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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, March/April 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 2

Mar-April 1989

Forty Fourth Annual Reunion Ninth Infantry Division Association June 19-23, 1989 The Pines Hotel South Fallsburg, New York

Program of Events

Monday June 19, 1989

- 9:00 A.M. Welcome to the Pines - Check in All Day
5:30 P.M. Welcome Cocktail Reception (Upper Lobby)
6:30 P.M. Dinner is Served in the Main Dining Room
8:15 P.M. Music and Dancing
9:30 P.M. Show Time

Tuesday June 20th

- 7:00 A.M. Golfers Breakfast
7:30 A.M. Breakfast
8:00 A.M. Golf Tourney Begins
12:30 P.M. Lunch Time
3:00 P.M. Board of Governors Meeting (Wedgewood Room)
6:30 P.M. Dinner is Served in the Main Dining Room
7:30 P.M. Buses leave for Monticello Raceway
8:15 P.M. Music and Dancing
9:30 P.M. Show Time

Wednesday June 21st

- 6:00 A.M. Early wake up
6:45 A.M. Breakfast
8:00 A.M. Depart for West Point
9:00 A.M. Arrive at West Point for Memorial Services
12:00 P.M. Lunch at West Point (and Sightseeing Tour)
6:30 P.M. Dinner is served at the Pines-Main Dining Room
8:15 P.M. Music and Dancing
9:30 P.M. Show Time

Thursday June 22nd

- 7:30 A.M. Breakfast
9:15 A.M. Committee Meetings
10:00 A.M. General Business Meeting
10:00 A.M. Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (Conference Center)
12:30 P.M. Lunch
2:00 P.M. Special Ladies Activity-Free Bus to the Apollo Outlet Shopping Mall
3:00 P.M. Board of Governors Meeting
6:00 P.M. Gala Cocktail Party
7:15 P.M. Banquet Served in the Main Dining Room
8:45 P.M. Music and Dancing
10:00 P.M. Show Time

Friday June 23rd

- 7:30 A.M. Breakfast-Main Dining Room
12:30 P.M. Lunch is Served - Main Dining Room
If you are not staying for lunch and would like a box lunch for departure, please see the Maitre D at breakfast.
2:00 P.M. Strike Tents-Check Out Time

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

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.

Visit to West Point WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21st

HISTORY

West Point and the United States Military Academy have become synonymous titles of wide renown. Since 1802, the Nation's oldest service academy has resided at the historic site of the Nation's oldest military post in continuous operation.

Reorganizing the strategic importance of its Hudson River location, General George Washington gave West Point its first major role of national service. A permanent garrison of American Revolutionary troops was stationed here on January 20, 1778, to thwart British efforts to control river navigation and split the colonies. A massive iron chain thrown across the sharply angled Hudson from West Point to Constitution Island prevented enemy use of the artery and figuratively bound together the struggling American states. Forged of human links, West Point's "Long Gray Line" of graduates has perpetuated this early role of service to country.

Embodying proposal of Washington, Hamilton and Knox for a source of school-trained military professionals, an act of Congress, signed by President Jefferson on March 16, 1802, marks the birth of the Military Academy. This legislation established the relationship between West Point and the famed school which opened its doors July 4, 1802, with 10 cadets enrolled.

Since its founding, West Point has graduated many thousands of young men and women representing practically all sectors of American life. The names of Grant, Lee, Pershing, MacArthur, Eisenhower, Aldrin, Borman and Collins give its alumni a singular place in the country's annals. The countless service deeds of many lesser known West Pointers, however, must be reckoned in any total assessment of its contributions to national welfare.

THE CORPS

The United States Corps of Cadets, numbering approximately 4400, is organized as a brigade of four regiments. Each regiment is made up of three battalions of three companies each. The 36 companies each number about 100-120 and contain cadets from all four classes. Cadet leaders exercise command responsibility in most phases of cadet life.

Cadets are members of the Regular Army and receive about half of the basic pay of a Second Lieutenant, from which they must pay for their uniforms, textbooks, and incidentals. Quarters, rations, and medical care are provided. When the cadets have completed the course of instruction and meet required standards, they are, upon graduation, appointed as second lieutenants in the Regular Army of the United States.

Reunion June 19th-23rd

Reunion is a Sell Out Over flow members to be billeted few miles away Continuous transportation provided

The over flow crowd will be billeted at the Days Inn a few miles from the Command Post, The Pines, but their meals will be served at the Pines and free transportation will be provided to take them back and forth to the Inn.

Once before the association tried this type of reunion and that was a few years ago at Camp Hill, Pennsylvania when the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter Members arranged for food and lodging of the troops. We think the New Yorkers will top that reunion (and it was a good one) knowing the meals that are served in the Catskills.

Seating Arrangements

Once again we remind the members that are attending the reunion to get together with their pals and make arrangements for the seating on the first day of arrival, Monday June 19th. The Dining Room Maitre D' will be in the registration area to assign dining room seating for your entire stay. One member of a group should take care of these arrangements and for those not with a group of any size you will be assigned table seating upon arrival at The Pines.

The count down has begun and the old troops are loading their gear for the trip to the Catskills, New York for the forty-fourth reunion. Paul Plunkett, former Editor (now deceased) would call it a "Whopper" or there'll be a big time in the old town tonight. This gathering of the clans is being called a "Cruise Ship on Land" with three unlimited gourmet meals daily, extensive on premises facilities, nitely top star entertainment each evening with no cover or minimum, highlighting singers/comedians from Atlantic City and Las Vegas. The Command Post, The Pines, has also arranged two special cocktail parties along with what we believe is the prestigious trip to West Point on Wednesday June 21st, where Memorial Services will be held.

Special Arrangements

Special arrangements have been made for those who would like to attend the Banquet on Thursday and will not be attending the other days of the reunion. The Banquet tickets will be \$35.00.

Deadline for Directory of Member

Get those cards in !

About 750 members of the Association have already sent in green cards or coupons from the Octofoil, giving information about their units in the 9th Division for publication in the forthcoming Directory of Members. Our present goal is to finish this project by the end of 1989. This will be possible only if we set a DEAD LINE of June 23, 1989. Any cards received after that date cannot be processed and the members concerned will have to appear in the back as: "Unit Not Listed." If you are uncertain whether or not you have sent in your listing, send in another one. If you have information about deceased members of the Association, please send it in marked "DECEASED," and include the name and address of the sender.

Please send cards or the coupon on page 2 as soon as possible to:

DAVE HELLER
618 SUMAC ROAD
HIGHLAND PARK, IL 60035

Attention All Members

Awards to Veterans Facilities

Prior to our reunion at the Pines in the Catskill, in June, send to any of the following Committee members your recommendations for financial awards to Veterans Facilities.

Chairman:

Lawrence J. McLaughlin
82 Gould Street
Wakefield, Mass 01880

Member:

Henry Santos
9811 N Connechaussets Rd.
Tampa, Florida 33617

Member:

Adolph J. Wadalavage
94-30 96th Street
Ozone Park, L.I. NY 11416

The committee will review all recommendation submitted and select according to merit and financial limitations.

PS: The Committee does not have a name or title. Larry would like to refer to it as "Veterans Awards Committee." If anyone has another suggestion they are open to further consideration.

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

National Officers	Board of Governors
President	1989
Emil Langer	Floyd Hennessy
5 Brentwood Dr.	Lambertville, Mich.
Morris Plains,	Olive Carter
N.J. 07950	Forestville, Md.
	Dave Heller
Vincent/Guglielmino, 1st. V.P.	Highland Park, IL
114 Charles Street	Emil Langer
Floral Park, N.J. 11001	Morris Plains, NJ
	Lewis Maness
Elmer Wagner, 2nd V.P.	Cocoa, FL
2833 Hotchkiss	1990
Bay City, Mich.	Ralph Carci
	Brunswick, Md
Fred D'Amore, 3rd. V.P.	Richard Martin
95 Webster St.	Springfield, Mass.
E. Boston, Ma. 02128	Len Tomassone
	Pennsauken, NJ
Harrison Daych	Edward Wisniewski
Judge Advocate	Richard, Mich
4313 Carriage Court	Adolph Wadlavage
Kinsington, Md. 20795	Elmhurst, NY
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Somerville, Mass 02144	Jack Collier
	St. Louis, Mo
Daniel Quinn, Secretary	Larry McLaughlin
412 Gregory Avenue	Wakefield, Ma
Weehawken NJ 07087	Henry Santos
	Tampa, FL

The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are \$5 per year with \$1.50 of the \$5.00 earmarked for the issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. of any change of address.

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

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry. Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an 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.

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

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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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund		
THREE-YEAR MEMBER	\$13.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Membership	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ladies Auxiliary Member	\$ 2.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please credit the following chapter:		
Philly-Delaware Valley	Greater New York	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	Washington, D.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>
New England	Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida		<input type="checkbox"/>

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

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

by John Donne

With deep regrets we announce the passing of these "Old Reliabilities" and friends. To their loved ones may we offer our belated sympathy. May they rest in peace.

George Schmidt
 B Co 9th Med

Dom Shukis
 B Co 9th Med

Charles Gill
 C Co 39th Inf

Forrest W. Cobb, Jr.
 47th Inf Hqs

William Rohan
 Med Det 39th Inf

Peter A. Carozza
 A-T- 39th Inf

Jake Laskau
 A Co 47th Inf

Jack Wilson
 B Co 9th Med Bn

Coy A. Martin
 C Co 9th Med Bn

Maxine Hill
 (Wife of Kenneth Hill)
 E Co 39th Inf

Mrs. George Smythe
 (Widow of General Smythe)

TAPS

Another old pal is gone. Jake Laskau passed away April 10th after a lengthy illness. One of the old timers from our days at Fort Bragg we got to know Jake real good through the association. Badly wounded while serving with A Company 47th at El Guettar (1943) Jake struggled along all these years. His one side was practically paralyzed - he never complained and made the best of it. I often told him "Jake we're going to make an Irishman out of you yet" and we sipped a few.

Knowing that his time was limited we tried our darndest to visit him at the VA Hospital on 24th Street, New York City. His wife Marie was always at his side and we share her grief. My last visit was Sunday before he passed away (on Monday) and my parting words were "Jake get ready we are moving out."

