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The Octofoil, January/February 1989

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 XLIV Number 1

Jan-Feb 1989



Larry McLaughlin sends this photo of the N.E. Chapter Memorial Committee members responsible for conducting the 1988 Worcester Memorial. Left to right, Ron Murphy, Tom Boyle, Herb Olsen, Fred D'Amore, Larry and Gil Pernokas. It is their intentions and our hopes that they will continue with this Memorial for the deceased members of the Ninth.

Remagen: A bridge too far for many

Some years ago a member from North Carolina sent the following newspaper article that appeared in his local paper (The News and Observer, Raleigh, NC) and only recently we discovered the writer was a former member of Company K 47th Inf., David Gillespie. Somewhere along the line the article was put on the back burner and misplaced in the pile of stories that are sent to this office.

The mayor of Remagen in Germany is selling \$20 paper-weights containing chips from the Remagen Bridge. If it's all the same to the mayor, I'll save the \$20. In my mind I already carry too many memories of the fight to keep that bridge in March, 1945.

News of the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge on the Rhine River electrified the Western world March 7, 1945. The American high command in Europe expected the Germans to destroy all structures across the strategic Rhine before Allied units reached the river. A heroic advance unit of the 9th Armored Division seized the bridge after German demolition efforts merely weakened it.

The unexpected prize shortened the war in Germany by many months. Thousands of lives thus were spared. But I remember many of the lives lost in the German's desperate effort to wipe out the bridge-head stuck like a knife in the midriff of their nation.

On Feb. 28, 1945 I was one of six officers in a rifle company of the 9th Infantry Division — a relatively green lieutenant. Our company had just relieved units of the 82nd Airborne Division in defense positions on the Roer River. The Germans had brought the river to flood stage to deter the U.S. advance after the Battle of the Bulge.

There in the bitter cold on the muddy edges of the Roer, deeply dug in and snuggled against a forested hill offering a shield to artillery fire, we waited for the water to go down. An area upstream had been secured for engineers to build a bridge that would be our gateway from the

Roer to the Rhine. Ours was to be a frenzied advance between March 2 and March 7, ending with our company almost within sight of Bonn across the Rhine.

During the wait at the Roer I learned much about the men of my weapons platoon and my fellow officers. The company commander was from Georgia, the executive officer from Texas, the three rifle platoon leaders from South Carolina and Kentucky. The sergeants over my machine gun squads were two farm boys from Virginia, Red and Ernie. The mortar squads were led by combat veterans from Northern states.

One duty of a platoon leader was to remove risky military information from outgoing mail. In those days of waiting in a timber-covered hut, I read and initialed countless numbers of letters. I came to know much about the hopes, dreams and fears of many GIs, including Red and Ernie.

I became much better acquainted, too, with two fellow officers. David's father was a Kentucky sheriff. Louis was a happy-go-lucky South Carolinian whose rifle platoon revered him. In the company's five-day sweep across the Cologne Plain after crossing that bridge, we went virtually without pause or sleep, hitting town after town, village after village. David was killed one dark night by a home guard delaying force, the main German combat units having retreated toward the Rhine. His father years later drove to North Carolina to see me, to make one contact with someone who had known David in his last hours of life.

When the 9th Armored took the bridge at Remagen, our division was moved by truck to expand the bridgehead to the east. We rode all night in a pouring rain. In early afternoon we reached the picturesque town at the base of Victoriaberg Mountain. Even before we ran across the swaying bridge in mid-afternoon, dodging bomb and shell holes as artillery rounds rained in, one of the

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Airport Road named for "Old Reliable" Vet

Rev. Ralton Speers recently sent us an article that appeared in a local newspaper in Albany, New York. Pete Dalessandro, CMH and former member of the Ninth had the road leading to the Albany County Airport named in his honor.

by CATHY WOODRUFF
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — No matter how his name was spelled, Peter J. Dalessandro was a proud man yesterday.

The Latham Congressional Medal of Honor winner was at the Albany County Airport yesterday to see the airport's access road named for him.

The sign says "Peter J. Dalessandro Blvd." because that is the way his name is spelled on the back of the medal he was awarded by President Harry Truman for his heroism during World War II.

"That's the way the president spelled it. I figured, why should I change it? Why should anyone else change it?" Dalessandro said after the dedication ceremony.

But his wife, Patricia who stood out in the cold with other supporters, is not quite as fond of the spelling variation. "We can't keep the mistake going," she said.

No problem if the Dalessandros decide they want the sign changed, said County Executive James Coyne. "If there another letter they want, that's easily done," he said. "We're flexible. We can do anything we wants."

The boulevard that now bears Dalessandro's name, or a variant of it, enters the airport at its southern end. Previously it was known as "just the airport access road," said Airport director John Masko.

The name change is welcome, Masko said, and, "I'm glad it came up this way because this guy is quite a fellow."

Dalessandro received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of the Bulge.

Dalessandro, who was a sergeant in the Army's 9th Infantry Division during the battle, also received honors for his service in North Africa and Europe.

He received his first Silver Star for saving the life of a wounded officer under fire in North Africa, sustaining wounds of his own in the process. He returned to action in time to participate in the invasion of Sicily, before being recalled to England with the rest of the 9th Infantry Division to prepare for the invasion of France.

Altogether, the Watervliet native was awarded three Purple Hearts, two Silver Stars and one Bronze Star, in addition to the Medal of Honor.

After his wartime military service, Dalessandro was elected to the state Senate, where he served six terms.

Reunion at the Pines is a Sell Out

On behalf of THE PINES Hotel, we again want to thank you for selling out the entire PINES Hotel for the June 19-23rd 9th Infantry Division Week.

As many of you are aware, THE PINES Hotel, at this time, is completely sold out and is starting a waiting list for accommodations here at THE PINES.

Alternative Arrangements

However, no one will be left out from this convention. THE PINES Resort Hotel, with the approval and review of your reunion committee, has made alternative arrangements at the Days Inn in Liberty, New York. This package includes your total reunion here at THE PINES including complimentary transportation to and from the Days Inn (Approximately 10 minutes).

If you are interested in making arrangements to attend this reunion, THE PINES will coordinate your room reservations at The Days Inn.

ARRIVING BY AIR

If you are planning on arriving by air, please contact the 9th Infantry reservationist, Ann Korbik, at Kent Travel, toll-free at 800-537-8218. Please do this today, as THE PINES needs to coordinate the pick-ups at the Newark Airport for your group arriving by car.

Furthermore, many of you have been inquiring regarding travel directions and travel information. If you need printed travel directions, please contact THE PINES Toll-Free at 1-800-431-3124 outside New York State or 1-800-36-PINES inside New York State, and THE PINES will forward Travel Directions to you.

DINING ROOM ARRANGEMENTS

I have received several letters from members regarding Dining Room and seating arrangements. Please note, no tables will be assigned to any member until Monday June 19, 1989, to insure equal access to all attendees.

If you have any questions or any special circumstances, please call me at THE PINES so I can discuss these arrangements with you.

On behalf of THE PINES Hotel and our entire staff, we look forward to greeting you and your family and friends on June 19, 1989.

Cordially,
THE PINES HOTEL
Bruce B. Seigel
Director of Sales

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS TRANSPORTATION

BUS SERVICE:

Buses leave from Port Authority Terminal located at 41st St. on 8th Avenue. Shortline System — purchase tickets at windows Nos. 5-6-7. For information phone PE 6-4700. Or call Bus Lines for terminal nearest your home.

BY CAR:

From New York

1. New York West Side Highway to George Washington Bridge to New Jersey. Take Route 4 for eight miles, turn right into Route 17 (N.Y.) and at Mahwah, enter New York State Thruway. Leave Thruway at Exit 16 and proceed on Quickway Route 17 to Exit 107 to South Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg, turn left at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

2. Cross Tappan Zee Bridge, enter New York State Thruway and leave at Exit 16 and proceed on Quickway Route 17 to Exit 107 to South Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg turn left at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

From Philadelphia and South

New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 10. Garden State Parkway to New York State Thruway. Leave Thruway at Exit 16 and proceed on Quickway Route 17 to Exit 107 to South Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg turn left at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

From Boston and East

Take Massachusetts Turnpike to Route 86 (Sturbridge Exit) into Route 84. Take Exit 4W (Middletown, N.Y.) and proceed on Quickway Route 17 to Exit 107 to South Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg turn left at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

From Albany and North

Go to U.S. Route 9 to New York State Thruway. Leave Thruway at Exit No. 19 and proceed to Route 209 to Ellenville. Take Route 52 to Woodbourne and then bear left to Route 42 to So. Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg turn right at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

From Buffalo and West

New York State Thruway. Exit at Syracuse #36. Pick up Route #81 South in Syracuse (toll free super highway) to Route #17 East at Binghamton. Take Route #17 to Exit 105B #42 North. Merge left (North on 42) to South Fallsburg, at movie theater turn left, 1 mile to the Pines.

Co B 15th Engrs
RICHARD C. McGRATH
 2856 W. 85th St.
 Chicago, IL 60652

When was the last time you wrote a letter to our Mail Call column? I am ashamed to say years ago, I say that because I enjoy what other comrades write and look forward to reading the paper that brings that pleasure. Last issue I have read twice and still hope I haven't missed anything. Really enjoyed Mrs. Mary Maness's pome, "Soldiers of the Ninth."

We are lucky to have contributors like her and the General is lucky to have such a wonderful supporter.

Because it's been so very long since I have written I would first like to thank the Philly--Delaware Chapter for all their fine work in making the Camp Hill reunion such a memorable time.

Second, thanks to the New England group for their fine program at the Cape Cod reunion.

There were many highlights and one was the Buddy Morrow Concert, which brought back good memories, like when music was music - sentimental but good.

The service at the Tara was excellent and the hotel people made us feel welcome.

My first reunion was at the Tara in 1980 in which I met Father Connors. It was a great pleasure to meet such a person and I still miss him at the reunions. He's probably upstairs getting our bivouac ready. I am sure its mutual, he can't forget us and we can't forget him. In my three years overseas with the NInth, I can't remember ever seeing Father Connors. We were with the 47th most of the time and that was Father De Laura's protestorate. Can't forget the lovable Father and his high jinks. One day he rode into our area standing up in the jeep, "a la Patton," singing the Notre Dame fight song. The fact that the area was being shelled made no difference. No wonder they called him, "Flip" in an affectionate way.

I haven't missed a reunion since my first one and it's because you meet such nice people. I want to thank Ed McGrath and his crew for the good times we had in his hospitality room. Although we are not related, they treat you like family.

Once again Jerry Shea, from our Engineer Company, won the golf tournament, they call him Kip, but they ought to call him Champ. Margaret Rankin always wins the golf trophy for the women so that gives B company 15th Engineers a lock on the golf outings.

Enclosed are two snapshots from the reunion I hope you can use, even though they are in color. One is of the out going President Dave Heller handing over the gavel to the incoming President Emil Langer, from one good man to another. Thanks to Dave for a fine job in his term. We are in good hands for the coming year.

The other pix is of Ron Murphy, Tom Boyle, and our reunion speaker Major General Michael Kauffman.

Ron Murphy did an outstanding job in organizing a great reunion.

Tom Boyle always inspires the troops with his eloquent speeches.

Many thanks to Mike Kauffman for entertaining us with his humorous dialogue.

Mikes' stories of our adventures through North Africa and the other campaigns made us forget that we didn't think they were so funny at times.

