are James P. Tayloy, Nashville, Tenn.; Earl C. Ray, E. Detroit, Michigan; George Klasnja, Chicago, Ill.; Melvin A. Cagle, Travelers Rest, South Carolina; T. H. Mullin (Pee Wee), Augusta, Kansas; Vernon Carman, Casper, Wyoming; John W. Ansley, East Point, Georgia; Howard E. Laeschen, Boon, Iowa. To you guys a special hello. To anyone who would like to write me, my address is: Alexander Smith, 10 South Rogosin Street, East Rockingham, North Carolina 28379. Phone # (919) 895-2554.

My wife Virginia enjoys reading the Octofoil News as much as I enjoy it. Thanks for the good work you are doing, and please put this in mail call if you possibly can.

39th Inf I Co  
J.C. DAWSON  
BOX 622  
Decatur, Tx. 76234

Enclosed find dues for three years. My wife and I enjoy reading the Octofoil and I also look to see if anyone from my company has written a letter.

Three years ago, Sgt. Nick called me. We thought each other had died in 1945. He remembered leaving me after I was hit on Jan. 30, 1945. I've recently received copies of medical records and included was the company morning report of I Co 39th Inf. Listed as our station that morning was 3 mi. W. of Kalterburg, Germany. Listed as dropped in line of duty that day was 1st Lt. Florence S. Hall, Pfc Carl M. Babcock, Pfc J.C. Dawson, Pfc Walter (N.M.N.) Bykowski, Pfc Robert (N.M.N.) Sagaresa.

I would like to hear from any of our old company. Through the years I've kept in touch with the boy that shared my foxhole. He lives at Bogota, Tx and his name is Adrian H. Mayes. He had been sent back with trench feet when I was wounded, and never went back to the company. They reassigned him to the M.P.'s. Keep up the good work.

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.

39th Inf Hq Co 2nd Bn  
RALPH CARCI  
608 West C St  
Brunswick, Md. 21716

Just a few lines to let you know we have moved and want to give you our new address. We decided to move out of the Washington area and instead of moving south we went a little further north and west of Washington. It's a nice little town between Frederick, Md and Leesburg, Va. It also puts us a little closer to our 2 sons and their families.

We hope you had a good winter and missed seeing you in Worcester, but my mother in law had a massive stroke and passed away that weekend. I guess this will be all for awhile and hope that you and your family are well and may God bless all of you.

60th Inf F Co  
CHARLES FUSNER  
6700 Marcus Ave  
Orlando, Fl. 32809

I had hoped to go to the 1987 reunion but since my wife has a broken hip I doubt if we can now make it. Maybe next year.

9th Pers. Sec.  
TED CURRY  
507 Cherry St  
Punxsutawney, Pa. 15767

Since I find that I am addressed in "Tell-Tale Red Ink" I think that I'll change the color by enclosing my dues for the next three years. Check covering same is enclosed.

In the Jan-Feb. issue of the Octofoil, I was happy to see a letter from a friend and about whom I have been wondering for many years, namely, John M. Alley. I'll be able to contact now and possibly arrange to see him at the Reunion. Publishing these letters is one of the excellent features of the Octofoil.

In closing, I am looking forward to Camp Hill and the Reunion.

## HELP

47th Inf  
W.M. LYNCH  
415 E. Main St.  
Richardson, Tx. 75081

Staff Sgt. Lee J. Mauldin of the Co H 60th Inf. went into the line at St. Lo as a Pfc. He was killed October 13, 1944 in the Hurtgen Forest. I am asking for information from anyone who might have met or served with Sgt. Mauldin or knew details of his death.

I served during the same period, but in the 47th Inf. Sgt. Mauldin and I were dear friends.

If you are moving or have a change of address please let us know.

60th Inf G Co  
Albert Reese, Jr.  
105 Urban Dr  
Lancaster, Pa. 17603

I expect to be at the reunion as I only live about 45 minutes away and will commute. I would be interested in hearing from members of the division softball team that was organized after the war in Ingolstadt. I assisted Lt. Col. Brill in organizing the athletic program and special events for the division.

I am retired after serving 35 years as community recreation coordinator for the city of Lancaster. I would be happy to help on tour to Lancaster, Pa., Dutch country.

39th Inf B Co  
JOSEPH GRAVINO  
10 Center St  
Macedon, N.Y. 14502

I have been in touch with Co B members and expect about 33 members and guests to be at the reunion. Looking forward to July.

15 Engrs  
EDWARD KUKLEWICZ  
13412 Accent Way  
Germantown, MD 20874

Enclosed are my dues. I am planning to be at Camp Hill for the reunion and hope to see many of my friends there.

15th Engrs Bn  
KEN NIECE  
1130 N.E. 106th Ave.  
Portland, Ore. 97220

Ray Schmader talked me in to coming to the reunion this year. My membership has lapsed so better get my money in. See you soon.

