

College of the Holy Cross

CrossWorks

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

11-1-1989

The Octofoil, November/December 1989

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil>



Part of the [Military and Veterans Studies Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, November/December 1989" (1989). *The Octofoil*. 283. <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/283>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the 9th Infantry Division Association at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Octofoil by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.

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 5

Nov.-Dec. 1989

45th Annual

Memorial Mass and Service

We are still answering Father Connors' call — the call that went out forty five years ago when Father gathered us together to celebrate our first Memorial Mass and Service on November 5th, 1945.

On November 5, 1989, forty five years to the day, we celebrated our forty fifth Memorial Mass and Service at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester.

The day followed the pattern established many years ago. The men still able to march met at the Grove Street fire station at 9:30 a.m. Last year the march was eliminated, as the committee felt that there were no longer enough men able and wanting to march. However, there were many requests for the march to continue. It is heartening to thank that so many of the men are determined that our traditional day remain the same.

Led by the Color Guard and the Marching Band, the small group of men all carrying American flags made their way up Grove Street to the church. As always Dan Quinn was at the front of the parade. The American flag was usually carried by Max Umansky, who is now deceased. This year our country's flag was carried by Nick D'Agostino, who remarked afterwards that he was overcome by the honor. The Ninth Division Colors were carried by Bill Greco. Hats off to the men who marched and a special salute to our National President, Henry Santos.

The procession into the church was followed by Mass, dedicated as always to the 4,581 men who died in combat during W.W.II and those who have since followed.

After Mass, a short service was held at our outdoor memorial. Herbert Olsen and Vincent Guglielmino, who lost brothers in the 47th Infantry, placed an Octofoil wreath on the memorial in honor of our departed dead.

The 12:30 p.m. luncheon at the Sheraton-Lincoln Inn was attended by 185 men and women. For many of us it was our forty fifth pilgrimage to Worcester. Each year our numbers grow fewer - death, ill health and distance has taken its toll. The magic presence of Father Connors is no longer with us, but the magic of his words, "Stay together, pray together, and remember our honored dead," will always remain.

The day will always be worth the effort and the trip.

Sincerely,
Ron Murphy
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, Ma. 02066

**Reunion
1990
October 4-7
Orlando**

WORCESTER TRADITION

The annual trek to Worcester, Massachusetts for the annual memorial mass was made by an estimated crowd of over two hundred Ninth division "family members," time is taking it's toll when one thinks back to our peak years of over five hundred, but the TRADITION carries on as we remember and pray for the 4581 we left behind and so many who have since answered the last call.

As my wife and I started out from sunny Florida to make the 1,475 mile trip we wondered "will we have a large attendance?", will the weather be in our favor?, will So and So be there, etc. Then about five hours into our drive we ran into rain (so what's new?). Come Saturday, November 5th the sun was shining and Sunday was more of the same, our prayers on that score were answered.

The New England chapter was once again the perfect host with abundant hors d'oeuvres and liquid refreshments followed by more socializing and dancing to the lively band till late Saturday nite. Let's not kid ourselves, it wasn't like "the good ole days" with "The Magnet," Fr. Ed going from table to table with a wise crack or compliment that fit the moment, but it was great just being there with "OUR FAMILY."

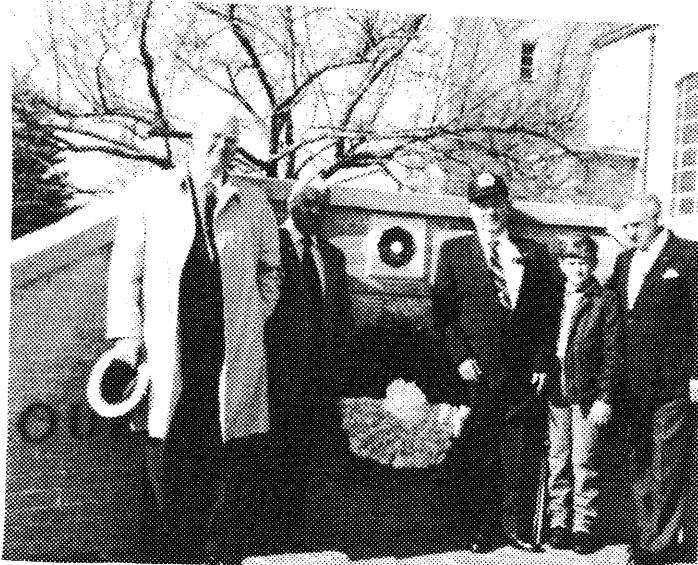
Sunday morning was a carbon copy but somewhat warmer weatherwise than Saturday and Father Connors would have been proud of "his troops" as we gathered at the fire station for the march to the Immaculate Conception Church. What a turn-around!, I found myself at the head of the column by Dan Quinn (Mutt & Jeff) instead of at the tail end bringing up the rear as was the case away back when. Those of you who missed this year's parade would see the marching gang were fewer but the spirit was as strong as ever.

We didn't fill the church as we used to but Father Connors and all our departed would have been proud of us listening intently as we prayed together for our comrades and widows praying for departed husbands. As the mass ended and taps were sounded once more tears were wiped throughout the congregation.

The services after mass were as impressive as ever with each one offering his or her prayers according to his or her faith, the wreath laying and again the sounding of TAPS had it's effect but I wouldn't miss it for the world.

Now back to the Sheraton for dinner and goodbyes for another year when we make our pilgrimage "one more time." Thank you Lord for the privilege.

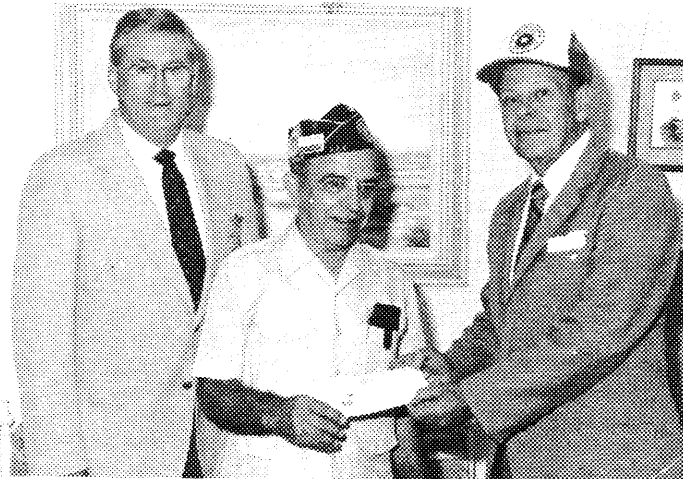
Henry R. Santos, Pres.
9811 Connechuset Rd.
Tampa, FL 33617



Shown at the Memorial Service held in Worcester on November 5th, are l to r: Tom Hatton Company C 60th Inf., Jim Ciluffo, Co C 47th, Ed Wisniewski Ser Co 47th, Ed Wisniewski grandson of Ed and John Bonkowski 9th Recon.



Larry McLaughlin chairman of the Veterans Awards Committee is shown presenting a check, from the association, to Dorothy Banks RN Supervisor-Out Patient Department of the Soldiers Home in Chelsea, Massachusetts. In lieu of scholarships the association made these awards to VA Hospitals.

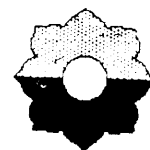


Henry Santos, president of the Association, is shown (center) presenting a check from the Association to Richard Silver (right) Director of James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, Florida. Looking on is Marty Gall, Chief, Voluntary Services of the VA Hospital.

The Board of Governors had voted to award this grant to the VA Hospital at their meeting last summer.



The staff of the Octofoil wish to thank all those who sent the beautiful Christmas Cards and best wishes for the New Year. We would like to wish all the members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and to our Jewish members and families a Happy Hanukkah.



NOW HEAR THIS!

All golfers (and hackers) are being paged for a round or two while at the reunion in Orlando next October. The dates have as yet to be set but knowing the members a lot of them will be arriving before the reunion starts, so Bob Pappas who heads this committee would appreciate hearing from those interested in playing. Bob can be reached at 738C 518, Box 75, New Port Richie, Florida 34653. He had suggested Friday October 5, 1990 but that is the day of the General Business Meetings. In any event write to Bob what dates you would prefer.

DEAR FRIENDS

EVERYWHERE:

It is time for another one of these letters. It may be my last, as on my last birthday, I was 95 years old. I may not make it another year.

Do you notice that I've moved? I am at the SUN CARE LODGE. I have a room to myself; a nice room with my own bath. My room has two windows - one facing north and the other facing west. All rooms here have carpeting on the floor. I have no room-mate.

Ann Malone is still taking care of me and has been doing so for 8 years. She is joined by Jean Fletcher who has been here going on 5 years. Also, Sandy Hott has typed these letters for me for the last several years. So — keep the letters coming, they are appreciated!

One recent letter and visitor was from Bill Tanner and his wife. They dropped in on me at my former address and I got a letter from him, including a couple of pictures he had taken. Bill and I talked about farming in Tennessee in 1948, but I moved away 2½ years later, which I regret. I was used to moving every 2½, that being the only reason I can give. Bill's farm had 8,000 acres, which is quite a bit more than my 305 acres. He isn't farming any crops, he is running tests on animals on 7 acres. There was a beautiful old house on my land which I remodeled.

The food at SUN CARE LODGE is very good. Anne Malone's brother is the Food Supervisor here. For instance - for breakfast we had a big glass of orange juice, not a little dinky glass. We also had an egg, 2 pieces of raisin toast, a bowl of oatmeal and 2 slices of bacon. On alternate days we have ham and sausage. I like the bacon days the best. For dinner we have a large variety of food and for supper, sandwiches. Sometimes we have a Sloppy Joe which is pretty sloppy to me. I like the egg sandwiches and the toasted cheese sandwiches, as well as sometimes, hot dogs too.

For fun they have a Cocktail Party on Friday nights. I get dressed up and go to them. There are a lot of activities here, some of which I do not attend. I have been unable to attend some of them for several weeks now because I was in the hospital due to a disarrangement of my insides which has been taken care of by an operation. I am coming along fine. Here's hoping all is well with you.

Have a great Holiday!

EDWIN H. RANDLE
Brigadier General, Retired
13359 87th Place, N
Seminole, FL 34646

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

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

Vincent Guglielmino, 1st V.P.
114 Charles Street
Floral Park, NY 11001

Fred D'Amore, 2nd V.P.
95 Webster St.
E. Boston, MA 02128

Pat DeColi, 3rd VP
1017 Jackson St.
Phila. PA 19148

Dave Heller
Judge Advocate
616 Sumac
Highland Pk. IL 60036

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Somerville, Mass. 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Board of Governors

1990
Ralph Carci
Brunswick, MD
Richard Martin
Springfield, Mass.
Len Tomassone
Pennsauken, NJ
Edward Wisniewski
Richmond, Mich.
Adolph Wadalavage
Elmhurst, NY
1991
Nick Dogostino
Cherry Hill, NJ
Jack Collier
St. Louis, MO
Larry McLaughlin
Wakefield, MA
Henry Santos
Tampa, FL
1992
Mike Belmonte
Oak Park, IL
Phil Berman
Daytona Bch, FL
Ed Hopkins
Metuchen, NJ
Tom Hatton
Saginaw, MI
Walter O'Keefe
San Francisco, CA

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.