JOHN SYMTHE
 Box 157
 Pipersville, Pa. 18947

Please cancel the subscription to the Octofoil for Mrs. Smythe. She passed away after a short illness in December. Mom would share the Octofoil with me and I enjoyed reading the articles about the 47th Inf. My father, George Smythe, was always proud of his service with the 47th and the men who served with him. In Vietnam, I was the commander of the 3rd Bn, 39th Inf, 9th Inf Div. It was a privilege to continue the Smythes' association with the Old Reliabilities.

THE 9TH INFANTRY
DIVISION ASSOCIATION
44th ANNUAL CONVENTION

JUNE 19-23, 1989 (MONDAY-FRIDAY)
AT THE PINES RESORT HOTEL
Your Host: The 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 N

Michigan Notes

My mind is a blank but a dead line of April 20th spurs me to trust my fingers and get off a few lines to every member's favorite newspaper. I know it is one publication that I can truthfully say that I read cover to cover. I still have the first copy that I received after joining the association.

Well, my fingers have made a fair effort so we will press on.

The Michigan Chapter has held their April meeting this time at the home of Bill and Suzanne DeBruyne. Again good companionship, excellent food and good fun.

The one item of business that bears mentioning was the nomination of Tom Hatton as three year member of The Board of Governors. I am sure that Tom will serve the association well.

We did not plan a June picnic. With the BIG SHOW playing in New York this June it was thought that with so many of the active members being at The Pines attendance at the picnic would be way off.

Our 16th Annual Memorial Service will be held on Sunday May 21st. This year it is to be held at the grave site of Charles Fox. It means much to remember those we shared so much with and to recall those who have passed away since the end of hostilities in the E.T.O.

The mind is still not fully awake so with hope that my fingers did not fail me I will close by wishing all a pleasant and healthy summer.

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

LADIES' CORNER

John Wayne, in a movie, once said: "Never apologize, it's a sign of weakness." Well, if that is so, I'm terribly weak, 'cause I am apologizing for not writing this column the last two editions. I am sincerely sorry for the lapse, and shall try to make up for it now, and in the next edition. Since I have received no mail over the winter, I assume that no one had a complaint or an announcement to make. You are all going to wait until June 19th, at the Reunion to do it, right? Well, I want to remind all of you (members and potential members), then, about bringing a token gift for our Pollyanna drawing at the June meeting. Surely, we must all have something at home we can donate to a good cause. Just wrap it up and bring it, please! Last year, as a result of our drawing, dues, and raffle, we sent three checks for \$300.00 each, to very worthy organizations: Veronica Lees of Summit, NJ for Lyons Hospital, Millington, NJ and East Orange, NJ Veterans Hospital; Marie Laskau, Forest Hills, NY for St. Albans, NY Veterans Nursing Home; and Dolores Nichols, Brewster, Mass. for American League Post 308 Auxiliary for Brockton, Mass. VA Hospital. Our Auxiliary finances are in fine shape, and we look forward to increasing our membership at the June meeting, what with new members' wives attending for the first time. Our dues are only \$2 for one year. What the New York Chapter has planned for us at the reunion, we do not know — perhaps a luncheon, with entertainment as at Hyanis? Anyway, we always enjoy ourselves when we get together, don't we? So, until June 19th, take care, and keep in touch!

Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

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

Greetings once again from the Keystone State, Pennsylvania! All is well here in beautiful Cumberland Valley. Spring is here with lots of sunshine and it's delightful to see rainfall this valley needs for the apple and peach growth that this area is so well known for all over the state.

"BECO" buddies, it is getting close to Reunion time at the Pines Resort in the Catskills, New York. As of this date (April 15th) we have a listing of 29 "B" Co. members and wives who either have confirmed reservations or considered to be strong possibilities to attend this great Reunion. On behalf of our "B" Co. group, I have forwarded a list of those persons who will be at the Pines the week of June 19-23, to Bruce Seige, Director of Sales, The Pines Hotel - requesting to have all our listed persons be seated together as a "B" Co. Unit. (We have requested this although no tables will be assigned to any member until Monday, June 19, 1989.)

We wish to thank Ellie and Joe Taubner who so graciously assisted in getting the aforementioned information for our "B" Co. Group. (See also "Ladies Corner" — "B" Co. 47th in the Octofoil.)

Our "BECO" buddy and columnist Art Stenzel writes to tell us that he received a letter from George Grieve, and a phone call from Roland Whitehorse both "B" Co. members. We want to thank Art also for sending "Pins" to "BECO" members going to the Reunion. The pins are inscribed as follows: "People who need people are the luckiest people in the world" — Hope to see you at the Pines." This is a very nice gift to receive and a wonderful way to remember this reunion which will be our 44th Annual Reunion! Thanks again, Art! — Received a card from Tony and Josie Manzolilla, "BECO" members who are OK, with no medical problems (Tony had a bypass operation). They are looking forward to seeing everyone and to enjoy being together again with our "BECO" group. — Received a card also from Ed and Helen Sarnocinski who live in Rehoboth, Delaware. We are reminded that their reservations were made for the Reunion last August and hope all is well with us! — Out last correspondence received from "Shock" Shockley stated that his heart bypass was working fine but he was to undergo major eye surgery for a detached retina. We are happy that this eye surgery was successful since "Shock" was planning to attend the Reunion provided, of course, his health permits. All of our "BECO" buddies wish you well "Shock" — Hang in there! — We are sorry to learn of the passing of "BECO" buddy Sam Moscatelli, from Minnesota. Sam always hoped he could attend one of our reunions and be with the "BECO" group. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all his family.

We recently visited our granddaughter who works in Newark, Delaware. My wife Ann and I together with our granddaughter, Michele, had a most enjoyable dining engagement with Louis Netta (9th Div. Assoc member of the 60th Inf.) and his wife Julia. Louis and Julia who live in nearby Wilmington, Delaware, have attended many of our reunions. We were delighted that we could spend an evening together since Louis was not feeling as well as he would like. However, Louis and Julia have their reservations for the reunion.

NEW YORKERS REPORT

The New York Area Chapter held its monthly meeting in February, March and April 1989 at the Masonic Lodge Hall in N.Y.C.

At the April meeting, Dan Quinn, who attended the 9th's National Board of Governors Conference in Pittsburgh reported on part of its agenda. Final details of the 9th's reunion at the Pines Hotel to be held in June was also presented. Other association business was discussed and will be covered at the Pines convention.

PINELAWN MEMORIAL

VP Lou Almassy, who chaired our meeting for absent prez Vincent Guglielmino, confirmed the May 12 date of our next meeting with Secretary Art Schmidt. This date will be the second Friday and not the third Friday normally scheduled. Details for the May 20 Pinelawn Memorial March and Memorial Service, and same day picnic at Bethpage Park was discussed. Always eager to serve with a smile, former prez Tony Varone was asked to volunteer to round up the edibles for the cookout. As usual Treasurer Anton Dietrich gave his dependable financial report which appears to be in good condition.

SAD NOTE

On sick call, however, former prez Vincent D'Addona continues his gallant fight against his debilitating illness. For other 9th men and their families who are also ill your comrades hope for a speedy recovery and good health. On a sad note Jacob Laskau, a past frequent member of our get-togethers, passed away after a long illness. Our heartfelt condolences to his family.

We would like to hear from our N.Y. Area Chapter members who are not able to attend our meetings. Your letters are always welcomed and read to the membership. Let us know about your activities; moves; family; other members or anything else on your mind. The 9th Infantry Division Association is your association so lets hear from you. Just send a note or card to Secretary Schmidt.

Support your chapter — get your dues in — and join us at our next meeting on May 12, 1989. At this meeting delegates for the Pines N.Y. reunion committee will be appointed.

After close of the April meeting members partook of sandwiches and drink. Everyone had a good time reminiscing about the days of battle, nostalgic earlier reunions, and the fun and jokes of Bragg days and Bizerte nights. Attending the April 21 meeting, not noted above, were: Tony DeRobertis, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, John Morris, Jim Mullen, Frank Russo, Joe Rzesniowiecki, Al Seely, Herminio Suarez, Adolph Wadalavage, Charles Warner And Harry Wax.

Co. A 60th Inf.
MARVIN LEVY
2044 Ellen Drive
Merrick, N.Y. 11566

To all our "B" Co. members, wives and friends, we hope to see you all at the Pines for our 44th Annual Reunion. Let us all say 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
and
ARTHUR J. STENZEL
8705 Village Mill Row
Bayonet Point
Port Richey, FL 34667

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Spring is here - or so the calendar says. So far we've had a dry cool period with a few nice days thrown in. But no matter how the weather is, Mike finds time to get out golfing.

MINI REUNION

We are looking forward to our Mini Outstate reunion in Wisconsin at the Ramada Inn in Madison on April 28 and 29th. We hope to have a good turnout and know Mike Carpenter has been working hard making all the arrangements.

Nothing much has happened with the Illinois Chapter the past few months. A group did get together for lunch one day but sorry to say, we had other plans and couldn't join them. Reports were that they had a delicious lunch and enjoyed the company.

In Madison, we will have a meeting and finalize plans for Memorial Day services picking a gravesite and a place for our picnic afterwards. The date is May 28th and a newsletter will be out to our Chapter members giving details.

Everyone is anxiously awaiting our reunion in New York in June. The more we read and hear about the Pines, the more inviting it sounds. It's exciting to hear that the Pines is sold out but troubling to think of future reunions. We have become so large in number not too many hotels will be able to accommodate the Ninth. Fortunately, the majority of the group will be under one roof this year. The committee of the future reunions will have their work cut out for them.

OUTSTATE MEETING

The Illinois group has tentative plans for a Corn Roast at the Prestons in Wisconsin some time in late August. Our Outstate Meeting with the Michigan Chapter in Angola is set for October 6th and 7th. All midwestern members are welcome to attend. Our Christmas party is set for December 9th. More details later.

We heard from Lonnie Greco last week. She tells us that Dom, Mike's old buddy, is in a nursing home. He is suffering with Alzheimer's Disease. She visits him frequently but many times he doesn't recognize her at all. After many months of working with the Veteran's Organization, they have him in the Star Nursing Home in Morristown, Ohio.

Not much more to report this time. Hope everyone has a safe and pleasant journey to New York in June and we'll all be looking forward to seeing everyone.

By the way, Dave Heller is still working on a directory for the membership but there are a great number of people who have not sent in the information as to their Regiment, Battalion and Company or Battery. The form is in the last issue of the Octofoil. The sooner he receives all the information, the sooner the directory will be published. See you all in New York.