60th Inf F Co  
DONALD CROSS  
2295 Strong St  
Phelps, Wi 54554

Thank you for the Nov. - Dec. issue of The OCTOFOIL. It is a most interesting publication. It would be much appreciated if you could send me the Jan.-Feb. issue of The OCTOFOIL.

I hope to be able to attend a reunion of the 9th Division for the first time, at Camp Hill, Pa., with my family.

9th Med Bn  
JACOB "HANK" RAUCH  
Box 124  
Woodbourne, N.Y. 12788

Enclosed find dues for the next 3 years also a picture with group of fellows taken at Elsenborn, Germany, place called "Buzz Bomb Alley," D Co 9th Med Bn. Hope to make the reunion.

47th Inf AT  
JOHN FILIDORO  
6247 Randolph Rd  
Bedford Hts. Ohio 44146

I'm very proud to belong to the 9th group. Hope to make the reunion and meet you and hopefully many more from the AT 47th. Thanks again.

47th Inf AT  
CHARLES BODNAR  
187 New York Ave  
Bergenfield, N.J.

I received the challenge in red letters and I'm giving the password by sending in the greenbaeks for my next 3 years. I'm still trying to get accustomed to retirement from my job after 38 years of combat stars. Would like to hear from some of you foxhole moles of AT. My reservations are in for Penn. Are yours? Hope to see a lot of you this July.

47th Inf. B Co.  
JOSEPH TAUBNER  
85 Smith Ave.  
Bergenfield, N.J. 07621

Ellie and I will be at the reunion and will see you then. We hope to see all of B Co. men at the reunion.

## HELP

47th Inf C Co & 2nd Bn  
WILLIAM H. FUSON  
R#2 Box 998  
Spencer, Ind. 47460

Would it be possible for anyone to help me. I was in an accident near Menningen, Germany in 1945 or 1946, in which a jeep I was driving blew a tire and hit a tree. The jeep D-18 was totaled and I and a passenger were injured and taken to a hospital near by. I need letters from anyone who remembers me. I belong to the VFW (life member), American Legion and the DAV. Any help would be appreciated.

15th Eng. Co. A  
FRANCIS MAHER  
14 Davenport St.  
Worcester, Ma. 01610

I was surprised and disappointed to read in the last Octofoil of plans to hold another Memorial Mass. This was never discussed or voted on by the New England Chapter members and this is strictly a violation against the wishes of Fr. Connors. I have received phone calls from New England Chapter members and they are at a loss as to why they have to read the Octofoil about something they know nothing about and no meeting was called to discuss it. Those who signed the Octofoil letter are now accusing me of stopping the mass. I had no authority to do that and what I was doing was carrying out the wishes of Fr. Connors.

After the 1985 Mass, we voted to hold one more to pay tribute to Fr. Connors and this we did in 1986. We voted to announce at that Mass that this should be the last one and we should grant this wish of Fr. Connors. We did at that time discuss a yearly Mass in conjunction with the Fr. Connors Memorial Fund which will start this year on Nov. 8th and continue each year on the Sunday nearest Veteran's Day. Another plan discussed was that all chapters hold their own Memorial Mass on that same Sunday.

When I visited Fr. Connors in the hospital there were 3 members of the clergy present when he asked me to announce to the members of the 9th Division Association that his wish to end the Mass was his decision and the members of the division should be made aware of it. This I did with great emotion. I would have gone down to the last man in continuing the Mass but I have great respect for the man and would honor one of his last wishes and will continue to do so.

When Fr. Connors first started this Mass, it had one name and that was Fr. Connors Annual Memorial Mass. He started it and he has every right to end it. Had he wanted it to continue he would have named someone to run it, but for 3 members who voted to run it didn't have the dedication for the man that they said they had and if they did, their dedication didn't last long after his death.

I want to announce to the members of the 9th Division that I am in no way supporting this latest move and will abide by his wish that the end has come.

39th Inf Co E  
EMIL MEROLLA  
2307 Oak Place  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Enclosed find my dues. Until the day comes when HE calls me, I always want to read about the 9th especially E Co 39th. Altho I was a replacement, my heart beats every time I get the Octofoil. I sure would like to hear from BAR man Averill Jester from N.C.

## New Yorkers

## Hold Services

The New York Chapter members will hold their Memorial Services at the Pinelawn National Cemetery on Long Island. Several hundred men of the Ninth are buried at this Cemetery. Saturday May 16th is the date set to visit the Cemetery and decorate a section of the Graves. A wreath will be placed at the Main entrance flag pole and a brief ceremony conducted in memory of our fallen comrades and to those who have since died and are buried at Pinelawn. The time is set for 11 a.m.