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, NJ. 07087, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

Volume XLIV Number 5

Nov Dec 1989

Publication No. 402820

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name Serial No.

Street Address.....

City..... Zone..... State.....

I was a member of:

Battery..... Company.....Regiment.....9th Div.....

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year..... \$ 5.00
Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund.....
THREE-YEAR MEMBER.....\$13.00
Life Membership.....\$50.00
Ladies Auxiliary Member.....\$ 2.00
Decals......50c each
60th Hist.....\$ 2.50 (incl. post.)

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley Greater New York
Illinois Washington, D.C.
New England Michigan
Florida

ORLANDO REUNION TID-BITS/INFORMATION

Some of our members are still sending charge card [VISA etc.] to pay for reservations. PLEASE, as was printed in the last OCTOFOIL, we do not, repeat, do not handle charge card reservations, those must be sent to the ORLANDO MARRIOTT - 8001 International Dr. - Orlando, FL 32818. The room tax is now 10% which check paying members will not have to pay when sent to 9811 N Connechusett Rd - Tampa, FL 33617.

Some reservations continue to come in with missing information, especially the unit, Co., Regiment etc., the name desired on name badge, member and spouse etc. By having all information complete we can have you registered in jig time making it easier for everyone.

SEA WORLD!!! About two miles away, is offering a half day admission for our group [3:00 P.M. to closing] and a complete All-You-Can-Eat Barbecued Chicken Cookout for about \$25.00 per person which is very little more than a full day admission. For this we need to know how many will want to add Sunday, October 7 to their stay for we will have to go as a group for this great price. It is quite possible the price will be slightly less and this includes table cloths and napkins, silverware etc., corn on the cob, sausage, cole slaw, baked beans, dinner rolls, soft drinks or coffee. Doesn't that sound good?

It is very important that everyone planning to attend the 1990 Reunion read very closely the Jan.-Feb. issue of the OCTOFOIL FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION.

Florida Chapter
Henry Santos
9811 Connechusett Rd.
Tampa, FL 33617

LADIES CORNER

Ruth Lees, President
Ladies Auxiliary
The Ninth Infantry
Division Association
1280 Movus Avenue
North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Dear Ruth,

As a resident of New Jersey and having concern for our veterans, especially those of World War II era; as they are getting along in years and being one of their contemporaries, I thank the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ninth Infantry Division Association for their very generous gift of \$400.00 to the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home in Paramus, New Jersey.

This Home presently has 140 residents including seven women. All are either mentally or physically disabled veterans or the spouses of veterans. When more funds are available from the State of New Jersey and the federal government, the Home will be able to accommodate 240 residents.

The Home is only three years old and despite the fact it is a beautiful residence with all the latest in equipment, it does have the appearance of an institution... plain and functional. When I visited the Home and explained that a \$400.00 gift was coming from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, the Activity Director asked if we would consider giving decorations for the dining room tables. So, I arranged to have made up and delivered (myself and the arranger) thirty (30) silk flower table centerpieces plus place mats. Everyone was delighted with our gift and the dining area now has a more homelike appearance.

The American Legionnaires and the Veterans of Foreign Wars had already provided TVs. The State of New Jersey provides wheelchairs, linens and other essentials. Therefore, even though flowers may sound "frivolous" this was not the case. As wives, mothers, sisters, etc. you would have been very pleased to see what a difference some flower decorations made for the residents at the Home who will no doubt spend the rest of their lives at this facility.

Enclosed you will find a letter of thanks from the Activity Director at the Home. Also, you will find enclosed some photos taken of the flowers.

Thank you again for your generosity to New Jersey Veterans.

God Bless.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Alvin P. Becker
410 Berkshire Rd.
Ridgewood, N.J. 07450

LADIES CORNER

I don't know what is happening to me — old age? (nah, even though I am a bona fide Senior Citizen, I'm really not old!); the lovely Indian Summer weather we are having here in New Jersey? or whatever, but lately I just can't seem to get all my writing done, this Column in particular.

Not a lot has happened since the last column, except for some lovely notes from the ladies who received and gave out checks for various Veterans Hospitals. All the moneys were put to very good use. Once such as: "Alternative Pressure Matresses" for frail or very weak Veteran patients in the New Hampshire Veterans Home.

As you well remeber we sent \$1,200.00 to 3 Veterans Hospitals/Homes - \$400.00 to each in June. However for the past 19 years, since the Auxiliary was started in 1970, the Auxiliary has contributed the following: *Continued on page 3*

Marriott Orlando Hotel

EVERYONE WINS!! By paying to the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION.

The state of Florida is generous to non-profit organizations such as our's by extending to us a sales tax exempt status also applies to hotel/motel room rent etc., by registering your room(s) through us we are saving you nine % or, \$6.21 per night. This also is an enormous undertaking so you will be asked to pay for the remaining nights' room rent no later than September 1 to be sure all checks clear and complete the accounting involved. Anyone not paid up by September 1 will have to settle with the hotel and will have the tax as only our chapter check is TAX EX-EMPT. Those settling with the hotel will be able to charge whatever room rent is still owned to their charge card but the room tax will be added to the bill.

Everyone will be asked to present a charge card or make other arrangements to pay for things like telephone, room service etc. and will enjoy EXPRESS CHECK-OUT, (no waiting to check-out).

Room Reservations

THIS IS A RESERVATION REQUEST AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE (1) NIGHTS ROOM DEPOSIT. CANCELLATION MUST BE RECEIVED 72 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL TO RECEIVE REFUND OF DEPOSIT. ALL REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 9/4/90. AFTER SUCH DATE, THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS.

9th Infantry Division

October 4 - 7, 1990

DAILY ROOM RATES Single: \$69. Double: \$69
SUITE FROM: \$_____.

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____
ARRIVAL TIME: _____ FLIGHT NO.: _____
NUMBER OF ROOMS: _____ NUMBER IN PARTY: _____
ADULTS _____ CHILDREN & AGES: _____
SPECIAL REQUEST: _____

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
TELE # : _____
Name you want on name tag _____
Company _____ Regiment _____

CHILDREN STAYING IN THE SAME ROOM WITH THEIR PARENTS NO EXTRA CHARGE

ALL RATES ARE SUBJECT TO 9% STATE TAX
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ROOM - FIVE (5)
RESERVATIONS ARE TENTAVIELY HELD PENDING RECEIPT OF DEPOSIT OR MAJOR CREDIT CARD (AX, M/C, VS, DC & DI)
NUMBER _____ EXPIRE DATE: _____

Special request for location, connecting room, etc., will be noted but cannot be guaranteed. Suites are space available at rates above and will be confirmed by RESERVATIONS MANAGER.

AFTER
CHECK IN: 4:00 P.M. CHECK OUT: 11:00 A.M.

Baggage must be checked with the Bell Captain if departure time is later than 11:00 A.M.

For those who wish to arrive early and/or extend their stay, the above mentioned special group rates will apply to three nights before and/or after the dates indicated above-room subject to availability.
Make check and send payment to

9th Inf. Div. Reunion
9811 N Connechusett Rd. Charge card payment to
Tampa, FL 33617 Orlando Marriott Hotel
8001 International Dr.
Orlando, FL 32819

Hospitality suites, \$210.00 a nite, more for entertaining, set with living/dining furniture, wet bar, pull out couch, no bed. Bringing in food and/or beverages from outside is restricted.

* * * *

Junior suites - \$190.00 per nite, one bedroom & parlor, two bedrooms & parlor go for \$280.00. Parlors are set up living room style the size of a guest room. No restrictions on food/beverages.

* * * *

Executive suites- \$375.00 per nite, smiliar to a one bedroom apartment. No food/beverage restrictions.

The reunion committee is taking advantage of the extra time we have this year to "fine tune" all aspects to make this a most memorable reunion. Watch the OCTOFOIL for the latest information.

Request for space in souvenir program			
Centerfold	\$125.00	Back cover	\$75.00
Inside front cover	60.00	Inside back cover	60.00
Full page	50.00	1/2 page	30.00
1/4th page	20.00	1/8th page	10.00

Booster name and unit \$2.00 each.

Make check payable to 9th Inf. Div. reunion and mail to
Fla. Chapter, 9th Inf. Div.
9811 N Connechusett Rd.
Tampa, FL 33617
Ph (813) 985 5444

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER/CAPE CANAVERAL***All who are interested should let us know as soon as possible in order to make arrangements for the one hr. drive, transportation can be arranged but reservations must be made in advance.

Ladies Corner

Continued from page 2

\$2,075.00 to the Scholarship Fund of the 9th Division Assoc. \$750.00 to the Fort Bragg Memorial and the 9th Division Assoc.

\$550.00 to Immaculate Conception Church of Worcester, Mass.

\$3,600.00 to Various Veterans Hospitals

for a total of \$6,975.00. Quite a tidy sum for good causes from a group of women who only meet once a year, don't you think? Since I have only been active in the Auxiliary for the past 3 years, I do appreciate the hard work, craft skills, time and money that our faithful, early members and officers put into building this Auxiliary to the point it is at today. Thank you for all of us.

In closing, I should like to remind all of you to visit your local Veterans Hospital as often as you can. Your visits can do so much good. Until next edition, take care and keep in touch.

Ellie Taubner, Treasurer
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

Matt Urban Story

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of The Congress the Medal of Honor to

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATT URBAN
UNITED STATES ARMY, RETIRED

for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty July 19, 1980.

Almost 36 years from the day Matt Urban checked out of an English Hospital — to rejoin his men at the Normandy, France fighting front — President Jimmy Carter draped the Congressional Medal of Honor around Colonel Urban's neck. This supreme tribute to valor made him the Most Combat Decorated Soldier of Word War II.

The Matt Urban story is about a soldier who persevered — A patriot who led his troops to victory against overwhelming odds — A human being who never placed self above service to his country or fellow soldier. It's his story of personal valor and the heroism of the men with whom he served.

This is a report of military experiences from the moment Urban "jumped ship" to join his troops in the African invasion — who led battles against the "Desert Fox," Field Marshal Rommel and his German Afrika Korps.

Urban's book is the story of a man who commanded his troops through six major campaigns on two continents — A man who was wounded seven times — A report of his leadership in the St. Lo Breakthrough in Normandy, France — A report of World War II combat action which caused Col. Urban to become a recipient of the Medal of Honor — twenty-nine other combat medals for military service from the U.S. Army — and Medals of Valor from several foreign countries.

Matt wants his story told so that the guys who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam can say "finally somebody told his story of what war really is like, and who also understands the values of our military contributions to the cause of freedom."

To: Col. Urban: Ship _____ copies of your book, "The Matt Urban Story"

Please Personalize and Dedicate

To: _____

To: _____ @ \$20.00 per book: \$ _____
(\$3.00/ea. book) for shipping & handling: _____

To: _____ Mich. Residents add 4%
State Sales Tax: _____
Total amount of my order: \$ _____

Book ordered by:

Enclosed in my Check or Money Order

Name _____

Charge my _____ Visa or _____ Mastercard _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to: "The Matt Urban Story Inc", P.O. Box 2004, Holland, MI 49422-2004

Continental Airlines
has been designated as
Official Carrier for the

Ninth Infantry Division
Association
45th Annual Reunion
October 3-7, 1990
Orlando, Florida

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES will offer 5% off of the lowest applicable fare at the time of booking or, at least 50% off first class and 50% off coach fares.