60th Inf K Co
JAMES F. HART, JR.
 7 Nenagh Dr.
 Wilmington, De. 19803

We are again looking at a new year. May it be one not only for our family and the 9th division association, but for all the peoples of the world. I know you encourage us all to send information and news that can be shared with all, but I am at the point where there is not much new. Our family consists of 6 kids, 4 in-laws, 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild keep Rose and I on our toes and hopefully relatively young! We all get together at least twice a year and have a ball! We are a good tight loving family. Who could ask for anything more. Several years ago, I thought of getting a Life membership, but then decided that was like getting money from a bank machine. You lose the personal touch even though this is only a once a year letter. As AT&T says "Reach Out..." Hope you, your family and all our members enjoy a good, healthy New Year, plus an added thanks for your great work over the years.

Hdqs. Co. 60th Inf.
KAREL GRIMM
 Rt. 4 Box 209
 Wautoma, WI 54982

I am one of the retired but just couldn't make the reunion. Hope to get to one in the near future.

I enlisted on October 1940 and went directly to Ft. Bragg. I went with a good friend, Harland Gramse, from my home town. We joined together and were assigned to Hdq. Co. of 60th Infantry. We had many good times and enjoyed the communication work. Gramse is now deceased.

I left Ft. Bragg in '42 to get my commission in the Signal Corps. I was assigned to a radar group in Tampa, Florida. We were on our way to New Orleans to catch a boat overseas when I got my notice for Air Force Pilot Training. I ended up flying B-17s and went to England in early 1945. I got back home in '46 and in '49 I joined the National Guard and finally got out with 8 yrs. active duty and 14 yrs. in the Guard.

I enjoy reading the Octofoil but don't see any names that I recognize from years 40-42. I guess the Hq. Co. was broken up and put with units that they served.

I wear the Octofoil on my cap hoping someone will recognize it and chat a little.

Thanks for jogging my memory about the dues and hope to meet you at the next reunion.

9th Div. Band
DAVE GOODMAN
 2101 Lucaya Bend G3
 Coconut Creek, FL 33066

The last three years just flew by. Didn't realize it was time to pay dues. Enclosed is my check for the next three years.

All is well with my wife and I. It is going on our fifth year here in Florida. We love it.

Had a visit from Vic Daumit and his lovely wife. Brought back many memories.

I saw Bernie Friedkin this past summer. He's in Clearwater, Fla. Had a wonderful time with him and his wife.

Heard from Tony Jacubiak. He lives outside of Albany, N.Y. So you see, I finally got around. Would you like to hear from more of The Blue Band Boys

If you think you're at the end of your rope, be glad you're not a bell ringer.

84th FA
SAM ROBINSON
 400 Paradise Rd Madrid 1D
 Swampscott, Ma. 01907

Had a good time in Hyannis. The 84th had a good attendance, about 30. Dick O'Connor and Grace went to N.Y. and somebody ripped off her handbag. Am enclosing a picture taken in Bragg in 1941 with the Old French 75 mm. L to R Dyke, Spenerd, Bill Smith, Sam Robinson and Frank Ruane (man loading gun is unknown) Myrtle Beach, S.C. is a beautiful place to hold a reunion. Our family spent a few days there in July. I had a 3 day pass from my scrapbook dated July 4, 1941 to Myrtle Beach signed by F.O Hamilton, 1st Lt. and Capt. Roy E. Hattan, Adjutant. Are these men still around? Back then there were just sand dunes and beaches. It's quite the place now. See you in the Pines.

709 Ord.
LOUIS BRUNO
 P.O. Box 47
 Midland, Pa. 15059

Last year I went to Camp Hill without reservations. It was the first day of registering and found no one from the 709 Ord. had signed in so I left for Ocean City. I should have stayed, for the next day Robert Spencer and some of the Pittsburgh group came in. Hope to make arrangements with someone from Pittsburgh to make the next reunion together. Wish to hear from anyone who was with me in the 709 Ord.

60th Inf. A.T. Co.
FRANK CROPANZANO
 4 Orchard St.
 Caldwell, N.J. 07006

Sorry I missed the last reunion but my wife was ill. Hope to make the next one. It must have been a good one from what I read in the Octofoil. I notice a name or two of my comrades who have passed away and I will remember them in my prayers. Thank you for sending the reminders about the dues. Enclosed are mine.

47th Inf M Co.
JOHN B. KNIGHT
 Country Wood
 52 Woodview Rd.
 Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702

The reunion at Hyannis was great and looking forward to the Pines. Dewey Siddeus of Richmond Va. vacationed at Basingstoke this summer and ran across a tombstone which reads "Here lies Hambone, Jr. Faithful friend of the 47th Inf 9th Division U.S. Army." I wonder how many remember this mascot?

47th Inf. Hqs. 1st Bn
ANDY CRAWFORD
 Box 27
 Burke, N.Y.

Enjoy the Octofoil and hearing from the old gang. I was 72 on Aug. 29th and feeling good. Hello to everyone and good wishes.

Hqs. 9th Med
JAMES RICHARDS
 261 E. 4th St.
 Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218

Thank you for your letter, this is just another case of "I forgot." Was glad to see a picture of my former C.O. of the 9th Med., Col Kaufman. I am doing quite well, having been on dialysis for 2 years but am holding my own. I was 76 in August. To the gang of Co D, I see your old friend Herb Stern once or twice a year. His daughter lives close to me in Brooklyn. Herb visits me with his charming wife Cathy and grandson, a real all American little man.

Co K 39th Inf
C.E. 'Shorty' BLANKENSHIP, SR.
 2715 Dorset Rd.
 Richmond, Va. 23234

Hey all you guys:

Just putting my two-cents-worth in for this time. Hope all of you are OK. Healthwise am doing pretty good right now. Have been sort of up and down like a yo-yo. Was in sort of a pretty down foggy mood there for awhile, but think I am back up on a sort of even keel now. Made up my mind this last week that I was going to get all my letters answered that I owe to all you guys that have been so good about writing to me.

I think as of yesterday, I had finished 23 letters. I have had them stacked up on my table. Some of them have been there a long time and I really felt bad about not getting them answered. By the time you all read this in the 'Octofoil' all of you will have had a letter I hope. If I missed anyone, please just write and tell old 'Shorty' that I owe you a letter. Even better than that just sit down and write me a letter anyhow.

Am really looking forward to the reunion this year. My daughter has already received confirmation from the Pines Hotel. I sure hope I do better than last year. I was grateful that I got to go for the one day, but this year I hope to make the whole thing. All you guys get cranked up now and head for the Catskills in June. Sure hope the roof don't fall in on me before then. All of you keep your fingers crossed and I will do the same for you.

Was going through some of my old war-time stuff the other day, photos, clippings, letters, etc., and ran across a couple of names maybe some of you fellows in the New York area may help me with. These two were in "K" Co., 39th with me. We kept in touch for a couple or three years and then sort of lost touch. Would sure like to know if they are still alive or anything about either of them.

The first is: Jack Sanford. All I can remember about him is he said he lived in the Long Island area, I think with his grandparents. Think after we got home he went back to some college.

The second is "Red" Barnes. He said he was from Brooklyn or the Bronx. Don't know if those two areas are one and the same or not. The thing about him I remember is that he drove a cab. Also remember him saying that when he got back home, he was going to get his own taxicab.

If anyone in the N.Y. area recognizes either one, please let old "Shorty" know.

Thats about it for this time. Thanks again to all of you for the letters, phone calls etc. I really have appreciated it all. Just all of you out there KEEP IT UP!!!

39th Inf Co E
WILBERT GOLDSMITH
 7848 Maynard Ave.
 West Hills, Ca. 91304

It was great seeing everyone at the reunion. A week after the reunion, my wife and I went on a cruise to the Scandinavian countries, then spent 5 days in England. We visited Winchester. Enclosed is a picture of the pub near the railroad station at Winchester...In Mar. of '44 I was put on coal detail at the yards in Winchester, it was great. We shoveled coal all morning and went to the pub in the afternoon, we than began to do more shoveling.

15th Engrs. B Co.
BYRON ANGELL
 572 Smithfield Rd.
 N. Providence, R.I. 02904

Before I see red please find dues and something for the Memorial Fund. Recently a friend of mine in the Merchant Marine made a call at Safi. This brought back a few memories. The 1st platoon of B Co. 15th Engrs. was attached to the 1st Bn of the 47th. Our transportation from Norfolk to Safi was the good ship William Harris. It was a good passage for me, except for the 2 meals a day. As we neared the coast of Africa, I managed to get a look at the sand table model of Safi and the beach area that was set up in the ward room. As with attached units, nobody tells you anything. It was near midnight on Nov. 7 that Lt. Holt Rast, our platoon commander told me to take 4 men from my squad and report to station #5 on the port side. We were to go in with a unit of the anti tank. Of course they didn't know who we were or why we were there. I can remember 3 of the men who were with me. My old friend, Fred D'Amore, Clem Abbott and Connie Holmes. The 4th man I cannot recall. We moved to the rail where the rope net was and looked down, pitch black! I could hear water, but could see no Higgins boat. Someone said "Let's go". So down we went and the net took us in to the Higgins boat. The water seemed quite rough as we pulled away from the ship. We milled around in the darkness for quite a long time. The sailors said they were to form up with other boats and go in, in a wave.

Finally signs of dawn started to show. I could see high cliffs and hoped we were headed for the right place. We had not found any other boats and it was starting to get light. A destroyer had been covering us when suddenly several shells hit the water not too far from him. He returned the fire, but I think we were too far out. A few minutes later 3 huge red balls roared overhead and went down on the cliffs. Then three more and no more fire came from shore. The Battleship New York or Texas had silenced the French guns. It was now daylight and we told the sailors to get us in. We did not look much like an AT outfit. There was a captain, a T Sgt. and about 10 riflemen. We engineers were more heavily armed. I carried three AT rifle grenades and Fred carried 25 lbs. of TNT. The other three carried several bangalores. We passed the end of the breakwater and headed for what appeared to be a sand beach. All was quiet on shore.

It was 5 minutes before 8 o'clock, Nov. 8, 1942. Some 200 yards from shore, suddenly, bam! bam! two small mortar shells one on each side, close, a machine gun opened up from the top of the cliff, but his fire was high, hitting the water behind us. Two of the sailors manned the two 30's on the back of the boat and sprayed the face of the cliff. There was a lot of noise. That T Sgt. then gave a hint as to what kind of outfit the 47th was going to be in the long war that was in front of us. He turned to the rest of us and said quietly, "Fix bayonets." We grounded and jumped in to chest deep water about 15 feet from shore. We struggled thru the water and across about 150 yards of soft beach sand to the face of the cliff. All was quiet. We were in Africa.

The surest way to have the last word is to apologize.

Continued from Page 1

Remagen bridge too far

unit's veterans was killed during the cleaning of wet and muddy weapons. A soldier failed to clear a live round from his Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) before pulling the trigger. We watched helplessly as the victim's life ebbed away through his skull.

Once across the bridge, with German planes trying to bomb it out of commission, we regrouped in a railroad tunnel. Later we gathered in a defile near an ancient cemetery, where we had front row seats as machine gun fire from tanks and halftracks brought German planes down in flames.

