

College of the Holy Cross

## CrossWorks

---

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

---

3-1-1990

### The Octofoil, March/April 1990

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, March/April 1990" (1990). *The Octofoil*. 285.  
<https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/285>

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

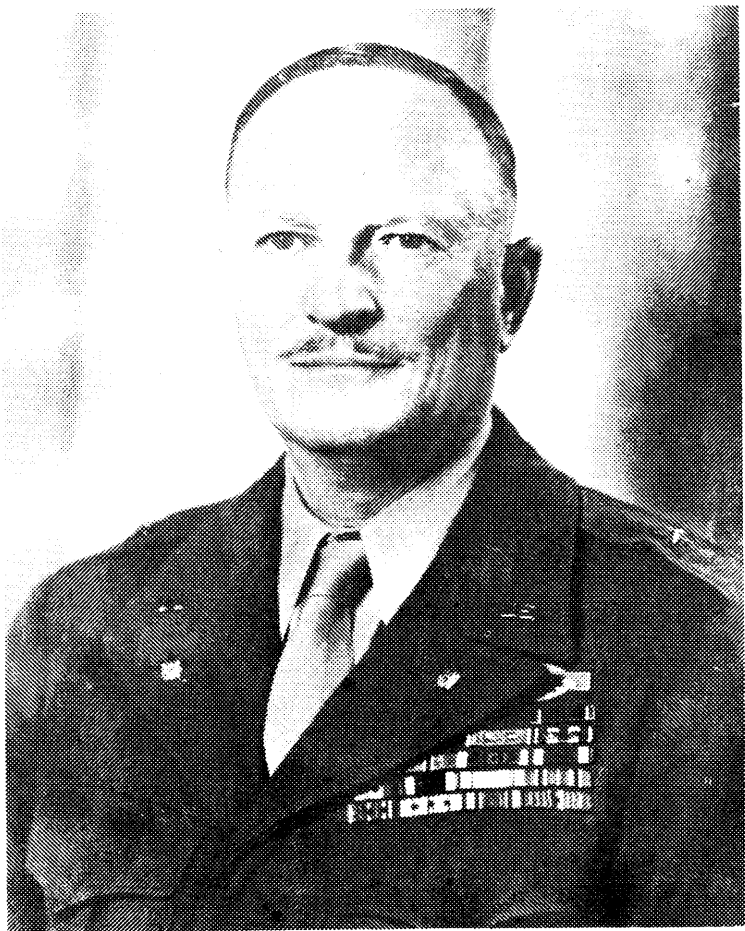
THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Volume XLV Number 2

Mar-April 1990

## Taps Sounded



BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWIN H. RANDLE (Ret.)

Former Commanding Officer - 47th Regiment

The General attended reunions throughout the years and he wrote this message to the 1958 Reunion being held in Columbus, Ohio.

Once there was a famous army of which it has been written, "the men were as cocky and sure of themselves as any American who ever marched." I never knew Sherman's army. That was before my time. But I did see — and serve with — the Ninth Infantry Division in World War II. Exactly the same can be said of it, that its men were as cocky and as sure of themselves as any Americans who ever marched." "Uncle Willie" Sherman would have loved the Ninth Division. So would our great-grandfathers who marched and fought in the magnificent Army of Tennessee.

There is a comradeship among combat soldiers who have lived and fought and endured together which sets them apart from all other men. Year after year we return to these reunions to renew, for a few hours, that comradeship which means so much to us and which no one else can quite understand. But it is not solely for pleasure. A strong sense of obligation rests upon us, an obligation to do something, however small, in remembrance of those we left behind all along the way. Their spirit is here as they would be if they could. In our clear memories they are eternally young as we were young. God bless them every one.

Sincerely,

EDWIN H. RANDLE,

Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Ret.)

C.O. 1st Bn., 47th Infantry, Sept. 1940-Sept. 1941.

Staff Officer, 47th Infantry, Sept. 1941-Feb. 1942

C.O. 47th Infantry, Feb. 1942-June 1943.

### TAPS SOUNDED

Call out or names  
as the years go by—  
Remember us—  
and we will never die

With deep remorse we announce  
the passing of these  
friends and comrades.

May they rest in peace.

To their loved ones we extend  
our deepest sympathy.



Emido Papa  
M Co. 60th Inf.  
Carl Bunyak  
B Co. 60th Inf.  
William Fredericks  
60th FA  
Vincent Quartuccio  
K Co. 39th Inf.  
John W. Hennelly  
L Co. 39th Inf.  
Pat Fehily  
Hqs. Div. Arty.  
Robert Fleckenstein  
Btry. A 26th FA  
Brig. Gen. Edward Randle  
47th Inf.



### "THE BEAR IS GONE" by Red Phillips, M/47th

When Bill Tanner called to tell me that General Randle had died I recalled what Bill had written to our former commander many years earlier: "When all human instinct centered in a compelling desire to find shelter, there you stood — calm, unruffled, apparently oblivious to personal danger, moving about with purpose and obvious disdain for the shells bursting along El Hamra Ridge."

The General liked Bill's words for he incorporated them into an address he gave at an alma mater, and subsequently printed them up in his retirement hobby workshop and distributed to friends. I kept that little pamphlet for in his talk at Western Military Academy the general had synthesized his thoughts on the complicated business of combat leadership. What has come to be popularized and somewhat degraded today as "keeping one's cool" is the nub of combat leadership. As Kipling put it truly, "If you can keep your head while all about you are losing theirs, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it..."

General Randle was a true military intellectual, that is, he spent a lot of time thinking about his job. He sought to abstract truth and principles about leading men in battle. This is so clear in what he wrote. He authored two brilliant books about his experiences and, in my opinion, they ought to be required reading for career officers attending The Infantry School; not only because of what they say about leadership or tactics, but because they speak clearly of what intellectuality is all about... not just getting the masters degree, or acquiring the art of writing and staffing studies at higher headquarters.

Randle was intrigued by what makes men tick while afraid, and he practiced the theories he evolved while they were in the making. "The Bear" persona was not, as most of us at the time concluded, the result of his dissatisfaction with our poor performance. Rather, he provided us with an image of what we expected in the C.O. and were going to respond to without question in crisis. That image was, naturally, a product of his times and it might be out of date if replicated today. On the other hand, considering the towering intellect of Edwin H. Randle, one has no doubt that, if he had come along for his nation's subsequent wars, he would have been as successful in refining an appropriate image.

"Randle's 47th" had two singular adventures, the seaborne assault on Safi, Morocco, in early November, 1942, and its somewhat isolated part of the II Corps attack at El Guettar, Tunisia, about five months later. Without question the commander's personal performances were the highpoints of both actions. While the 47th Infantry was emerging as a first-rate combat team in the course of these actions, no objective student of military history could describe either as successful. In the first instance, superb planning and the U.S. Navy brought us ashore and we simply overwhelmed a dispirited, out-numbered and out-gunned French defense.

Continued on page 3

### FORTY FIFTH ANNUAL REUNION NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION OCTOBER 4-7, 1990

ORLANDO MARRIOTT HOTEL  
8001 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32819-9312  
(407) 351-2420/FAX (407) 345-5611

#### \*\*\*\*\* PROGRAM OF EVENTS \*\*\*\*\*

##### THURSDAY OCTOBER 4, 1990

10:00 A.M. - WELCOME TO MARRIOTT REGISTRATION — CHECK IN ALL DAY  
4:00 P.M. - Board of Governors Meeting  
7:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M. Reception, Welcome Party/Dance, Main Ballroom

##### FRIDAY OCTOBER 5, 1990

8:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M. REGISTRATION  
10:00-11:00 A.M. - Committee Meetings  
11:00 A.M. - General Meeting/Ladies Auxiliary Meeting  
7:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M. - RECEPTION/DANCE, MAIN BALLROOM

##### SATURDAY OCTOBER 6, 1990

9:00 A.M.-10:00 A.M. - MEMORIAL SERVICE, MAIN BALLROOM  
7:00 P.M.-?? - BANQUET DINNER, MAIN BALLROOM  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### ATTENTION!!! BANQUET SEATING!!!