To qualify, reservations must be booked through our convention desk using the Easy Access Number listed.

After you have reserved your flights, you may purchase your tickets from your local Travel Agency, any Continental/-Eastern ticket office or airport ticket counter or we will mail them directly to you along with an invoice for payment.

Regardless of where you choose to pay for your tickets, call our Convention Desk now to reserve your flights.

For discount fares call—
1-800-468-7022
(in Continental U.S. & Canada)
Refer To Easy Access Number

EZ 10P7

NEW YORK AREA
CHAPTER REPORT

Our regular monthly meeting of the New York Area Chapter was held on Dec. 15, 1989 at the Masonic Hall in New York City, (23rd. St.). A threatening snow-storm (which did not materialize) seemed to cut down the attendance of old reliables. Only nine members showed up and we had a mini-meeting. Some of the regulars were not able to make it anyway since they were on sick call. Former prez Harry Wax was just released from a two week hospital stay and former prez Tony Varone was at the VA hospital every-day for tests. We hope to see these buddies hale and hearty again and back at the CP soon.

Because of the small turnout the meeting was informal, suspending the reading of the minutes and treasurer's report. George Apar, however, made a point to the assembled that it was very important to read all this month's correspondence out loud from our absent and distant comrades — from: Mike Derish (now with the Florida chapter); Mrs. Lastra (Herbert's widow); Pete Uhl; Pat Morano; Eddy Leddy; Mrs. Partin (for Charles); and George Bako's letter informed us that both he and Mrs. Bako were recovering from recent surgery. Our best wishes for a speedy return to good health to the Bakos — and all our ailing buddies and families.

As we stuffed ourselves with cold cuts and soda, which was provided by Art Schmidt and Tony DeRobertis, the old soldiers of the Ninth refought the war with pride, sadness and hilarity. No matter how many times we discuss the same events someone always comes up with something new to add to these experiences. Attending, besides those mentioned above, were: VP Lou Almassy, Anton Dietrich, Prez Vincent Guglielmino, Mary Levy, Herminio Suarez and Adolf Wadalavage.

The New York Area Chapter Christmas Party was held at the Elks Lodge in Weehawken, New Jersey on December 10, 1989 where Dan Quinn with his Santa's little helpers provided the annual festive affair. It was a pleasure to see many of the members and their families attending, who were unable to join our monthly meetings, make the special trip from their distant homes.

Although not as many members attended as in the past, a good time was had by all. The epicurean delights, drinks, music, grab bag, raffle ... and especially the company, made it all a joy to share in this Christmas season. And, on that closing note, all of us from the N.Y. Area Chapter wish Ninth men and their families everywhere a Happy New Year for 1990.

Co. A 60th Inf.
Marvin Levy
2044 Ellen Drive
Merrick, N.Y. 11566
New York Secretaries
Address
Art Schmidt
69-20 69th St.
Glendale, NY 11385-6696

LAWRENCE J. Mc LAUGHLIN
82 Gould St.
Wakefield, Ma. 01880

Attached is photo. Re: our presentation of \$900. check from 9th Inf. Division Assoc. to Soldier's Home — Chelsen, Mass. This is in connection with the "Veteran's Awards."

The identity in photo is myself and Ms. Dorothy Banks — R.N., Supervisor - Out Patient Department.

Thanks and happy holidays to you both.

ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER

Time out from the holiday hustle and bussle to get our newsletter in to the Octofoil. We had our Christmas Party on December 9th at the Belmontes. We were fortunate to have good weather — no snow and not too cold.

We were pleased to see the Prestons at the Party. Wanda Preston is looking pretty good after her illness. Also attending were the Andersons. Carpenters, Clarks, Grays, Hellers, Hennemuths, Irma Koski and the Paulis. We had plenty of food as each lady displayed their culinary arts. The men were all ready, willing and able to sample all the food.

We played our usual White Elephant Game and the Carpenters were the winners of the main gift but many others walked off with a large collection of treasures - so to speak.

Before playing our game, the men held a meeting to discuss various activities and elect new officers. The new slate includes David Heller, President; Bill Hennemuth, Vice President; Mike Belmonte, Treasurer; Gordon Anderson, Secretary; Mike Carpenter, Sgt. at Arms; Lew Gray, Chaplain. Congratulations to the new officers.

Now that Roger Elmer has retired, he will be spending his time between Naples, Florida and Chicago, Illinois. Good Luck Roger and Doris.

Nothing too much happening the beginning of the year. We will have a luncheon meeting in February and March. In May we will be in Madison, Wisconsin at the Ramada Inn for our mini reunion. That will be May 4th and 5th. Anyone interested can make reservations direct with the Ramada Inn. Mention the 9th as we will have special rates. Our Memorial Day services will be held Sunday, May 27th. Details will be mailed in a newsletter.

Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike and Ann Belmonte
1161 South Lombard
Oak Park, Il. 60304

Illinois Chapter

Just a few lines to let the membership know that the Illinois chapter will hold their spring reunion at Madison, Wi. again this coming May 4-5. It will be held at Ramada Inn in Madison. This will be our 4th year. Each year there has been increased attendance. We have had people from Wi., Ill., In., Oh., and Mi. Anyone wishing to attend just show up. Advance registration with motel requested. For more information write Mike Carpenter, 129 E. Taylor St., Cottage Grove., Wisconsin 53527.

ATTENTION FLORIDA
CHAPTER MEMBERS

The 1990 Spring Meeting of the Florida Chapter has been set for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 5th, 6th and depart on Saturday the 7th, 1990. This is a change from the usual Friday, Saturday, Sunday as in the past. Reason being of the holidays that fall on that time of the year. The Orlando Marriott located on 8001 International Drive in Orlando, Fl. will be the headquarters. All dues paying Florida Chapter members will receive reservation notices and other information approximately 5 to 6 weeks before the meeting. REMEMBER ... the registration day for this meeting will be on a Thursday ... not Friday.

Emil J. De Donato
3650 S.W. Mosswood St.
Dunnellon, Fl. 32630

MICHIGAN NEWS NOTES

This time I have to beat the deadline of Dec. 20. On that day we are winging to San Diego for two weeks in the sun.

We look back on a very good year. Health wise it hasn't been too bad. The Michigan Chapter meetings have been enjoyed. There could be a few more in attendance. I know age brings on problems. In our case I don't like night driving but with Elmer Wagner willing to drive Jennie and I have been able to make the meetings.

Now that I have gotten into the subject of age I can get at the real reason of this letter. The following I am taking verbatim from a Christmas Card that I received from Dorothy Daniels today: I'm sorry to have to inform you Calvin had a massive heart attack, Tues. 10:30 a.m. He is in intensive care in West Branch. Test show his heart is mending but brain is of a 3 year old. Died 6 times in less than 2 hrs. is a little better. Took tubes out of lungs & stomach. Can't talk just mumbles and is off oxygen, but doesn't give much hope. Possible could be a vegetable.

We'll just have to pray and wait... Dot.

I called Dorothy tonight and she reported that Cal was resting but in not out of danger as of this time. He is paralyzed on the left side.

Calvin is a member of the Michigan Chapter and is the immediate past president. My roster show that Calvin served in C Bty. 26th F.A. and Can. 39th. He will be better known by many as the man who sold Ninth Division Pins and Belt Buckles at the National Reunions.

Calvin just moved this year from Utica, Mi. to St. Helnes, Mi. A good place to retire to if one is a sports man. Fishing and hunting are excellent.

Should you want to get a card to Calvin you can write him at 6912 Madison, St. Helen, Mi. 48656. Dorothy said he does hear but not talk.

So we wish Dorothy strength in this time or ordeal. We pray that Calvin can survive this great set back.

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

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund was enriched by the generosity of these members and friends.
Vincent Mann — In memory of Fr. Connors, The Mann Family, The Keans Family, Paul Lynch, Hyland Family & Quinn Family
Clifford Conley
Sally Zucker — In memory of her husband, Irving "POP" Zucker
Walter Lebah
George Grossman — In memory of Walter Wasserman
Frank Duenas
George Brown — In memory of Max Umansky
Leo Fatlan
Burleigh Brewer
William Johnston
Arnold Watson — In memory of Parker A. Alford, 26th FA
Anthony Madonna — In memory of Nick Yarosz, B Co 15th Engrs
Victoria Carter — In memory of her husband Oliver, AT 47th Inf
John E. Thornton
Edward Janoski — In memory of Steve Blyshak
Paul Potts
Edwin E. Brewer
Frank Bozarth
Michael Deresh
(Memory of Bill Martin)
We salute you.

TAPS SOUNDED

*There is no death!
What seems so is transition
This life of Mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life
elysian
Whose portal we call death.*

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

James Di Rienzo
9th Med
Floyd Richardson
47th Inf B Co
William E. Frederick
Nick Yarosz
15th Eng B Co
Oliver Carter
47th Inf AT Co
Al Rago
9th Signal
Parker Alford
26th FA
Daniel Ward Hancock
9th Signal
Wilbur Sanders
A Btry 60th FA
Clyde Posey
Btry 60th FA
Ray Porter
60th AT Co
Judson Fuller
I Co 47th & L Co 60th
Charles Zelazney
I Co 47th Inf
Steve Tebich
A-T 39th Inf
Charles Bruni
Bty A 376th AAA
Richard A. Vestecka
and wife Virve
60th Inf
Shirley Sabato
Wife of John Sabato
Betty Tricolli
Wife of Charles Tricolli
May they rest in Peace.
To their families and loved
ones we extend our deepest
sympathy.

Col. Richard A. Vestecka,
4701 High Street, Lincoln, ME
68506, and his wife, Virve, were
killed in an automobile accident
on Sunday, 24 December. They
were traveling on I-80 between
Omaha and Lincoln when their
car skidded on ice causing a
collision. Colonel Vestecka was
a WWII member of the 60th In-
fantry Regiment, and an adjutant
to General William C. Westmoreland
when he commanded the 60th in Germany.

Colonel Vestecka, 68 and his
wife, Virve, were life-long
residents in Lincoln. Vestecka
was a prominent attorney.
Funeral services were conducted
in the Cathedral of the Risen Christ
in Lincoln on 28 December 1989.

N.J. Hennen
4558 58th Avenue North
Apartment 257
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

A good man is gone! My husband,
Oliver Carter, passed away Nov. 15,
1989. He was hospitalized for lung
cancer, had one lung removed. He
developed pneumonia on the fourth
day following surgery. His heart could
not withstand the strain of pumping
oxygen into the remaining lung, and
after nine days of intensive care, he
died of cardiac failure.

My sincere thanks to Howard Waldman
and his "network" of callers who passed
the information along to Ollie's friends,
who either phoned, wrote letters,
sent cards, or came in person. Their
expressions of sympathy were deeply
appreciated and did much to ease the
pain of losing a loved one.

I am enclosing a check for the
memorial fund in memory of my
husband, Oliver H. Carter.

47th Inf. A.T.Co.
MRS. OLIVER CARTER
3107 Walters Lane
Forestville, Maryland 20747

MINUTES OF THE 166th
MEETING BOARD OF
GOVERNORS

The 166th meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place on November 4, 1989 at the Sheraton Lincoln Motel, Worcester, Massachusetts. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Association Henry Santos at 3:45 P.M., who asked the members to stand for a moment of silence in memory of the departed men of the Ninth. Attending the meeting were: Larry McLaughlin, Len-ny Tomasone, Nick Dogostino, Richard Martin, Tom Hatton, Ed Wisniewski, Adolph Wadalavage and Walter O'Keeffe, all members of the Board of Governors. Also in attendance Vince Guglielmino 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice-President Fred D'Amore, 3rd Vice-President Pat DeColli, Treasurer Tom Boyle, Judge Advocate Dave Heller, Past Presidents Ron Murphy, Emil Langer and John Bonkowski. also Frank Buzanoski and Art MacDougall.