In pitch-black darkness that night we advanced on the high ground to the east of the river, feeling our way along by holding to the person ahead. The battalion cleared the village of Ohlenberg house by house. But when daylight came, German 88's and other artillery threatened to bring the town down around our ears. Our company had to lead an attack to take the higher ground.

The memories run together from there on, like a film projector running too fast. One of the platoon leaders from South Carolina had been wounded and moved to the rear. The captain was sent back with a painful physical ailment. Louis' platoon led a suicidal attack through an orchard alive with tracer fire. Ernie and Red and their squads were attached to his platoon for added firepower, while the mortars of the weapons platoon were used for supporting fire. Attack and counterattack ensued the next two days.

Eventually, our weakened company and others forced the defenders back, but at a terrible price. Louis' platoon was the heaviest hit. We went from one casualty to another, turning bodies over to identify them. Among them were Red and Ernie and others whose letters to loved ones I had shared so recently. The strain was so great on Louis that a few days later he was assigned to rest and recuperation out of the combat zone.

Now there were two of the six officers who started from the Roer — the Texan and I. In a few days our company crossed Hitler's North-South autobahn in the war-ending drive toward the Elbe River. We hadn't gone far when the Texan caught a piece of shrapnel through his foot. He hobbled to my position and threw me his cellophane-covered operations map. "It's all yours, Buddy," he said, "I'm going home."

Louis was the only one of those officers I ever saw again. The last I heard he had volunteered for a combat assignment during the Korean War.

Thanks, Mr. Mayor, but I don't need the paperweight.

**ATTENTION
15th ENGINEERS
Dining Room**

Seating Arrangements

I will be happy to be the ENGINEER representative for seating as a group if you'd like to have our own section, if interested, send me a postal card with your name, Co. etc. and I will turn in a list with your wishes to the maitre D' at the PINES.

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

Illinois Newsletter

Greetings from the Midwest. After a spring-like month of January, we are finally settling down to a snowy, cold February. We all came through the holidays in good health. We had our annual Christmas party at the Hennemuth's this year and while small in number — we were large in fun and food. As usual, Bill and Peggy were the perfect hosts. We played our usual White Elephant game and some people made out as bandits. A good time was had by all.

There's not much new with the Illinois Chapter. The Belmonte's were busy in November with the wedding of their youngest daughter, Linda. We now have two down and one to go. Our son says he's not going to leave for a while — he's trying to follow in his father's footsteps and marry later in life.

We have not had any meetings since the Christmas Party but will have one before our Mini-Outstate Reunion in Wisconsin to make definite plans. It will be held at the Ramada Inn, Madison, Wisconsin on April 28-29, 1989. Anyone interested in attending can contact the Ramada Inn directly and ask for the special rates set aside for the 9th Division Members. Mike Carpenter had all the arrangements made and we're hoping for a larger turnout than previous years.

In Madison, we will make plans for the Memorial Day Services and finalize plans for the members who will be attending the reunion in June in New York. We are all looking forward to a successful and enjoyable reunion and reuniting with all our friends.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike and Ann Belmonte
1161 South Lombard
Oak Park, IL 60304

Florida Chapter**NOT TOO LATE TO ATTEND
APRIL MEETING**

Henry Santos, Treas. and Chairman of Meeting Functions, has been working hard in making sure that the Florida Chapter 1989 SPRING MEETING will be another enjoyable event.

If any Chapter Member hasn't already received the full mailing details, it is not too late to attend. This invitation goes for all 9th Infantry WWII veterans who now live in Florida and any member of the National Division Assn. who might be in Florida at the time.

REMEMBER the dates: April 14, 15 and 16 at the Ramada Inn located on Busch Blvd., Tampa, FL. For last minute information, contact; any of the following: Phil Ber- man, Pres. (904) 677-7292; Emil J. DeDonato, Sec. (904) 489-4070 or Henry Santos, (813) 985-5444.

Emil J. DeDonato,
Sec., FL Chapt.
9th Inf. Div. Assn.
3650 S.W. Mosswood St.
Dunnellon, FL 32630

34th FA**C.A. PORCH**

Rt. 3

Brownsville, Tx. 38012

Hope you had a safe and happy Holiday Season. I enjoy the paper and have heard from several of my buddies and some have come to see us. It has been great. Would love to hear from anyone who was in my division. Best regards.

**NEW YORK CHAPTER
REPORT**

The N.Y. area chapter held its monthly meeting on Friday, January 20, 1989, at the Masonic Lodge Hall in N.Y.C. The newly elected officers of the chapter for 1989 were sworn in. They are: Pres. - Vincent Guglielmino; 1st VP - Lou Almassy; 2nd VP - Marv Levy; Secretary - Art Schmidt; Treasurer - Anton Dietrich; Sgt. at Arms - Anthony Di Roberts; Chaplain - George Apar.

On the Board of Governors are: 39th - Frank Russo; 47th - Dan Quinn; 60th - Charlie LiBretto; Spec. Troops - Adolf Wadolavage; Div. Artillery - James Haroutourian.

The membership acknowledged the fine job done by the 1988 officers of the chapter. Former Pres. Vincent D'Addova remains ill and all wish him well. Former 1st VP Lou Almassy chaired the meetings ably in Vincent's absence.

Latest info on the 1989 Pines reunion was presented by Emil Langer. The Pines Hotel is completely booked at this time. All other late comers will be booked at the Day Inn — with a provision of being on the Pines waiting list if rooms become available.

Since there has been a fall-off of members at the last Christmas party there was some discussion on the floor to cancel this annual get together but pros and cons were tabbed for a later debate. Speaking of fall-off, it is understandable that as time goes by many 9th members find it more difficult to attend meetings and functions. But if our organization is to be viable and beneficial to all its members we must make a bigger effort to participate. Everyone remembers the depletion of our squads, platoons and companies during wartime and how our ranks were filled by replacements. But the era of replacements are gone. We are the only ones left and a handful of dedicated 9th men at the monthly meetings and special occasions keep the association going — in friendship and remembrance of buddies now, and long-gone. If you can't make our get togethers at least send Arthur a note and he'll read it to the attending members. Stay in touch.

And for those who still owe dues please send Arthur your remittance.

In attendance at the Jan. 20th meeting other than the newly elected officers previously mentioned were: Joe Rzesniowicki, Al Seely and Harry Wax.

Marvin Levy
2044 Ellen Drive
Merrick, N.Y. 11566
Co. A 60th Inf.

SOUVENIRS WANTED

No longer want and will have to dig out of attic to find.

Wanted WW II German, Italian, etc. souvenirs ... daggers, helmets, hats, weapons, uniforms. Any military items. any country, WW I and II.

Trying to put together a museum display. Cash paid for items. Please call or write with what you may have to offer...

Lt. William V. Brady
4 Van Beal Road
Randolph, MA 02368
617-963-6222

PS: Herb Olsen is grateful to Colonel Brady for providing the Army Band and Color Guard for the Hyannis Memorial Services. Herb would like to aid the Colonel.

It used to be people dressed
kill ... now they dress to maim.

Michigan News Notes

I have the Nov.-Dec. issue of the OCTOFOIL and I note a deadline of Feb. 20th. That is two days after our February meeting and as I will not be able to report on it. I submit this early.

We are meeting at the world-wide known Michigan tourist attraction, Frankenmuth, Mi. We will be enjoying the famous family style Chicken Dinner. That is all I can say except that I know that all in attendance will have a good time and probably eat too much from the family style dinner that we will be enjoying.

Winter has been easy on us so far this season. No big snow storms in this area of the state. So far the ice storms have also passed us by. The sun is shining but a good breeze is blowing and that keeps the air cool. Looking out the window I can see drops of sap dripping from a broken limb on a tree across the street. So maybe Spring isn't too far off.

If Spring is near, then June 19th can not be too far off. June will be hectic for us. Our California daughter and her husband will be coming the first of June and returning after we leave for the Catskills Reunion. So it will be rush, rush, rush for a few days. But if health permits (and that's becoming a concern for many of the troops) we will be on our way to New York State on June 17th.

So to all best wishes for a great year from the Michigan Chapter.

Rodger E. Alsgaard
Sec'y Michigan Chapter
2834 Wynes St.
Saginaw, Mi. 48602

GRATEFUL

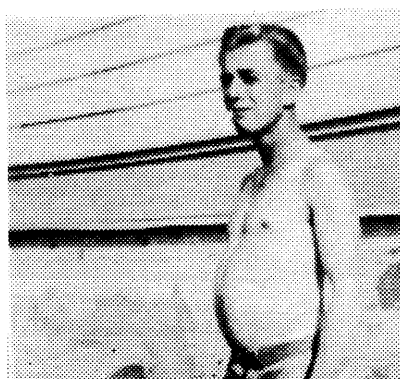
Thank you for your help in locating someone who knew my father, Vincent Basile. A Mr. Joe Gravino of Macedon, N.Y. and I have spoken twice. He was "B" Co. First Sgt. and has been most helpful. I was wondering if you have anything on a Lt. Reeves, who was platoon commander, 3rd platoon, Co B. on July 25, 1944. Again, thanks for your help.

Richard Basile
29 Brookwood Rd.
Stanhope, NJ 07874
ED'S NOTE: No records on Lt. Reeves at secretary's office.

MEMORIAL MASS

This is a brief message about a mass that was held Nov. 6, 1988 at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Ma. The mass was for our beloved Chaplain Fr. Connors who was admired by the entire membership and one that we miss dearly. The mass was well attended by the people of Worcester and also in attendance was our own 9th division members. Five members of the clergy were on the altar to celebrate mass. This mass will be held each year on the Sunday nearest to Veteran's Day and the time will be the same, 1 P.M. Another one of our members, John P. Quinn, of Worcester passed away on Jan. 26th.

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



Bill Kowalczyk (Co M 47th) sends these photos taken in 1941 supposedly showing Bill before and after Army Chow. Story appears in Mail Call.

New Jersey Chapter

The New Jersey Chapter will meet at the Nutley Amvets Post, 184 Park Avenue, Nutley on Tuesday, March 14, 1989 at 1 PM. There will be a short social hour, the meeting, and a lunch. The Post is on the corner of Park and Chestnut, behind the Dunkin Donuts oasis. As a bonus attraction for the afternoon, our Andy Andriola, A Company-47th and 9th Medics, is making arrangements for the showing of a film that will be of interest to all of our members. We will also be discussing the possibility of forming a Ladies Auxiliary in the very near future. Also on the agenda we'll be probing the membership to find out how many are interested in attending a social or two during the ensuing year.

If the weather should turn nasty, check with me at 201-549-4121 before venturing forth.

I'm really well pleased with the group that formed the New Jersey Chapter. They are truly dedicated Ninth Division men! Our meetings are friendly, productive, and fun. I hope to see the chapter grow to over one hundred active members in the next year or two.