##### TABLE RESERVATIONS!!!

To reserve a table a ticket with confirmation number will be included with your registration packet, one for each attendee. These tickets must be turned in to Jim Scotta, who will assign a numbered table and sign the back of table slip. There can be no exceptions. Ten persons will be assigned to each table. Please include your confirmation number when paying for your strip or banquet tickets.

#### PRE-REGISTRATION FOR STRIP TICKETS

PRE-REGISTRATION WILL BE USED FOR OUR 45TH ANNUAL REUNION AND IT IS SUGGESTED THAT EVERYONE USE THIS PROCEDURE BECAUSE IT WILL BE EASIER FOR EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY THE COMMITTEE.

STRIP TICKETS WILL BE \$45.00 PER PERSON, INCLUDES THURSDAY'S WELCOME PARTY, FRIDAY'S DANCE AND SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ CONFIRMATION# \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to 9th Infantry Division Reunion and mail to Henry Santos — 9811 N. Connechusett Rd. — Tampa, Florida 33617.

Several early bird prizes will be awarded for strip ticket payment received by July 31, 1990 and several of lesser value awarded for payment received during August. Please help us get all the bookkeeping done ahead of time so we can relax and enjoy a few moments with our buddies.

\*\*\*\*\*Registration at the door will be \$50.00 per person on Thursday, \$40.00 on Friday for Friday and Saturday, and \$30.00 for Saturday only. One standard cocktail included with Thursday night and Friday night admission.

Tax free deadline for rooms is September 1, 1990 and banquet reservations deadline is September 22, 1990. A point of note!!! The room tax in Orlando is now 10%, a savings worth some thought.

Unfortunately, we must consider cancellations and refunds. Banquet refund requests will be honored up to September 22, 1990, requests to cancel room reservations will be honored up to October 1, 1990.

#### SOUVENIR PROGRAM

The souvenir program book is being put together at this time. Your help is needed in order for us to be successful. Remembrances, ads, and boosters must be in by August 18, 1990.

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

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 DeColli, 3rd VP  
1017 Jackson St.  
Phila. PA 19148

Dave Heller  
Judge Advocate  
616 Sumac  
Highland Pk. IL 60034

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 XLV Number 2 Mar-April 1990  
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......50¢ 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 ☐

AUTO RENTALS  
The 9th Infantry Division Association has selected Hertz as the official rent-a-car company for the annual reunion. Call Hertz at 1-800-654-2240 to receive reduced rates for car rental reservations. When booking your car rental, be sure to give the Hertz Meeting Sales Agent the meeting name, date and meeting identification number 5942.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Applicable charges for taxes, optional refueling service, PAI & PEC, and LIS are extra. Optional LDW may be purchased at \$13.00 or less per day. Rates are non-discountable. Rentals are subject to Hertz age, driver's license and credit requirements as well as car availability at the time and place of rental. Weekly rentals are from five to seven days. Weekly minimum rental periods are: Sunday or Monday pick-up, 6 days; Tuesday through Saturday pick-up, 5 days.

Car Class	Daily 1-4 Days	Weekly 5-7 Days
A Subcompact	\$29.80	\$115.80
B Compact	32.80	125.80
C Midsize	35.80	149.80
D Full size 2DR	37.80	159.80
F Full size 4DR	39.80	179.80

Rates are honored one week before and one week after the meeting date.

MILEAGE CONDITIONS: Rentals include unlimited mileage.

INTERCITY: Cars must be returned to a Florida location.

## Tip of the Hat

Albert Palley  
Robert W. Gleason  
Leo W. Charland  
Owen Narosky  
Fred Scott, Jr.  
LeRoy F. Miller  
Ervin Walters  
Ward O. Payne  
Robert Bick  
Earl Holmes  
Irven Hokka  
Ernest G. Micka  
Samuel M. Draper  
Justin O'Keefe  
Thomas D. Smith  
Hugh S. Slusher  
John D. Anderson  
Paul Lisa  
Ralph Palerma  
Dillard Armstrong  
Dr. Martin Gross  
Frank Machek  
Richard Kann  
Bert Waller (In memory of Brig. Gen. Wm. McGonagle)  
Larry McLaughlin (In memory of Brig. Gen. Edward Randle)  
Benjamin Kovacs (In memory of John De Sepio and Julius Andras)

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

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

History Books Available  
Joe Williams has reprinted the 47th Infantry book that was published after the War. Many members never received the book but it now can be obtained from Joe. The price is \$23.50 and this book includes information from WW 1, scenes from Fort Bragg, 1941-42, original Regimental & Bn Staffs, scenes and information about 2nd, 3rd, 4th Battallions that saw action in Vietnam and a section about the 47th honorary association to include photographs of those who have been awarded the Distinguished member certificates. Williams has also reprinted the 9th Division History - "8 Stars to Victory". It is available with hardback cover at a cost of \$36.50. In addition to the two books Joe is offering Commemorative Coins for \$2.50 each and all money is turned over the 3rd Bn Commander 47th Infantry stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington to be used for publishing a newsletter and postage for mailing same to former members of the regiment. Joe Williams can be reached at 1900 Hollyoakes Lakes East, Jacksonville, Florida, 32225.

## 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.

GOLF OUTING  
ARE YOU OR ARE YOU NOT

Bob Pappas of the Golf Committee has picked out the Cypress Creek Golf course for our event. The golf course manager requires a contract, so it is imperative to find out how many of the association members are going to participate.

In order to get a rate of \$23 to \$24 with cart, we must have a minimum of 26 players. So far, 13 golfers have sent their names in.

I checked several courses and they range as high as \$55.00 with cart. This is why I chose Cypress Creek.

So come on you hackers get those names to me in order to preserve our date of Thursday, Oct. 4, 1990 at 10 a.m.

Bob Pappas  
738C518, Box 175  
New Port Richey, Fla. 34653  
Phone 813-847-6607

REMEMBER!!!!!!The price of \$45.00 for strip tickets is for advance registration only and will be \$50.00 at the door with tickets 'or Saturday's banquet alone being \$30.00 each, Thursday or Friday tickets \$10.00 each.

## The Bear is Gone

Continued from Page 1

In the second, we were out-foxed and stood off by much seasoned adversaries until other actions, off our battlefield, forced them to withdraw.

Remarkably, in his written recollections Randle had nothing or very little to say about what or who went wrong in the course of these actions. It was a part of his code that fault-finding was done privately. It was enough for the troops, and who mattered more, to concentrate on what went well. And it worked. One recalls his famous critique of the Battle of El Guettar which came, to be sure, following the subsequent, more favorable actions culminating at Bizerte. I can not now recall whether anything at all was said then about the devastating bushwacking of the 2nd Battalion, or the subsequent floundering about of practically every element of the regiment. Rather, the stress was on what went well and, of course, the unalterable fact was that our side prevailed.

I've collected some "Bear" stories, most of which reflect that memorable cool quality of the man.

Memories of Joe Williams of East Jacksonville, Florida, then of A Company, go back further than most. Joe was a "prior service man" and reenlisted for the 1st Battalion, 47th Infantry. Randle was then commanding: "When I was recommended for corporal and later for buck sergeant, Randle personally examined my knowledge for the jobs. The first time, for corporal, I passed with ease. Two months later, when I reported for promotion to sergeant, he tested me for two hours and I erred in explaining 'Stack Arms.' He flunked me immediately but I was able to return in two weeks and passed. He personally tested every aspiring NCO in the battalion. This was how thorough he was in everything he did."

General "Chip" Maness from Apollo Beach, Florida, then of G Company, recalls of the march to Port Lyautey: "Captain Rhett Taber of A Company was a gregarious guy, always the first to say hello. He meant to be pleasant when he saw the Colonel checking the column. 'Good Morning, Colonel Randle,' he called with his salute. 'The Bear' returned the salute and growled. 'Captain, I make the decisions for this outfit and I'll make the weather announcements too.'"