A motion was made by Larry McLaughlin and seconded by Adolph Wadalavage to: Omit the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting that was held last June at the Reunion in the Catskills. So moved.

Tom Boyle the Treasurer was called upon for his report and Tom gave a detailed account of the spendings and income for the past quarter. Upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Tom Hatton it was voted to: Accept the Treasurers report.

N.Y. REUNION

Emil Langer Chairman of the 1989 Reunion held in the Catskills gave his final report and turned over the sum of \$3,000.00, the profit realized from the reunion. President Santos thanked Emil and his Committee for a job well done. A motion was made by Larry McLaughlin and seconded by Nick Dogostino to: Accept the report of the Committee. A motion was made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Larry McLaughlin to: Grant the New York Chapter a gratuity of \$100.00 for a wonderful reunion.

1990 REUNION

President Henry Santos reported for the 1990 Florida Reunion to be held on October 4th - 7th. Santos urged the members to get their reservations in early as there will be prizes starting with a two free night certificate donated by the Marriott Hotel and other valuable prizes. More details will appear in the Octofoil. The Florida Chapter members have been busy preparing to host the reunion in 1990.

Walter O'Keeffe a member of the Committee to establish communications between the Ninth Infantry Division stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington and this association, read communications he had received and was somewhat disappointed in the actions taken so far. O'Keeffe expressed concern that the group should act as a committee and not as individuals.

1991

President Santos called for bids for the 1991 reunion and several Chapters were interested but after a round table discussion it was voted unanimously to award the 1991 Reunion site to the Illinois Chapter members who will hold the reunion near Milwaukee, Wisconsin in a Hotel that will accommodate 1000 people.

Tom Boyle spoke of the Memorial Services to be held in the morning (Sunday November 5, 1989) and re-

New Jersey Chapter

We had a very good turnout for our luncheon meeting at the Old Towne Tavern in Toms River, Nov. 7. Though sixteen members plus two guests showed up, I was a bit disappointed that we didn't see more people from South Jersey, especially those living in the Whiting area. Maybe next time. Frank Gonzol had his fishing buddy, Richie, chauffeur himself, Lou Slatnick, and me to the meeting. John Dranchak was accompanied by his lovely wife, Irma. Other members in attendance were Jack Curley, Marty Gill, Paul Giarraputo, Milton Zucker, Sid Goldstein, Joe Medea, Jack Finnigan, Whitey Waszkiewicz, Tony Pipoli, and Harry Schwartz. Though we didn't accomplish a great deal of business at the meeting, we all enjoyed one another's company, and the food was good. As you know we decided that we would not bid on the reunion at this time, but we will be looking at a bid in the near future.

I don't know if I previously reported the death of James Dirienzo of the 9th Medics. Mrs. DiRienzo sent me a note recently with the sad news. I was also saddened to learn that Clarence Burke of Headquarters of the 376th had a stroke recently.

Lucy join me in wishing all the best to all our Ninth Division friends.

F Company 47th Infantry

I would like to thank all you good people who sent me Get Well Cards and Christmas Cards. I am happy to report that I am coming along satisfactorily, although s-l-o-w-l-y. These past two months I have been subjected to a number of internal tests, and I am happy to report that they have found nothing seriously wrong to date.

I sent in our reservation for the CP in Orlando, and Milt Zucker has agreed to run things in his usual efficient manner. He and Paul certainly did a good job for us at The Pines. So many others pitched in to help that I must extend a blanket thanks to all.

This year I urge you to get your reservations in early, and request that you be located in the same general area as our suite. It is in my name.

I am happy to report that Mary King, Marion Slatnick, Jack Armstrong have come off the sick report as well as I. We're all so happy to hear of these good results, and we realize that in addition to the wonders of modern medicine, these recoveries can be attributed to great hearts and guts of the patients.

I'll be accepting checks for our CP fund as soon as you all have recovered from the Christmas and Hannukah onslaught. In fact, I've already received a generous contribution from George and Goody Brown.

All the best for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

ED HOPKINS
110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840
December 28, 1989

quested the members take notice of the condition of the Monument at the Church grounds and repairs that will have to be made to restore the Monument and funds that may be needed.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn,
National Secretary

PRISONER OF WAR -
THE LONG MARCH ACROSS
GERMANY

87-DAYS - 5 FEBRUARY - 3
MAY 1945
by: Earl Wilkey with Larry
Lloyd

The true story of a Georgia boy who served in combat with the 9th and 3rd Infantry Divisions, was captured by the Germans in 1943, and sent to Wussow, Kommando 1598, in East Prussia.

It is the story of Wilkey's combat at Safi, El Guettar, and in Sicily and in Italy. He tells of his capture and treatment by the Germans during the 20 months he was a POW.

Wilkey describes the heretofore untold story of an 87-day death march across Germany in the gruelling winter of 1945 — 87-days of suffering, misery, and death: exhaustion, hunger, and filth.

\$22.50 covers postage and handling. Hardcover. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Send check or money order to:

Girtman Press, Joseph H. Williams, Editor, 1900 Holly Oakes Lake Road East, Jacksonville, FL 33211

47th Inf F Co
EARL WILKEY
39 Maplewood Sq.
Rome, Ga. 30161

I wrote a book about my few days in combat. And P.O.W. days on march and my days on work farm.

It tells of the great men of F Co. 47th Regt. and my few weeks with my buddies in F Co. 15th Regt 3rd Div. I was not a good soldier, but I tried to do my best while I was in combat, with two of the greatest Inf Divs. of WW II.

I was very lucky to have Larry Lloyd to write my story and to get Joe Williams to publish the book.

I read Joe's book. Captor - captive, what a story. What a great soldier.
A great Christmas to all.

Mini-Reunion

39th Company B
L.L. LUCAS "LUKE"
2312 Eastridge Rd.
Timonium, Md. 21093

Company "B" will hold a Mini Reunion in Baltimore, Maryland on June 21, 22, 23rd, 1990. Everyone on the known roster has been contacted and it is hoped that 20 to 25 members will attend. Counting wives and girlfriends we expect a group of between 40 and 50 people.

Baltimore is known for its inner harbor which has a lot of attractions so we're sure everyone will have a good time.

Company "B" is fortunate to have had several people who are dedicated in keeping the Company together. Joe Gravino, Al "Hawk" De Risio and Albert Baccile are just a few who have spent a lot of time and effort in arranging these reunions. Being a new recruit (3 years) I appreciate their efforts.

If we have unfortunately missed some Company "B" members please get in touch and join us.

MINI REUNION

CO. G 39th Inf.
BOB SMITH
134 Roger Avenue
Bellevue, Oh. 44811

I will appreciate the following notice being placed in the Octofoil whenever possible:

G Co., 39th. Mini-reunion at Winchester, Va. in June, 1990. Contact Bob Smith at above address.

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.

Btry A 60FA News
MIKE "BELL" BELMONTE
1161 S. Lombard
Oak Park, IL 60304

Another year has gone by and again two of A Btry's finest have faded away. Gone are Wilbur Sanders, Memphis, Tn. and Clyde Posey, Hollytree, Ala.

Sanders and I arrived at A Btry in January of 1942. Both of us coming from Ft. Bragg Replacement Center. Sanders was assigned to the 3rd gun section and I to the 4th. We stayed together until July of 1945.

Posey came in when we were on Chicken Road. He was a giant of a man with a ready smile and a good humor.

At the Pines this year, I met Fred Auth (1st gun section). I have been writing to Auth these past 30 odd years but not until this June have I seen him since leaving Germany, July of '45. He and his wife, Agnes, drove down from Montrose, Pa. Neither of us recognized the other. I was able to get his address from Jim Stebbins, Perry, Iowa who was the truck driver for the 1st gun section.

Also at the Pines this past year, A Btry had Michael Patrick and wife, Norris Gray and Wife and John Liggero and wife.

Before going to the Pines, I spent a weekend with John Liggero and his lively wife, Edna. John's quite a host. After talking ourselves hoarse, we rolled into bed, or was it our wife's who rolled us into bed? We felt no pain.

Also at the Pines, from Hdqs. Btry, were Lou Gray and wife and from Service Btry, Savino DeRosa and wife. Last seen DeRosa in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. I'm sorry I couldn't take up his offer to visit him in New Jersey. Had to rush home for a wedding - next time Savino!

While at Liggero's home, we contacted Al Friedmmer who lives in the Bronx. Al's doing fine. He asked me to ask Michael Patrick to get in touch with him.

In May of last year at a small mini-reunion, Ramada Inn, Madison, Wisconsin, a trio of A Btry came together, Melvin Jaggi, Verona, Wisconsin, Ed "Windey" Fruend, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin and I.

Just before the football game between the Bears and Eagles, got a phone call from Al "Sunshine" DeNaro. Asked if I wanted a little wager on the outcome. Guess who won!

Had a phone call from Walt Quigley from California inquiring about Dom Greco. Says hello to all A Btry men and hopes to see them soon.

Now for some sorrowful news. In October after the Annual Mini Reunion in Angola, Indiana, I drove to Tiltsonville, Ohio to see my friend and buddy, Dom Greco. The "Chief" is in a nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. He does not recognize anyone, not even his wife, Lonnie. Lonnie travels 40 miles each day to visit him, she feeds him lunch daily. He stared at me constantly while I was there. His eyes lit up a bit — I left with tears in my eyes. If anyone would like to drop him a card, he is at the Star Nursing Home, 40060 National Morriston Road, Bethesda, Ohio 43719.

As I close on this sad note, I'd like to remind you all out there — Make that next reunion — it's later than you think!

*If you're really seeking
higher office, become a light-
house keeper.*

Revisit the Remagen Bridge

Back in 1944-45 our Division did see hard times while engaged in combat in Germany, and many a time we have said we would like to see the area now compared to 1945.

I have made two previous trips into the Remagen area with the 9th Armored Division and just a few weeks ago was invited to stay at the home of a German family in Unkle Bach which is only three KM from Remagen, this man was a former P.W. captured in Kalthenberg late in 1944 by the 60th Infantry. He stayed at our home for two weeks in late 1986.

Both Sides of Rhine

The village I stayed in only has 1200 people and this family had a full schedule for me after I got there. Of course we covered both sides of the Rhine River opposite Remagen, had dinner in the home of a friend in Erpel and was chauffeured around to see the east sides of the Rhine in the Erpel-Unkel, Linz area. To try to explain how beautiful this area is compared to when we were there would not do it justice. We saw them as wrecked villages and homes battered that is a thing of the past. Today real quaint German Villages, flower boxes hanging from windows — all just picture perfect.

Real Treat

Then came a real treat. We had a driver from the town of Euskirchen, which is one town our division went thru in 1944. We were driven all through Eifel Mountain area starting from Remagen. This man knew the roads in the area as he lives close by and just to go through some of the towns the 9th was in brought back some painful memories. Just think back such towns and villages as Bullingen, Butgentack, Eupen, Elsenborn, Leykau, Kalthenberg, Monchau, Schmitt, Hofen Rohren, Nideggen and ever so many villages the Division was in and around - to see the natural defenses, you wonder how on earth they were beaten back.