As is the custom the members will travel after the ceremony to Beth Page Park where refreshments will be served and the old gang will enjoy a family style "cook out".

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39th Inf F Co  
ED J. McNAMARA  
Box 219 Church St  
Brookfield, N.Y. 13314

Last Sept we had a reunion of Fox Co members in Louisville, Ky. It being the 4th one. In attendance were John Brandell, Ed Broidy, Sam Burns, John Carter, Ben Covey, John Crail, George Fuller, Ray Hanks, Lyal Hendren, John Hunt, Dick Neely, Lavern Schmidt, R.J. Brugger, John Huffman and a couple others I can't remember along with their wives and better halves. For 3 days we talked, ate and went sightseeing.

Next Sept 10, 11, 12 we plan on another reunion at the same place and would like any old Fox co men to contact John Crail, 321 Frazier Dr., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235. I would like to find out what men were in on a fishing trip in an old steel barge on the Elbe River at Dessau while we were waiting for the Russians? The barge floated across to the north side into a little cove.

WE were dropping the little squares of explosives (from SS School) over the side to stun the fish. All of a sudden somebody said "Stand still and don't make any false moves, we got company". Sure enough on the boats anchored near by and along the banks were weapons of all kinds pointed at us. About 20 Russians emerged and as best we could got across to them that were Americans.

We were soon smoking real strong hand rolled Russian cigs as ours hadn't caught up to us. We were fishing for ourselves and the childrens hospital, remember?

84th FA Hq Btry  
JACK KARGIR  
27 Verndale St.  
Brookline, Ma. 02146

Enclosed find a picture taken in West Palm Beach, Fl. in March 1987. Terry Terricola and I have met for many years at the Worcester Memorial Mass but we have not seen Al Phenix for many years. The last time I saw Al was 39 years ago. You can call this picture "Reunion in Florida." We met with our wives and had a great time talking about all our buddies. I would like to say hello to John Boisky and Walter Ricker. Wishing everyone a great year.

15th Engrs  
TONY MADONNA  
40 Orient St  
Worcester, Ma. 01604

I have my reservations made for Harrisburg and wishing to meet many of the 15th engineers buddies. Wishing the best to our 9th division gang and may our 1987 reunion be a big success. Clipping enclosed.

# mail call

47th Inf. E Co.  
FRANK PETTY  
227 Mooney Rd.  
Ft. Walton Beach, Fl. 32548

Back in the fold again. I must have been one of the charter members of the Association. I can remember receiving a letter from the Octofoil for signing up 120% of the Co. However, this was the period after VE Day when our veterans were being rotated to go home and we were getting low point men for the occupation. Back to the present. Some kind soul sent me a paid up membership to the Octofoil and most important, a copy of same. This must be the first copy of the Octofoil I have seen in some 25 or 30 years! Lost contact on one of our moves in California and as soon as I read the paper, I knew I had to go to this year's reunion. My reservations are in the mail. With the reunion in Pa. I hope to see a lot of the old "E" company group there.

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

Just a few lines hoping this note finds you and yours in good health, and that things are going real good for you. I am doing fairly good for an ole goat of 79 now, getting old, wearing out here and there, but we must expect this when we get over 39+? Going thru some old boxes and getting rid of some old things, I came across this clipping of the Stars & Stripes paper I had since I was in the hospital in England way back in 1944. THE MUDDY, BLOODY MEN OF THE LINES. I thought if it would reproduce fairly good, you could put it in the Octofoil. I think lots of the members would like to see it and bring back lots of memories of that era. If it doesn't reproduce well enough, you just keep it. Enclosed is a donation for the Scholarship fund. Keep well and take good care of yourself and hope you had a nice St. Patricks day.

47th Inf E Co  
JOHN HYNES  
PO Box 8481  
Sarasota Mobile Home Pk  
Sarasota, Fl. 34278

Hope this finds you well and warm in Weehawken. The climate here is something like North Africa where I came in on the first wave 11 miles below Safi on Nov. 8, 1942. I became a guest of Herr Hitler at the last pass in Tunisia Mar. 28, 1943. Box car to Tunis and kept in a school house till the Germans could get us out on a JV52 across the Mediterranean just above the water, so now we had to worry about the American and English planes diving on us. As we got to Sicily, the planes went higher and we landed on an airport just behind Vesuvius and had to run for shelter, the American planes were overhead. Then later on to Mockburg, Germany, Stalag VIIA, then on to Stalag IIIB and when the Russians were coming, on to Stalag IIIA below Berlin and eventually liberated by the Russians as the Americans were kept the other side of the Elbe and we let the Russians take Berlin or rather enter first, what a mistake! The German soldiers were hoping the Americans would come first. I got yellow jaundice and came back on a hospital ship to Halloran hospital on Staten Island. That's all. Keep well.

Most people like the two-party system...as long as they're both not on the same night.