Bill Larson of Essex Fells, New Jersey, then of A Company remembers of that march: "Just before lunch break we found 'The Bear' standing by the side of the road offering the good news that supper would be fresh chicken, peas and potatoes. One unhappy corporal muttered, 'Chickenshit! We'll be eating the same old canned beans tonight for sure. 'The Bear' pulled Corporal Jones out of ranks, had him repeat his remark and then said, 'Tonight I'll be at your kitchen and I'm going to watch you eat all the chicken you can hold.'"

"This exchange was known throughout the regiment by the time the day's march was done. At showdown time the trucks that had been sent to pick up the fresh food had not returned so the troops were shuffling along the chowline and laughing at the usual portions of canned beans being shoveled into their mess kits. Corporal Jones, trying to hide a large smirk on his face, walked up in front of 'The Bear' and silently extended his mess kit. They looked at each other for a few moments and then 'The Bear' grunted and said, 'Jones, give that chickenshit back to the mess sergeant. I want you and two of your friends to come with

me. We're going to have supper at the best restaurant in town and it's all on me.'"

Ray Inzer from Abilene, Texas, then of H Company, wrote: "It was not unusual to see him among his troops at the most dangerous places. He appeared always to be unruffled, competent and assured. To me he epitomized the effective battlefield commander."

Jim Leopold of Northbrook, Illinois, and then of G Company, recalled: "We were in a wadi at El Guettar and our battalion was under fire from German 88s. It was our first real battle experience and, to a man, we were scared silly. Then along came Colonel Randle, standing straight and totally unflinching. About the third time we all dove for cover, only to look up and see him still standing, we realized it was possible to function at times like that."

"Whit" Murphy of Jerome, Idaho, and then of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, remembered a visit to the regimental CP while German Stukas were given it a pasting: "One of the soldiers became hysterical and was running about. The Colonel tackled him and, once he got him under some cover, calmed him down completely."

"Bud" Rosenfeld of Hewlett, New York, and then of M Company, remembered: After the Battle of El Guettar and before we moved north, the Colonel reviewed its opening hours and the actions of the 2nd Battalion. My mortar platoon had been attached to that battalion in order to provide additional fire support if needed. The mortars were in position ready to fire and I led the forward observer party as part of the 2nd Battalion's command group. During the approach to the line of departure for the attack, the Germans cut off the leading rifle company and most of the command group which followed. Part of my observer party and I escaped the trap. I was the only officer to get away. The purpose of meeting with Randle was to review, step-by-step, the action in detail. The discussion did not stray. The questions were never pointed to find fault but to determine reasons so as not to repeat errors that might again expose the regiment."

Bill Horan of Columbus, Georgia, then of Cannon Company, recalls this pithy advice of "The Bear's," given after the battle to the assembled officers: "Do your job or (1) go home in disgrace, or (2) take your .45 and blow out your brains!"

Brigadier General Edwin H. Randle, USA (Ret.), died March 31, 1990, at the age of 95, at his home in Seminole, Florida. General Randle graduated from Western Military Academy in 1913 and Depaw University in 1917. He then entered the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant. During World War I, he commanded a rifle company of the 6th Infantry Regiment and was wounded in action.

During World War II, Colonel Randle commanded the 47th Infantry at Fort Bragg and in North Africa. At the close of the African campaigns he was promoted to brigadier general and for two years fought the Japanese in the Pacific as Assistant Division Commander of the 77th Infantry Division. He retired from active service in 1948.

Following his retirement in Florida General Randle pursued an interest in writing. He gained national attention by hand printing his first book, "Safi Adventure" when the professionals failed to see a market for it. He also printed his second and third books, "Ernie Pyle Comes Ashore and Other Stories" and a novel, "The Brothers."

In the course of his military career General Randle was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, an Army Commendation Medal and a Navy Commendation Medal. He also proudly wore the Combat Infantry Badge.

Brigadier General Edwin H. Randle, US Army (Ret.), was born October 11, 1894, at Springfield, Illinois. He died March 31, 1990 at Seminole, Florida and was buried in Harristown, Illinois. Military funeral Services were held in Florida at which Lewis "Chip" Maness (Birg Gen Ret) and Joe Williams (Lt Col Ret) representing the Florida Chapter of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, delivered eulogies. Also in attendance from the Chapter were President of the Association Henry Santos, Phil Berman, Mike Deresch, Fred Dick, Ed Gray, Ray Gilbert, Bill MacDonald, Bob Pappas and Pete Radichio. General Randle having been predeceased by other members of his family, the U.S. Flag from the coffin was presented to his nurse and companion for the past seven and half years, Mrs. Ann Malone.

M Co. 47th Inf.

Red Phillips  
14002 Hemlock Dr.  
Penn Valley, CA 95946

### 15th Engineers

Some interest has been shown in regards to a (C.P.) suite where we can have our own hospitality room but so far only twenty two (22) Engrs. have made reservations which means that about \$20.00 each would pay for the suite and there'd be enough for some supplies and I see no problem for additional needs as the bedroom could be sold to one of us and that would be more than enough, please let me have your input.

A page in the souvenir journal in honor of our deceased members I also something to think about. I figure about \$2.00 per name and company would be enough with any surplus going into the memorial fund from which we draw for the awards to veterans' hospitals nursing homes etc. which brings up the topic of where or which facility can we help.

Last year the awards committee made two awards, one in Massachusetts and one in Florida. I know some of my engineer comrades out there must volunteer in VA hospitals and/or nursing homes that have comfort needs not supplied by the VA. Please send your recommendations to Larry McLaughlin, Adolph Wadalavage, or Henry Santos so we can discuss them before the reunion and avoid last minute, quick decision.

Of interest to "A" Co. members — While in New England for the Memorial Mass/-service I called John Monihan's son and learned John had died of cancer last April. Then in answer to my note enclosed to Ed "Black Bart" Bartowicz I received a note from Ed's niece that he too had passed away in April of a heart attack. Our "TAPS" list is getting longer with each issue of the OCTOFOIL so in whatever time we have left let us enjoy our engineer and Ninth Division "FAMILY," remember and pray for our dead and hope for "ONE MORE TIME."

Henry Santos (A Co.)  
9811 N. Connechuset Rd.  
Tampa, Florida 33617

### Michigan Chapter

For starters the Michigan Chapter DID NOT have a meeting at the home of Matt and Jennie Urban. You would not believe the storm that hit the state that Saturday. Winds up to 50 miles an hour and blowing snow spoiled an otherwise good time. It was bad in Saginaw and worse in Holland, Mi. Matt assured me that the date could be set for a summer month.

In my last News Notes I did report on my Jennie having a stroke. She is some what better but is not out of the woods at this writing. She is still cold and sleeping under blankets. This is the same girl who slept on top of the covers with the window open in the winter months. She is on medication and under the doctors care. Other than a little problem in the memory department she is making progress. We do get out for fresh air and she likes nothing better than browsing through the Mall. Then home for some sack time.

Called Calvin Daniels and he said that he is coming along in good shape except is having problems in the memory department. This is also my Jennie's problem. Calvin said that he, his wife and another couple are driving to the Wisconsin get-together. He must be doing well as he said he was taking some items along to sell.

Talking of get-togethers, don't forget that I mentioned the Michigan Out-of-State meeting in August on the 24th and 25th. The rates at the Holiday Inn of Angola, Ind. are single \$51.80 and double \$59.00 per night. You must make your own reservations. The contact person is Diane N. Hamm Sales Rep. and her phone is (219) 665-9471. Forty rooms have been reserved.

Elmer Wagner with a sharp pencil kept the banquet price at \$11.00 per person. Hospitality rooms 160-162 have been reserved as our CP. As in the past those attending are asked to bring goodies for the CP snack table.

So come one, come all. In the past we have had members from Pa., Cal., Iowa, Ohio, Wis. So mark your calendars and plan on coming. If you have never been to a gathering of the troops you have missed a good time spent in pleasant company.