Respectfully,
Mike and Ann Belmonte
1161 S. Lombard,
Oak Park, Ill. 60304

'89 Reunion June 19th thru June 23rd

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.

!!!!SPIES INFILTRATE FLA. CHAPTER REUNION!!!!

The 17th semi-annual Florida chapter meeting/mini-reunion was held at the beautiful RAMADA HOTEL NORTH in Tampa on Fri., Sat. and Sunday, April 14, 15 & 16 filling 32 rooms at a very modest rate at this semi-luxury hotel.

A few early arrivals got together on Thursday for dinner at a local restaurant after cocktails at the home of one of our members living nearby.

Friday afternoon saw 36 enjoying a super buffet lunch at the Tampa VA hospital put on by the Veterans Canteen Service which was followed by a talk by Marty Gall, chief of voluntary services touching on the enormous help the volunteer is to hospitalized veterans by freeing nurses and aids in turn for more time to give to our buddies a little more time and comfort etc., also explaining some of the various services available to us which some in our group had not known about. An abbreviated tour of the facility followed which was very informative in the whys and why nots of the necessary procedures which sometimes takes what seems forever while waiting in discomfort for treatment. At least TWO SPIES were in the group.

Friday evening 66 chapter members (including 6 or 7 SPIES for the purpose of reservations and price) enjoyed a Bavarian style dinner, the one and only "POLKA KING" FRANKIE YANKOVIC and a long to be talked about show of talent and expertise, again, at a modest price to our group.

Back in the well stocked hospitality room those of us youngsters still full of pep and thirst for a bit of joy juice or nightcap buzzed till midnight or later.

Saturday's business meeting was well attended, 35 in all which included only 2 KNOWN SPIES, (the others had probably seen enough or had decided to cross sides and join the FLORIDA CHAPTER). Among topics discussed was the 1990 reunion but due to the presence of SPIES a caucus had to be called for secret discussion of further plans.

The Saturday evening 3 entree buffet banquet will also long be remembered as will the speech by our own General "Chip" Maness. At least 5 SPIES were among the 55 breaking bread this time. SPIES beware, we know you. All in all the consensus seems to have been that it was just plain-ly a mucho great weekend and you can be sure we were most happy to have our SPY brothers with us and an open invitation to any and all our 9th Div. family to join us at our semi-annual meetings usually held each April and October. Watch the OCTOFOIL as to times, dates and other information.

In closing I'd like to pass on a word to the wise leaders of other chapters. Be more discreet in selecting your cloak and dagger army who this time were from N.Y., N.J., Penn. and New England. We were fooled by any others.

15th ENGS
HENRY SANTOS
9811 N. Connechusett Rd.
Tampa, Florida 33617

Minutes of the 163rd

Meeting Held in Pittsburgh

The 163rd meeting of the National Association Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held on April 8, 1989 in Pittsburgh, Pa., at the Airport Days Inn. The meeting was called to order by President Emil Langer at 3:30 P.M., when President Langer asked the members to stand and salute the Flag and to remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of the men of the Ninth who died in battle and for those who have since joined their ranks.

Attending the meeting were: Jack Collier, Floyd Hennessy, Emil Wadalavage, Dave Heller, Larry McLaughlin, Henry Santos, Oliver Carter, Len Tommasone, Nick Dogostino, Ralph Carci, and Ed Wisniewski. Also 1st Vice President Vincent Guglielmino, former President Walter O'Keeffe and Secretary Dan Quinn who acted as recorder.

Henry Santos made a motion to omit the reading of the minutes of the last board meeting, held in June 1988, at the reunion, and upon a second made by Ed Wisniewski it was voted to: Adopt the motion.

President Langer gave the Financial report as submitted by Treasurer Tom Boyle who could not attend the meeting. Upon a motion duly made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Oliver Carter it was voted to: Accept the financial report as submitted by Tom Boyle.

Larry McLaughlin reported on the 1988 Hyannis reunion and gave a detailed account of the income and spending for the reunion. Larry turned over to the Association the sum of \$2,284.00 the profit realized from the reunion. President Langer thanked Larry and his committee for a fine reunion enjoyed by all.

Upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Jack Collier it was voted to: Reimburse the New England Chapter a gratuity of \$100.00 for a job well done.

89 - REUNION

President Langer as Co-Chairman of the 1989 New York Reunion, reported that the rooms for the Hotel in the Catskills were completely sold out and that another hotel has to be used. The Days Inn a few miles away will be used for the overflow with transportation provided to and from the main hotel, The Pines. All meals will be served at the Pines. On June 21st (Wednesday) the members will leave for an hour bus ride to West Point where Memorial Services will be held, lunch served and some sight seeing by the members. The trip back to the Hotel will be made in time for dinner at the Pines. Thursday the business meetings will take place with the Ladies Auxiliary holding their own meeting and social. Thursday night is the Banquet and Friday the end of the reunion with breakfast and check out after lunch around 2:15 P.M. The cruise on land in the Catskills will come to an end.

Dave Heller reported on the By-laws that were adopted at last year's reunion with several amendments to be added for changes of the By-laws. Heller also reported that he expected to finish the membership Director by the end of the year. He suggested that each new board member receive a copy of the By-laws.

Emil Langer requested that the members approve a project that he had started last year. A small plaque (of cardboard) be given to the membership with

the Ninth Infantry Division insignia. Langer stressed the point that when a member passes on often times there is nothing displayed at his bier to denote that he was a member of the Ninth Infantry Division. This show of membership is done with many Fraternal Organizations. The cost will be minimal with each member to receive the scroll.

Upon a motion made by Ed Wisniewski and seconded by Floyd Hennessy it was voted to: Adopt the proposal presented by Langer.

President Langer called for Chapter reports. Jack Collier reported for the Illinois chapter. The Chapter will hold a Mini-Outstate Reunion in Wisconsin at the Ramada Inn, Madison, Wisconsin on April 28, 29, 1989. At that meeting the Chapter will finalize their plans for the Memorial Day Services.

Henry Santos reported for the Florida Chapter. Henry reported that the Chapter members will meet on April 14, 15, 16th at the Ramada Inn, in Tampa, Florida.

Ed Wisniewski reported for the Michigan Chapter. They will meet with the Illinois group at the Outstate Meeting being held in Wisconsin on April 28, 29th.

Adolph Wadalavage reported for the New York Chapter. The New Yorkers will hold their annual Memorial Services at Pinelawn National Cemetery on Long Island on May 20th. As usual the members will then travel to Beth Page Park for a family style picnic.

COMMITTEE - FUNDS FOR VETS

President Langer then named the following members to serve on a Committee that will recommend the use of Funds for Veterans Hospitals, homes etc., Larry McLaughlin will serve as Chairman and the other members will be: Henry Santos and Adolph Wadalavage. This committee will report at the reunion and recommend the use of this Fund. All members of the Association are requested to make suggestions.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Langer then appointed Chairmen for the various committees for the General Business meeting at the Reunion.

Finance Committee — Jack Collier.

Newspaper Committee — Henry Santos.

Miscellaneous Committee — Ed Wisniewski.

By-laws Committee — Dave Heller.

Nominating Committee — Larry McLaughlin.

These Committees will meet before the regular meeting being held on Thursday, June 22nd. Any members wishing to serve on any of the committees will be more than welcomed.

NEW CHAPTER

The secretary presented a request for a charter for the New Jersey Chapter. All necessary names had been secured (25) most of them new members or members that no longer were active in the Association. Upon a motion made by Henry Santos and seconded by Len Tomassone it was voted to: Grant the New Jersey members a Charter.

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Nick Dogostino it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

FROM OUT OF THE PAST

One of the best five Divisions

An old pal of mine (and a golfing partner) had served with the 88th Infantry Division in WW2 in Italy. From time to time we chat about the old outfits and recently he gave me a copy of his associations publications "The Blue Devil." The reason because the following article appeared in the paper regarding where the 88th ID had originated. The Cadre came from the Ninth and if I remember correctly it was the 2nd Cadre to come out of the Ninth—the first being the 82nd Airborne. The second Cadre the 88th was started in Camp Gruber Oklahoma in 1942.

Their publication was explaining why they were so good, where the manpower came from, how their Division Commander had screened the Cadre back in Fort Bragg.

CADRE

We asked whether the 88th ID cadre came from a superior division, better than the one that supplied, for instance, the cadre for the 85th ID.

The 88th ID cadre came from the 9th ID, a Regular Army division that has been rated (on the basis of military judgment, not on a systematic quantitative basis) by some historians as one of the five best divisions in northwest Europe, and probably best after the 1st ID. (Veterans of the 9th ID might challenge that assessment.) A number of the cadremen, though not all by any means, were Regular Army men.

The most striking thing about the men from the 9th ID was that Sloan sent his assistant division commander and a team of officers to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to interview everyone assigned to the cadre. Those who did not impress the interviewer as competent were rejected. This was a very unusual procedure.

There was no way we could be certain that the procedure was not carried out by any other division commander but it is certainly not mentioned in the 85th ID history. No one we spoke with who had appropriate World War II experience had heard of such a procedure for any other new division.

We tentatively concluded that the 88th IDs cadre was probably above average, in part because of this quality control action on the part of the commander.

SICK CALL

Reporting for Sick Call and marked "In Quarters" are the following members:

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

Ed "Hoppy" Hopkins, Company F 47th recently underwent surgery for an inflamed gall stone and is resting at home. 110 Hollywood Ave., Metuchen, N.J. 08840. Get well soon Hop—we miss your articles for the Octofoil and your cheerful smile.

A few lines or a get well card would be a big boost to their morale.