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

Each time I fill in the enclosed form, I find myself drifting back over the years, sort of a revival meeting. The journey doesn't begin with my induction at Camp Grant. No, it started with the truck ride from Oran, having been assigned to the 9th and the mile or 2 hike which ended up at a meeting with Major Dilly. The rest of the story you are aware of. . . .The experience is not over yet. Many, many thanks to both of you for keeping alive and filled the treasure chest of warm memories that each of us hordes lovingly.

84th FA A Btry  
A.G. "CURLY" KREMKA  
407 W. Marion St  
Portage, WI 53901

It's time for me to scratch out an excuse as to why my dues lapsed. I've been busy thinking what a great reunion this coming one would be if only ten of "Adams Apples" would show up, especially W. K. Adams himself and the "Gopher", Andy Yankura, who had lived around the Pittsburgh area. Please print the snapshot, maybe it will wake up some of my old buddies and get them to the reunion. Out of a hundred guys, there's 5 of us committed.

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

The old feet are getting back in shape, wearing normal shoes after 3 years. Living it up like mad, having a ball, race track, hockey and now baseball. Let's go Yankees and especially my boy, Mattingly, also movies, theater and dinners out. Just finished reading a great book "Silent Missions" by General Walters. He was at Safi. On to Camp Hill. Let's make it 1200 attendance and break the record.

60th AT  
MEL GILLIS  
7656 E. Inverness Ave.  
Mesa, Az. 85208

See red so I must hurry dues for another 3 years. How is it that people are now only finding out about the 9th association? We signed up in April 1945 near Ingolstadt, Germany. That was 42 years ago! My wife and I had planned a 3 month tour when we retired. I retired the end of May 1986 but she died after a short illness, Nov. 7, 1985. So I took the tour alone. Not as much fun married 43 years. Did all the 60th AT guys die? Never see any letters from them in the Octofoil. Best wishes to all 9th men.

47th Inf. Hq. Co. 1st Bn  
RALPH DeFOREST  
1306 Rock Rimmon Rd.  
Stamford, Ct. 06903

Enclosed is a photo of some of the 1st squad, A&P platoon 1st Bn. H. Q. Co. 47th Inf. Lt. Veno, leader of the platoon sent it to me. He was the best Lt. in the whole 47th for he got me home safe. . . . Bob Coffey of the wire section lives not too far away, and we get together real often. Also Edward Slawson of Anti Tank.

9th Med D Co  
HERBERT STERN  
12427 Old Oaks Dr.  
Houston, Tx. 77024

I am sure medical battalion buddies want to know that our good friend Jimmy Richards has a good recovery after major kidney surgery last year. You can't keep a good 9th man down! Those of you who would like to write Jimmy, his address is 401 E. 5th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218. Best regards.

84th FA Btry A  
JIM BRANAM  
Rt 1 Box 46  
Cookeville, Tn. 38501

Enclosed are my annual dues. I would like to take the opportunity to say how much I enjoy reviewing the Octofoil.

I have reviewed each issue for information on men from A Bty 84FABN. I think of those men often, remembering the times from Tent City to the Elb River.

Would enjoy hearing from any of you

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

It's that time of year again to renew the Octofoil so I am enclosing my dues for the next 2 years. Milton and Doris Parrot stopped off and spent 2 days with us in March on his way to Myrtle Beach, S.C. for the golf tournament. We enjoyed the get-together and hashed out the battles the 9th was in. We were in the 26th FA Btry A from 1941 until the end of the war. Have tried to contact 4 or 5 guys that were with us, but to no avail. I would like to hear from any of the guys from the 26th. Hope to see you all at the reunion this year if my health permits.

47th Inf. D Co.  
AL G. SHIRES  
924 SE 5th Ct.  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33301

My wife, Lottie, and I certainly had an enjoyable time at the Nashville reunion. We also hope to attend the one in Camp Hill if things work out. I had a heart attack in Nov. and have been in the process of recuperating through a program of diet and exercise that seems to be working. I hope at the next reunion to see some of the old guys from D Co., 47th (machine gun section). There must be some of them around.

60th Inf. Hq. Co.  
MILTON CORDRAY  
6838 County Line Rd.  
Ravenel, S.C. 29470

Enclosed find check for dues and scholarship donation. We are fine. Saw S.O. Caddin of D Co. 60th also Albet M. Hodge from Co. I 60th. They are doing well. Our weather is good. Hope we have a good reunion, not sure if I'll make it. Enjoying the paper very much and look forward to it. God Bless each and everyone.

60th Inf. E. Co. 3rd Plt.  
ROBERT L. MILLER  
1922 Mt. Royal Blvd.  
Glenshaw, Pa. 15116

I enjoy receiving and reading the Octofoil. I would like to hear from anyone who was in the 3rd Plt. Dec. 1943 to June 1944. We will see you in Camp Hill which will be our first.