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

### Reunion Dates

Oct 4-7  
1990



Shown at the meeting held in Angola, Indiana last October (1989) are the "better halves" of the Association members from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. The little pooch (Punky) shown here with the ladies belonged to Ted Preston who supplied us with the photo. Ted tells us that "Punky" passed away shortly after the get together.

### ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

We are still awaiting the arrival of Spring in the Midwest. We were blessed with beautiful warm weather in January but now we are having some unseasonably cold weather. It's the type of weather that keeps us all on our toes.

The Illinois Chapter has had two luncheon meetings in Des Plaines. Our February meeting greeted us with a terrific snow storm which resulted in a two hour trip home instead of a normal 40 minute ride. At the meeting, we were informed that Bob Winkelman had been admitted to a nursing home in Florida. He had been quite ill but at our March Meeting we received word that he had improved considerably and was back home. He is restricted insofar as activities and driving is concerned but he is on the mend.

### MINI REUNION

We are looking forward to our Mini Midwest reunion at the Ramada Inn in Madison, Wisconsin on May 4th and 5th. At that time, plans will be made for our Memorial Day Services. The date is May 27th. The Cemetery and meeting place afterwards will be decided at that time and notices will be sent out by Gordan Anderson.

Speaking of Gordan, the Andersons will be attending their son Ron's wedding on June 30th. Congratulations to the lucky couple and we wish them many years of happiness.

The Andersons recently returned from a trip out West; the Henneumuths took a Florida trip and the Gray's recently returned from Florida also. The Elmers have also been commuting back and forth from Florida. Looks like everyone has had cabin fever and needed to get away. The Clousers will be stopping in the area on their way to Michigan in May to attend Memorial Day Services.

We were saddened by the death of Ann's Mother in April and wish to thank all the members who attended the wake and extended their sympathy.

This summer the Reunion Committee will be busy working on the 1991 Reunion. We will have full details by the October Reunion in Orlando. Reports received already indicate many members are looking forward to a reunion in the Midwest again after many years.

Happy Spring to all (if it ever gets here) and we are looking forward to seeing everyone in Madison in May, in Angola in August and to the entire Association in Orlando in October.

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

Deadline for next issue July 20th



## F COMPANY 47th INFANTRY

Things are shaping up for our CP in Orlando. Once again, it will be a joint operation with E Company. I sent full payment to Henry Santos, and everything seems to be in order. I am pleased to report that Irma Koskie will be among us, and that she will be sharing a room with Only Rishel and her daughter Judy. Marie Tokarchek and her daughter may also join us in Orlando. I hope so.

Bill Mooty of E Company called me last month and he is looking forward to a big turnout from his gang.

George King calls a couple times a month to keep me posted on happenings in Phelps, NY — the Sauerkraut Capital of the World. It seems that instead of going to the bank whenever he is a bit short of cash, George runs over to the Finger Lakes Race Track and hits an Exacta for a few hundred dollars. I don't know how he does it. Lucy and I spent a day at Garden State Track last month, and I ended up borrowing money from Mark to carry me through the week. George's back operation seems to have been successful. Before the surgery George had been flat on his back for almost a month, but now he is as good as new. He tells me that Mary is doing quite well, though she goes to the hospital regularly for treatments. They have certainly had a rough year of it, and we all wish them well in their newly found health.

Last time George called he told Ken Yennie had had a freak accident. He was standing on a stone wall in front of his house when the damn thing collapsed, hurling Ken into the street. His injuries required extensive plastic surgery according to George. I hope by now Ken is healing and will be with us in Orlando, handsomer than ever.

Frank Gonzol took off for his regular spring trip to the Florida Keys where he'll attempt to establish some new North American fishing records. He doesn't think that he'll join us in October.

The Jack Finnigans have been having an extremely rough year. Shortly after Bette had surgery their older boy suffered a ruptured aorta. Jack and Bette had been travelling to Falls Church, Virginia, to be with him in the hospital where he'll be for at least three months. I was saddened to learn of this added ordeal being endured by such a great couple.

Lucy and I have been in reasonably good health and spirits since I finally made my way out of the woods from my recent surgery. Though it occurred over a year ago, it is only in the last couple months that I can really say that I am back to my old self once more. I have joined a senior citizen's exercise class at the YMCA, and I also swim three times a week. However, I still haven't had a drink since my operation. Lucy says I can rest on my drinking laurels and let the rest of the world catch up. Oddly enough I don't seem to miss the sauce as much as I thought I would. Also, George King isn't the only one having luck. On Friday the 13th, I picked up my winnings of \$127 for having picked four numbers in the New Jersey Pick 6 Lottery. I hope this is a harbinger of things to come.

Lou Slatnick is his usual jovial self. He's still chairman of the building committee of the Old Folks Home of the Workmen's Circle, and he is all involved in that operation, and has been immersed in it since I found him some six years ago. Lou seems to be in pretty good health, and his Marion is holding her own after a couple set-

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

Greetings once again to all our "B" Co. Buddies, as well as our friends who most graciously write to us "to keep in touch". Our Easter Holiday turned out to be wonderful. The weather was pleasant with climbing temperatures. Once again I have to say it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

I had hoped to hear news from our "B" Co. Buddies since writing our last column pertaining to our 45th Annual 9th Inf. Div. Association Reunion coming up Oct. 4 thru 7, 1990, in Orlando, Florida.

Every effort is being made to encourage our "B" Co. Buddies to make their reservations early so that we can enjoy being together as a group. So far, since the response to us has been very poor, we have no way of knowing how many of you will attend the reunion. If you don't write to us, we of course, cannot give our "B" Co. Buddies any information in this column. This column is written on behalf of all our "B" Co. Buddies. The information received is given out to one and all. Whether you send a note, a card, or a letter, this column is for you to tell our "B" Co. Buddies, what your reunion plans are, or the state of your health, or just to reminisce about Ft. Bragg Days, or getting in touch with buddies you haven't heard from since leaving for overseas, or since returning from overseas duty.

Now that we have taken care of our Income Tax for Uncle Sam, let's start making plans to attend our Reunion in Orlando! When making your reservations please indicate that you are with "B" Co. 47th. Make sure you always let them know that you are with "B" Co. 47th! I always will remember the imposing figure of General Randle, when we first met him in 1941 as our Regimental Commander (Colonel then) of the 47th Inf. in Ft. Bragg. General Randle attended many of our past reunions. He was a wonderful man and a fine Gentleman!

Keep well and have as great Spring Season! Let's keep the column going by keeping in touch! Enjoy yourselves to the fullest each and every day!

PAT J. MORANO  
2208 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
PH. 717-352-3650

AND  
ART J. STENZEL  
8705 Village Mill Row  
Hudson, FL 33567  
PH. 813-862-6716

backs these past couple of years.

The following is from *The Raider* dated May 16, 1942 under the heading "Promotions: To be Sergeant — ... Cpl. Anthony G. Repetti, Co F; Cpl. John Tokarchek, Co F; Cpl. Finnis F. Moore... To be Corporal — Pfc. Hugh Hattrick, Jr. ... Pfc. George King ... Pfc. John Ryncavage ... Pfc. Irving Zucker ... Pfc. Buford Veazey, Co. F. Bring back memories???

I took the liberty of sending a check to the Florida Chapter for a full page ad in the Reunion Journal. Speaking of the reunion, remember to request a room near our CP, and remember to amek your check payable to 9th Infantry Division Reunion, and mail them to Henry Santos, 9811 N. Connechusett Rd., Tampa, Florida 33617. By sending your check to Henry you'll be saving the 10% room tax. If any of you wish to contribute to the CP Fund, you may do so now that you have received your income tax refunds. Regards to all.

Ed Hopkins  
110 Hollywood Avenue  
Metuchen, NJ 08840

## New York Area Chapter Report

The New York Chapter holds their meetings on the third Friday of each month (except July and August) at the Masonic Lodge Building, West 23rd St, New York City. There is plenty of free parking in the area and two paid parking lots alongside of the building.

President Lou Almasy conducts the meeting with his able assistant Art Schmidt, the NY Chapter Secretary.