Needless to say Monchau and Schmidt are big tourist attractions as is Kalthenberg, especially Monchau which is a Resort and they have area marked off for Tour buses from all over Europe.

Siegfried

Much to my surprise, the Siegfried Line is still there — Tank traps and all but if you did not know where it is you would go right by. The driver stopped and told me to look beyond the weeds and tell him what I would see, and there it was — dark and dirty — Tank traps — The Siegfried Line!

An area not far from Monchau which one has to see, the enormous size of the Worlds largest Radio-telescope, it is hard to describe it and when you see photographs of it you say "That is exactly where I was, near Effelsberg, part of Bonn University and scientists from all over the world using it — No you can't get near it.

After spending 15 days with my host, which they spoiled me rotten, I had to return with some beautiful memories. Nothing compared to 1945.

9th MP
Adolph Wadalavage
9430 96th St.
Ozone Park, N.Y. 11416

Marriage has its good side. It teaches you forbearance, self-restraint and many other qualities you wouldn't need if you stayed single.

To "B" (47th) Or Not To "B"

Christmas greetings to one and all from snowy Chambersburg, Pa.! As we write this column it is snowing heavily and it looks like we will get about 4" to 5" of the "White Stuff" by nightfall! Well, Santa is due in about 10 days, so we guess it is appropriate weather for him to make his rounds come December 25th. To those of our "B" Co. members who were unable to attend the 45th Annual Memorial Mass and Services in Worcester, Mass. on Nov. 5th, 1989, I will only say this: It was a wonderful tribute to our comrades who died in combat as well as to those comrades who have passed away in recent years.

Over 200 members from our 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. attended the Memorial Mass and Services at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Our line of marchers from the fire-hall to the Church, although much shorter than previous years, was still most impressive to those bystanders who watched us passing by.

Prior to these services, a Saturday night get-together was held at the Sheraton Hotel, followed with dance music by a lively jazz band playing tunes we once listened to during our early Ft. Bragg days, just before Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7, 1941. The banquet dinner which followed on Sunday afternoon was well attended and a wonderful dinner was served by the Sheraton staff. We were entertained by a talented group of retirees (some military) who really knew how to sing! Our thanks go to all the fellows from the New England Chapter of the 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. who planned this entire affair. Our "B" group who attended were: Dennis Conedy, Joe and Stella Cichocki, Pat and Ann Morano. Our "B" Co. friends Louis and Julie Netta (60th Inf.) joined with us.

Mail received: Thanks to all our "B" Co. buddies and friends who sent Christmas cards: Dennis and Thora Canedy, "Shock" and Etsie Shockley, Ed and Helen Sarnocinski, Bill and Ann Klauz, Joe and Stella Cichocki, Stan and Flo Adowski, Tony and Jo Manzollila, George Grieve, Joe and Rose Harvilla, Joe Metscavage, Peter and Nettie Mastroangelo, Art and Grace Stengel, Bob and Anna Edie.

I received a very nice letter from Ken Meyer (USA-Retired), Honorary Regimental Command Sergeant Major of the 47th Inf. Regiment, pertaining to the 47th Infantry "Raider" Regimental Assoc. Their Association is open to any person who served honorably with the Regiment in WWI, WWII, Vietnam, and all current and future members of the Regiment. Ken says that he is proud of his association with the 9th Inf. Division, but more proud of his association with "The Regiment."

Ken has offered us a challenge: He would like to see "B" Company leading the way in membership in the Regimental Assoc.; rather than "M" Company. Membership is \$10.00 (Life Member). Ken sent us a few applications for membership, however, I have a couple of application forms which were picked up at our last reunion in the "Pines" in the Catskills. O.K. "B" Co. Buddies, here is your opportunity to join the best infantry regiment we had the honor of serving with. (We can't let "M" Company beat us to the punch can we?)

THE CHRONICLER

M Co. 47th

Bragging about our success in resurrecting the old M/47 here in The Octofoil has given rise to queries of how did we go about it. I report that, mostly it was word-of-mouth but there has been a paperback book published which can be a big leg up to anyone who wants to locate a lost buddy. It's "How to Locate Anyone Who Is or Has Been in the Military," by Richard S. Johnson, Military Information Enterprises, P.O. Box 340091, Fort Sam Houston, TX, 78234 (send \$11.00 for the book & postage).

Among other things the book suggests asking the help of veterans' organizations and recently I was able to get a notice printed in the Disabled American Veterans' Magazine to the effect that I was researching M's history and wanted to get in touch with former members of the company. It really worked and so we have back in the fold Lyle E. Vail, RR#4, Macomb, IL, 61455; (309) 254-3580. Lyle joined us in Normandy and was WIA. He is now a retired city employee of Macomb, doing a little farming and looking forward to hearing from some of his mortar platoon pals.

I also heard from a lot of other fellows who simply wanted to be helpful. Now here's something of a mystery: I had a call from a fellow in Hiddenite, NC where he's in charge of his church's annual memorial service. The church had one member KIA during WWII — one Rayford C. Childers who, according to the War Department letter accompanying the body, was killed 19 October '44 in Germany as a member of M Company, 47th Infantry. Childers' service is recorded on a plaque in the church.

Well, Childers name is not listed in the Udovich Roster. Neither is his name among the KIA listed in the regimental history. I'm in the process of checking this out with official Army records folks and have asked our John Gibbs, who lives fairly close to Hiddenite, to check out any family records. Meanwhile, if anyone has anything to add, please let me know. It will be recalled by those there that October '44 was a relatively quiet month in Schevenhutte, Germany. There were no M-ers KIA or even WIA reported. The krauts had given up trying to run the battalion out of town and we weren't yet trying to move ahead. That doesn't necessarily mean that something like this couldn't slip through the cracks. Like I said, it's a mystery.

I want to thank everyone for all the holiday greetings. The house was a-glitter with your cards, including some from guys who hadn't been heard from in a while. Many announced their intentions of joining me at the Reunion in Orlando, FL, next October 4-7.

Write to me at the address listed at the bottom of the column for a 47th Inf. "Raider" Regimental Association Membership Application.

Merry Christmas to all our "B" Co. buddies, their families and friends. Our wishes also for a Happy Healthy New Year in 1990!

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

One of my correspondents, John B. Evans of Macon, GA, sent a copy of his WWII journal which was a wonderful treat to read. John joined M just after the Bulge at Kalthenberg and was assigned initially to the 2nd and later the 1st Platoons. He saw it all from under the legs of a tripod one might say and, as this was for the period when "Lucky Pierre" was home on R&R, I was really into it. John carefully prepared this handwritten account as a legacy for his kids. Not a bad idea for some of you guys to think about.

Among my letters was one from M's most senior citizen. Orin Shell who's 85 and, in new diggings in Becida, MN, is spending his first winter since WWII not having to make his way to the back yard to answer calls of Nature. Up there in the North Woods that's no small thing, you know. Anyway, Orin, we're glad you're not having to pick out splinters any longer from where the sun don't shine. Stay warm!!!

Ervin Walters sent me a "Great White Hunter" - type photo of himself with a moose shot in Alaska last fall. Ervin looked hale and hearty which is more than could be said for the beast. He asked for correction of his address: Box 24-A. Watkins, MN, 55389.

Incidentally, I have fresh M Company Rosters (we're 114 now) available to those who write to The Chronicler. The new roster includes these two fellows who have never answered my mail while I'm certain of their addresses. Maybe one of you who lives nearby can call and convince them that Phillips isn't peddling anything or from the IRS: Eli Kikoen, 262 Clearmeadow Dr., East Meadow, NY, 11554; (516) 735-9654, and Hyman Lorber, 3100 N.W. 42nd Ave., Apt. D-404, Coconut Creek, FL, 33066; (305) 975-3601.

Finally, I mentioned some time ago that Willard Norris had visited the 3rd Bn., 47th Infantry, at Fort Lewis, WA. This unit is the only part of the regiment yet in the Active Army. It maintains a museum which is grateful for contributions, like Willard's, of war souvenirs. Also, the battalion maintains the 47th Infantry "Raider" Regiment Association and for a \$10 life membership you can help keep up the museum even if you have nothing else to donate. I have application forms available and recommend this good cause to you stouthearts.

M Co. 47th Inf.
RED PHILLIPS
14002 Hemlock Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

Headquarters United States
Air Force Academy
Colorado Springs, Colorado
80840

I am an instructor in the Military Studies Division at the U.S. Air Force Academy and am presently involved in a research project on the effect of refugees on combat operations. I would greatly appreciate it if you could poll your members to see if they might have any information of value to this ongoing government project. This is an opportunity for World War II veterans to pass on operational "lessons learned" to a future military generation.

The specific information needed at this time is as follows:

1. Do you know of any case in late 1944 or 1945, as your unit moved across northern France, or through Germany, where the presence of refugees was a factor in operational decisions made by commanders at any level? Can you describe the situation (be specific please)?

2. What personal experiences did you have with refugees in or around the combat area? Did you observe any impact that they may have had on actual combat or support operations?

- Did they affect the moral of U.S. troops?

- Did they hinder movement of men or supplies on roads or bridges?

- Did they cause any medical problems with U.S. troops?

- What methods were used by U.S. forces to control them? Did the attempts at control work? Why?

- Were there any infiltrators in refugee columns? Were there any fears of such infiltrators among U.S. troops? How did you react to this?

Additionally, I would like to know if you have any information (names, addresses, and phone numbers) on certain key personnel (if surviving: G-1, G-2, G-3, G-5, the division commander, or his key aides.

Again I must say that I would appreciate any information that you could provide on these issues. At your convenience you may collect the information yourself and then send it to me, or you may have your members correspond directly with me at the above address. On behalf of those present and future military men who will learn from your combat experiences, I express thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Douglas L. Erwin,
Lt. Col. USAF
Chief, Operations Div.
Dep Comdt for
Military Instruction



Frank Meanor sends this photo taken in England of men of the 34th FA A Bty. Story appears in Mail Call. Shown front row R to L Meanor, Woodcock, Marsh, Unknown, Bielewicz. Standing L to R: Coakley, Blaylock, Oxley, Guidry, Rambin and Oprzdak.

In Our Time

Herb Clark who now lives in Ireland met John Ryan and Keene Wilson last summer when they visited France. Ryan sends this story by Clark a semi retired writer and newspaper man. All served in the 60th Inf.

"It's small," Slick said.
"Small?" I repeated. "Very small," Col. Keene (Slick) Wilson, once commander of Blue battalion, 60th Infantry, answered.

Wilson, John Ryan, once adjutant, 60th Infantry, Ruth and I were sitting at a table in the dining room of the Hotel de Marine in Carteret, finishing a remarkable dessert of strawberries and champagne custard and watching the diminishing twilight in the west, out across the Atlantic.

We had, after missing connections in Cherbourg, come together in Carteret, on the west side of the Cotentin peninsula. Wilson and Ryan had spent the day going from Utah beach, where the 9th Infantry division had waded ashore 4 days after the initial landing. They had gone as far south as St. Laurent-Sur-Mer, the huge American cemetery, where the dead of the Normandy campaign are buried, and across from Utah through St. Sauver-le-Vicomte to Barnesville, where Wilson had taken command of the 3rd battalion when its commander had made the mistake of telling the division commander his honest belief that his men were too exhausted to continue the attack.