47th Inf AT  
JULIUS ANDRASI  
92 Orlo Dr  
Zephyrhills, FL 34248

Enjoy the Octofoil very much, it brings back memories. Thanks for the good work. Best of everything to you men of AT and all men of the 9th. Hope to see you boys at the reunion. God bless you all. I will be up north for the summer.

47th Inf K Co  
GEORGE NICKLIN  
6 Butler Pl.  
Garden City, L.I. N.Y. 11530

Just a note to say that I expect to be at the Penn Harris Inn and Convention Center. I've sent in my check and expect to arrive Thursday evening 23 July.

60th Inf B Co  
BILL DEME  
1949 White St  
York, PA 17404

Sorry I'm late with my dues. I enjoy reading the Octofoil. Good luck to all.

84th FA B Btry.  
RICHARD O'CONNOR  
9567 Bluford Ave  
Whittier, CA 90605

Feeling good and expect to be at Camp Hill unless we get an 8.6 quake here. I've been in touch with some of the boys and, hopefully they will attend. As of now, I'll fly to Washington, D.C. and spend a day or so with Harrison Daysh and drive to Camp Hill with him. After the reunion, I'll go back to Washington, rent a car and drive to New Jersey and come home from Newark Airport after I see my 2 brothers. See you all soon.

47th Inf Serv Co  
ANDY JONES  
Rt 1 Box 881  
Wartburg, TN 37887

My wife and I enjoyed the reunion in Nashville. Sure wish I'd known more about these before. I was discharged in June 1945 and lost all contact with everyone. Enjoyed visiting with Carl Taylor and wife, Ed Wisniewski and wife and a lot of others. I met friends from E Co and I drove their truck, enjoy reading the Octofoil and am sending my dues.

34th FA A Btry  
JOHN KILPATRICK  
25 Eton Pl  
Eastontown, N.J. 07724

This is my first letter to mail call. Just learned about and joined the association four years ago. I would like to hear from any of my old friends from good old A Btry, also any of the gang from Ft. Meade that came to the 9th with me. You might like to know that the red headed girl I met in Scotland and bored everybody to death talking about has been my wife for 40 years and we have eight children of our own and an adopted daughter. I have gotten over my health problem and have taken up running and have been in hundreds of races including marathons. Hope to hear from you and expect to be at the reunion and the Memorial in Worcester.

39th Inf H Co  
GEORGE HARRIS  
2412 Ramblewood Dr.  
Dist. Hts., Md. 20747

Received my Octofoil and noticed the red reminder that was on the top so I'm sending my dues for the next 3 years. I met Oliver Carter from 47th AT, he lives about a mile from me. I went to Seymour Johnson AFB where my son is stationed. We went to the air show and also drove to Fort Bragg. I has changed since we were there. The old barracks are still there but most of them are run down and are in the process of putting new siding on. As far as I could tell, the only troops in the 39th barracks were the Golden Eagles. It really brought back old memories. I would like to hear from anyone that was in Sgt. Sizemous platoon. My brother also served 2 years in the 9th. We enlisted the same day. He was mess Sgt in H Co and shipped out to Oklahoma. He passed away 2 years ago and was also in the ETO. Hope to see you all at Camp Hill.

Hq 15 Engrs Bn  
FARNIS APOSTOLIDES  
41 Gardner St.  
Peabody, Ma. 01960

I enjoy the Octofoil tremendously hoping to catch a glimpse of a familiar name or an old buddy that I haven't heard from. We have sent in our reservations for the coming reunion. Hope to see some of the Pennsylvania and surrounding area crowd at the reunion.

A pretty girl is like a melody, but watch out if she keeps changing her tune.

## Taps Sounded

*Yes, a note of sadness does filter in,  
When I closely scan names of him and him.  
I read these names, many new to me,  
But in my mind so plain to see  
Are countless deeds of bravery  
With thoughts of home and loved ones, too,  
G.I.'s did what they had to do,  
Despite unseemingly odds, no need for fame.  
Knowing the struggle involved was not a game.  
On they went to crush the foe.  
'Twas a fight for loved ones, they did know.  
Whether then or now, 'tis a price that's paid  
For a world full of peace, for which they prayed.*

Joe Rappazini

Matthew Friedman  
F Co 39th Inf

Charles Daily  
Douglas Ackerman

M Co 60th Inf  
Jack E. Cowling

15th Engrs  
Carles. T. Fort

60th Inf Hq  
Walter Frenger

39th Inf  
Michael Batelli

39th Inf  
Oscar Rosenberger

9th Recon  
Leroy Wires

9th Recon  
Joseph Albanese

26th FA  
Nicholas Schwartz

60th Inf F Co  
May they rest in Peace.  
To their loved ones we offer our sympathy.