## Presidents Night

On May 18th, Past Presidents Night will be held to honor all those who served as President of the Chapter and that goes back a few years as the New York Chapter was one of the first Chapters to be formed by the Association. Men like Al Bruchac, Mike Gatto, Les Ronay, Doc Seslowe, Vinny Guglielmino, and Doc Sternlicht were prime movers to start Chapters.

## Remember

On May 19th the members will gather at Pinelawn National Cemetery to remember our departed comrades, place a wreath at the Main Flag Pole and visit the graves of some of the men buried there. Some four hundred were reinterred after the War and many more have joined them since that time.

As in the past the members will gather in Beth Page Park the same day, after the ceremony, and enjoy a family style picnic.

Word was received of the demise of Jerry Cosenza, (A Co. 9th Med.) and Al Rego (9th Signal Co.), two former New York Chapter members who had moved to Florida.

Support your local chapter and if your dues are due send it to Art Schmidt, 69-20 60th Street, Glendale, NY 11385-6696.

Marv Levy  
Co. A 60th Inf.  
2044 Ellen Drive  
Merrick, NY 11566

## ASSISTANCE NEEDED

I am associated with the Belgium American Foundation, a Belgium patriotic organization. They have asked me to contact you in an effort to identify the 10 enlisted men and two officers of the 60th Inf. Regiment, 9th Division, 1st Army who were killed at Moncean Imbrechies, Belgium on Sept. 2, 1944.

A monument has been erected in honour of these men along with twelve white crosses. If these men can be identified, their names will be inscribed on the crosses. The flags of the allied countries fly in back of the monument. It is a lovely area over looking a beautiful valley.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely  
Howard J. Snyder  
115 Red Rock Cove Dr.  
Sedona, AZ 86336

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

How many of you remember where you were this month forty-six years ago? Do the names Alertshausen, Wemligshausen, Oberkirchen, Winterberg, Brilon, Gevelingsen, Bestwig, Brunschappel, and Holbach mean anything to you? I just thought I'd toss those names at you in case you were feeling sorry for yourself these days and thinking how tough you are having it. Then you'll recall what *tough* really means and you'll appreciate what you have and where you are. You're welcome!

We New Jerseyites had our first meeting of the spring on March 27, at the Amvets Post in Nutley with about a dozen men in attendance. We spoke about the literary accomplishments of some of our former comrades, especially the recently published books of Matt Urban and Earl Wilkey. They present two views of the war, one as seen by a company commander and the other as seen through the eyes of a private who spent a good part of his brief army experience as a POW. I'm sure that both books are well worth our attention, and reading them will help us relive some eventful years of our youth.

The membership voted unanimously to take out a full page ad in the Reunion Journal.

The president was authorized to investigate the hotel situation in both Atlantic City and the Pocono Mountain region of Pennsylvania as possible future sites of our annual convention. The weekend of April 27, Lucy and I will be spending in King-of-Prussia, Pennsylvania. They are promoting the area as a future reunion site, and they are entertaining veterans group's representatives on that particular weekend. I will be reporting to the Board of Governors at our next meeting and I should have a report in *The Octofoil* in the next issue.

We agreed to have our next meeting at *The Olde Towne Tavern* in Toms River in May. We will notify the membership by mail a week before the scheduled meeting. We urge you all to attend and enjoy a pleasant luncheon with your old buddies.

Ed "Hoppe" Hopkins  
President,  
New Jersey Chapter  
110 Hollywood Ave.  
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

9th Med 1st Bn 60th Inf.  
DR. R. M. HUMMEL  
2411 Lommel Lane  
Marion, IN 46952

Best wishes to you and everyone. For years I have had Indiana auto license plate 27A9 (9 to represent Ninth Div.) This year politics changed and I lost it! But I did even better, my new one is 9th DIV and gets a lot of comments from friends. Hope to get to a reunion one of these days. Enclosed find dues.

## Coordinating Committee

In the November-December issue of *The Octofoil*, Walter O'Keeffe indicated at our Association Board meeting that "he was somewhat disappointed in the actions (taken by or Coordinating Committee) so far." His further comments express concern that our group should act as Committee and not as individuals.

I accept the criticism, but would appreciate getting some input from our Committee members. As of this date I have heard from three of you - but no comment was received on improving our liaison with the 9th Division. In order to carry out the mandate of our Board of Directors I have done the following.

1. June 26, 1989, I wrote to all of you indicating the three appointed members of our Coordinating Committee, and the six members designated as our Advisory Committee. The letter outlined our initial objectives, and welcomed suggestions to accomplish our mission.

2. June 27, 1989, I wrote to Col. Bergeron, President of the Octofoil Assn. asking him to appoint three members to work with us.

3. Sept. 1, 1989, Wrote to Ms. Puckett, Editor of the Octofoil Assn. paper asking her to include stories on our 44th reunion, the Memorial Service in Mass, and the 47th Inf. Regimental Hall of Honor in their next edition.

4. Received letter from Col. Bergeron wholeheartedly approving our joint efforts to coordinate the activities of the two Associations, and enclosing a list of his Board Members. (Sept. 26, 1989)

5. October 16, 1989, Wrote to Henry Santos sending a copy of Bergeron's letter and suggesting he invite the CG 9th Division (at his own expense) to attend our Convention in Orlando.

6. October 20, 1989, Wrote to Dan Quinn for a roster of current officers and their addresses to send to the Octofoil Assn. to put on their mailing list. Sent him a copy of Bergeron's letter. Received the list and forwarded it.

7. October 21, 1989, Wrote to O'Keeffe and Gray, and the members of our Advisory Committee, sending a copy of Bergeron's letter and the suggestion that the CG 9th Division be invited to our Convention.

8. Wrote to Ms. Puckett and asked that our Committee and Board be put on their mailing list. (October 21, 1989)

9. October 25, 1989, Received letter from Henry Santos saying he had turned over my suggestion re CG 9th Div. to Joe Williams and Chip Maness.

If you have any ideas on how to make our Committee more effective, I'd like to hear them. See you all in Orlando.

Cordally,  
M. S. AUFFMAN  
President, Coordinating Committee  
4466 Abnadi Rd.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84124

## Hq. &amp; Hq. Btry. Div. Arty.

JIM DULONG  
336 - 9th Street  
Nokomis, Florida 34275

I see by the address label on the OCTOFOIL that it is time to renew for another 3 years so my check is enclosed to cover.

This is our 14th year of retirement living in Florida. We miss the New England summers and the annual pilgrimage to Worcester. But when the cold and snows of Winter come we are very happy to just read about it while sitting in the sun on a sandy beach.

Best wishes to you and Marie and all members of the 9th, especially those from Hq. & Hq. Btry., 9th Div. Arty.



Sam Robinson (84th FA) sends this picture taken by Dick O'Connor May 1, 1945 showing Father Connors celebrating Mass in Germany, in the closing days of the War. The following November the late Father Connors began the Memorial Mass in Worcester that lasted till his death, January 1986. The New England Chapter members are continuing with this Memorial Weekend, Mass and Services. This year the troops will gather in Worcester on November 3-4 for the 46th year, to remember our dead.

# Revisit Normandy

Dan, for what it might be worth enclosed are two items written in French with the English translations attached.

Last June visited Cherence le Roussel, Normandy, and visited the farm house and area where commanded C Co., 39th. during the time there in August, 1944. Received this letter from the Conseiller General-Maire in Jan. You can put it in the Octofoil as it is intended for all the 1st Bn. 39th.

Then on June 6th at the 45th Anniversary of D Day, 1989, met Lt. Jack Bivins, weapons platoon leader A Co., who had made his single arrangements to depart from the tour they were on to make a special side trip to St. Jacques de Nehou, Normandy. Jack was the only American to stray from the tour so just tagged along with him.

Don't know what the local village expected, but the entire village had turned out, Church bells ringing, US and French flags all over the place. And just two US veterans of WWII. Shock is a mild word. After wreath laying at a WWI monument in the town square, went to a champagne and CALVADOS reception. There in French the Mayor gave a speech, translated copy enclosed.