Louis Slatnick, Secretary
284 Tall Oak Rd.
Edison, N.J. 08817

EDWARD T. HOPKINS, Pres.
110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

SICK CALL

The following members are on "Sick Call" and a few lines from their comrades would be a big boost. So come on fellas drop them a line.
Co F 60th Inf
Art MacDougall, 5051 Homestead St., Philadelphia, Pa 19135

Co H 47th Inf
Al Orletti, 990 Arnow Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10467

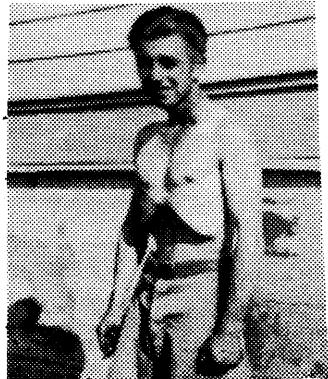
9th Recon
Vince D'Addona, 3133 Griswold Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10465

A-T 47th Inf
Henry Cassata, Rd 1 Box 521, Mt. Upton, N.Y. 13809

26th FA and 39th Inf
Bill Lewis, 54 Hopewell Dr., Struthers, Ohio 44471

9th Signal
CHUCK HODGES
PO Box 637
Gouldsboro, Pa. 18424

We of the 9th Signal had our first reunion in 43 years! It was a pleasure for me to be a part of this reunion along with Bill Miller and Ray Connolly. everyone had a good time. We thank God for his Blessings and letting us have this opportunity to get together. We give tremendous honors to our wives for all the generous help they have contributed to making this a success.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE APRIL 20th**

To "B" (47th) or Not to "B"

Greetings once again to all our "BECO" buddies, and friends! We are happy that it will not be long before Easter arrives. We cannot complain about our winter so far here in beautiful Cumberland Valley. It has been milder than usual. Rainfall, and/or snow for the past two months has been sparse, so it looks like we will have another drought season coming up. However, the months of March and April may come to our rescue, and we hope for an abundance of rainfall.

Folks, reunion time is getting ever closer! Bruce Seigel, the Director of the Pines Resort advises us to get our "BECO" Group Dining Room Arrangements for Seating ready. By doing so we can all be seated together for our entire stay. This is a very good idea. It would be appreciated if you would drop us a line at our Pa. address listed below so that all names of our "B" Co. group who have already made their reservations will be registered with the Dining Room Matre D' who will have a Registration Card made for them. Once we are seated for Monday Dinner we will not have to be reseated at any other meal. In our last Octofoil Column (Nov.-Dec. 1988) we listed the names of "B" Co. members who have made their reservations or plan to attend our reunion at the Pines Resort, Catskills, N.Y. - June 12-23, 1989, (Monday-Friday). We are going to use these names for our "B" Co. Group Listing for Dining Room Seating. If for any reason you can't make the reunion please let us know so that we can notify the Pines Resort.

There is every indication that this coming Reunion will be a great one and may even surpass the past reunions which were held at Ft. Bragg (1972-1982). As of this date we have yet to hear from more of our "B" Co. members who plan on coming to the Reunion. We have a few months to go so let's go! Get those names to us!

We were happy to hear from "B" Co. Buddy Geroge Bentley, who lives down in Conyers, Georgia. George, we are proud of the work you are doing for the hospitalized Veterans all over the County. George, who is himself a Disabled Veteran makes ped board puzzles as a hobby and donates the peg boards for the various Veteran's Hospitals and Nursing Homes from a Book of Lists that he has on hand. Congratulations Buddy!! Keep up the good work! By the way George, I haven't received my peg board as yet!

To all our "B" Co. members, wives, and friends, we wish you all a Happy Easter with a Special Prayer for Peace in our World. Keep well and enjoy yourselves to the fullest each and every day!

Pat J. Morano
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201
717-352-3650
and

Arthur J. Stenzel
8705 Village Mill Row
Bayonet Pt. Florida 33567
813-862-6716

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

Sorry to have missed the reunion at Hyannis but expect to be at So. Fallsburg this year. Glad to hear Bob Rucker is doing OK at last report.

Co F 47th Inf

Lucy and I are looking forward to the festivities at The Pines in June. We hope the F Company-47th gang will turn out in force. If any should decide they can't make it, I hope they'll let me know before they do anything, as I understand that some of our people are looking for rooms. That way, we can move our people into any rooms that are vacated by our people.

I continue to maintain contact with Gonzol, Finnigan, and Slatnick on a regular basis. I just called Finnigan last night and he could hardly talk. He had a bad case of laryngitis. Jack called me early in January and asked, "How did you make out at the track the last week?" I asked him how he knew I was at the track and he said, "I was there but decided to leave after the fourth race. I saw what I thought was my car, but when I tried to get in, my keys wouldn't open the door. Then I realized I was in the next row. When I walked back to my car, I glanced at the plates of the car I had been trying to get into, and I realized it was your car." Wasn't that a coinkydinky with some four or five thousand cars at the Meadowlands?

Slatnick is still busy as the building chairman of his Old Folks Home. That sure keeps him off the streets. His health is still good, and Marion is holding her own.

I received a note from Wilkey a couple weeks ago. He and Miriam are looking forward to the reunion in June. His periodic bouts with his ills seem to be subsiding, so I hope he has them licked.

I haven't heard from Jack Armstrong, so I am hoping that no news is good news from McLean, Va.

I spoke with Marie Tokarcheck today. She and Irma Koskie will be sharing a room at The Pines. Marie has a son and daughter living with her, but she is talking of selling their Penns Creek home and moving closer to Harrisburg. Only, Doc's widow, had called her and invited her to ride to South Fallsburg with her.

Gloria Putt called me during the holidays, as did Marie Munatore. I am happy to report that both these courageous ladies are getting on with their lives despite the tragic loss of their beloved husbands.

One day when we were visiting Andy Andriola's Amvets Post in Nutley, we stopped in to see Pop Zucker's widow who lived nearby. Pop had belonged to the Amvets, but neither he nor Andy knew that the other had belonged to the Ninth Division. Sally Zucker looked good, though she was having a bout with arthritis. I gave her George King's number, and she called and had a long talk with Mary about the benefits of the medicine that helped Mary so much.

I received a letter from Chip Maness, and it appears that he and his lovely wife Mary will not be able to join us this year at our reunion. We'll miss them both. Their presence brings zest to any gathering.

I spoke with both Bill and Mary Louise Larson today, and I'm happy to report that they both will be gracing our CP at The Pines.

Lucy and I will be going to California in April or May for our annual visit to Lucy's niece and nephew. We'll also be going to San Diego for a few days. But

Seeking

A friend of mine received your address through a friend of General Talbott's of the Society of the First Division. I am about to ask for your help in a matter that I have been postponing for much too long, almost 44 years, namely to reach an officer who was, I believe, a regimental aide in the Ninth Infantry Division at the very end of World War II.

It is a long story and I ask you to bear with me: I served in one of the German divisions which had their backs against the Elbe river near Tangermünde, after weeks of retreat from the Soviet forces which were pushing around and past Berlin. In this sector, we had the good fortune that the American commander permitted us to cross to the west bank of the Elbe and there to surrender to his men. This was two or three days before VE-Day.

Some 80,000 POW's were first gathered in a large compound, formerly used by the German Navy, near Cale-on-the-Milde. After some preliminary screening we were broken up into smaller groups and dispersed for further processing. I was part of a group of some 1200 who were moved by truck and rail around May 18, 1945 to a former German labor camp, near Alikendorf or Hadmersleben, places that appear in few maps and now are part of East Germany. A young American first lieutenant was in charge. I think of him as young—I was 35 at the time.

He was truly an "officer and a gentleman," and, whether he knew it or not, he made those first few weeks, after Germany had finally lost the war, a great deal easier to survive. It would take too long at this moment to give you details. But I do want to locate him, if he is still alive, to write him a word of sincere thanks, something the protocol of the times did not permit.

The problem is that I no longer have his name. It got lost in the general turmoil of those years. All I know is that he was a regimental aide, a Southerner, from Virginia, I believe. My assumption that he belonged to the US Ninth Division comes from maps in published military history.

Offices of the US Armed Forces cannot help me because of the Privacy Act and you may be under similar restrictions. However, it occurred to me that you may be able to put a little notice into your newsletter, asking him to contact your editor, if he cares to hear from "a former German POW, a lieutenant who acted as interpreter for some 1200 German POW's in a camp under his command. The ranking German was a major in black panzer uniform. The time, May/June, 1945 and the place, somewhere between the Elbe River and a line from Brunswick in the North to Magdeburg in the South."

I would greatly appreciate your help.

Ernest T. Thiersch
664 E. Goodrich Dr.
Deltona, FL 32725

the big vacation that we're looking forward to will be the one in June in South Fallsburg when we'll get together with all you good people. It's always such a boost to the spirit, such a refreshing experience to renew these old friendships. We hope to see you all there.

All the best

Co F 47th Inf
EDWARD T. HOPKINS
110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

60th F.A. Bn

I better get this letter in before the next issue of the Octofoil is out. The Christmas holiday brought in its more than usual cards from the many "A" men and wives — to name a few — F. Auth, Mrs. Michael Bish, J. Brandi, Mrs. N. Barhight, E. Colonello, M. Carpenter, S. De-Rosa, Al DeNaro, Mrs. B. Elliott, Ed "Windy" Freund, Al Friedlmiere, N. Gray, L. Gray, M. Jaggi, M. Lasalandra, J. Liggero, F. Lowell, C. McKee, Mrs. C. Posey, M. Patrick, L. Pandolfi, L. Prince, W. Quigley, W. Sanders, J. Stebbins, Mrs. Torhan, Ed Wardzala, Mrs. G. Wenshutonis, R. Williams and D. Williams. It's nice to hear from the old gang — but nicer if more would make the next reunion.

Jim Stebbins — I finally got him to join the Association — a life member at that. I forwarded his check to the National Secretary. Now I'm trying to get him to show up at the Ramada Inn, Madison Wisconsin, April 28 and 29 where the Illinois group is holding a Mini-Reunion for the Mid-Western States. Anyone from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Michigan is welcome. This our third get-together in Madison. Last year we doubled our first year total and we hope to double last year's total in 1989. Ramada Inn has special rates for us and has also set aside a hospitality room for our use. Make reservations directly with the Ramada Inn, 3841 E. Wasington Ave., Madison, Wisconsin, 53704. Mention the 9th Infantry Division.

A letter from George Helm, Pease, Minnesota, formerly from K Co. 3rd Bn. 60th Inf. and Maywood, Illinois caught me by surprise. He hopes to join us in Madison. Also, I have hopes that I can get Jim Stebbins from Perry, Iowa to make the trip. Haven't seen Jim since 1945.

Mike Belmonte
1161 South Lombard
Oak Park, IL 60304

Death is one time when you should hope to rise to the occasion.

Sedjeanane

Death's swift flight, through the April rain
Paused at a place called Sedjeanane.
With a cold hand, he marked his prey
And picked the ones who were to stay, forever,
At a place called Sedjeanane

In a brief moment, they gave their all,
Life, and all it meant, beyond recall.
Never to be bothered by April's rain, they sleep
At a place called Sedjeanane

Wooden crosses mark each hallowed grave
And above the sleeping ranks,
Red poppies wave.

The fight is over, there in peace,
they'll ever remain the ones we left behind us
At a place called Sedjeanane.

These lines were written by the late John D. Day who served with the 9th M.P.'s and Co E of the 60th Infantry. While serving with the 60th in Normandy John was wounded and lost his right arm.