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

Dear Members of the 9th Infantry Division:

I want to thank everyone who thought of my dear husband Dante in their prayers. He was very proud of his 9th division association and I'm sure he served his country well. He had a beautiful full Military service. I also want to thank Rodger Alsgaard for writing about him in the Octofoil. Enclosed is a check for the Memorial fund in memory of my dear husband, Dante.

60th Inf Hq  
MRS. CHARLES FORT

111 Granada Ct.  
Winston Salem, N.C. 27105

Thank you very much for your kind letter. The sympathy of our friends helped us all through the sad time. I would like very much to receive the Octofoil. Thank you again.

60th Inf K Co  
MRS. HUGH CAPELLA  
51 Curie Rd. G5  
Cornwall on Hudson, N.Y. 12520

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. I appreciate you sending me the Octofoil.

39th Inf K Co  
DR. OLAF LANGLAND  
1819 Babcock Rd Apt 113  
San Antonio, TX 78229

I was in K Co 39th from Jan. 20 to July 12, 1944. Was wounded at Le Desert, France and can't remember any of the fellows. I guess they didn't want to get to know a replacement because they didn't last too long. Thanks for the Octofoil.



## MAIL CALL

60th Inf 3rd Bn  
KEENE WILSON  
606 Ravenwood Dr Apt. 4  
Selma, Ala. 36701

I hope to see all of you in Pennsylvania this year. Best regards.

M & Serv Co 60th Inf  
GENE CRONIN  
185 Bronx River Rd (6J)  
Yonkers, N.Y. 10704

Myself and my wife enjoy the "OCTOFOIL" even when it shows me in the RED. Thank you and Mrs. Quinn for such dedication to us "OLD RELIABLES." The OCTOFOIL is the cable than binds us together, may it strands never fail.

Illness has plagued our home since Christmas 1985. My wife Anne has been hospitalized several times since then. A rare blood condition diagnosed as POLYCYTHEMIA VERA. The blood platelets must be monitored closely, on a weekly basis. Thank God she is feeling much better presently.

We have sent in our reservations for the Camp Hill reunion in July, predicated on my wife's health then, the good Lord willing, one day at the time, we hope to see you all once more. Anne must have our doctor's approval for any distant travel and travel wise. Camp Hill is very convenient.

Regretfully the Jan/Feb OCTOFOIL issue reports many old reliables have gone to their eternal rest, came across the name of a buddy from recruit days Arthur Pierce "M" Co 60th Inf.

It would seem that not too many M & Serv Co vets are still with us, so seldom do I meet any in the OCTOFOIL. Hope to meet many many at Camp Hill Pa. in July and if we can make it ourselves.

From a previous issue of OCTOFOIL, a name rings in my ear, a Chuck ? Chandler Co M 60th Inf. Do you remember that day out on the range at Frot Bragg, we were training with the automatic rifle, you pulled a dirty trick on me, when my turn came up at the firing line, the rifle was on "automatic" whereas it should have been "single" shots, the damn think pulled me back on my heels, luckily no one got hurt. Even Capt. Fletcher got a chuckle out of it. Hope we can meet and rehash the old times in July.

Hiya! Iron Mike Kaufman, found your article/proposal in a previous issue, regarding time of year on reunions, it arrested my attention favourably. I second such a proposal. I salute you, Colonel.

15th Engre A Co  
C. WEBSTER JOHNSON  
100 Rambler Rd  
Cambridge, Md 21612

I think the Octofoil is a great publication and I look forward to receiving it. I can hardly stop reading it until I have done so from cover to cover. Receiving the Octofoil is like hearing from family as I was with the outfit from Ft. Bragg until the end of the war in Europe, and as a family we had good times and bad times but we stuck together. I recently heard from Hugh Slusher, and Henry Santos and Anthony Soprano. It was good to hear from them. God Bless you all.

## July 23-25 Reunion in Pennsy

39th Inf D Co  
DANIEL SZUHAY  
95 Lee Rd  
Painesville, Ohio 44077

I'm new at this, so please understand any mistakes as I'm still sore about the rotten deal that was done to a few of us over there from the time I was brought in to the 39th 1st Bn D Co after Omaha beach 20 days later.

I read the Octofoil, which by the way, is one of the nice things that I enjoy. I would like to know if there is anyone left from the old 1st Bn of the 39th, like A Co & C Co as I know that they took a hell of a beating as I was attached to their companies in all their attacks and movements to the Elbe River. I could write a book of all the bad things and the funny things that happened there. I would like to see more from the 1st Bn if any old timers are still around as I was one of the lucky ones as well as one of the younger ones in the outfit as well as Capt. Thomas our CO but I can't say enough for the 2 C.O.'s of A Co as they made sure that I and the rest of the water cooled M.G. squad attached was well taken care of. I felt a love for them as I had the misfortune of seeing a buddy killed who I entered the army with at Camp Perry and through Camp Carson, La., and California and then England and then the Omaha beach. I joined the weapons company as a 1st gunner and was introduced to the best unit of the 1st Army and I still feel that WE won the war! But I know I wasn't the only one fighting there.