If you drive with some speed it will take you about 45 minutes to make the journey. If, however, you had made the journey on foot, sometimes under German small arms, mortar and artillery fire, as Wilton had done, it was a long, unpleasant journey of more than a week, a crossing measured more in the number of dead than the miles gained.

"The place has shrunk," Wilson continued, pretty much to himself. It was not until the next day, when we tried to find where the 60th had crossed the Douve river, that I understood what he meant. You can, if you want to say that you have done it, cover most of the Normandy campaign, from the landing to the breakout west of St. Lo, in a single day. But you won't see much. You can take a week, a long, frustrating week trying to match memory with the present day and not see a great deal more.

Going back, after 45 years, you understand that war, no matter how terrible or how costly in lives of those you have known, in only a temporary aberration; that the seasons change, the grass grows, the woods are restored, the cows return to graze on the lush fields and life continues. How many armies have passed through Normandy? I have no idea, but any trace of them is long gone. Now only monuments to those crucial days in June and July, 1944, along with the cemeteries, remain.

The hedgerows are there, as tall and formidable as ever. But there is no fire from behind those stone walls, no anticipation of an incoming mortar round or the sharp crack of a German 88. Normandy is among the most peaceful of places. It is, as we realized another time and another place and we are part of the past, a past in which, in a few short years, no one will have any direct memory.

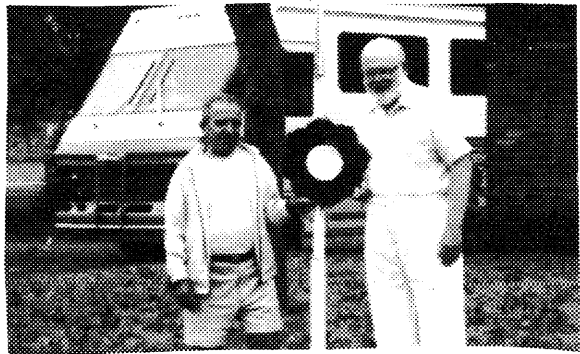
There are some who come back to Normandy on a regular basis. Men who belonged to a special unit, the airborne divisions in the Cotentin and the Rangers and the men of the 1st US Infantry division of Omaha. That Wilson, Ryan and I were at Cartaret was the result of a lot of talk, speculation and wishful thinking. It was a good idea, we had agreed, several years ago when the matter was first discussed. We were, I suspect, just a little surprised that we were in Normandy, that we stood where Wilson had once commanded and were now dining in an admirable resort town.

It was a time to put pieces together, pieces that unfortunately did not fit well. It was also a time to put things in another perspective, to match the fallacies of memory with the reality of today. It was the sort of thing that one does best over a good meal, in good company. It was a time to remedy old illusions and perhaps, to build new ones.

But we had come back. That, in itself, was no small accomplishment.



William Mills sends a photo of a couple of "old timers" when they got together recently. Bill received the photo from Carl Bunyak. Shown l to r: Walter Nalepa 34th FA, Carl Bunyak 34th FA and Ed Holappa Co L 60th Inf.



Henry Santos and Ernie Newhart (15th Engs) are pictured when Ernie visited Henry this past Fall. Story appears in Mail Call.

YES, MY FRIEND
WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY

Vere C. (Steve) Stephens
604 Glen Glade Pl.
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

The following started out when Steve Stephens and Mike Fazio began exchanging Birthday cards when they left the service. Steve had sent Mike a card and received a reply from Mike "Yes. My Friend We have Come a Long Way." Both served in the 60th Inf.

Birth Card to Mike Fazio - May 8, V.E. Day, Parsons Blvd. Jamaica, N.Y.

My Friend,
we have come such a long way in the time that we've known each other. We've given each other encouragement and have accomplished things that we never thought we could do...

I have become a better person since knowing you.

You have given me many things

which I will treasure for a lifetime,

and the most important thing of all

is the gift of your friendship.

Mike's Response:

Yes, my friend, it was destined for us to meet for had it not been the war our paths would never have crossed.

You came from Valparaiso, truly an American town in Indiana

And I, from a multi-racial "boiling" pot town of New York City teeming with millions of different kinds of people.

Yes, my friend, we met, not under normal conditions but under abnormal conditions — in North Africa — Algeria, to be exact — among the wadis and djebels on the outskirts of the Sahara Desert where it was as hot as hell during the noonday sun and cold as can be during the night.

Yes, my friend, way back in early 1943 you and I became wartime buddies adjusting to the discomforts of an abnormal way of life, constantly being barraged by artillery fire or the strafing of an enemy Stuka and not to mention the nebelwerfer that insidious nine shell mortar we got to know as the — "Screaming Meemie"

Yes, my friend, we got to know some strange places called Maknassy and The Sedjenane Valley — places we would have never looked up in a geography book.

And then, my friend, after considerable hardships and deprivation we plodded on to Tunisia just after we buried our dead in the American Cemetery in Maknassy where those unusual smelling yellow flowers abounded.

And as we plodded along we looked back, with tears in our eyes, to wave adieu to those intrepid buddies who never again will see their loved ones back home.

How tragic is this episode of our military struggle — how pathetic.

We are in a vacuum from where we might never emerge either physically fit or mentally sound.

Yes, my friend, we have come a long way but it is just the beginning with worse hardships to come.

We have not even started to see that light at the end of that mythical tunnel.

How could we — when we have only started and we have so far to go on that long hard road to victory?

Yes, my friend, we cannot hesitate or stumble or fall — else we shall all be dead.

Let us preserve our strength, let us persevere and with the Divine help of God we can endure our misery and see our way forward.

Yes, my friend, I see Bizerte that coastal town in Tunisia. I see it, my friend and you do too as you have always been by my side — **two plodding infantrymen** — wretchedly dirty and caked with grime — and praying for a respite.

Yes, my friend, we have come a long way — unscathed — but terribly weary. Yes, my friend, we are told that we have captured thousands of enemy soldiers and that — North Africa has been won.

Halleluyah!

And now, my friend, quoting a saying of the "doughboys" of World War I

"Oh boy, Oh joy, where do we go from here?"

Yes, my friend, where do we go from here? I do not know my friend, but why are we given lire script?

The lire is Italian currency — then we must surmise that we are Italy bound.

Oh, fair land of sunny Italy — if we could only caress you not in war but in peace. If we could carry an umbrella — not a rifle.

Alas, my friend, we go not to the heart of Italy but to Sicily at the foot of the boot!

Alas, my friend, we will see Mount Etna — that tempestuous volcano which now and then erupts to cause heartache, destruction and death!

But we care not as we have our own problems — do we not, my friend?

Into the hold of the transport ship we go, dear friend, bound for that sundrenched land of —

Sicily

We arrive, dear friend, after a short sea voyage into the port of Palermo.

It is 2:00 A.M. and we are greeted by a merciless bombing by German Stukas

— we are helpless in the hold and pray for salvation — we are being rocked back and forth

— up and down

Is this the end, my friend?

It could very well be!

But, my friend, through the Grace of God, we survive the two hour bombardment.

We disembark and march to our cantonment area in an olive grove.

We receive a hot meal which we relish. What a change from K rations.

The Quartermaster Corps has setup a shower installation.

Oh, how great to be clean again — not dirt, no grime. Luckily we are not infested with lice.

With plenty of hot water, we are able to wash our filthy clothes.

We are observed by the Sicilian farm folk who are just plain people who farm for a living.

Many do our laundry for a couple of lire.

And little 4-year-old dark eyed Maria — how sweet she is.

Siragusa, Randazzo, Taormini Immerese, Cefalu — Strange sounding Sicilian towns we "liberate."

But now we depart in utter silence — we plod across Sicily — stalking the enemy and plod we must day and night with little respite. The Ghost March it is called.

We find our selves under the grandeur of Mount Etna! How majestic it is — how mystical — how menacing!

We reach the City of Messina. It is completely destroyed by Allied bombs! What a pity to see a city in ruins. What a pity to see people starving and impoverished.

It is difficult to win. it is difficult to lose. Onward we must go, my friend, on military trucks back to Palermo to embark on transports To England!

It is a rough sea voyage and we make it safely to Southampton.

It is early 1944. How grand, my friend, is England —

Our own kind of people

Our own kind of language

But now, my friend, we must train. Yes, my friend, train for that impending invasion of France.

Oh, how nice our stay in Bonnie England — how nice are the cities of Winchester, Bournemouth, Boscombe and London.

It is not, my friend, like home?

June 6, 1944

Day of Invasion

In those troop carriers (LCIs) we go — onward to Utah Beach

The channel is rough — the waters slapping our sides — I am sick, my friend, terribly sick for I have never had sea legs.

I heave over the side — **everything** I ate a while before — but I do feel better now as my guts are empty. Nothing to make me nauseous now.

We see the beach, my friend, you and I, side by side, as always.

The beach is near — into the water all of us — into the water up to our necks!

I feel I am about to drown as I am weighted down with rifle, ammo and equipment.

What a helluva way to die! Without a fighting chance!

But, my friend we make shore — not all of us — but most.

The enemy artillery is devastating! It's the quick and the dead.

Get off the beach quick and live. Stay on the beach and die!

Continued

Florida in 1990

9th Sig
CHARLES HODGES
Box 637
Gouldsboro, Pa. 18424

It is with a very sad heart, that I am writing this letter to you.

Once again the Bugle has sounded "Taps" for one of our 9th Signal, 9th Division comrades, that has departed from us to a better world.

Alfred Rago, a resident of 219 Sand Pebble Circle, Port Orange, Florida, 32019, died December 12th, 1989. Alfred was very active with the American Legion & DAV.

Al was loved and will be missed by all his loved ones and comrades. I feel comfort could come from these verses.

May you know the peace and comfort.

This heartfelt thought imparts —

The ones we love are never gone,

They live within our hearts.

Div Arty
BERT WALLER
12944 Camino Del Valle
Poway, Ca. 92064

Col. Daniel Ward Hancock is dead of cancer at 69. He served the 9th in all 8 campaigns and commanded the 9th Sig with distinction. I was his counterpart as Div Arty Comm. Off. Some may wonder how we were able to move infantry, tanks and special forces and to mass our artillery so effectively at crucial times. Ward Hancock and the signal troops with whom he served account for a large part of that reason. Ward had an infectious laugh and a great humor. After he was captured on the Continen Peninsula, he sat eating dried fish while laughing at his Kraut captors as they flinched and dived for cover from our heavy artillery bombardment. Later, he was recaptured and came back to the division. Ward and I served together again after WW2 in the Signal Corps. While in the Pentagon, we provided the ground work for the Army's Tacfire Computer system of command control and fire direction. He retired from the Army with 25 years service. I had retired earlier and gone with the computer industry, but he joined an investment firm and became a full managing partner. We kept in touch and lived to see computer systems throughout the army. In the field, Ward was an outstanding soldier and a warm family man. He was one of the good guys.