MRS. AUDREY WEBER
46 Bromfield St.
Quincy, Ma. 02170

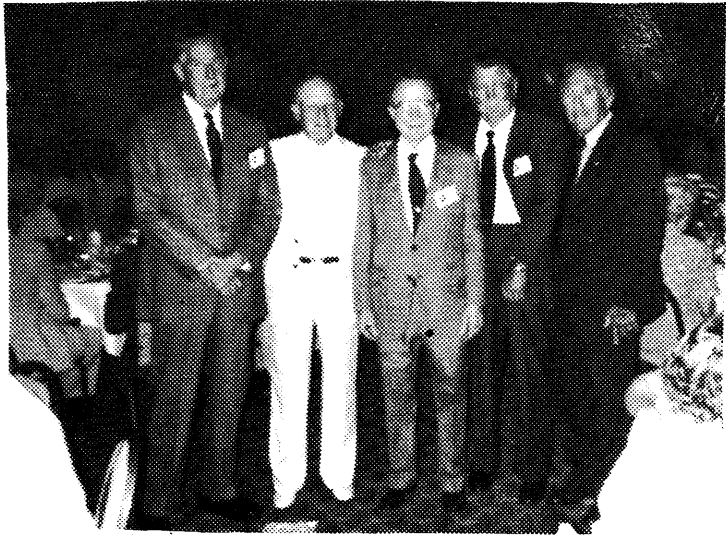
At the request of Mr. John Ryan I am enclosing a poem. I had a telephone call from Mr. Ryan during the month of December. It seems a mutual friend gave him my number. Somehow I lost his address. I understand he is the owner of a horse farm somewhere in upper New York State. I want to let him know that I did not forget. The poem did appear some years ago in the Octofoil, however, if you have the space, I would appreciate another printing. Mr. Ryan was involved with the 9th and somehow came in contact with my first husband, John Day. The 9th has a very special place in my memory. I have quite a few yellowed clippings from the New York Times about the 9th, which I treasure.



Wilbert Goldsmith, Company E 39th, sends photo taken on his recent trip to Merry Ole England. While visiting Winchester he stopped at the Pub near the Railroad Station shown in the picture. Story is in Mail Call.



Sam Robinson, 84th FA digs up a photo taken in Bragg in 1941 with the French 75mm. Left to right: E. Dyke, Gus Spenerd, Bill Smith, Robinson and Frank Ruane. (Man loading gun is unknown.) Story in Mail Call.



Cliff Painter (Co F 60th Inf) sends this photo taken at Hyannis last summer. Left to right: John Allen, Cliff, Alan Johnson, Robert Kriz and Matt Urban. They all commanded Co F 60th Inf at some time during World War 2. According to Cliff "everyone enjoyed the reunion, at least F Co 60th people did." We expect another large turnout at the Pines this summer.

3rd Bn., 60th Inf.
Co's K & Hqs.
JOSEPH L. RAPPAZINI
24001 Sherman
Oak Park, MI 48237

The day that "The Octofoil" arrives is always a very special one. Whatever else is going on is automatically set aside, for the reading of it. rates top priority, and every "G.I." knows what that means. So this past Tuesday that is what took place. As a result.

I went to my memory bank and I withdrew

The names of buddies that I knew.

They came from the very ends of the states, And some fanciful stories did they relate.

Through all of them ran a silver thread

That brightened all they ever said.

Most generally 'twas folks they rated —

Mother, father, kin and wife —

How each had made a richer life.

There were friends each had and thoughts of school

And how they'd been taught the golden rule.

There was more, however, as I did learn.

It dwelt in hearts that deeply yearned.

'Twas a gnawing yearning for men to be free —

'Cause without question it was meant to be.

But it was Fortune's will there'd be a fee

And our thrice blessed land called on you and me.

Cast in the role of soldiers for peace,

We became the "Ninth" with no release.

To serve our land, to bring lasting peace

Was the job to be done without surcease.

The "Old Reliabilities", from the rising to a re-awakening sun,

Did nobly perform a job well done.

The Thirty-Ninth, the Forty-Seventh, the Sixtieth— all three,

Have wrought a golden link in the chain of man's search for Liberty.

9th Div. Band
ANTHONY JAKUBIAK
Thayer Rd. Rt. 2
Amsterdam, NY 12010

Just received the Octofoil and find I am in arrears, so enclosed my dues. Will try to make the reunion in June. Received a letter from Dave Goodman who resides in Florida and it was great to hear from him after a lapse of 40 years. Would like to hear from other members of the 9th division band. I was with the 9th from Jan. 1941 until Sept. 1945. Hope to see all at the reunion.

47th Inf. M Co.
BILL KOWALCZYK
30 Marlborough St.
Chicopee, Ma. 01020

The enclosed photos were taken by Ben Kovacs at Camp Croft, S.C. where we had our basic training the latter part of 1941. Then, Ben, sent my photos to Life Magazine extolling Army Chow and marking them exhibit A, before chow and exhibit B, after chow. Needless to say they were returned with a note enumerating reasons (excuses) why they could not print these snapshots. Now, really, would you call them obscene? Surely the Octofoil isn't so damn PICKY!

47th Inf. Co. M
JOHN DE SEPIO
69B Middlesex Village
Middlesex, N.J. 08846

Hyannis was a great reunion. All set for the Pines in 1989! Last October the North Carolina State Ex POW's had their convention at Ft. Bragg. My wife and I went and were there for 4 days and 3 nights. We stayed at a place called Moon Hall. I had my car so riding around I came to McFaddens Pond and the next stop was the barracks. What a night! See you in June at the Pines.

47th Inf. C Co.
HENRY GOLABIECKI
170 Cambridge Ave.
Buffalo, N.Y. 14215

We are looking forward to seeing you and all the guys at the Pines. Hope to see Howard Brooks. Was with him when I joined C Co. Sept. 15, 1944, 1st platoon, 1st squad. Our same gang will be there at the Pines, Bob & Marie Cole, George & Goody Brown, Jack & Nadine Colier and my wife, Evie and I. So take care till then. Saw this clipping in my Buffalo newspaper about a James Fennie and the 99th Inf. Div. According to him, they were the first to cross the Remagen Bridge. I've read both books, March to Victory and Forty Seventh History of WW1 and WW2 but no mention of the 99th crossing first. I'm lost somewhere.

39th Inf. K Co.
MICHAEL LOMBARDI
176 Swift's Beach Rd.
Wareham, MA. 02576

I am sending you a check for 3 years dues. I have never been a member and am very proud of the ninth div. and its service record.

I am also sending a little for the Memorial Fund.

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

376th A.A. BTN. Btry. D.
HERBERT (HAP) LASTRA
30336 Nebula Ln.
Temecula, CA 92390

It has been a number of long months since I last wrote to this most wonderful newspaper, The Octofoil, but I have a good and sufficient reason. My wife and I have just about got settled into our new "digs" here in Temecula, Calif. after having moved cross country to the land of the warm breezes and gentle climate in southwestern Riverside County. No more wintery blasts nor blinding snow storms, alas. Yet we do have those frequent earthquakes to look forward to. After one semi-severe one and a couple of "easy" jolts, we are not firmly convinced, one way nor the other.

The reason for writing is really very simple. Everytime a new issue of The Octofoil comes to our house, the memories start disturbing my tranquility. You read names of towns and burghs from both this side of the Atlantic and the other. The Camps and Forts in the states, the little towns in both Northern Ireland and England. The blood seems to flow faster as well as the pulse quickens, you are reading about the guys you were closest with then, and strangely have never been replaced in your affections, because they, strangers, and friends alike, were doing, perhaps one of the most important jobs in their lives. The ensuing years have brought fame, fortune, love, marriage and for some heartbreak, others wonderful fulfilled lives. Whatever and whoever your lives encounter after we all came home, the guys that you read about in the Octofoil publication are your tried and true bosom buddies, never ever to be replaced by any human being, forever.

The facts as presented by these wonderful letter writers (perhaps I should speak only for myself, because this is the way I find it to be. You see I have no one to rehash my stories to, or with) seem to become a little bit harder to place in the proper context. The faces (so young, and yes handsome) are becoming a misty blur. The combat towns and the situations are somehow or other not in order. Yet I remember, Carmen Butera, Richie Stagg, Eddie Bird, Dom Bouantouano, Harry Cook, all tried and true communication men, who laid miles of regular wire, as well as combat wire to all our gun sections. In the snow of The Battle of the Bulge, and the heat of the summer of '44 through France. Across the Remagen Bridge, into the train tunnel, up the hill to our C.P. How many times at night we got lost trying to find Division Artillery, the C.P. of the 84th Artillery.

The countless hours, incoding and decoding messages for our work on the radio to be sent to 9th headquarters as well as our own battalion C.P.

Of course there was always the extra duty of hauling ammo to our gun sections, (the communications section was great for that, after all we knew where the guns were emplaced, we ran the lines there). How many times I worked as a replacement with the 84th forward switch. Whenever they needed someone to fill in, I was the guy they called for. After awhile my first sergeant got teed off, but sent me anyway. I spent a good part of time with the 84th while we were in the Hurtgen Forest; from early September, until the Battle of the Bulge.

Our ack-ack guns, many times did double duty, especially our four half tracks that had the multiple mounts of four 50 cal. machine guns. They were sent on to the line and used as ground fire as the Infantry jumped off.

While we were only attached to the wonderful Ninth Infantry nevertheless we always prided ourselves as bona-fide brothers in action. In our capacity as primary aircraft protection to the units of the Ninth Division our record for downed enemy aircraft was indeed a proud one, having as I recall as a full Anti-Aircraft Battalion a number of downed planes, twenty one, with a probability of some forty more.

Chance encounter leads to reunion

26th F.A.
C. Jack Strubel
367 Kaimake LP
Kailua, HI 96734

The last time "Jack from Chicago," who is now Jack Strubel of Kailua, saw Freddie "The Kaput Kraut" was on a cold Bavarian winter morning in January 1946.

That was until last month when the two crossed paths again — more than 40 years later — in Ainring, West Germany.

Their unlikely reunion was the result of a chance encounter, the odds of which probably would bewilder even Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder.

"I'd put them at about a million-to-one," Strubel said in an interview at his Kai-make Loop home last week.

Strubel and wife Dolores left Sept. 23 from San Francisco on a flight that arrived the following day in Munich.

Immediately, the two rented a car and struck out for Salzburg, Austria.

It was Strubel's first return visit to Europe. The first time he was the continent it was as a member of the U.S. occupational forces.

"I was 20 when I first met Freddie," Strubel said. "I was a P-1, a 'yardbird,' the lowest thing there is. I was getting \$52 a month with a wife and two children. I was drafted in 1944.

"I'd been in Europe for about six months with the 26th Field Artillery of the 9th Infantry Division when we took over the Airing airstrip."

The small landing strip had been used by the Luftwaffe, or Nazi air force, to launch small observation planes during the war.

It was the landing site used by Adolf Hitler whenever he sought respite from the war at his "Eagle's Nest" retreat at nearby Berchtesgaden.

It was while he and his wife were zooming down the Autobahn — at "well over 120 kilometers per hour" — that Strubel caught a fleeting glimpse of the turnoff for Reichenhall, a Bavarian resort town close to the Ainring airstrip.

"Reichenhall was about 10 kilometers off of the Autobahn," Strubel said. "All we had was this old picture of this German man that I knew as 'Freddie.'"

As they pulled into Reichenhall, Strubel noticed an

elderly man and a younger man talking near the side of the street.

"I got out of the car and walked over to them and said something like, 'Vise es man?' — Do you know this man?"

"You know, they're still a little leery of Americans there, and the younger man said right away, 'Nein, nein.'"

"But it was clear that the older man knew right away."

With good reason. The photo turned out to be that of Ferdinand Schlosser, the older man's brother-in-law.