This is to the only Medic that I was with at the end. If he is still alive, would he please write to me. All I know of him is that he was from the Dakotas and his dad was an undertaker. I think that so many of the older men of the 1st were gone by the end that most of us left to come home but I wish all who were there the best of everything. God bless.

47th Inf Serv. Co  
EDWIN WISNIEWSKI  
7576 Gratiot Rd  
Richmond, MI 48062

Just a line to say thanks to you and the Octofoil staff for the wonderful job you are doing. Without articles on former members we would be totally lost. I do have some sad news for you. A former member of 60th Inf M Co passed away on Feb. 19, 1987 namely Douglas Ackerman of 2509 17th St., Port Huron, MI 48060. I did not attend the funeral, but did visit the family in the funeral home. I noticed he did not have any military decorations other than the flag on the casket. I asked his widow if I could put my 9th division pin on him and she was ever so grateful that I would do that for him. We were drafted together and spent our basic in Wheeler, GA and assigned to the 9th in Oct. 1941. He was wounded in Maknessy and hospitalized in Africa along with our past president, Fred Josey. He never returned to the 9th because of his injuries. I am looking forward to Camp Hill, sent in my reservations in July 1986 to be sure to get early booking. I will retire from active work on Aug. 1, 1987, having passed my 70th birthday in July. I hope to see some of our former members as there are a lot of them from PA that were in the 9th.

You don't get dizzy doing a good turn.

Co. F. 47th Inf.  
EDWARD T. HOPKINS  
110 Hollywood Avenue  
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

We'll be seeing some people this year whom we haven't seen in years and some whom we haven't seen since the unpleasantness of the early forties that brought us all together in the first place, namely: Lee Grimwood, Bill Larson, Lou Slatnick, and Milt Zucker.

We'll also be seeing Sam Buemi, General Chip Maness, Charlie Williams, Jack Finnigan, Googy, Smig, Frank Smith, Otto Geyer, Wilkey, George King, Paul Giarraputo, Tex Hoffer, Frank Gonzol, Felton Jones, Ken Yennie, George Brown, Ray Schmader, Roger Alsgaard, Walter O'Keefe and Bob DeSandy. Hopefully, we also will be seeing Paul Pryjmak, Larry Ghre, Bill MacDonald, Al Munatore, Irma Koskie, Joe Ayles, Rud Hoffman, Joe Bergin, Ed Johnstone, Elwood Schmidt, Chuck Jones, George Gaynor, Warren Lane, Jack Safford, Al Yanuchefsky, Yosh Ryncavage, Ed Netta, Vic Asleson, Chris Argyris, Otto Kanach, Roy Schumacher, Stew Miller, Frank Gilsenan, Eugene Mann, Jack Healey, Dave Lilly, Jack Armstrong, Hugh Dunlop and Whitey Waszkiewicz. Some of this latter group haven't been to a reunion in years; others have never been to one. Wouldn't it be great to see them all assembled in our CP?

Last month the following had lunch together in Weehawken, N.J.: Frank Gilsenan, Jack Finnigan, Bill Larson, Al Munatore, Lou Slatnick, Ken Yennie, George Gaynor, Chris Argyris, Dan Quinn, Walter O'Keefe and your truly. We were ably chaperoned by Ken Yennie's chauffer and G-2, Olive Yennie. It was a great luncheon, but we were too spread out so that not everybody was able to visit with everyone else.

Next Month a friend and I are planning to visit Frank Smith to get his help in looking for retirement homes. I'm going to Southern Pines with an open mind, though Lucy would like to move to and retire in Southern California.

Smig called me last week when he had been discharged from the hospital recovering from fungal pneumonia. He was to remain home for a week and then return for his other problem. We all hope things work out for him.

I had a nice chat with Frank Smith last month. He is still holding his own, going to the office daily and following his routine. He sounded cheerful.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Camp Hill this summer. Lucy sends her love.

47th Inf. Serv. Co.  
JOHN J. KIMMERLE  
405 Cactus Circle  
Lehigh Acres, Fl. 33936

Had all intentions of making the reunion this year, but grandson and grand-daughter graduations coming up, plus a trip out west. God spares me I'll sure make the next one. My sincere thanks to you for all the years of service and dedication to our great Association. Plus all the buddies who have served with you to bring our Octofoil to our homes. Enclosed some pictures you may use.

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

Enclosed are my dues for the next 3 years. It's better to send it in than to have to stand in line at the reunion. Looking forward to the summer.