After the ceremony a Frenchman handed me his business card and through a woman who could speak English told me that he, a "Correspondance: Monsieur Jean Tyson, President, Rue Beauregard, 50100 Cherbourg, Tel 33.53.01.34" had just invited Jack and myself back for next year (1990) along with up to 25 men out of the 1st. Bn., 39th and they would host that many at a hotel. Meals and transportation not included.

So, Dan, have now passed on the offer as your office could be a clearing house if any are interested.

Believe me, and Jack will second, that the French in Normandy seem to be grateful for past American action there.

1st Bn 39th Inf.

CHARLES SCHEFFEL  
8620 Glenwood Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114

Speech of the Mayor of St. Jacques de Nehou  
Ceremony June 6, 1989 - 45th Anniversary of D Day France, June 6, 1944 1st BN, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry "Awarde Presidential" Unit Citation for action at St. Jacques on June 17, 1944.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are happy to welcome you to St. Jacques on this anniversary day of our liberation.

On June 6th, 1944, life here was the same as on all the other days of the occupation. In the days which followed, the populace, without newspapers and without radio, had only contradictory information and passed from hope to discouragement according to the news. Few people realized the magnitude of the plans that were being put into action and the difficulty of the combat.

It was not until June 14, 1944, that our community was liberated and the inhabitants saw soldiers sure of their victory and confident in the power of their equipment.

Forty-five years later it is not easy to describe to you the comfort, the happiness of the inhabitants of this region. They were not aware, moreover, of your sacrifices in human life so that they might measure the price that you paid for their liberty.

# CO. M 47th CHRONICLER

Having this letter published in The Octofoil, as opposed to mailing a copy to each M-er, has the advantage of stirring in a bigger pot. You never know what you'll turn up. This time it's a note from the son of an L Company trooper, now deceased. Eddie Webber writes that his dad kept a diary while overseas and therein mentioned M Company. It seems that L Company had had a bad day on April 13th, '45. They closed up to the Salle River near the town of Nelben:

"By the evening of April 13th there was just a handful left. We had orders to cross the river and figured it was the end of all of us. We lit cigarettes, knowing that it was dangerous to do so. I wished I had had time to write my wife. I figured I would never see my wife, young son and daughter again. We talked among ourselves. Just at the last moment we were told to stand fast; that Company M would make the first crossing. We heard later they had a rough time of it."

Webber's dad was wounded a few days later in that final action near Dessau in which Battalion Co. Bill Tanner and our own Leander Davis were clipped.

But back to the Salle crossing. If some of M went over ahead of one of the rifle companies, that might not have been unheard of but I doubt if the machine gunners were leading the assault. That's not what fire support was all about. Of course, I can't say since at the time yours truly was back in Lotusland bombing about in his wife's red convertible. Anyway, M Company obviously won a spot in the heart of one rifleman and I thought the news should be shared. Eddie Webber lives at 333 Lariat St., Frisco, TX 75034, if anyone wants to add to his record.

Another good son, Chester, of Jesse Gibbs sends a new address for his dad: 1017 W. 10th St., Connersville, IN, 47331.

Bill Channel sent a card at Christmas and here's his telephone number: (201) 240-6210.

Bob Story sent an old address for George R. Glass. I phoned and got his widow. George had been gone for eight years. "I wish you would have called earlier," she said. "George liked to hear from his wartime buddies." So it goes.

# FINE SEND OFF

Joe Farrell reported that he had attended John DeSepio's funeral mass. John had a fine send-off, including "a wonderful eulogy delivered by a priest who knew John all his life."

M-ers will recall that Joe, John and Francis Yochum were gobbled up by the Krauts with E Company and the 2nd Battalion command group early

Those who experienced these events know that they owe you a debt of gratitude never to be forgotten among them. They know that they must transmit to younger people the memory of your dead and of your heroic actions. Your presence on this day will be a useful reminder and will show to all that the American nation continues to consider the Battle of Normandy as one of the glorious pages of its history.

I hope all the veterans will feel surrounded by our respect and gratitude. I wish them a pleasant visit in France; I hope they will find once more the places where they experienced, without a doubt, the most intense moments of their lives.

Honor to all your veterans. Thank you for this visit which touches us deeply. Long live the United States of America.

that first morning at El Guettar. Lt. Rosenfeld, who led the mortars' FO party, and Julian Kadis managed to get out of there. The unlucky three were separated in captivity. John was held by the Italian military who believed that because of his fluency with their language he must have been a traitor. He had a very bad time of it. John and Joe did not see each other again until last year when there was a big ceremony at Fort Dix for awards of the New POW Medal. John sent me a copy of the program and Farrell's name was on it. They finally held a mini-reunion at a Jersey watering hole which made local television news. Joe Farrell's zip is wrong on the roster. Please correct to: 07747.

# JOINING UP

Lyle E. Vail writes that he's now a member of the Division Association and getting The Octofoil. Likewise, our former CO, "Whit" Murphy, and he's warming up to the idea of Orlando next fall. Small wonder after the winter they had in Idaho. Bob Winkler has joined the Association too and sent explicit instructions on finding his place so the next time I'm driving through Texas I won't miss it. He also sent a phone number (817) 938-2677 so that will help. The Winklers live with a daughter out in the country, ten miles from Temple. "It's a 10-acre place, next to a creek where the owls and skunks talk to us," he writes. I've got the picture, Bob, and next time I'll find you.

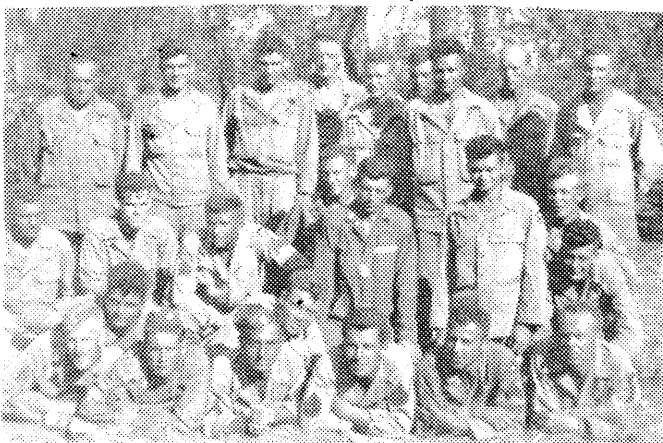
Bob Story, (406) 676-3024, wrote to explain how this Phillips-trained survivor of Saffi and El Guettar ended up the war with the 2nd Platoon. He recounts that after having been wounded near Cherbourg and returning to the Company just before the Bulge, "they put me in the Second because, it was such a superior outfit that was where I belonged."

With such an attitude Story might get himself scratched from my list even though, in Montana, he lives just a couple of miles from dear friends we visit every year. However, Story reports that he's now a big fan of the U. of Montana's girls basketball team: "They have some six-foot blondes that would sure make great infantry persons and I'm sure you would think the same if you could see them". First or Second Platoon, Bob?

Elsewhere in this issue is an obituary of General Randle which includes the "chicken dinner" story of the Port Lyautey March as recalled by Bill Larson once of A Company. It reminded me of Harold Werner's version in "Heavy Weapons" but Larson's tale has a happier ending, notwithstanding the circumstances of its telling.

That's "30" for now.

Red Phillips,  
14002 Hemlock Dr.  
Penn Valley, CA 95946



Justin O'Keefe brother of John O'Keefe (Capt. Co. A 47th KIA) sends this photo of members of Co. A 47th taken in Sicily. Top: Stertz, Fouiar, Redgate, Tobler, Longwell, Donner, Borges, Benningfield, Roemrig. Center row: Conner, Robinson, Suplewaiak, Eason, O'Keefe, Delacruz, Hannu, Jones. Bottom row: Sgt. Thompson, Capt. Shaignan, Sgt. Johnson, Sgt. DeBisgelie, Garris, S/Sgt. Book, Sgt. Baran, Cpl. Annear.