"He told me that Freddie still lived in Ainring. I asked him to call Freddie, but he couldn't reach him, but got his daughter instead.

"The last time that I had seen Freddie, he and his wife had just had a baby girl. She was less than six months old, and he was cradling her in his arms.

"When we got to her house, she was there with Freddie's grandson. She's 41 now, she was born in 1946."

It was noon Friday when the Strubels met Freddie's daughter, who helped arrange a reunion luncheon with Freddie himself the following ???waited at a German Restaurant in Berchtesgaden as the noon hour approached wondering if they would be able to recognize a long-lost friend.

"Dolores turned to me and said, 'Here he comes now.' His dark black hair had turned snow white — of course mine has too. But other than that, he looked very much like I had remembered him.

"We had taken over Ainring about a month after the armistice. Freddie had been a member of the Luftwaffe, and he just came in as part of the civilian employees.

"We hugged each other and talked about many a ghost from the past."

The two, Strubel said, recalled how the occupational forces had great difficulty establishing supply lines, making the delivery of food haphazard at best.

"Freddie and I many a time exchanged clothes. He would wear my uniform and I would wear his civilian clothes.

"We would go out into the countryside to shoot deer and to bargain with local farmers. Freddie spoke excellent English and, of course, very good German, so he could negotiate for the eggs and fowl that we needed."

Strubel also recalled that Freddie made Christmas 1945 a more hospitable one for homesick American GIs by supplying many of the Christmas tree decorations used by the occupational forces to decorate the tree in their quarters.

There was a lot of catching up during lunch to do, too.

"I learned that Ferdinand had been a commercial photographer in Berchtesgaden for 27 years following the war before he retired?????up through the ranks."

After that, Strubel sold cars, was the executive director of the Hawaii Homebuilders Association and in 1970, formed a tax return preparation business with his wife.

"Ferdinand is 70 now and hopes to visit the States sometime soon," Strubel said. "I sure hope he makes it all the way to Hawaii if he does."

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

47th Inf. A Co.
LAWRENCE McLAUGHLIN
82 Gould St.
Wakefield, Ma. 01880

I was saddened to note in Taps Sounded the passing of my friend and fine soldier Walter "Buck" Ray. We served together in A Co. He was a brave man and I was proud to recommend him for a Silver Star which he earned in North Africa. Attached is a donation in his honor. I am enclosing a picture of the N.E. Chapter Memorial Mass Committee (1988) Worcester, Mass. Enclosed also is a letter received from Soldiers Home, Mass., which I would like considered in lieu of the Scholarship awards that we previously made. I realize you are not the principal in this endeavor, but I would appreciate any help you can add. Keep up the good work.

39th Inf, 26th Fa
BILL LEWIS
54 Hopewell Dr.
Struthers, Ohio 44471

The following was written by Bill's wife, Dorothy: Bill is back in Ron Joy Nursing Home after being in the hospital for 17 days with a very serious blood infection. Fighting his way back to health. I still spend every day with him and help him eat lunch and supper. Left side still paralyzed. Hard to take care of one's self with one hand. Soon 4 years. Our love keeps us going. Connie Matulis writes regularly. George Fleet visits and also writes. He loves cards and visits from his friends. Tell his friends he would love to hear from them. Please, pray for us. We are alone and the friends of our Church are good to us. God bless the 9th Division. He is so proud of all of you. Thanks kindly. (Bill is in Ron Joy Nursing Home, 830 Boardman Canfield Rd., Boardman, Ohio 44512.)

47th Inf H Co
JOHN POPP
24 Wolfs Bethlehem
Wheeling, W. Va. 26003

Would you please start sending me the Octofoil again. I am probably one of the first members. My number was 1193 on a card that expired Dec. 31, 1946. For some reason I was out since 1986. Thank you very much for your trouble.

60th Inf F Co
JOHN ALLEN
15901 Emory Ln
Rockville, Md. 20853

I'm sorry to send the news that William Sexton, F Co 60th Inf, passed on. Bill and I made the climb up the mountain in Sicily. We had donkeys with padded feet, carried cable for communication. We laid low by day and traveled by night, but were captured for several hours. There was another man with us but can't remember his name. We've just had a letter from Ruth Sexton and have kept in touch many years. They weren't able to make the reunions but always wanted to hear about them. Bill found me in 1962 in Silver Spring, Md. It's hard to lose him. Ruth's address is 3333 Talbot Pl., Columbus, Ohio 43223. See you at The Pines.

60th Inf F Co
HERBERT BRASINGTON
9316 Lawndell Dr.
Richmond, VA 23229

Enclosed is my check for the next 3 years and a little for the Memorial fund, in memory of F Co. We always enjoy reading the Octofoil. Keep up the good work. See you at the Pines.

Love is like life insurance:
the older you get, the more it costs.

26th F.A. Service Bty
JERRY LANGER
601 Imp. Blvd., V215
Lakeland, Fla. 33803

It seems that Service Batt. has fallen off the face of the earth. Since "Father" Joe McKenzie stopped writing the Octofoil, his fingers got so old he can't hold a pencil any more, we have lost track of each other.

Is Pergiovanni, John Murray, Bill Sacco and a dozen others still around?

I've retired for the 2nd time, and have moved to Lakeland, Fla.

If any of our old gang is still around I would like to hear from them. I will answer all letters promptly. Best regards to all.

60th Inf. L Co. & 39th Inf. A Co
OREN. M. HELLE
3825 Sherrod Rd.
Mariposa, CA 95338

Time to get my dues off before a red Octofoil comes.

Won't make 44th convention at the Pines Resort. Too far from CA. Did make the convention at Harrisburg PA, enjoyed it very much. Only run into one guy from the old outfit though, guess not many of the old gang left.

Live in the foothills now it is even snowing today, that is one thing about CA., get a lot of different weather.

B Btry 34th FA
LEO BOHM
223 N 10th Ave.
Wausau, Wi. 54401

Just heard of the association and have been to 2 reunions since. Missed last year and might miss this one but hope to make the next. Enclosed are dues for 3 years.

47th Inf Hq I & R
LAWRENCE MARTIN
1418 Blair Loop Rd.
Danville, Va. 24541

I see it's time for dues. My, how time does fly! I look forward to getting the Octofoil. I keep in touch with Spencer Norwood and Bob Kinkopf and have visited them after some 40 years. I wonder about several of the 47th I & R platoon men, Charles Kull, Joe Bennett, Cliff Giddes, Ernie Templeton, Lt. Williams, Brower and Frenchy. My health is still good at 66. Have lost most of hearing but aids do help some. Still do some deer hunting. Never will forget the deer Bob Spence and I killed up in the forest above Vicht. The company had venison that week and we had sliced venison up on the O.P. overlooking Gressenich. Must close and have a nice New Year and may God bless you and all 9th men.

26th FA
MRS. ROBERT (MYRTLE) MASON
2818 Garbett Ave.
McKeesport, Pa 15132

You'll be surprised to hear from me but I should have written sooner. First, I wish to thank you for being so kind sending the Octofoil to me in the past 4 years. I find it very interesting, as Bob always liked it so much and looked forward to receiving it. It has been 4 years, Jan. 17, 1985, that he died and you had it in the Octofoil. I still hear from some of his dear 9th division friends at Christmas time. His health was never too good, and I know he is not suffering anymore. Please accept this Memorial gift in memory of Robert. He would be happy to know you are still carrying on. Thank you for caring and God Bless you all.

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

I received a letter from Ed Combs of 2nd Bn Hqs and sure was glad to hear from him. It's always great to hear from buddies I knew and from ones that I never had the pleasure of meeting. The letter from Ed reminded me that my oldest daughter and I have been trying to locate a soldier from E Co, 47th Inf named Dewitt Stansell. The last I heard he was in Detroit in 1947. If anyone knows where he is I would appreciate letting me know. Also a good buddy, Edwin Brewer, moved and I do not have his address. Sorry, about that Dan, it was in the last Octofoil. Hello Ed Brewer old Buddy. I wish the best to all men of the 9th and especially to the ones who have lost their health. I know Jerry Teachout is having a struggle. I do not know him, but always enjoy his letters. To him I say, God bless you and hope the best for you. Best wishes to Dan and Marie.

39th Inf. Hqs.
DANIEL LAYMAN
212 Almur Lane
Wynnewood, Pa. 19096

I was saddened to read in the most recent Octofoil of the death of Bennie Nardone. Bennie was a good musician and he and his "Black Market Band" provided pleasant breaks in the life of the 39th Inf. for a long time. Enclosed is a check as a contribution to the Memorial Fund in his name. Hate to see one more "legend" of WW2 depart the scene. Many thanks, Dan, for keeping the 9th going.

47th Inf. C Co.
GEORGE GAJDOS
435 Daniel Dr.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

Since it's 1989, I'm sending you a check for the next 3 years. I was sorry to read C.B. Baker's letter about Capt. Anderson. I was with C Co. from just before St. Lo to after the Rhine crossing over the Remagen Bridge. I would like to extend my sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace. It would be nice to hear from some of the old buddies from C Co. I've been searching the Octofoil for names like Robert Cahill, Ray Carey, Samuel Con-falone, George Hendrix, John Mizia, Carl Able, Sommers Carter, Arthur Crain, Frank Czacлон, Anthony Damato, Raymond Flaw, Nicholas Gorno, Paul Hursh, Welton Lush, George McDaniel, Ira Price and many more. It's always nice to read C.B. Baker's letters. I was able to attend the 1987 reunion at Camp Hill but sad to say I didn't meet anyone from C Co. I want to work another year before I retire, then I may be able to attend the reunions annually. The Lord be with you all.

47th Inf F Co
CHARLES ROCHELLE
6419 N.C. 86
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

Here are my '89 dues. I want to say hello to all men of the 47th Inf F Co that joined in late March 1944 and stayed to the finish. If there are any N.C. men in the 47th, I would like to hear from them. Keep up the good work. Thank you.

Co C. 9th MED
WESLEY ROACH
Rt 8 Box 556
Danville, Va. 24540

Enclosed find check for dues. I enjoy the Octofoil very much. A battle with bad health the last 2 years had kept me away from all the meetings. Hope to make it this year. Keep up the good work.

60th Inf.
RONALD "SCOTTY" HIRST
Mathildenstrasse 4
D-6200 Wiesbaden

Federal Republic of Germany

It is always a pleasure to take a break from my writing to drop a note to the Association.

I'd like to make a few comments on some of the letters in the last edition (and I read each one, as always). Robert Watts talked of being wounded after his first day across the Ludendorff Bridge and rejoining his unit in the Harz Mountains. I had a similar experience but re-joined George Company/60 on the Mulde river. Siegfried Reinheimer tells me he'd like to hear from George Company -guys! I'll drop him a note and tell him I have sought that for forty years! Trouble is Siegfried was coming when I was going!

I'll also drop a note to Wilmer Firme — but then he might see these lines in the next Octofoil. I wish to know more about Warren Spahn as an engineer at the Ludendorff Bridge. I too often saw him pitch when he was not only a Milwaukee but also a Boston Brave. As to you Hermon Rahn, I like to know the title and the publisher of the book by George Furber. I was pleased to be at the site of the former bridge at Remagen when the 9 Armored Division men came over to dedicate their memorial. Among those present were Lt. Colonel Engemann and Sergeants Drabik and Delisio. It was an emotional and unforgettable experience. And, well photographed.