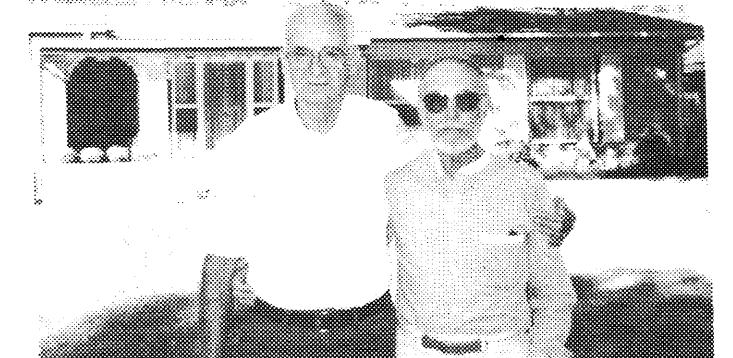
Bill Tanner (left) recently visited General Randle in a Nursing Home and sends this photo of General Randle and himself. Bill writes "I am sure the General would greatly appreciate being remembered with visits, cards etc." General Edwin Randle, 1150 Ponce DeLeon Street, Clearwater, Florida 34616. Bill was a young Second Lieutenant Co. I 47th, when we landed in N. Africa and the General was a Colonel and Regimental Commander of the 47th Inf. The General transferred to another Division in the Pacific (after Tunisia) and Bill went on to be Battalion Commander of the 3rd Bn 47th.



John Popp, Co. H 47th, sends this photo taken in 1942 in Fayetteville, NC. Back Row l-r: Dom Padula KIA, Romeo Nesti, Hallie Loring, Popp. Front Row l-r: Rudy Komersk, Tony Brunetto and Bill Rabbas. Story in Mail Call. He liked to hear from any of the guys in the picture if they are still around.



Charles Johnson sends this photo taken at Bragg around March 1941 showing members of Company E 47th Inf. The only men he can recall are Sgt. Brown front row center and George Karsala third from left and of course himself fourth row back from left. He would appreciate anyone who might know the names of the others. His letter is in Mail Call.



Ernest Botella, Co. H 47th is shown (left) with R.H. Bob Alberter also of Company H 47th Inf. when they got together in San Antonio, Texas last November. Story is in Mail Call.



Frank Gunn (Retired General) and Al Karre are shown at their first get together since 1945 when they met recently in Lafayette, La. Gunn was made "Honorary Colonel" of the 39th Infantry at Ft. Dix, N.J., last summer.

A Pig in the Hole

At our most recent reunion at the Annual Father Connor's Mass in Worcester, Massachusetts, I had an extremely pleasant discussion with Larry McLaughlin, who was "F" Company Executive Commander in the 2nd Battalion, 47th Regiment, who fought at the Frenzenberg Castle. He told me a very humorous story about his fox hole which was just inside the ramparts in the livestock area of the Castle grounds (the Germans occupied the Castle itself, and it was for shooting down the Castle door inside the grounds with his bazooka that PFC. Carl Sheridan received the Congressional Medal of Honor).

It was a wet and very muddy night there in the livestock area of the Castle and to his amazement, there was a live pig right on the front lines with him. The pig had decided he also wanted to take cover from the heavy artillery attacks that were going on during the night by both American and German artillery in the Castle area. The pig selected Lt. McLaughlin's hole which was inside the wall itself, around the Castle grounds. This extremely firm pig, weighting about 100 pounds, was also covered with mud as was Lt. McLaughlin.

The pig kept pushing into Lt. McLaughlin's hole and he tin turn tried to push the pig out of the hole. However, the pig began squealing loudly in the darkness and after about twenty minutes pushing with the pig returning to the hole each time, Larry eventually said to himself, "Well, I guess pigs have to live too!" He and the pig, who then became quiet as a mouse, settled down for a night of survival together in the hole.

Larry McLaughlin,
Lt. "F" Co., 47th Rgt
As told to
George Nicklin, Medic
K Company,
47th Regiment.

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

I am wondering if anyone out there remembers the old Buzz Bomb that fell over at the Bulge where we were and didn't explode? I was there but didn't get a picture of it. If anyone has a picture, I wish they would send Dan Quinn a copy so he can put it in the Octofoil. I am searching for a fellow by the name of Gardner. I don't recall his first name. He and I took basic training together at Camp Wheeler from Apr. 1944 to around the last of July or the first of August 1944. Then after basic training we went overseas together to a town in Germany called Schevenhutte. There we separated, he went to one unit and I went to another. I saw him one time after we separated in a town that I don't recall the name of. I wish he would write me.

Seeking Information

I am trying to find out how my best friend was killed in the 9th Division. I don't know his company or regiment. His name was Robert Ketterer, I think his middle initial was P. He had a 33----- serial number. I signed up for voluntary induction and came home without a scratch. If you can help, I would appreciate it and so would other friends and family, including two brothers. Thank you.

Amos J. Moore
1350 Harris Rd.
Dresher, Pa. 19025

Sicily in 1943 Neglected Campaign

A book published last Fall that might be of interest to our members is titled "Bitter Victory" (The Battle for Sicily) a major but neglected campaign. The author Carlo D'Este a former Colonel in the Army gives a complete and brilliant record of that campaign according to Drew Middleton.

By DREW MIDDLETON

The fighting in Sicily in the summer of 1943, sandwiched between greater events in Normandy and Italy, has been almost forgotten by military historians. The decision to invade Sicily was one of the major Allied decisions of the European war. The reasoning was that control of Sicily would shorten the sea route from Gibraltar to Alexandria and help clear the Mediterranean for Allied shipping. Looking toward future offensives, the Allied leaders also saw Sicily as a base for offensive operations against the coasts of Axis-held Italy and France. Now one of our foremost American military writers, Carlo D'Este, a former Army colonel, has given a complete and brilliant record of that campaign.

The story is worth telling. It includes one of the most shocking failures by the Allies during the war: allowing the escape of almost of all the German troops and their equipment from Sicily once the enemy high command realized that the campaign was over. Mercilessly but one the whole fairly, the author exposes some of the military reputations that suffered in Sicily, particularly Gen. Sir Harold Alexander and Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery, who later became a Field Marshal, on the British side. He is also very good on the slapping incident that nearly ruined the career of Gen. George S. Patton Jr.

A LITTLE MIXED UP

Just a line to say I'm living,
That I'm NOT among the dead;
Though I'm getting more forgetful,
And "more mixed up" in the head.

For, sometimes I can't remember,
When I stand at foot of stair,
If I must go up for something,
Or I've just come down from there.

And before the fridge, so often,
My poor mind is filled with doubt
Have I just put food away, or
Have I come to take some out.

And there's time when it is dark out,
With my night cap on my head,
I don't know if I'm retiring,
Or just getting out of bed.

So, if it's my turn to write to you,
There's no need of getting sore,
I may think that I have written,
and don't want to be a bore.

So, remember, - I do love you,
And I wish that you were here;
But now, it's nearly mail time,
So, I must say, "Good-bye dear."

There I stood beside the mailbox,
With my face so very red,
Instead of mailing you my letter,
I, had opened it instead.!

Matt Urban in Guinness Book

BY DUANE NORIYUKI
Free Press Staff Writer

War claims many of its heroes, but it couldn't get The Ghost.

Matt Urban earned that nickname as he escaped death time and again to reappear on the front lines of North Africa and Europe during World War II.

The retired Army lieutenant colonel, now living in Holland, Mich., also earned seven Purple Hearts for wounds during the war, but a pile of lost paperwork made him wait 35 years to get the nation's highest military honor.

At a White House ceremony on Sept. 17, 1980, President Jimmy Carter pinned the Congressional Medal of Honor on Urban, capping a military career that made him one of the most decorated combat veterans in U.S. history.

It was an honor richly deserved, but not one the modest, easygoing Urban, now 69, had pursued.

"When I came home, I never thought about war," Urban said last week. "That's why the medal was 35 years late. I knew that there was an application in. The sergeant put it in...I just never pursued it."

Urban mentioned in passing to a friend with the Veterans Administration that he once had been recommended for the medal. The friend filled out another application, and eventually the old file was found, Urban said.

Urban's 29 medals rank him above the legendary Audie Murphy, who earned 26 decorations for valor in World War II and went on to post-war movie stardom. In the just-released 1989 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records, Urban has replaced Murphy as "the most decorated soldier in American history," although the U.S. Army does not recognize any such ranking.

Neither does Urban. Nobody fought to win medals, he said, reflecting on this Veterans Day.

"Audie Murphy is my hero, and I've always been comfortable with being called one of the most highly decorated soldiers of World War II," Urban said. "We weren't out there to win medals."

History Books Available

Joe Williams has reprinted the 47th Infantry book that was published after the War. Many members never received the book but it now can be obtained from Joe. The price is \$23.50 and this book includes information from WW 1, scenes from Fort Bragg, 1941-42, original Regimental & Bn Staffs, scenes and information about 2nd, 3rd, 4th Battalions that saw action in Vietnam and a section about the 47th honorary association to include photographs of those who have been awarded the Distinguished member certificates. Williams has also reprinted the 9th Division History - "8 Stars to Victory". It is available with hardback cover at a cost of \$36.50.

In addition to the two books Joe is offering Commemorative Coins for \$2.50 each and all money is turned over the 3rd Bn Commander 47th Infantry stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington to be used for publishing a newsletter and postage for mailing same to former members of the regiment. Joe Williams can be reached at 1900 Hollyoakes Lakes East, Jacksonville, Florida, 32225.

Urban graduated from Cornell University in 1941 and found himself at the Army's Ft. Bragg, N.C. a week later. He went from being a three letter athlete on campus to a second lieutenant on a North African beach.

"We were running and attacking, zigzagging," said Urban. "I stepped forward, and there was something next to my foot. I picked it up, and it was the head of a friend, a lieutenant I knew...I went crazy. The body was laying a few feet away, and I tried to attach the head to the neck. Then I just grabbed my rifle and tore up that hill."

He never looked back.

"In war, it's win or lose, do or die, kill or be killed. The main thing was seeing a buddy, — those guys are closer than brothers — seeing one of them killed. Imagine you have a son 18 or 19 years old be butchered right in front of you. What do you do, what do you think? Revenge, avenge."

From North Africa, Urban and the 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division moved on to Sicily, Belgium, France and Germany.

He served as platoon leader, morale officer/special services officer, company executive officer and company commander, battalion executive officer and battalion commander.

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

84th FA
NICK LABECKI
251 Millers Lane
Lower Burrell, Pa. 15068
Enclosed is check for 3 years dues, and a little for Memorial Fund. Keep in touch with O. Gansca, A. Yanulis and R. O'Connor. Would like to hear from other "B" Boys. God be willing, see you at the Pines.