Co. B.15th Engr. Bn.  
CHARLIE HOFFMANN  
91-43 81 St.

Woodhaven, New York 11421

Here's a story I've been wanting to write for a long time. It will be in my book called "Four Years." That's how long I was in the army.

I only have six more chapters to write so should be finished by 1996.

# Meeting the Russians

I still wonder to this day if the "Ninth Division" met the Russians before the 69th Inf. Div. did. Let me tell you my story of meeting four Russian soldiers, one of whom was a woman.

Our 3rd platoon of Co. B "15th Engrs" with the 3rd Bn. of the "47th Inf." pulled into Dessau on the Elbe river in late April. We took over a building that seemed like a health spa.

On the second day Lt. Gaspari told me to take one of the guys and cross the bridge into the main part of Dessau and see if I could get a barrel of beer. I took Bob Apel with me in the jeep I was driving and started out.

When we came to the bridge that crossed the Elbe river into the city, we found an M.P. guarding it. I don't remember if he was one of the 9th M.P.'s or not. He stopped us and said no one was allowed to cross the bridge. I told him we wanted to find a brewery and get a barrel of beer. After convincing him we wouldn't be very long, he let us proceed.

We rode into the main part of town without seeing any people anywhere. After a short-time, we saw two large smokestacks and figured it was a brewery. We pulled up and hollered as loud as we could to attract attention.

Finally, a man came out to the platform and we told him we wanted a barrel of beer. He didn't seem to understand until we made gestures like we were drinking with our hands and pointing toward the brewery. He went inside and in a few minutes came back out rolling the largest barrel of beer I had ever seen. We loaded it into the jeep and gave him a note saying "one barrel of beer to be paid by the U.S. Army."

We were about half-way back to the bridge when I looked up one of the side streets and saw four people. I said "Let's see who they are" to Bob and turned up the street where they were.

When we approached them we saw that they were soldiers and could be none other than "Russians!" The shortest one was an officer with at least four medals hanging from his jacket. He had a pistol at his side and an officer's cap on his head. Two others were enlisted men with what looked like burp guns. The other one was a gal soldier and she also had a burp gun. None of them wore helmets. All four saluted us and we saluted back.

The captains said "Sprechen mit Amerikans officer?" Not knowing any German or Russian I made a gesture to get in the jeep. Bob straddled the barrel of beer and I told the gal to sit in front with me. She made a "no" gesture to the captain, wanting him to sit in front.

When we crossed the bridge, I waved at the same M.P. and instead of waving back, he made a motion like "What in the world is going on?" A little way up from the bridge was a bunch of trucks that weren't there when we passed before. I looked at the bumper on one of them and knew it was the 104th Div. who had just pulled in.

As I came into a road junction, I slowed down and saw these three officers and an idea hit me. I would tell them whom I picked up on the other side of the river and see what they would do.

I stopped a little way up from them and told the Russians to wait. I didn't get ten feet from the jeep when I was surrounded by 104th G.I.'s. It took me at least five minutes to reach the corner where the officers were standing. When I told them I was with the 9th Div. and that I had four Russian soldiers with me, they were dumbfounded. I said I didn't know what to do with them. They told me to bring them to them and they would take care of them. I fought my way back to the jeep and saw the Russians were showing the G.I.'s their weapons. The gal was getting the most attention though. I took them back to the 104th officers and said good-bye to them with a salute.

After leaving them I felt bad about not finding out how they got to where we met them since they had no vehicle, also what outfit they were from.

When we got back to our platoon and related our story, I was on the S list for a least a week. They all wanted to meet the Russians, especially the gal soldier. The barrel of beer helped some but not that much!

Getting back to my opening statement, I wonder if we met the Russians before the 69th Div. I can't remember the exact date but maybe someone who was in the area can remember and let me know. The only clue may be if someone remembers when the 104th Div. pulled into our area.

If anyone has any information on this event, I would appreciate hearing from them. I always felt our 9th Div. should have been the first troops to meet the Russians!

A Btry. 26th FA  
BEN ATKINSON  
5401 Pineland Rd.  
Richmond, VA 23234

I keep busy doing Volunteer work at McGuire's VA Hospital and also with the American Legion. I enjoy giving a kind word and help any veteran I can. I run into a few of 9th division guys at the hospital. There's a lot in our age group coming in now. Cleveland Blankenship was a real fighter to the end. We were Honorary pallbearers at the funeral. There are a few 9th men here in Richmond. I keep in touch with some of them. I've been trying to reach Wayne Anderson from Nebraska. He joined us in England as a replacement. I left 10 days after the war was over. Our duffle bags got lost along with a lot of addresses. I sent a note to Dave Heller last year inquiring about different guys and also sent the form for the directory but haven't heard from him. Maybe it got lost in our great "postal" system. Here's wishing everyone good health and happiness in our golden years!



Div Anty-34th-60th-84th FABNS  
& 47th-60th CAN COS.  
BERT WALLER  
12944 Camino Del Valle  
Poway, CA 92064

Brigadier General William Francis McGonagle is dead of cancer at 77 on January 30, 1990 in Hollis, Maine.

In Tunisia, 21 February 1943, Kasserine Pass fell to Field Marshall Erwin Rommel. The following day, Rommel came up Thala road with General Fritz von Broich's Tenth Panzer Division in hot pursuit of Brigadier Charles A.L. Dunphie's British 26th Armoured Brigade. At day's end, the German's had taken 571 prisoners and destroyed 66 tanks and cannons. That night, after a 777 mile forced march, Brigadier General S. LeRoy Irwin's Ninth Division Artillery went in positions in support of Dunphie's Brigade in the Thala area.

Irwin had the attached Cannon Companies from the 47th and 60th Infantry and the 34th, 60th, and 84th Artillery Battalions—48 guns! The next day, 22 February, was crucial. As Broich was preparing for a final thrust, he was startled by heavy fire concentrations from Irwin's artillery. Dunphie sacrificed 5 tanks in a bluffing counter-attack. The battle raged into the day with furious exchanges of artillery fires amidst constant air attacks by German Stuka dive bombers glistening in the African sun.

General Irwin and Lt. Colonel Justin W. Stoll, Co 84th FA BN, ordered Captain McGonagle and his C Battery to engage in direct fire along the Thala road. C Battery fought stubbornly and courageously with its 105mm howitzers pumping fire into Broich's tanks and infantry positions. The battle continued but the next day at 2:45 pm our firing was halted. Reconnaissance parties found that Broich and Rommel had vanished down the Thala road past Kasserine strewn mines as they went. History records that Irwin's force of the 9th Division Artillery with Cannon Companies was the decisive factor in denying Rommel his objectives of Thala-Tebessa-Constantine.

I visited Bill and Hildagarde at their beautiful "Edgecombe Farm" shortly after the Hyannis reunion in 1988. They were gracious hosts. Bill was still fighting but this time it was cancer. He was just a few weeks out of surgery. Bill told me a few things which I will pass on to you. He had nothing but praise for the officers and men with whom he served in the 9th Division during the period of 1940-45. After WW II, Bill was torn between staying in the military and going back into the business world. He was glad he chose business because he was able to utilize fully his education at the Harvard Business School (MBA 1937). He became an executive of the Boston State Street Bank and retired there in 1975 after 30 years. But he was proud that he continued to be part of the Army Reserve where he retired in 1972 as Commanding General 187th Infantry Brigade in Boston.

As we talked for hours, our reflections seemed to focalize on Thala. He was proud of the British Military Cross he was awarded for that action—proud that he accepted it on behalf of C Battery and all the troops in Thala.

And, I am proud of him; honored that I served with him in the 9th Infantry Division. Bill played a large part in our being here today. He was another one of the good guys. Like You.

60th Inf.  
JOHN P. RYAN  
Route 30, P.O. Box 270  
Northville, New York 12134-0270  
Herbert Clark and his wife recently returned from a visit to Tunisia, North Africa.

They wanted to get to Maknassy to see where Herb has been with the 60th Inf. and then visited the American Military Cemetery.

Enclosed is an article Herb wrote for his publication.