Another George Company guy made his presence known but again one before time — the other one was after. Lewis Aldridge — but maybe he would remember the names of some of the men from the Company's second platoon! If you do, Lewis, write to me. Thank you.

And the last item, Dan, I'll be in Normandy (again) in April. If this letter arrives in time to let the membership know, and IF I can do something for anyone of them while there, they should let me know. By the way, if any men of 3 Bn/47 or Co. A 899DD or Trp C/4 CavSq would wish knowing more about their days of 30 Jun/1 Jul 44 near d'Auderville tell them to write M. F. LeCouvey, Mairie d'Auderville, Auderville, F-50440 BEAUMONT HAGUE, France. He'd like to hear from you! He'll tell you more about the big guns you captured. God bless.

9th Med. Bn B Co.
DONALD HYDE
120 Wiley Ave.
Deland, FL 32724

Since re-joining the Association I have heard from several of our Co. B. In March we met in Dade City with Jack Wilson, Roy LeBlanc, Goerge (Schmitt) Schmidt, and Lester Guilford.

Attended the mini-reunion in Pigeon Forge. Had a great time with buddies I hadn't seen since WW II — Pete Radichio, George Stein, John Laubach as well as Jack Wilson and some familiar faces from Co. C.

Won't be able to make Hyannis but hello and good luck to all those who do.

47th Inf. Service Co.
ANDY JONES
Rt.#1 Box 881
Wartburg, Tn. 37887

Enclosed find check for another years dues — I enjoy the Octofoil very much.

My wife and I enjoyed a couple days camping trip with C.C. Evans and wife Betty down at Vogel St. Park in Georgia last Sept. Since then I've had some medical problems. I had a heart attack in November. My Doc. says I'm doing fine, just have to take care - So I do some fishing and normal activities.

Sure would enjoy hearing from any of the guys that might remember me.

Good luck to all.

34th FA, Hqs Btry
BOB TURNER
1 Munroe Ave.
Woburn, MA 01801

Enclosed find dues and a little extra for the Memorial fund. Enjoyed the Hyannis reunion and am looking forward to the Pines. Thanks for all you and the other officers have done to keep this 9th association as strong and alive as it is. I look forward to every issue of the Octofoil and read every word.

47th INF. H. Co.
RAY CAUDILL
1026 Bingham Dr.
Fayetteville, N.C. 28304

I am sorry to have missed so many reunions but will try harder not to. I am doing fine and work at Ft. Bragg in the old 39th Inf. P.X. building. So if anyone is out this way, please stop by for a chat.

60th Inf. M. Co.
FLOYD HUTCHERSON
102 S. Kingston Ave.
Rockwood, Tn. 37854

I am enclosing dues for 3 year's membership. I enjoy the Octofoil and would like to locate and hear from fellow "GO DEVILS" who came into the 60th at the Remagen Bridgehead and on to Ingolstadt.

47th Inf. A Co.
ANGELO ORENA
153 Kingsbury Lane
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Enclosed are dues for hte coming year. I enjoy reading the paper and am always looking for people I might know, but to no avail. If there are any fellows out there from my outfit, let me hear from you. Time has done things to our memories and I hope this will bring some response. Thanks.

26th FA
OCTAVIAN GANSCA
412 Meek St.
Sharon, Pa. 16146

Enclosed find check for 3 years dues. Always glad when I receive the Octofoil. Read it from front to back. Keep up the good work, because if you and your staff don't, we will lose touch with our comrades. My best to all the "Old Reliabes."

CHARLES HARVEY
7407 Huntridge Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

I am sending a check for 3 years dues for my husband, Charles R. Harvey. Sorry we are late. Charles has been away from home 9 months. First in the hospital, then a nursing home. He is now at V.A. Nursing Home, South Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas, Ky. 41075. He has been doing better in the last five weeks.

Catskills Reunion
June 19th thru
June 23rd 1989

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
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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 ever-lasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division.

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NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name..... Serial No.....
Street Address.....
City..... Zone..... State.....

I was a member of:

Battery..... Company..... Regiment..... 9th Div.....
I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year.....\$ 5.00 ☐
Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund.....☐
THREE-YEAR MEMBER.....\$13.00☐
Life Membership.....\$50.00 ☐
Ladies Auxiliary Member.....\$ 2.00 ☐
Please credit the following chapter:
Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐
Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐
New England ☐ Michigan ☐
Florida ☐

A directory of members is being compiled by Dave Heller and cooperation of the members is asked to fill out the form provided below and send to Dave. Heller.


NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

Last Name: _____
First Name, (Middle Initial) _____
My most important assignment in the Ninth:
Regiment: _____ Battalion: _____
Company or Battery _____
Other assignment in the Ninth, if any:
Regiment: _____ Battalion: _____
Company or Battery _____

RETURN ADDRESS

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____
Zip: _____

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

 - TO -
DAVID H. HELLER
618 SUMAC ROAD
HIGHLAND PARK, IL 60035

TAPS SOUNDED

Yon marble minstel's
voiceless stone
In deathless song shall tell,
When many a vanquished
year hath flown,
The story how you fell..
Nor wreck nor change, nor
winter's blight,
Nor time's remorseless
doom,
Can dim one ray of Holy
light
That gilds your glorious
tomb.
(stanza from "The
Bivouac of the Dead" by
Theodore O'Hare)

The Association mourns the
passing of these "Old
Reliables" and friends. To
their loved ones we offer our
deepest sympathy. May
they rest in peace.

Louis Walters
Co A 15th Engrs
Lloyd H. Anderson
60th Inf
William J. Sexton
F Co 60th Inf
Wilbert F. Fiene
C Co 60th Inf
Frank Kalich
C Co 9th Med
Edwin Price
M Co 60th Inf
Walter Beavers

Don Peel
Div Hqs
Sam Moscatelli
B Co 47th Inf
Julius Iannotti
Hqs Btry. Div Arty.
Lloyd "Dutch" Guerin
F Co 39th Inf
Silverius J. Galvan
AT 47th Inf
Charles H. Brauer
1st Bn 60th Inf
Orie Treakle
60th Inf Hqs (Brother of
Marvin Treakle)
John P. Quinn
26th F.A.
James "Jake" Parker
9th Signal

To the Octofoil:

I regret to inform you that my husband, Charles Brauer, died suddenly Aug. 1, 1988. He was very proud of having served with the 9th division as a 2nd Lieutenant in Europe and though serving as a reservist with the 78th N.J. Lightning Division attaining the rank of Colonel, until his retirement, he still kept touch with the 9th and its doings through the Octofoil and your letters. We will all miss him.

Mrs. Audrey Brauer
38 Evergreen Ave.
Neptune, N.J. 07753

47th Inf. F Co.
ED NETTA
608 4th Ave.
Elizabeth, N.J. 07202

I'm sending a check for the Memorial Fund in memory of my wife, Victoria. I'm still bleeding over the loss of her. We went out together, worked together and also went to the reunions when we were not busy with the market. This year I won't be doing much, so I might see you at the Pines. So long for now and God bless you all.



THE 9TH INFANTRY
DIVISION ASSOCIATION
44th ANNUAL CONVENTION
JUNE 19-23, 1989 (MONDAY-FRIDAY)
AT THE PINES RESORT HOTEL

Your Host: **SOLD OUT** ^{apter}

RATES AND ACCOMMODATIONS
JUNE 19-23, 1989

5 Day/4 Night Package (Monday-Friday)

	Double	Single	Triple	Four
Super Deluxe	\$320	N/A	\$281	\$241
Deluxe	\$290	N/A	\$261	\$221
Standard	\$255	\$381	N/A	

Above rates are per person, per stay, from Dinner on day of arrival to after Lunch on day of departure including three meals daily. The above rates include gratuities for waiter, busboy and chambermaid. Bellmen and Bartenders are not included. Please note NYS Sales Tax, currently 7% is included.

Rate also includes Special 9th Infantry Day Trip to West Point WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21st, 1989

RESERVATION FORM

Full Name _____
Spouse Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Your Unit _____
Roommate (if not spouse) _____
Other people in party _____

I have a Walking/Handicap Problem ____ Yes ____ No

Choice of Accommodation: (1) ____ (2) ____

Deposit Enclosed _____

A \$25.00 per person, refundable deposit is required to confirm your reservation. 48 hour cancellation required for full deposit refund. Phone reservations not accepted. Please use reservation form.

Check-in Anytime on Monday.
Check out Friday After Lunch - 2:15 PM

Mail Completed 9th Infantry Division
Reservation Form to: c/o THE PINES Resort Hotel
So. Fallsburg, NY 12779

RESERVATION DEADLINE May 8, 1989
RESERVE EARLY - DON'T BE LEFT OUT

PINES accepts for Final Payment VISA, MASTERCARD, Personal Check or Cash. PINES DOES NOT ACCEPT AMERICAN EXPRESS.

60th Inf Hqs Co.
MARVIN TREACLE
440-4th Ave., So.
Clinton, Ia. 52732

Just a few lines from the midwest ice box.! The weather is warming here now from what it was a week ago. When it scooted below the zero mark. It has been a most unusual winter with a lot of changes but overall good, hardly any snow. On Jan. 31 it was the warmest ever recorded here, 69° and 4 days later 0! My brother, Orie, died Jan. 27 after several years of declining health. We served together from Oct. 40 throughout the war in the same company, Hq 60th Inf. He was not a member of the association but had many buddies in the unit. We have spent all our lives being very close and I shall miss him so much. Of all the guys we buddied with and were close to, I am the only one left. I wish there were something I could do for the association members, but my health isn't good anymore and my pocket-book is flat. My wife and I live from pension to pension check just as so many do. I do worry about the way our country is going in debt, all the crooked deals for profits. Where has patriotism gone that even our leaders in government are so greedy? The NOW generation and the near future ones are being left with a real mess. I feel for them and pray for them. I don't think I have missed a word from the Octofoil in a long while.

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund was enriched by the generosity of these members and friends. We salute you.

Walter J. Labaj
Charles E. Ayers
Mrs. Myrtle Mason (In memory of husband Bob, 26th FA)
Robert A. Turner
John A. Caughey
Lawrence McLaughlin (In memory of Walter "Buck" Ray, A Co 47th Inf.)
Calvin Daniels
Edward Drabik, Sr.
Daniel Layman (In memory of Bennie Nardone, 39th Inf.)
Nicholas A. Wagner
Ed Netta (In memory of his wife, Victoria)
Andrew Erato
Herbert Brasington (In memory of F Co 60th Inf.)
Jerome Langer

INFORMATION

I am doing research on the role of the division artillery during the Battle of the Bulge. Specifically the operations atop Elsenborn Ridge and the northern shoulder. If anyone has any information and would correspond with me about this subject, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

CPT Allen Batschelet
3208 Forest Hill Dr.
Killeen, TX 76542

MAIL CALL

39th Inf G Co
BILLY ALLSBROOK
4616 Erath
Ft. Worth, Tx. 76119

Thank you so much for your response to my letter of inquiry of my buddies in the Ninth Division.

I cannot tell you how thrilled I was to receive the copy of The Octofoil newspaper. It was like a cool drink of water given to someone crawling across a parched desert. This analogy is utilized simply to illustrate the search I conducted seeking information of my buddies and the Ninth. Another emotion experienced was anger at myself for failure to contact you earlier for I had seen your name in the DAV magazine on other occasions.