A Tribute

How rewarding it is each time I find
That long ago happenings are brought to mind,
When the "Octofoil's" pages are closely refined
Its contents are precious to each G.I.
And when one finds that a buddy did die
Warm thoughts are recalled as one looks to the sky.
There's an ache in the heart, a tear in the eye
Then there follows an understanding sigh.
The battle is over, victory's been won.
For, you see, there was so much shared with one another,
That to each one was the other a brother.
Thoughts always emerge and memories show
That love in the heart continues to grow.
The ties that bind those, who of the Ninth were a part,
Were forged in battle with the staunchest of heart.

K & Hqs Co 3rd Bn 60th Inf
JOE RAPPAZINI
24001 Sherman
Oak Park, Mi. 48237

Titchbourne House

Mrs. E. Ashun Wood
18 Elm Road
Winchester Hants SO22 SAG

For many years I have wanted to try to find out how certain friends belonging to the 47th Company, 9th Infantry Division, U.S. Army stationed at Titchbourne House, Nr. Alresford, Hampshire, England, made out after leaving for France on D-Day 1944. In 1984 I even got as far as starting a letter to your embassy in London, but thought I should never get anywhere, so tore the letter up.

However, not long ago, a letter was printed in the Hampshire Chronicle from a Miss Olga Wilkins, who has been in touch with some of her old friends in the 9th Div., and was writing to find some English people who knew an American serviceman who would like to get in touch. I wrote to ask her if she could think of a way I might find out what I wanted to know, and she gave me your address.

I was in the Women's Land Army in Petersfield, some 20 miles from Alresford and Winchester, and a small group from my hostel made friends with some of the officers who were stationed at Titchbourne House, the home of Lord and Lady Doughtly Titchbourne. We only knew these men for four of five weeks during May 1944, so perhaps none of them would remember us, but I am still in touch with one of the group of Land Girls and we should love to find out if the ones we knew reached home safely. It is odd how they have remained vividly in our memories and I can only suppose it was the traumatic experience of the run-up to D-Day even for those who were only onlookers which has made those few weeks memorable. After D-Day it was as though Hampshire was completely empty.

Along the small River Arle in Alresford is a gravestone to the dog 'Hambone' whose owner was a 47th Co. man. I'd like him to know that it is still there and readable.

I hope you might be able to find out something for us and perhaps publish the photograph in your Journal. Let me know if a group of you come to Winchester. I am a Winchester City Tourist Guide and would be absolutely delighted to give you a tour.

(On my divorce I went back to my maiden name, which is why I am 'Mrs' Ashlin Wood. The 'Lyn' comes from my second name, but I am really 'Elizabeth'.)

Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth Ashlin Wood
Editors note: Companies A, B, and C 47th were billeted in this area during our stay in England.

Looking For Buddies
Co G 39th Inf
BILLY ALLSBROOK
4616 Erath St.
Ft. Worth, TX 76119

Have initiated several methods of inquiry in my endeavor to locate buddies of Co. G, 39th Inf., 3rd Platoon. So far none have been successful.

In view of this, it is possible for my letter to appear in a future issue of THE OCTOFOIL?

Will appreciate so much your advice and direction on this request.

Catskills Reunion June 19th-23rd

Deadline for next issue July 20th

60th Inf.
SCOTTY HIRST
Box 6801
APO New York 09633
Scotty Hirst sends this letter that he mails to the Editors of the Stars and Stripes every year, as a rebuttal to an article that appears in their paper.
Editor
The Stars and Stripes
Postfach 111437
6100 Darmstadt II
Sir

Of recent date I read Vince Crawley's "Bitter WWII battle recalled" in which he quoted Martin Blumenson, "a retired Army historian and expert on what happened at Kasserine Pass," who identified the Americans in that action as "terrible." I assume meaning as soldiers.

Oddly enough, the Americans who took the brunt of Rommel's attack were not represented at the recent annual gathering of the then antagonists.

Rommel's main drive was three pronged. One of his columns attacked along the FAID-SBEITLA ROAD and another the town of SIDI BOU ZID and the FAID road, cutting off the 34th (US) Division's 168CT. The third and largest column enveloped the left flank of the 168th, threatening the regiment with encirclement.

An armored battalion rushed to aid the combat team, was ambushed and forced to limp off a poor second. On the next day 1st Armored tried to relieve the 168th, impossible, the 168th was left to its fate.

SIDI BOU ZID and the regiment were overrun. Among the units lost there was the Cannon Company, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, my division. Again, I do not believe the Cannon Company guys would have appreciated Martin Blumenson's epithet: TERRIBLE. Nor would the Regiment's late commander, Harry A. Flint, for whom Flint Kaserne at Bad Tolz is named.

In all fairness the Germans and British were long experienced desert fighters, praise for their effort is duly won. But, had Mr. Blumenson been in position above the valley, where infantry-men could watch the unequal battle - one combat command against approximately two divisions - he might have chosen one better word to describe the effort of our inexperienced troops.

And you might tell Mr. Blumenson that he took George Santayana out of context. Santayana said: Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. Santayana did not say: Who do not know the past being condemned to repeat it. Thank you for listening. God Bless.

Dear Dan:

Every year a similar article appears in The Stars and Stripes regarding the action at KASSERINE PASS. Every year I send in a rebuttal to it. I thought one time you might like to see just how I approach their "peacetime" soldiers. Then too, note again, Dan, even though I mail on occasion through the APO it is not my RECEIVING address. It is a grant from the military to mail out for past services provided, thus to save me a small fortune, considering the volume of my correspondence, also to the US of A. God Bless.

Scotty

Mistake: proof that somebody stopped talking long enough to actually do something.

Women can keep a secret just as well as men ... it just takes more of them to do it.

60th Inf. & Div Hq & Hq Co.
JOHN D. O'ROURKE
914 Canton St.
Orlando, FL 32803

Please add to our membership roll ex 1st Sgt. Frank Vives of Hqs. Co. who was with us from Tent City at Ft. Bragg to Ingolstadt, Germany when the war ended in the ETO. This is the second time I have signed Frank up as a member, once in Germany as a charter member and now. He let his membership expire many years ago. Frank is here in Orlando visiting with me. First time we have met since 1946...43 years ago! Say hello to all the "old timers" in the 3rd Bn. 60th Inf. and Division Hq & Hq Co. Hope to make a reunion some day before I pass away! Hang in there and keep up the good work. It is much appreciated even though many times we forget to tell you and your long suffering wife! Best of luck to all.

60th Inf. F Co.
EARL LEES
1280 Morris Ave.
N. Huntington, PA 15642

Looking forward to being in the Catskills in June. We are really happy to have good officers to keep the organization functioning. Had a good time in Hyannis and heard from a lot of F Co. members at Christmas time. We hope some of the health problems have improved so everyone can make the reunion, enclosed is dues for another 3 years.

MP Platoon
JOSEPH O'NEILL
533 Greenbriar Pl.
Boulder City, NV 89005

Thanks for the prompt reply to my note as I received the Octofoil the following week. Enclosed are dues for a year. I am partially disabled, had 2 strokes and a heart attack. Did attend the Chicago reunion quite a while ago and very doubtful if this year.

Co. B - 47th Infantry
JOSEPH TAUBNER
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

At the reunion in June, we will be able to see some new buddies, and their wives, as Bob Moore, Charles Munger and Chick Cecchini, all from the 4th Platoon, are coming for the very first time. I am still trying to get Les Campen, Lou Pettorini, and Pete Mastrangelo to attend. How about it, boys? Hey, Joe Podany, you have missed several of our last reunions, how about coming this time, huh Joe? If you come, 4th Platoon would finally outnumber the other platoons of B Company. Bill Klauz, we haven't seen you in a while, and Joe Havilla, we missed you and Rose in Hyannis last year. How about it? From the list that Pat Morano had in a recent column, I can add the names of: Olga Palega, Bernie Callahan, and John Morgan, as attending the reunion. All in all, it should be one of the best turnouts of all times. What a blast we can have! Till then, see you all in June. Joe and Ellie T.
HQ & HQ BTRY. DIV. ARTY
RALPH FURBRIGHT
Rt. 3 Box 341
Vale, NC 28168

Just got the Octofoil for Jan. & Feb. and read it all. Time flies by as we get older and it's time for dues again. I've got some Christmas cards from some of the buddies. Haven't been to a reunion since Nashville and won't make this one either. Good Luck.

People who still want to find their place in the sun obviously haven't heard about the ozone layer.

K Co 47th Inf
JAMES DYE
2131 Wadsworth Rd.
Norton, Oh. 44203

I am writing to get the address of David Gillespie who wrote Remagen. A bridge too far for many. He was my company commander and I was involved in every situation that he wrote about.

Editors Note: We do not have any records on David Gillespie. Would suggest writing to the newspaper he worked for - The News and Observer, Raleigh, N.C.

47th Inf. K Co
JOE KILLACKY
1039 Warner #2
Lemont, IL 60439

I enjoyed the Jan-Feb. issue story of Remagan A Bridge too far for Many. I remember Lt. Gillespie as a good young officer. He was wounded in Kotten in mid April 1945 and returned to K Co June 2nd to become editor of the 47th history. Hope you can contact him and get his address. Recently spent a nice afternoon visiting Dick McGrath, (15th engr) and his wife.

K Co 47th Inf.
RALPH WHITEHEAD
10 Millard St.
Dundee, N.Y. 14837

About a year ago John Hill of Tulsa, Okla. had a lengthy article in the Octofoil describing the attack on Frenzerberg Castle, Nov. 25, 1945. The article was continued in a later issue. I am returning to the Hurtgen Forest and Frenzerberg and would like to contact him before I leave. I have also promised him pictures of the area 45 years later.

K Co 47th Inf.
BILLY MCKINNEY
323 Lincoln Dr.
Martinsburg, W. Va. 25401

I read the article Remagen, A Bridge Too Far For Many, in the Octofoil and it brought back many memories. Would appreciate anyone having Gillespie's address to please send it to me so I can contact him.

47th Inf. K Co.
OBERT SOLHAUG
Argyle, MN 56713

Enclosed are dues for another year. Enjoy reading the Octofoil. It's interesting to see what some of the members are doing. I don't seem to recognize many names from K Co. I was transportation Cpl. for a part of the time we were overseas. Joined the 9th a week or so before they headed for Safi. That sure was a change in what people looked like... the Arabs with their cloaks. It's Easter tomorrow and the snow banks in front of our house is still about 4 feet high. Haven't been to a reunion yet, they are all so far away. Keep up the good work with the Octofoil.