JOHN CLOUSER  
1088 NO CIRCLE DRIVE  
CRYSTAL RIVER, FL 32629

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39th Inf.  
CHARLES WARNER  
507 E Main St.  
Bound Brook, N.J. 08805

There was a movie on T.V. the other day called "Up From the Beach". It was about Sgt. Edward Joseph Carson Foster of Co. A, 39th Inf. They were coming down the road to town and saw a lady on a bike going in a farm house. So one of the fellows from the squad went after her and knocked on the door, not realizing German troops had the town people prisoners in the house. The Germans shot through the door and killed the soldier at the door. The Sgt. and his troops fought the Germans and captured a Major and killed the rest in the fight. Outside the house, a 9th division Colonel came by and asked the Sgt. his name, Edward Foster, Co. A 39th Inf. They told him to take the people to the beach to be shipped to England. He took them back and forth each time refusing passage. In the end the town was taken and people stayed there and he went back to his company. I was at work and missed the Colonel's name. It was on channel 7 at 1:00 AM, Feb. 9th. If anyone would like to see the movie, maybe they can get it from channel 7.

39th Inf. I Co.  
MARSHALL WALLER  
605 Spence Dr.  
Kinston, N.C. 28501

I would like to hear from some of the boys that were in service with me in I Company. As we all know, we are growing old and I have had cancer of the mouth. I was treated for it and it does not give me any trouble. I can't work any more because of hardening of the arteries. I enjoy reading the mail call but I don't seem to know many of them. I hear from Charles Holsapple from Indiana and Paul J. Calahand from Pennsylvania. I sure would like to hear from more of you. Enclosed is my check for two years. May the Lord Bless.

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

You and your staff do such a great job in running the things concerning our 9th, that there just has to be someone to make a mistake once in a while. I'm sorry I let my year run into the red, but will try and make up for it. Time sure does pass quickly. July is just around the corner and we are looking forward to seeing all of you at Camp Hill. I thought those pictures Red Phillips had in the Octofoil would get a response from some one. But maybe there just aren't too many who saw them. Come on fellows, let's all meet in Harrisburg in July.

709 Ord.  
RAYMOND J. KENNELLY  
334 Stratford Dr.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232

I did it again. I forgot to send in my dues. Was talking to Ed Stokan - 60th Inf. and he gave me hell about it. I'm going to try and make it to the reunion this year and hope that some others from the 709 can make it. Till July.

47th Inf. L Co.  
WILLIAM DeGRASSE  
101 Coachman's Dr. RD 1  
Bordentown, N.J. 08505

Just a line to answer some questions from L Co. men, Robert Hulslander and John Caughey. Hank Franklin of L Co. passed away last Memorial Day and Ed Hauschildt is living in Dumfries, Va. and will have heart surgery on Apr. 15. I am fine and enjoying retirement and travelling.

9th Sp. Troops Band  
VICTOR DAUMIT  
3400 Janet Rd.  
Silver Spring, Md. 20906

Saw the red ink, sorry about that. Would you believe I'm still dancing for a living? I'd like to make this year's reunion if I'm not on the road. If I am, I'll make the next one for sure as I intend to "hang 'em up" next year. My wife tells me I've been saying that for the last 10 years. Regards to all.

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

I've sent in my reservations for Camp Hill. Hope nothing comes up to cause me to scrub my plans. Nashville was my second reunion and I did enjoy seeing and visiting with some of E Co. buddies. Hope this year will be a big turnout for E Co. 39th Inf.

47th Inf Serv Co  
BOB BUCK  
5877 Heberton Dr.  
Verona, Pa. 15147

Thanks for the excellent job you have been doing as editor putting out the Octofoil these many years. We members really appreciate getting the newsy paper. It is with sadness that I read of the men I have known who have passed on. Enjoy reading the letters to the Editor.

When I retired in 1980 I wondered what I would do with my spare time and get the needed exercise. In 1978 I joined a New Jersey group on a canoe trip in the Adirondacks and was hooked. I bought a new canoe, joined 5 canoe clubs and since 1980 I have paddled over 600 miles a year, solo! I am seldom home on a weekend from March to December. As always happens I am on a two week, white water trip to upper Quebec at the same time as the reunion. I intend to keep canoeing as long as I lift my canoe over my head and carry it 1/2 mile.

Because the reunion is being held the latter part of July this year, I will try to make it. My five daughters are scattered to the four points of the compass so we do some traveling. Visit our daughter in Florida each February but so far I have resisted my wife's pressure to sell out and move south. I like the northern climate changes and canoeing here. So here I'll stay.

47th Inf F Co  
LARRY GHRE  
Box 54445  
Tulsa, Okla. 74155

Red Ink! I submit my dues for the next 3 years. Was going to write before, but this forced the issue. Reservations made for Camp Hill and hope everything stays okay. See you all in July.