39th Inf. Hq. Co.
PAUL POTTS
2100 Norton Lane
Bedford, In. 47421

I want to thank you for all the things you have done for the 9th Div. in the last forty some odd years. I do appreciate it. I served in Reg. Hq. Co. 39th Inf. from Sept. 9, 1940 to June 22, 1945... same Co., same job (telephone lineman) for almost 5 years. Not too many can say that! I was wounded in the left leg in Battle of the Bulge on Dec. 21, 1944, almost 45 yrs. Spent about 4 mos. in hospital in Salisbury, England. I retired from Gen Motors in Sept. 1978 and am taking everything easy here in Southern Indiana, except taking care of dog, cats and birds. Have a good holiday and a good year. I also send greetings and best wishes to all former comrades of Reg. Hq. 39th Inf. I saw Sal Marano's picture a few months ago, and remember he was a cook and did a good job for what he had to work with.

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

I guess it's about time I write and say "howdy" to all you "rough necks," of the fighting 9th. Of course, we aren't much roughnecks anymore, but sure do like the memories of when we were. Some good. Some bad, but put them all together and it really didn't make much difference. It was with a heavy heart I learned of Johnny Desepio going on that long journey and we feel very sorry. Mary we love you. I see "Red" is really working on finding M Co men. I tried around this part of Pa., but have had no luck. Had a letter from Ed Wells and he and Mary are going around the world from what they say. Good luck to them on their travels. Have fun! John Knight and I keep in touch with each other. Got a card from Borghi and a letter from LaBar asking to keep in touch. Slim went back to Texas for 6 months. Was glad to see LaBar's letter in the Octofoil, so come on Slim, let's have your Texas address. You didn't put it in your letter to me. The Pines was something to be remembered a life time. So well put together it left very little to chance. The trip to West Point was wonderful. I guess I'll get out of here for now and wish everyone of you a merry holiday. May the Good Lord take a liking to you and make all your pleasures turn in to habits. If I caused any ill feelings at the table I sat at, at the Pines, I apologize. I had no intentions to do so.

Hq Btry 34th FA
BOB TURNER
6 Munroe Ave.
Woburn, Ma. 01801

Have been meaning to write since returning from the Pines. Leon Birum's letter woke me up. I remember him from Ft. Bragg days and agree with him about former 34th men not writing. We all look forward to the Octofoil and read all letters regardless of units. We were all together in a shared experience. What a great organization we have! When talking to other veterans they wish they had the same thing we have. We are fortunate to have dedicated people who lead the organization. The reunion was the best I ever attended. At our table were Harry Mansfield and Doris, Willie Mizell and Helen, myself and Emily and Bill Halsey. Great company! Also saw Frank Castignetti and many others from all units. Great programming from the New York Chapter and the Pines. The West Point trip was a real treat and the Memorial Service was especially moving. The Winged Victory singers helped make it so with their good voices. I'll wind up now with a tip of the hat to Leon Birum for getting me moving and I echo his thoughts to 34th JFA, and all other readers...WRITE!

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

I enjoy the Octofoil and to read about some of my old buddies. I could not make the reunion this year as I am not able to do much traveling anymore, but my thoughts were there. I would like to hear from some of my old buddies from E Co that I was with from North Africa on in to Germany. As you know, I was a POW, 191 days in Germany. I lost my wife in 1986, but am doing very well now. Hope to hear from some of my old buddies. Best wishes.

60th Inf. M. Co.
H.F. STANSELL
217 River Beach Dr.
Ormond Beach, Fl. 32176

Thank you one and all that worked so hard for all of us to enjoy a great National Convention at the Pines in N.Y. The high light for my wife and I was the trip to West Point. The Memorial Service was heart warming and brought tears to many eyes. We had a wonderful time.

The N.Y. Chapter had many things planned for all, if you didn't enjoy the convention it was your own fault, we had a great time.

As weeks go by things happen — along came the Earthquake in San Francisco in October. We had a letter from our good friends in Santa Rosa, California, George and Lorraine Gilmore. They knew we would be concerned about their safety and they were fine. No damage to their home or property but felt the quake none the less. Their daughter in San Francisco lost all her dishes and glasses and some furniture, but she and her husband were fine. They had alot of friends in San Francisco and they were alright. They didn't live in the hardest hit area. I'm sure all our friends from M Co will be glad to know they are alright and safe.

George is in a brace, the operation on his knee is postponed indefinitely. Our prayers he will be well soon.

In September we had to miss the M Co reunion that was held in Ky. My wife was too sick to go and I couldn't leave her. Thank goodness she is completely well now.

Sorry we missed the Florida Chapter meeting in October. I'm sure we missed a good time. We had plans in advance to go to New Orleans that weekend and enjoyed a good time. New Orleans is interesting to visit but I don't want to live there.

May everyone enjoy good health and the holidays.

39th Inf. I Co
CECIL JENKINS
9100 Old Somerset Rd.
Stanford, Ky. 40484

Just received the latest edition of the Octofoil and enjoy reading it and hearing from other members of the 9th Div. You are doing a great job. I would like to hear from anyone that took basic training with me at Camp Wheeler, Ga. in the spring of 1943, especially a boy by the name of Vanderpool. I have forgotten his first name. We were together for 13 weeks. I went from Camp Wheeler to Fort Benning, Ga. then to the 9th Div. I Co. June 1944. I had a good friend in I Co. by the name of Kingsberry. I sometimes wonder where he is now. Seems as you grow older you have fond memories of men you served with.

I am looking forward to a Mini Reunion of I Co. 38th Inf. Aug. 7-8-9, 1990 at Spring Mill Park, Mitchell, In. Don't know when my subscription to the Octofoil run's out. Enclosed is a check for another year. Wishing all of the 9th Div. a happy New Year. Am looking forward to the next issue of the Octofoil.

47th Inf. G Co.
EDWARD JANOSIK
504 Jefferson St.
Cape May, N.J. 08204

I would appreciate any information concerning S/Sgt. Roscoe May of G Co., who was an extraordinary supply sergeant. I would also like to hear from Jim Leopold and Ray Vallaire.

15th Engs
HENRY R. SANTOS
9811 N Connechusett Rd.
Tampa, FL 33617

The award check for the Tampa VA hospital was presented and photos made. I was personally thanked by the director. Because the check was not made out to the hospital I was asked if I could arrange for one with the hospital as payee. I deposited it to the Florida chapter account then made one payable to the hospital and mailed it with a letter requesting that you receive acknowledgement also.

I wish I knew how we can reach the membership to come forward with some recommendation from other chapters or even members at large as I believe it (the awarding of comfort or need items to our less fortunate comrades) in various sectors of the country. I hope we have some retired members who volunteer and/or visit at least Ninth Division men who are hospitalized and alone.

It's not really fair to the awards committee to receive a recommendations on the same day as they are presented to the board for action.

Co.'s A & B 15th Eng.
ERNEST L. NEWHART
77 W. Ferry St.
New Hope, PA 18938

Enclosed in my check for three year's dues. Didn't realize I had forgotten to pay up until my OCTOFOIL stopped coming.

I am also enclosing photo of President Harry Santos whom Alice and I visited in November. Henry and I are standing in front of Henry and Eva's lovely home in Tampa.

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy & Healthy New Year to you and Marie. Your fine work for the Association is most appreciated.

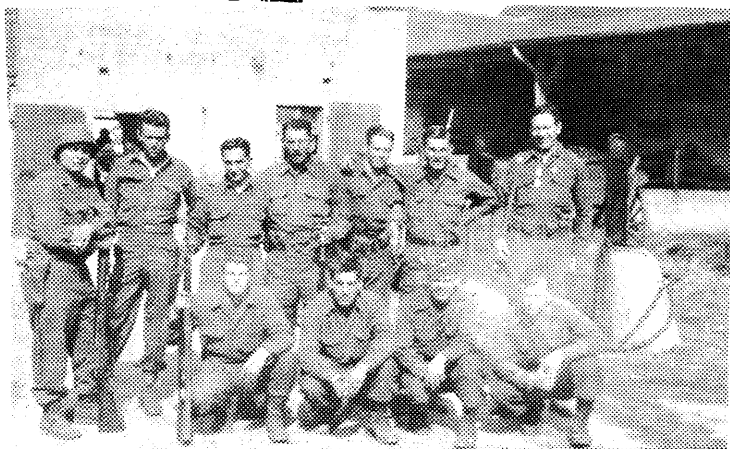
15 ENGS. Co B
CHARLES HOFFMANN
91-43 81 St.
Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421.

Just a few lines to say hello since I haven't sent anything to the "Octofoil" for a long time.

We have had health problems over the last few months but slowly we are getting back to normal.

I'm still working five days a week, six hours a day. Since my job is close to home it makes it all the more satisfactory. I take after my Dad who worked until he was 79 years old. I don't know if I'll continue for 9 more though.

Hope this finds you and all the family well.



The late Ed Webber, Co L 47th, has a son, young Ed, who keeps us posted on projects he has undertaken re: the Ninth. He sends this picture along with letter that appears in Mail Call. Photo was taken at end of War-Co L 47th. (l to r: back row) Sgt. Summers, Muscato, Sydore, Dezern, Beacon, (Front row) Webber, Hoffmeyer, Rosati, Podarski, and Hagen. Story in Mail Call.

47th Inf. L Co.
EDDIE WEBBER
333 Lariat
Frisco, Tx. 75034

Greetings to the 9th Division veterans. I enjoyed Clarence Ray's article about the seven L Company fellows meeting at the Pines. One of the fellows Alfred Myers was in my dad's squad and I met him and his wife while they were in Texas visiting some of their family down here. On the way to the reunion Al Myers stopped by Lavinia, New York and visited with Tom Muscato another L Company squad member. It has always been a thrill to me to stay in contact with men who were in the same squad and fought right along side my dad, Ed Webber. They were all Infantry riflemen who had some rough experiences. Very few of the original squad members survived when the shooting was over. They like a lot of other 9th Division soldiers left a lot of dead buddies in Europe.

Dad wrote in his diary how the 3rd Battalion 47th mounted on the backs of 3rd Armored tanks would be ambushed by machine gun fire as they passed through villages. He said some of the boys would double-up and roll off the tanks as they were hit by sniper fire. Dad said most of the time he was exhausted and could barely stay awake. One of dad's very best friends, Pvt. James R. Murphy was hit three times and killed sitting between dad's knees as they entered a village on "Friday the 13th," many men were hit and killed that day. By nightfall there was just a handful left. Another buddy was killed that day, a guy they called "Indian" named S/Sgt. Michael L. Short. Also a squad member they called "Alabam," named forgotten. A B.A.R. squad member named P.F.C. Homer E. Cavanaugh was killed earlier in the fighting. Another squad member they called "Limey" Wheaton was hit under the nose, the bullet came out the back of his neck, but survived. Dad mentioned one brave combat medic they called Doc Bayless. The squad members who did survive the shooting were Ed Webber, Tom Muscato, Alfred Myers, Garland Derzern, Arnold Hoffmeyer, L. Beacom, Jerry Weybrauck, Joe Rodona and Sgt. Sydore who was killed by a truck while on occupation duty near Friesing.

I am enclosing a picture of the squad. Some of the men were original members and some were replacement. The picture was taken on a stud farm at Labahna after the company was pinched off the line and put in Regimental Reserve.

MAIL CALL

34th F.A.B.N. "A" Btry
FRANK MEANOR
131 Prescott St.
West Boylston, Ma. 01583

Enclosed is a picture of the 3rd gun section of "A" Btry. at Barton Stacy, England just before the invasion.

Just received my copy of the Octofoil and enjoy reading it. Didn't know it existed until a couple of years ago until Leon Birum showed me a copy at one of the Reunions. Thanks to him I am now in touch with the association.