Div Hqs.
JOHN BRANDI
400 Buckeye St.
Tiltnoville, Oh 43963

Enclosed is a check for my dues. Nell and I are fine. A touch of arthritis that we have is nothing compared to others. Talked with my friend Art McDougall and he and Betty sure have had more than their share. Also the E. Hopkins' and our neighbors Dom Greco. We can't make the reunion this year as we have other plans but hope to see you all next year. Best wishes to all our friends.

47th Inf M Co
ORIN SHELL
Rt 1 Box 239-B
Becida, Mn 56625

Enclosed find check for 3 more years dues in hopes I will be around to hear about my former friends of M Co.

K Co 60th Inf
JIM DRONEY
226 Essex Knoll Dr.
Coraopolis, Pa. 15108

Enjoyed the reunion at the Cape especially bs'ing with my old company commander, Pat Williamson. The Cape was OK but too decentralized, tough to get around. Pat says he will be at the Pines. I missed Ed Stokan who didn't make the reunion. Does anyone know of Raymond Connell, who was a machine gunner with M Co. 60th Inf in Oct.-Nov. 1944? He was from my hometown of Torrington, Ct. and a good friend growing up. I will have been in the office products business 40 yrs. on Aug. 1st so I think it may be time to consider retiring.

15th Engrs B Co
ROBERT APEL
9424 Harding Blve
Wauwatosa, WI. 53226

Just recently had a telephone conversation with a number of war buddies from the 15th Engrs B Co., one of them being Charlie Hoffman. I mentioned to him I would like to get back on the mailing list of the Octofoil and he told me to send you a check to rejoin. I hope you can take care of this matter so that I may again read and enjoy the news of the 9th division.

60th Inf. I Co.
BOB BURKY
8 Whispering Meadows
Joshua, TX 76058

Time to renew my membership again. I want to say hello to all my buddies of L Co. 60th and 9th division buddies. Have been quite busy working 2 jobs trying to get some debts paid off as I'm going to be 65 in June. I have to sign up for my social security. If the good Lord willing and the creek don't dry up, June 12th, my birthday, I plan to hang it up and maybe work 16 hrs. in order to supplement my Medicaid. If any of the fellers have anything new on any L Co. guys, please write to me.

Co. C 47th Inf.
LLOYD COMEAUX
Rt. 1 Box 58
Erath, LA 70533

Last year in November, I visited Germany and France. In Monchau my son and I looked for a hill that which I spent in a fox hole for a Christmas in 1944. We never could find that hill. My question is, if someone was there at that time with me or someone else. If someone visited Monchau since 1944, and remembers the hill, please write to me. I talked to a hotel owner there, but he would not talk about it. Monchau is a beautiful little town. I also visited Dachau where I was after the war. The street on the side of the prison camp is not there anymore. The building we lived in are all gone. I stayed two weeks in Germany and enjoyed my days there. I visited Bonn and Remagen also Gemund, Zulpich, Niederberg, which we had fought through.

I was very fortunate to have my son Richard and my sister Eunice with me visiting. They enjoyed hearing about the places we visited. One on my buddies from the war took a picture of me in Dachau in 1945 in front of the prison gates. On this trip my son took a picture of me in front of the same gates. In 1945 it was Andy Carlson who took my picture.

I always dreamed of being able to visit Germany again. My nickname was Frenchy.

There are two kinds of drivers: those who drive as if they owned the road, and those who drive as if they owned the car.

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund received donations from these members and friends. The Association is grateful.

John D. O' Rourke
Herbert U. Stern
Charles E. Ayers, Sr.
Kenneth L. Meyer
Howard D. Brooks
(Memory of Burt Anderson C Co 47th Inf)
Norman A. Love
Louis F. Rullan
Chester Mikus
Salvatore Albanese
Joseph Juranich
Nick Labecki
George Hulke
(Memory of Orie Treacle)
Milton Cordray
Al Napadano
John Vranesic
Richard McGrath
(Memory of Fr. DeLaura and Fr. Connors)
Ernest Botella
(Memory of Roy Zessar H Co 47th Inf)
William J. Palmer
James M. Droney

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

I owe Lt. Col. Engeman of the 9th Armored an apology for leaving Colonel out of his rank in my last letter. I was thinking it but did not write it. I received a letter from my good buddy Ed Brewer of the 60th Reg. He has been in the hospital for surgery but is out now and getting along good. I'm sure all who know him are glad that he is well again and able to bowl. We are still having winter down here in what is supposed to be the sunny south, snow, sleet, cold rain and all that good weather! I do mean good, for we need all the moisture we can get after several years of dry weather. I wish the best to all the old 9th division buddies who know me and don't know me, who I know and don't know.

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

Enclosed find check for 2 years dues. I enjoy the Octofoil and look each time for someone from my company. I have had cancer of the neck for 2 years and don't get out too often. I hurt so bad sometimes. Please pray for me. Thank you.

Hq. Btry. 84th FA
NEWTON FIELDS
521 John Rolfe
Monroe, MI 48161

Enclosed is my dues for another 3 years. I plan on making the reunion this year and looking forward to seeing my buddies and friends of the 9th.

2nd Bn 47th Inf
CHARLES JOHNSON, JR.
437 28th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401

Enclosed is a picture taken about March 1941 Fort Bragg of original members of Co E 2nd Bn 47th Inf.

I remember the names of Staff Sgt. Brown and George Kairsala. I would appreciate anyone who knows the names of the others in the group and if not would some one look in history book with pictures taken of the original members of the 47th and send me their names. I loaned my book and never got it back.

If anyone has that book and would like to part with it and I would gladly paid them for it. I realize it is asking a lot.

Will the schedule of events at the Pines be in May Octofoil! See you there. Best regards to all.

Down the Road of History
Co E 39th Inf
KEITH W. LAUER
144 West St., Apt. 25
Leominster, Mass. 01453

I am prompted to write to you about your article in the most recent Octofoil which mentioned Pete Dalessandro and also by a letter from Larry Faulkner published in the Aug.-Sept.-Oct. issue of 1988.

I joined Company E of the 39th near the Belgian-German border. I had arrived in France on "D+10." I have attended a national 9th convention held in Columbus, Ohio and most of the memorial masses held in Worcester. I have never found anyone from E Co., 39th at these functions and rarely see any letters in the Octofoil from E Co. veterans. I do remember Larry Faulkner and I believe that he was the 1st Sgt. when I was with E Company. I also remember a Sgt. Massaco, George Light, Delph, Dan Maloney from Fall River, Danny Gallo and of course Pete Dalessandro, who was my platoon sgt. I was a squad leader on a point position in front of the platoon C.P. on top of the ridge near Camp Elsenborn on the night Pete was captured. Pete was gone from his platoon C.P. when we looked for him and for more ammo during that action filled night which resulted in his being recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On the afternoon preceding that German night attack, I was rear point man on a patrol in front of our position. As our patrol passed a German officer hidden in the brush we heard him say "Good evening, boys" in near perfect English. I fired a short Thompson burst at him and we took off for our line. Wounded, he crawled to our line where he told Lt. Firestone that he had been trying to surrender when he was shot.

In 1987 I returned to Europe with three friends for a month's country tour. The other male in our party had served with the 80th Division and had lost an eye. While crossing the Aur (Sp.?) River in Luxemburg. We visited all of the invasion beaches, the U.S. and German cemeteries and all of the W.W. 2 museums.

We visited Kalterherburg, Elsenborn, Malmedy, Eupen, Schrobenhausen and Sandzell where E Co. spent some time after the war. The leather factory in Sandzell is now a porcelain factory. Our old "bar-racks" building is still standing. I went to the castle there with the moat where we used to trade used coffee grounds to the Count von Sandizell for wine.

In the spring of 1945 E Co. entered the small German town of Bromskirchen during the wee hours of the night. The town was not too far from Winterberg and Frankenberg. After a tough winter and muddy spring we were ready to sleep under a roof again. We awakened a farm family and entered the lower lever of their house to sleep on their floors. I slept under the large kitchen table and woke up the next morning to the smell and sounds of frying bacon and eggs. I crawled out from under the table and asked the hausfrau what she was doing and she replied, "I am cooking bacon and eggs for you soldiers." I said "Why for us? We are the enemy" Frau Vesper replied "I don't care if you are American, French, German or English. You are soldiers and the life of any soldiers is difficult enough and this is Easter Sunday." We stayed there a few days and I

was left there to guard some of the company baggage until trucks could come back for it. One morning there was a knock on the door and Frau Vesper came to me to say that there was an American officer at the door. I went to him and informed him that the house was occupied by E. Company. He was seeking a house suitable for his C.P. when given that information he said that he would take the house across the street.

When the trucks returned for our baggage I printed a small sign which I placed on the front door of the Vesper house. The sign in English said "this house is occupied by Co. E, 39th Inf. of the 9th Div." As I left Frau Vesper gave me a postcard sized photo of she and her husband with their two little daughters who were about 7 and 9 years old.

About three years ago I came upon the card and wondered if the Verpers were still there. Their address was on the reverse side of the photo so I sent them a letter and soon received a reply, written in English, by a granddaughter of the Vespers. She was 21 then and she still lives in the old farmhouse with the barn attached. Heike lives there with her brother, Horst and her mother who was the young girl in the photo. Her grandmother and grandfather have both passed away a few years ago. Heike said that her mother remembered the Americans and noted that "one soldier stayed longer than the others and that when he left he had fastened a sign to the front door and that they were never approached by American soldiers after that. They did not know what the sign said. She asked "Were you that soldier?"

When we visited the continent in 1987 we visited Brooms-kirchen and the same house that we had occupied. We took the family to dinner and stayed overnight in Broomskirchen. The old muddy street has been replaced with blacktop — otherwise very little change. I have corresponded with Heike ever since her first letter. She arrives in N.Y.C. July 16th with two friends for a one month visit in the U.S. She will visit us in Leominster for a few days.

I may attend the convention and would enjoy seeing Pete, Larry and others from E Co.

My apologies for such a long letter.

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

I don't know whether or not I'm in arrears in dues but anyway here is a check for 3 more years, and the balance for the Memorial Fund. Have gone through a bad period of tension the last 7 months. My Mother (93 yrs. old) broke her hip last Sept. and I was forced to put her in a nursing home. I did the best I could. She needs constant care now. Wishing all the members of the 9th a good reunion as I cannot make it this year. God Bless all the members and good luck to all of you.