I welcome the opportunity to become a member of the association and eagerly seek any information, such as books, covering the record of the Ninth Division.

However, I must point out that I am probably considered a rookie regarding longevity with the Ninth is concerned. For I was assigned to the Ninth in July, 44 but could not join them till August, 44. It seemed the guys were involved in a fracas called the Falaise Gap.

Mr. Quinn, please recall one of the men I requested information on was Henry Santos of California. When reading the Octofoil, I happened to notice a Henry Santos from Tampa, Florida listed as a member of the Board of Directors of the Association. Could this be the same man that I am seeking? If so, and an information release is possible, respectfully request his address and/or telephone number.

Again, let me say how happy I was to hear from you. Just learning information about your old outfit seems to satisfy a deep longing within one's self! Plus the privilege/opportunity to say "hello" once again to someone that shared a common goal of coming home from a place so long ago and far way!

60th Inf. I Co.
ROGER SCHAEFFER
1664 Sunset Ave.
Akron, Ohio 44301

Enclosed are dues for another 3 years. Mona's and my lives are still filled with making music and when we're not doing that, we're baby sitting our 16 month old one and only granddaughter so her mama can continue her teaching career in our Akron Public Schools. Just finished perusing the latest Octofoil and was pleased to see names such as Fred and Selma Golub, Ed Lusk, Barney Ingebretson and Mike Kaufman. The memories come flooding back! Best of luck to all and especially to the Dan Quinn family.

47th Inf. K Co.
KENNETH KUNZ
Box 24
New Douglas, Il. 62074

Enclosing check for 2 years dues. I enjoy reading the Octofoil. The last issue was of interest to be because of the article written by George Nicklen, K Co. 47th Inf. I was in the same place at the same time in the mortar platoon. Thank you and keep up the good work.

39th Inf. M. Co.
ALBERT IRENE
260-15 81st Ave.
Floral Park, N.Y. 11004

Would appreciate any M Co. 39th Inf. men interested in writing to me. I went through the Octofoil and did not see one name of M Co.

9th Recon
BOB LYNCH
2103 Eleventh St.
Cuyahoga Falls, Oh.

Guess it's time to let you and past members of the 9th. Recon. Troop know that I am still around and kicking, although a heart attack did floor me for a while about a year ago.

Correspondence with Recon. people lead me to believe that we will have approximately twenty in attendance this year, plus wives, girl friends etc. and should make one of our largest attendance figures.

In attempting to locate one of our Recon. lieutenants, a Buck Buchanan, I encountered a C. (Buck) Buchanan in Texas who was with the 60th Inf. from Bragg to Normandy where he was hit and returned to England for hospitalization and then sent home. I sent him the most recent copy of the Octofoil in hope that he will join up.

Take good care of Marie. Please, please, and please set up a golf schedule in advance of the morning of play.

Cannon CO. 39th
CALVIN C. DANIELS
47354 Burton Dr.
Utica, Mich. 48087

Thought I would write and give an account of myself. I retired March 1, 1988, so will have more time to travel and make more of our 9th Div. reunions. Will try and be in N.Y. for our next one if all's well. Everything fine here with Michigan Chapter, we will have another get-together Feb. 19th for Chat & Supper.

Enclosed you will find a little something for 9th Div. Assn. Memorial Fund. Will be looking forward to seeing you all in June. Keep up the good work.

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

I am writing this in regard to an article in the Octofoil about the Go Devils. When first assigned to the 60th in Sept. 1944 some of the boys had the Go Devils insignia on their helmets, but never seen anything written about it. When assigned to the 9th I was told the 9th was known as the Phantom Division because the Germans ran in to them where ever they attacked. When we went to Nonschau in Sept. 1944 our vehicles were shelled from the hills which caused confusion as shells hit the convoy. I recall Capt. Johnson saying before the Bulge "I don't like this, our lines are too thin held this could mean trouble." Remember using gasoline in quart bottles with rag wicks for heat and light while in fox holes and basements also carrying TNT caps and fuses for shooting fox holes. My fox hole buddy was Martin Sustarich from Lake Linden, Mich. Would like to know if any F Co. 60th can remember Lt. Powlis? Let's hear from you fellows from F Co. 60th Inf. Help Dan Quinn fill the Octofoil.

60th Inf K Co
JOHN CRIMI
95 Harvard St.
Hartford, CT 06106

My wife and I are looking forward to the reunion at the Pines. We missed the Cape Cod last year. Enjoyed the April 1988 Florida mini reunion and as newcomers we were treated so well and made so many friends. Henry Santos made sure we took part in everything. A wonderful program was planned.

39th Inf
WALTER SMITH
1035 Terrace Blvd.
Trenton, N.J. 08618

Had some heart trouble just before Thanksgiving in to December. A vein that runs down the front of the heart had stopped up and I was in the hospital. They went up through the groin to the heart with the balloon. Did it 2 times. Feeling pretty good now. Best to all.

9th QM Co.
EVERETT TAPP
163 Meadow Circle
Ellenton, Fl. 34222

Just a short report on the Tapps. We are enjoying the winter months Oct. 15 to May 15 at our winter quarters here in Florida. I enjoy my golf 2 or 3 times a week and Irene enjoys part activities. Little Irene had to have some major surgery on July of 1988 but back to full speed ahead at this time. We have our reservations for the Pines in June. Hope to be there with the golf clubs.

47th Inf B Co
ERNEST CRAWDER
Rt. 1 Box 233
Low Gap, NC 27024

Enclosed are dues for the next 3 years. Nina and I are looking forward to the '89 reunion. I could not make the last one due to ill health. Hope it is not too late to make reservations. Looking forward to seeing all the "Beco" buddies there.

60th Inf C Co
VICTOR GONZALEZ
1722 N. Hoyt St.
Chillicothe, IL 61523

Sorry for the delay but here are my dues for 3 years in the wonderful 9th division association and the Octofoil which I read from cover to cover. I still have my 1st membership card dated "Expires Dec. 31, 1948," signed by Henry Rigby. My prayers to Augie Pegnalitti as I read in a letter from Roscoe Shields and I remember all the guys in the photo by him, Paul Lombardo, Eland, Haflinger, Vallire, August, Pegnalitti, Chase, Duckett, Fisher. I have never seen any of them since we left Germany. Received Christmas cards from Tony Cheney, Gerald Blackwell, Jackson Blackwell, Love Hunt. One of these days we will meet again perhaps at the reunion.

47th Inf L Co
WILLIAM BAUER
1004 N. Cody
Hardin, Mont. 59034

Time to pay dues. Thanks for a great paper, keeps us together. Glad to say my health is good and keep pretty active. After a very dry hot summer, we are now deep in snow. Keep up the good work.

47th Inf L Co
JOHN CAUGHEY
2016 Stonelea St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Enclosed find check for 3 years dues and the balance to the Memorial fund. I missed the last 2 reunions, but we have our reservations for this year at the Pines. I had a serious throat operation in July of 1987 and am still recovering from it. I'm feeling fine now, so I hope to see you and some of my L Co buddies in June. Sounds like you guys have a real good program set up for this year. Best wishes and good health to you and the rest of the gang and thanks for everything you have been doing.

**'89 Reunion
June 19th thru
June 23rd**

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

Just in time to get this note in the next edition of the Octofoil for the dining room seating arrangements and seating at the banquet. I have received petitions from buddies from B Co. 15th Engrs. to get our group together as we have in the past. I will contact the dining room Maitre D' and submit these names, Dick McGrath, Al Ferrante, Jerry Shea, Bill Davidson, Tony Sangiacomo, Jim Mullen, Fred D'Amore, Paul Lisa, Frank Rankin, Art Schmidt and maybe others. Wishing good luck to the New York Chapter for a great reunion.

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DUES REMINDER

This issue of the Octofoil has been used for years to remind our members that "dues are due." The caption "Is your Octofoil addressed with tell-tale red ink?" was used for years but now with our new computer mailing arrangements this is not possible. Instead we ask the members to check their Octofoil especially where their name is printed and above their name you will find numbers and they will indicate what year your dues are paid up until. The letter L will indicate Life member - H will indicate Honorary member and 088 will let you know that your dues are payable now, 089, 090, etc. are good till the year indicated.

If for some reason you find it difficult in paying the dues drop us a line and we will keep you on our membership roll, send you the paper and keep the matter confidential.

We remind our members that a limited budget keeps us from mailing the Octofoil to those who fall in the delinquent class. Send your dues to the secretary's office, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

M.P.'s
Carlo Palermo
7 Maynard Street
Arlington, Mass. 02174

I got such a good response from my last letter, I decided to send you another story for OCTOFOIL.

This story took place in Sicily 1944, just below Mt. Etna. One night we received orders to advance. We advanced so much they placed us to outpost in front of the Infantry. At that time we did not know this. There were just two of us. The other M.P.'s name was Wilson. It was about 3 o'clock in the morning, when suddenly we heard voices speaking a foreign language. Being of Italian nationality, I could understand their conversation and knew they had to be Italian soldiers. When they were almost on top of us, we surprised them. They begged us not to shoot. They were not armed and came forward to surrender to the Americans. They were very happy to be taken prisoner, and especially happy that I could speak their language.

After lengthy interrogation, they gave us vital information, where the German positions were and much more. When morning came, it was time for breakfast, we ate C. rations and our prisoners had bread and cheese, that was all the food they had with them.

I was so sick and tired of C. rations that I asked one of them to exchange some bread and cheese for some of my C. rations. Well, it was a great treat for them and the same for me. BUT, let me tell you I never in all my life ate bread and cheese that was so stale. I could hardly get my teeth to chew, it's a good thing I had good teeth, but my jaws sure got a good work out. I must say I did enjoy it very much, all that was missing was a good bottle of wine. Later that day we received orders to release our prisoners and direct them to the rear of the lines.

They say its a small world. I wouldn't be surprise if I should hear from one of those paesanos'. P.S. Would like to hear from any EX/Military Police.

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

Sorry Wilma and I missed the gala event at Hyannis and it was nice of the gang to remember us with the cheerful card. I've sent my reservations for "The Pines" and hopefully we will make it. In April I received a letter from Col. Maness congratulating me upon being selected as a member of the DMR along with the certificate signed by Lt. Gen. William H. Harrison. I am most grateful to Col. Maness for his effort in obtaining this honor for me and trust the men of the F Co deem me worthy.

47th Inf. I Co.
RICHARD SLATE
R4 Box 300
Hillsville, Va. 24343-8050
Enclosed is my Life Membership dues. I enjoy the Octofoil and look for buddies from 3rd Bn. I Co., 47th Inf.

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

Received your dues reminder and couldn't believe I forgot to pay. I have been in the hospital for a by-pass on my leg and tied up most of the summer in and out of the hospital. Best wishes to all. I am still in touch with my Co. and go to reunions, but missed this year.

47th Inf.
JOE TROUT
Rt. 1 Box 292
Lincoln University, Pa. 19352
I just plain forgot the dues. Thanks for the reminder. I'm doing O.K. except for a stroke 9 years ago. After the stroke and now at age 73 I'm slowing down a bit, but determined to stay out of the rocking chair. We had visits from Charlotte and Laurence Melanson (from Colo.) and Frank Venezia (N.J.) What a time! Reminded us of how important friends are, especially those who shared this part of our lives. We enjoy the Octofoil. Keep up the good work. Thanks again.