Attended the reunion in Worcester, Ma. last Nov. and met some of the men that were in the outfit. I was pleased to meet (Col.) Conolly and (Lt.) Slater whom I hadn't seen since we were in Europe. Others attending were Leon Birum, Charlie Bielewioz, Billy Mills, Jim Swotchak, John Kilpatrick, Clyde Shull, Shelden Stoddard and their wives. Also had a visit from Leon and Clyde and their wives at my home for a couple of days which was very enjoyable. I served with some of these officers and men in Africa, Sicily and Europe and I think they were the best. Thanks to Charles and Mills and the ladies for their hospitality at the Days Inn. Would like to hear from anyone who was in "A" Btry.

Co K 60th Inf
DAVID MYERS
P.O. Box 34
Crothersville, In.
47229

Ref. 1st Sgt. Arnold Myers
My father was First Sgt. of Co. K 60th Inf. from Sept. 1944 thru Oct. 1944. He talked very little of his combat experiences. Dad was seriously wounded Oct. 11, 1944 in the Hurtgen Forest. His wound was from a large pice of shrapnel in the top of his head. I know that his men were ordered not to strap their helmets. Dad told that when he came to, he was very stiff, his helmet was nowhere to be found but his carbine was still in his hand. He managed to cross a highway with dead Americans and Germans in ditches on both sides. He made it to an Armored unit that was guarding several prisoners. One German was trying to flash signals with a mirror but was soon stopped. A medic by the name of Sgt. York treated my dad and saved his life. Anyone who served with my dad or was in the Hurtgen Forest during this time I would appreciate hearing from.

709th Ord., L.M. Co.
ROBERT DEFFENBAUGH
1270-18th St. N.E.
Hickory, N.C. 28601

Since I've been taking the Octofoil, I see very little of anyone who served in the 709th Ord. L.M. Co.

Its all of the Inf., Artillery or one of the other units.

I know its not your fault, that they don't write, but I sure wish someone would write from the 709th Ord.

I've seen Robert Spencer, Louis Bruno names before, sure would like to see more names.

I live in Hickory, N.C. I'm 50 miles west of Charlotte, N.C. Anyone going South or North on 1-77 - 1-85 can follow 1-40 West and find Hickory.

Would like to hear from someone.

47th Inf M Co
LEO FATLAN
380 S. Center St.
Braidwood, IL. 60408

Enclosed find my dues for 3 years plus a little for the Memorial Scholarship fund.

Was really pleased with the Convention this year. I think the New York Chapter and the Pines did an excellent job. Was also glad to see so many from M Co 47th Inf. there this year. Thanks to Bill Horan and Red Phillips, we had a great turnout. It's Thanksgiving time now and wish all a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all.

Hope to see you all in Florida on the next one.

47th Inf. E Co.
CHARLES MARALDO
171 Bryson Ave.
Staten Island, N.Y. 10302

After attending the annual Memorial Mass in Worcester I realized how few we are getting. Then I received the Octofoil and noted all the buddies that passed on in the last year.

I do not see many letters from men from "E" Company and I know there are quite a few still out there. If any one sees this letter and wishes to write to me I will be glad to answer.

I will make the reunion in October 1990 and maybe I will see some old friends from early Fort Bragg. I want to thank the Association for doing such a good job these 45 years, in keeping all these men in touch with each other. Sorry to hear about Max. God Bless.

9th Recon
JOHN BONKOWSKI
27633 Marilyn
Warren, Mi. 48093

It's been a long time since I've written to "Mail Call" and now something great happened to inspire me to write again.

It is, "The Matt Urban Story." I've read a few books, but never like this one. The simplicity and told the way it was, is outstanding. I'd recommend that every library in the country should have at least one copy and I wouldn't be surprised if that happened.

Before long, Rose and I will be moving to our new condo in Roseville. We've sold our home in Detroit and are now busy sorting and packing. Since we won't enjoy the luxury of all the storage space that we had in the past, there are items that we must part with. However, all the mementoes that we've gathered through the years with the Ninth Infantry Division Association are going with us. There are wonderful memories of friends and places that we shared and we are grateful.

Our very best wishes to you and Marie and everyone in our great Association. May the New Year bring many Blessings.

15th Engrs.
ED BOYLE
38 Walker St.
Lowell, MA. 01854

In the last issue of the Octofoil. (In the Tap's section) you omitted the outfits name of "Steve" Tebich, which is Co. "A" 15th Engrn. 9th Div.

He was a Staff Sgt. and a Purple Heart man. And lived in my hometown of Lionell, Mass. A great guy, and a great soldier.

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

At the Memorial Mass I heard the sad news. Taps have sounded for an engineer buddy from 2nd Platoon B Company, Nick Yarosz passed away. He was a great friend. He was drafted from Boston with the New England group in February 1941 and assigned to B Company 15th Engr. Bn. and stayed with them throughout the war. He landed in Safi North America Nov. 8, 1942 with the 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 2nd Bn.

In sorrow I offer my condolence to his family. Please use the money in excess of my dues to the Memorial Fund.

9th MP
KEN MEYER
111 Greenbriar St.
Belton, Tx. 76513

Well, today was a day of infamy 48 years ago. I was a Pfc. at Fort Bragg and had already been in the Army nearly a year and a half. Does anyone remember the confusion that erupted with the announcement about Pearl Harbor.

I don't know where it came from but they had we MP's in battle dress (including gas-mask) crawling around under Division Headquarters and other key buildings looking for explosives. To be truthful, I don't know what we would have done if we had found any. (Found lots of dirt, dust, scorpions.)

As with so many other people, congratulations to all the people involved in setting up the reunion at the "PINES." It was definitely one of the best ever. Florida will really have to go all-out this next year.

Hopefully, there will be a few more MP's to direct traffic while in Florida.

All of this time and bless our organization.

26th F.A.
ARNOLD WATSON
P.O. Box 741
Pearland, Tx. 77588

Please find my check for 3 years membership in the association and the balance to go to the memorial fund in honor of Parker A. Alford an old and dear friend who passed away this year in Houston. Parker and I enlisted the same day in 1939 and came from the 2nd Infantry Division to the 9th when it was activated on August 10, 1940. His loss will be felt by his family and old comrades.

I served in the 26th Field Artillery from August 10th, 1940 through September 20th, 1945. At this time I returned to the states for discharge. I re-enlisted in 1947 in the U.S. Army Air Force and served until September, 1950.

I enjoy the Octofoil very much as it brings back lots of memories that time and age have erased. Lots of water has passed under the bridge since we activated in 1940. I served with the Division from Africa to the Elbe River and wars end. Many of the old Reliables have passed away, but I am still holding on. Have had several heart attacks but with God's grace I have gotten better and am doing very well.

I hope to attend the reunion if it ever gets back to Fort Bragg. I am 68 years old and hope to last that long. Wishing you and all of the men of the 9th Division a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

17th Inf. - Serv. Co.
EDWARD WISNIEWSKI
Richmond, Mi. 48062

What a beautiful experience to once again join our old buddies at the Worcester Memorial Mass. The weather was great and we were still able to step off as in the days of long ago! To meet again in Comradship with "family" is the only way to describe our love for one another. My grandson was very impressed that grandpa could still march again after spending a long time on crutches due to back and knee surgery twice. The board meeting was very productive and rewarding and the gathering at the Sheraton-Lincoln on Sunday was up to expectation, a good time had by all. The Michigan Chapter had their Christmas meeting (party) in Port Huron, Mi., on Dec. 9th, with Len De Bell of the 39th and myself as co-hosts doing the leg work with our wives. I had the honor of being Chaplain at services in Richmond, Mi., V.F.W. Post 6802, at our local cemetery. That same evening the Polish Legion of American Veterans, that John Bonkowski (Sgt. at Arms), Matt Urban and myself (Chaplain) are members of and participated in services at our annual Vets Day dance, the Post is #169 of Michigan. 'Till we meet again, best of luck to all.

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

I recently ran across a passage that I think many of your readers will appreciate. It is attributed to General Omar Bradley by James Jones in his book, "WWII":

"The rifleman trudges into battle knowing that statistics are stacked against his survival. He fights without promise of either reward or relief. Behind every river there's another hill — and behind that hill, another river. After weeks or months in the line only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety shelter and a bed. Those who are left to fight, fight on, evading death buy knowing that with each day of evasion they have exhausted one more chance for survival. Sooner or later, unless victory comes, the chase must end on the litter or in the grave."

I think this insight into the lot of the rifleman is indicative of why Omar Bradley was known as "The GI's General," as contrasted with "Blood and Guts." I think too many people do not fully appreciate what the fighting man went through in that war.

The reunion in New York was great. The Floridians will have to go some to beat it, but I'll be there.

39th Inf. K Co.
BILL JOHNSTON
Limpkin #1
Estero, FL 33928

Haven't received the Octofoil lo, these many months. Don't know if my dues are up to date, or not. If not, it's not the first time I've forgotten to pay a bill. Enclosed find three years membership plus a little for the fund.

Need the latest issue to enable us to make reservations for Orlando.

Had a fine summer, cook out with the Prestons at their home in Walworth, Wis. and the mid-west reunion at Angola, Ind. was super.

Hope to see you all in Orlando.

THE OC.

3

412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087

Publication No. 402820

Second Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

L100 0002212 E1688
JOHN CLOUSER
1088 N CIRCLE DR
CRYSTAL RIVER, FL

32629

Mrs. E. Ashlin Wood
18 Elm Road
Winchester
Hants
SO22 5AG

May I say a very big thank-you to 'Octofoil' for printing my letter in your March 1989 edition. I have had the great joy of finding out that the four 47th Infantry officers I knew at Tichborne House, Alresford, Hampshire, England, just before 'D' Day made it back to the States. I cannot tell you what it has meant to me to know that.

I had quite a few letters, one from one of the four men I knew. One was from Jim Leopold who came over to England with his wife during the summer and took me out to lunch. I was delighted to give them a tour of the Cathedral as I am a Cathedral guide. May I thank Marnie Holt Rigby for her post card of 'The Pines.' She didn't put an address.

Walter Tondettar put a note through my letter-box when he was over here this year, as I was out. I was so disappointed not to meet him.

I hope one day I may hear from the other three 'boys' I knew.

You wouldn't know poor old Winchetser now. The car has taken over and we are choked up with traffic which means multi-storey car parks which are hideous, and more traffic wardens than stray cats. Never mind, the Cathedral is still here, and the river with the ducks and swans, and King Arthur's Round Table still sits on the wall up at the Great Hall.

The Barracks where the 60th were is empty. There is a new barracks out of town, custom-made, as they say. What they will do with the old buildings is anybody's guess, but they will dig it up first to see what they can discover of the Castle which William the Conqueror built. Its underneath the parade-ground and the living quarters, etc.

Write to me if you want any news about the area.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Ashlin Wc

60 Inf F Co.
DONALD E. CRASS
2295 Strong Road
Phelps, Wis. 54554

Just a few lines for the Octofoil.

Back in 1941 to 1943 I served with an Allen Titlow who at the time was with the 213th Coast artillery in Aruba, N.W. Indies.

He came to F. Co. 60th Inf. in Feb. of 1945.

I haven't seen or heard from him since, don't know if he is still with us.

I thought maybe some one in the Penn. area reading the Octofoil might know him.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE-Feb 20th