60th Inf. D Co.
JOE JURANICH
162nd & State St. Box 277
Basehor, Ks. 66007

Enclosed dues for 3 more years and a little for Memorial Fund. I am still hoping to hear from some of the members of D Co. 60th. I lost track of everyone when I left Mar. 17, 1945. If anyone knows about Stanley Sezlak, I would like to hear from them. My wife and I are still hoping to get to the reunion this year.

Co. G. 2 Bn 47 Inf.
JAMES W. SHERMAN
549 McNeal Drive
Deltona, FL. 32725

How time slips by, no excuses at all for not sending in my dues before, but by not getting my much missed Octofoil reminded me to do so immediately.

I surely miss reading some of the articles when old war buddies get in touch with each other in letters or in person.

I had such an experience when I looked up my old B.A.R. buddy William C. Stephenson outside Cleveland, Tenn. on my way to Michigan for a vacation. We had a nice get together and talked over some of our old times. As we looked back we realized how much we really depended upon each other and each and every man in our Squad, Platoon and Company. Also, every man that had the opportunity to help serve his or her country in such tragic times. It seemed like everyone was making sacrifices everywhere, not only during WWII but in all other wars or disturbances.

I was wondering if anyone knew my brother, P.F.C. Harold R. Shewman, who was killed September 17, 1944, near Zweifall, Germany. He was in L. Co. 60th, 9th Division. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew or served with him. Also, would like to hear from any of my old buddies. I only made one of the reunions and that being in Orlando, Florida, and I had a real good time at that one.

I am looking forward to future reunions, but lost track of when or where. Please let me know dates.

47th Inf K Co
NORMAN LOVE
2215 Downshire,
Columbus, Ind. 47203-4028

Enclosed find dues for 3 years and some for the Memorial fund. It's not much, but all I can spare at this time. Really enjoy the Octofoil. Keep up the good work. I was in K Co 47th and joined them in Normandy, first bunch of replacements that they received. Was wounded July 10, 1944 and spent 7 months in hospitals in England and was reclassified Limited service. I wound up as a cook in the 41st replacement battalion where I served out the rest of the war. I doubt if anyone remembers me since I was a runner and the day I was wounded, serving as radioman, we were the assault company of the assault battalion somewhere near St. Lo. Would like to hear from anyone that thinks he might remember me. The 1st sgt., I think his name was Crowell, was wounded the same time we were strafed by our own planes. This issue of the Octofoil I see one man who was in K Co 47th and I intend to write him. Thanks for listening. NINTH

CAPS AVAILABLE
Due to the continuing demand at reunions, I will keep 9th Division Association (golf) caps, available. They can also be obtained by mail for a total cost of \$7.50 per cap, including shipping. These caps with an adjustable back (one size fits all) have the 9th Division Association embroidered emblem. Four styles are available.

1. Summer cap (most popular style) which has a white front panel with a royal blue visor and nylon mesh back panel.
2. Winter cap in all navy blue.
3. Light weight all navy blue summer cap.
4. All white summer cap with nylon mesh back panel.

Please address all orders to: Edmer Wagner, 2833 Hotchkiss Road, Bay City, MI 48706.

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

Enclosed my check to cover a three year membership renewal, keep the wife in the Ladies Auxiliary and the balance to the Memorial Fund in memory of Lt. Roy Zessar, Platoon Leader, 1st Platoon, "H" Company, 47th Infantry. I was Lt. Zessar's runner up till I was first wounded on June 22nd, 1944. Lt. Zessar was the one who bandaged me up. He was killed at or near St. Lo on July 12th, 1944. For many, many years I felt "beholding" to him. I expressed my thanks at his graveside at St. Laurent several years ago.

I am also enclosing a photograph taken last fall at my home in San Antonio. (I was originally from New York.) I am the tall one, next to me with the beard and shades is Bob Alberter of St. Augustine, Florida. Bob got in touch with me thru the Octofoil. We went to England in the same replacement packet in early 1944 and joined the 47th as replacements. Bob was a Squad Leader in the 2nd Platoon, "H" Company, 47th Infantry through late 1944. Both of us would like very much to hear from others in our same group. Bob's address is: 103 Sea Oats Place, St. Augustine, FL, 32084. If things go well Bob and I and our wives will meet in Europe this summer. I was a little more practical than most, I stayed in Europe for several years after the war and married a lovely French girl, we'll have our 43rd anniversary next month.

With warmest regards to all members of the association.

47th Inf. M Co.
ED LITTLE
313 Washington St.
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

Received the Octofoil the other day and was reminded I haven't written for a long time. Not much to say that is of any interest to anyone out there. Seems as tho I don't remember a lot of things to babble about. I have tried to forget most of what happened as it seems like I don't remember a lot of things to clearly that really happened. Now if that makes sense to anyone out there, let me know. I enjoyed the article about the Remagen Bridge as it brought back some things that weren't exciting. I remember those old Stuka dive bombers coming at us as we tried to climb up that rocky cliff. It was hard enough trying to drag that base plate and tri-pod and a little ammo as we would crawl a couple of body lengths and slide down one and a half. One of those bombers looked like it was coming straight at us and couldn't help but hit right in the middle. I guess the pilot must have been hit pretty hard as the plane veered off to the right of us and crashed in to the hill. My wife and I are looking forward to the Pines. I'm glad we got our reservations in early as the Octofoil says the Pines is completely sold out. As you noticed I have changed the location of my "bunker". We have moved to a little higher ground. Our observation is a little better here.

47th Inf. C Co.
HOWARD BROOKS
P.O. Box 141
S. Harpswell, ME 04079

My dues are due... I think they expired 12/88...so I'm enclosing my check for 3 years. I'm an optimist!

I had a card from Alice Anderson letting me know that Burt Anderson, CO of 'C' Co. 47th Inf. had passed away after

open heart surgery, from which he never rallied on June 6, 1988. I had already sent him a Christmas card in Arizona, where they are now living. I thought he'd get a kick out of the 'Road Runner' on the front. Unfortunately, he hadn't lived to see it. I landed for the Safi, Morocco invasion; Andy was the platoon leader at that time, and I was a sgt. We were good friends despite the difference in our rank. He asked me in England to be 1st Sgt. of Charley Co. just a short time before we were alerted for the invasion OVERLORD.

There is also a little sum in memory of him, for the Memorial Fund, included in my check.

Hope all goes well with you... pr as well as can be expected for old codgers like us! I am well, and glad of it. I was 75 last December.

All the best to the old Raiders who remember...as I do!

9th Med Bn
J. OTTO LOTTES, M.D.
2646 Michigan Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63118

A lot of the members of the 9th Division will not know me as I joined the Division when the Division was near the town of Maringberg (This may not be the correct spelling of the town and may not be even near the town). I was only there one day then we moved to Kothen at the Air Port. We were there several weeks until the war ended and that is how I was able to remember the name.

At the Junction of the Elbe & Mulde Rivers there were 3 German Barges. I asked my driver to stop. I inspected the barges and found that one contained sugar, one powdered milk and the other one powdered eggs. Since I was attached to the high command I reported to the Commanding General. After I gave my final report I asked him for a favor. He looked surprised and said yes. I asked him if he would permit me to make Ice Cream for the Division. He was shocked and gave me a hard look. He said Major do you know that we are fighting a war and don't you hear that firing of the cannons, etc. in laying down a barrage. Have you lost your mind? Do I have to lock you up? I said "Sir I am serious" and told him about the findings in the Elbe River. He said that he had been a soldier for many years and never heard of anyone making Ice Cream in combat. If I remember right this happened in late March or early April. For doing this he gave me a Bronze Star. When I got the star I felt that I did not deserve it and told the General so. He replied that this was the best morale booster any army ever had. I felt that this medal was given to soliders who really earned it and I did not write home that I got it. I was ashamed but now I laugh about it.

I returned to the States in May 1946. Since I spent most of my Army duty in non-medical work I had to start back as an Intern to regain my medical skill, which I did. I spent almost 5 years doing this and ended up as an Orthopedic Surgeon. I am now retired and spend my time in an Antique Car garage, restoring and showing Antique Cars. I joined the Army in 1938 for 6 months duty awaiting for my Residency to start and got stuck there. You have my permission to cut out any and most of this article.

I am enclosing a check (\$50.00) to pay my dues and for some others who are not able to pay.

I hope to make the reunion next year.

MAIL CALL

3rd Bn 47th Inf.
BILL TANNER
Box 280
Union City, Tn. 38261

Had a great time "reliving" events of the war, with General Randle. The General is frail but is in good spirits and his mind is as clear as ever. I am sure he would greatly appreciate being remembered with visits, cards or copies of the Octofoil. The days must be long for him since all his family is gone and he is alone. I enjoyed the story in the last issue of the Octofoil about the Remagen Bridge. Will not be at the reunion this year. Maybe next year.

PS: Editor's Note: The General is on our mailing list for the Octofoil — will have to recheck to see that he is getting the paper. Come on fellas, stop in to visit him (that is you guys living in Florida), the rest of us can at least take time to drop the "Old Man" a few lines.

The General's address: Gen. Ed Randle, 1150 Ponce DeLeon/Clearwater, Fl. 34616.

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

I am sorry to report the following deaths from the 9th Medical Battalion, Company B: George Schmidt and Dom Shukis. George had emphysema and passed away Feb. 17th of this year. Dom died two years ago after a long illness.

I enjoy reading the Octofoil from cover to cover. Keep up the good work.

F Co. & Hqs. Co. 47th Inf.
WILLIE MIZELL
4539 Airline Blvd.
Chesapeake, Va. 23321

1988 was a year of "Firsts" for us. First heard of the 9th Infantry Division Assn. First read of a 9th reunion. First time to attend a 9th Infantry reunion. First time to Cape Cod. First time to receive OCTOFOIL. First time Grandparents (at age 66).

So you see while we're way behind, most of you on all these first's doesn't mean we can't enjoy them. We do, very much. We especially enjoy our grandsons. What fun it is to see all the new things they do, (age 1 year, age 6 mos.).

I'm now a member of the Association, looking forward to "our" reunion. Hoping to see someone that remembers me.

Enjoy the OCTOFOIL very much and look forward to the next issue with all its news, read it over and over.

HQ Btry. 84th FA
WILLIAM RICHEY
6426 S. Wilson St.
Tempe, AZ 85283

I see my dues are due again, so I think I'll remedy the situation and take out a Life Membership. Now I won't every have to worry about being late. I want to thank you for the tremendous job you have done for years and hope you will be able to continue for many more years. I look forward to reading mail call and can't put the Octofoil down until I am finished. I am still working and my health is fine. Lots of luck to you and all the members of the 9th.

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

Enclosed find check for dues and Memorial fund. Sorry, I won't make the Pines this year. I am sure you will have a great time. Best wishes.

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

The last issue had the good news that the coming reunion at the Pines is sold out. That doesn't surprise me as the reunions are getting better and better. Like the Octofoil, it isn't by accident it gets better but because a lot of hard work by dedicated people. I have always thought the 9th division was a great unit because it had great leaders who were applied to the hard work that was necessary to get the job done. There are so many things I enjoy about the Octofoil. The picture on the front page shows Fred D' Amore, as usual, tilted to his right, I guess that's the side his wallet is on. Always like the pleasant look on Ron Murphy's face, he reminds me of a guy that has just made the last payment on his mortgage. Good things happend when you write to the Octofoil. Some time ago I wrote praising the regular contributors who write and that brought a card from Bill Kowalczyk, which was a pleasant surprise. Another was a phone call from Joe Killacky, formerly a K Co 47th old reliable, who wanted to know if I was a native south side Irishman as he was. Natch, I said, there aren't many of us left. Joe came over and we had a great visit. He told me he and Father Jerry Rowan were classmates and graduated from St. Leo High School. Some years later they met by accident at the Remagen bridgehead. Joe was going to Paris on a 48 hour pass when he spotted this M.P. and asked the driver to stop. Hey, I think I know that guy and sure enough it was his old classmate Jerry Rowan. As we talked, the world got smaller, as my son is a friend of Father Jerry Rowan's nephew. Another pal from K Co that Joe told me about is named Thompson, who must be a great athlete, and was elected to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. That got my attention as I know how serious they take their basketball in Indiana. As a long time sports nut, I refereed games in the Hoosier state and my ears still ring with "Your missing a good game, Ref!"

The visit with Joe was very enjoyable and look forward to seeing him again at the reunion. I look forward to seeing all my buddies from the Boston area, even though they talk funny! Can't put in to words how much I enjoy the writing in the Octofoil. The poem about Sed-jename in the last last edition, although sad, was very touchingly written. Liked very much the poem that was put together by Joe Rappazini.

Many issues back, there were many beautiful letters written about Father Connors. The eulogy written by Ron Murphy, Joe McKenzie and Jerry Shapiro really impressed me. There was so much to praise about Fr. Connors and many writers did just that. He was and always will be a great example for us. I was glad to see that Tony Madonna and Henry Santos are working to get us seated together at the reunion. The enclosed donation is in memory of two of my all time heroes, Father DeLaura and Father Connors. Till we gather at the Pines. Peace.

Lots of people are go-getters. The problem is getting them to bring it back.

Co. K 47th Eng.
EDDIE W. WEBBER
4929 Strickland
Box 80106
The Colony, TX 75056

Greetings to all 9th Division veterans. I am putting the finishing touches on the Remagen story I am writing entitled "Gunfight At Remagen. I am still in need of more personal accounts, pictures and any other information the members might contribute.

I have been in close contact with another fine association, the 78th Infantry Division. Like the 9th and 99th Divisions they fought in the Remagen Bridgehead. The association puts out a nice publication called the "Flash". They have recently placed a 78th Division plaque on one of the stone towers next to the 9th Armored Division's plaque. The side by side plaques look nice together, but I sure would like to see a 9th Division plaque there also. Is any plans in the works for such a plaque? Or is there another memorial type marker there for the 9th Division.

I am enclosing a picture taken from the 78th Division "Flash" showing Remagen Burgermeister Hans Peter Kurten standing by the newly placed 78th plaque. There is still plenty of room for a 9th Division marker and even a 99th Division plaque. I have never been able to find or contact a 99th Division association. If any of you know of one, please let me know. I'm constantly trying to find a "reunion" notice in the American Legion and VFW magazines for the 99th. These were all sister "Infantry Divisions" and should be represented in memorial. Brave men from all four divisions died for this ground and should be remembered. I would sure make the first contribution for such a plaque.

The book I am researching has fascinated me to this one great battle. Partly because my own late father raced across the bridge into his baptism of fire. Maybe plans for a plaque are in process, I sure hope so. I would love to design the plaque but there are others more qualified than me. I could get the details and permission information from the 9th Armored 14th Tank Battalion and the 78th Division associations. Thank you all again for the wonderful response to my book request. I feel it will be the most accurate account in print of this epic engagement at the Remagen Bridgehead.

Div. Hq. Co.
JOHN D. O'ROURKE
914 Canton St.
Orlando, Fl. 32803

I am just recovering from a serious cancer operation that has had me under the weather since May 1988. Happy to report I am in remission and feeling great. Regret I did not feel up to sending Christmas cards last year to old comrades, but will make up for it this holiday season. Saw Glen Shaw of Div. Hq. Co. last summer and he was hale and hearty. Also had a visit from Elwood Stafford and his wife. Stafford was the very efficient platoon Sgt. of Div. Hq. Special Platoon. Am looking forward to seeing Frank Vives this month. Frank will be in Central Florida to visit relatives and friends and to see his grandson win a baseball game against Rollins College of Winter Park, Fl. Best wishes to you and all members of the glorious 9th Inf. Div.

Life is like a smorgasbord: there are so many things to choose from, but by the time you get to the table all that's left are creamed corn and Brussels sprouts.

BTY B 60th FA
ARTHUR E. KRENN
Rt. 1 Box 214
Eden, Wisc. 53019

I was once a member of the 9th inf Division, fact is I helped start the Famous Div. My old outfit was Baty B 60th Field Artillery, I would like to join in the reunion of my old Battery, but at that time I will be in Europe at the graves sites of my fallen buddies, I left the 9th Inf. Div. in right after the Japs bombed Pearl. But I have seen many of the old gang on the battle line in Africa, as I sent to the 1st Armored Div., and from there to the 3rd Armored Div. so I belong to three different divisions. What I want to know is this, Do you know where the 9th Division Cemeteries are in Africa? The list I got said the only graves are in Carthage, North Africa, but it doesn't sound right as there are only 2,841 burried there. And that is only enough to bury the dead from the 1st Armored Div., as the cemetery is only a 27 acre site. Can you help me? I gave up on the Monuments Commission. And one more thing if you can do it, can you find out if any one from the 9th Inf. Division Battery B 60th Field Artillery show up at the reunion, and can you get their addresses for me. Thank you very much if this can be done. Hope to hear from you.

60th Inf. Hqs. Co.
T.L. "BUCK" HARRIS
PO Box 69
Elm City, N.C. 27822

Enclosed find dues for 3 more years. The month of March always brings memories of March 1943 and our first experience at Maknassey with the German Stuka dive bombers and the cold weather. Then we had the cold weather of March 1944 ~~at Winchester~~ but with mild & bitters at the local pubs. Again, in March 1945, the bitter cold going across the Ludendorf bridge at Remagen, although the Germans heated it up somewhat with all the firepower they threw at knocking the bridge out. If anyone out there knows the whereabouts of Robert Brown, Manuel Saldanna or Art Schaeffer please drop me a line. Would like to hear from any other Company buddies.

60th Inf. 2nd Bn
MILTON CORDRAY
6838 County Line Rd.
Ravenel, S.C. 29470

Enclosed find check for 3 yrs. dues and some for the Memorial Fund. I can't make the reunion this year due to my health. Sidney Caddin and Albert Hodge keep in touch with me. Hello to everyone and God Bless you all.

H Co. 47th Inf.
JOHN POPP
24 Wolfe's Dr.
Wheeling, W.Va. 26003

I am sending a picture taken in 1942 in Fayetteville. One of the fellows was killed in action. His name was Dominic Padula. If any of the other 5 see this picture, would they please drop me a line.

60th FA
JOSEPH MAHONEY
4 Marguerite Rd.
Walpole, Ma. 01081-3310

Just got out of the VA Hospital after spending 3 weeks in bed with leg ulcers, heart attack, angina and a few other minor things. Enclosed find check for dues.

SEEKING

I would appreciate your help in locating any information concerning my father who was with the 60th Inf and was discharged Mar. 1946. Thank you for your assistance.

J. Richard Kelly
107 Mauvilla Dr.
Chickasaw, Al. 36611

THE OCTOFOIL

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

I enjoyed the last Octofoil. There were two writeups both well written and interesting. One by Richard McGrath the other by Byron Angel. Both from B Co. I feel sure the buddies enjoyed the reading. I have more news: Our first sgt. Ernie Micka who has been out of contact for forty years will be at the reunion. He has written to me and asked to get together with the gang. I know our regular attendees will be glad to see him, and I hope it wakes up the others so we can have a great time. See you all in June.

376th AAA AW Bn Btry D
JOE VIGILANTE
P.O. Box 104
Ellenville, NY 12428

It is always a real pleasure to receive the Octofoil. Enclosed is a check for 3 years membership. The Octofoil is a great communicator. I came across a letter in the Jan.-Feb. issue written by an army buddy who had moved from Long Island to Calif. I had not seen nor heard from him in many years. But through the Octofoil I am now able to contact him and his family. I know they will be surprised and happy as I was when I read that letter.

Keep up the good work you are doing and God bless all in the 9th Inf. Div. Assn. both alive and deceased.

84th F.A. "B" Btry.
CHESTER S. MIKUS
8 Inwood House
Moorestowne Woods
Moorestown, NJ 08057

My wife Ayn just informed me that your "Dues Reminder" showed her that my dues are three months overdue. Enclosed find check for three years (I'm an optimist) and a few dollars towards the Memorial Fund.

Last February on our way down to Marco Island, FL we stopped to visit our good friends, Lee and Terry Terricola. What a hospitable pair, making you feel so welcomed and so much at home. Next time down there stop and say "Hello" and maybe stay a couple of days. They have a beautiful home and just tell them I sent you.

I hope to see you all at the Pines. My wife made sure that we will be at the main hotel this year.

The group that keeps the Octofoil coming to our homes deserves the gratitude of every 9th Division Vet. To Dan and Marie, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

There's nothing wrong with having a second childhood. After all, it's a lot more attractive than a second infancy.