### Revisit Tunisia

It is unlikely that I will get to Maknassy.

Last month I got within 6 kilometers of what was, 46 years ago, an obscure railroad stop on the narrow line from Sfax to Gafsa. Had we persevered I might have returned to Sidi Bou Zid, then to Sfax and backtracked past Djebel Naemia and into Maknassy.

Common sense and the limits to which Ruth will go so that I can satisfy my urge to see places where tunes of glory were once played caused to return to Nabeul.

Anyone who remembers Maknassy, (sometimes spelled Meknassey) belongs to a special group of people who have mixed memories about Rommel's Afrika Korps and the British 8th army, the Desert Rats. Sfax and Gafsa may be known to those who take the geography of North Africa seriously, but Sidi Bouzid sounds a bit like something from the Arabian nights.

Few Americans go to Tunisia today. We weren't enthused about going there 46 years ago. But we went and were tested by perhaps as good a fighting force as was ever assembled, one that mauled the U.S. 2nd Corps at Kasserine and El Guettar. We learned our lessons well and, nearly 3 years later, were on the Mulde, drinking with the Russians and enjoying the sound of German voices saying that the 3rd Reich, the one that was to last 1,000 years, was kaput.

The urge to see such places as Maknassy is a minor form of dementia. It serves no good purpose. If you are lucky you find something to stir the memory. But the valley in which Maknassy sits, desolate and barren in 1943, is now filled with olive trees. At least I saw a lot of olive trees from 6 kilometers away.

In April 1943, the 60th Infantry of the 9th Division entered Tunisia through Bou Chebka. They set up a blocking position on the road from Tebessa to Gafsa. At that time I was a machine gun platoon leader. We set up our guns on a knoll on the west side of the road, presumably to stop Rommel's tanks if he decided to move into Algeria. No German came up the road and we sat on the knoll, eating C rations and enjoying the early spring sun.

About a mile down the road a patrol of Italian vehicles had been strafed and bombed by American planes a couple of weeks before. Nothing had been moved, including the bodies. The fate of those few vehicles kept us reasonably alert.

The knoll is still there, unchanged for nearly 5 decades. There were no C ration cans. I did find a can that had once held Fanta, an orange drink popular with both tourists and the local inhabitants.

When we left Gafsa we headed for Maknassy, through Sened, which is both a railroad station and a small desert town. A road sign said "Route Coupee" and there were 2 policemen who told us in strong terms that the road was impassible, having been washed out in several

places by the worst rain in a quarter century. Since we had earlier spent a night south of Gafsa in the first day of that 8-inch plus rainfall, we understood.

So we headed north, through Sidi Bou something or other, knowing that there was a road that went south to Maknassy. It was a good road, with considerable traffic. The sun was warm and I felt that I had outwitted the conspiracy to deny me Maknassy. I was wrong.

We drove past small villages and rural homes. In several places the local people had gathered at official buildings to get the relief that was being sent into the country from cities in Tunisia and, in a show of solidarity, from Libya. I was following the map diligently thinking that we had it made. Then we came to the bridge.

It is a big bridge across the Oued el Leben, a river bed that is dry at least 99% of the time. We stopped. A sign says, "Maknassy 6 kilometers." On the far side, for between 100 and 200 years, the approach to the bridge was washed out. The holes in the road were up to 20 feet deep. Where the bridge ended there was a hole 30 feet deep. Two bulldozers were working valiantly to repair the road. A week after the flood they had made little impression on the project. Someone estimated that it would take another 2 weeks to get the job done. They were optimistic.

Sometime during that storm a wall of water, as much as 40 feet high, came down that river bed. The desert can be a cruel and vicious place.

It was still possible to get to Maknassy. There were taxis on the north side from Sidi Bouzid and one from Maknassy. On the other side, so far away that it was difficult to see them, were the Maknassy taxis. It would have been a long walk, up a couple of steep inclines and I, being sensible, did not suggest to Ruth that one or both of us try to complete the journey.

We took pictures of the mountains. Djebel Naemia looks as brooding and as ominous as it did when a considerable number of men I knew died as they tried to dislodge the Germans from its forward slope. Looking to the east I saw the ruins of an old phosphate mine, at Meheria Zebbeus. The mine was abandoned long ago, the town is gone. I had once tried to get to Meheria Zebbeus, only to find that we were in the middle of a German mine field and prudently backed away.

I didn't get to Maknassy. But I did get to see the Naemia mountain that the Germans held so tenaciously until the Desert Rats came up behind them. I didn't like the mountain then. From 6 kilometers I still didn't like it. It brought back too many memories.

15th Engrs. "B" Co.  
ERNEST G. MICKA  
114 Spring Garden Drive  
Louisville, KY 40218

Please find enclosed my check for 3 years renewal with the remainder going to the Memorial Fund.

I've just received and finished reading the OCTOFOIL in which I read the nice long letter that Dick McGrath sent in and in which I've been "needed" to write, so here it is.

To begin with, in the past 45 years, I've probably written a dozen letters and that includes the few that "I've written to my B-Co. buddies, before and after the Pines affair. My secretary, my good wife Dot, has done it all. I don't even know what my phone or water bill is - she handles it all. So you see what a great big undertaking this is.

So about the Pines affair - what can I say that already hasn't been said. The place was really nice; the food and drink terrific; dancing was right down our alley and the West Point Memorial Mass was TOPS but what got to us the most was the way we were graciously received and welcomed by my B-Co. buddies after 40 years of absence. The ladies in our group and the gentlemen too, were extremely nice to my wife Dot, which made the Pines affair a most pleasant one for her - one which starting out was full of questions, hesitancy, etc. Oh, yes, I must say that I also enjoyed the three or four inning softball game that started about 2 PM and was called due to approaching dinner hour, not because we were "pooped" and finally, I left the Pines a Bocci player. Under the superb tutelage of Alley Ferrante, he and I won a game or two before the shower chased us indoors. All in all, it was a great affair and the guys looked darned good after all these years.

About three weeks ago, I got a surprise call from "Peter P." Thomas. It was most gratifying to hear he feels so well after his bout with by-pass surgery sometime ago. Maybe we'll see him in Florida. So thanks again to all you guys and gals who helped make it a "beautiful reunion" at the Pines and "I'll be seen' you" at Orlando in October. God Bless and Love to all.

PS- I contacted "Doc" Hughes of 15th Engrs. "A" co.

We spent a couple of hours at his home on Saturday morning. He is feeling fine, still performing civic duties and intends to make the Orlando reunion.

39th Inf. B Co.  
CLARENCE "PATTY" REISINGER  
500 Orange St.  
Wrightsville, PA 17368

Here is my dues for 3 yrs. I hope you are feeling fine. Tell the guys I said Hi and God bless them. Hoping to hear from some of them.

Co "C" 9th MedBn  
RALPH PALERMO  
223 Barbera Drive  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136-1805

Greetings for 1990. Enclosed my dues and a little for the memorial fund. I don't think that I will be able to make Orlando.

When some of us veterans get together, we still talk about our New York reunion. It was the best.

Received a letter from John Lewis that the 9th Medical Bn. will be having a mini-reunion on May 4th & 5th at the Holiday Inn West, in Ashville, North Carolina. I plan to make this one along with my wife and I also hope that many of our fellow veterans will also be able to make it. This is always a nice affair, meeting, talking and reminiscing with all the fellows that you know.

Get to talk and have coffee and lunch with Alex (Pappy) Balough quite a bit. He is doing fine and will probably make Ashville, N.C.

Say hello to all my buddies in the 9th Medics and 9th Inf. Div.

Keep well and have a great Spring and Summer season!! Enjoy yourselves to the fullest each and every day! God Bless.

B Co. 60th Inf.  
JOHN CELLAR  
48 Grant Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06902

Just received my copy of the "old reliable" OCTOFOIL which is my favorite reading material these days. It's a welcome relief hearing from all the members of the Ninth and their experiences during the war.

Sometime ago, a member mentioned a book called "The Battle for th Huertgen Forest." I spent some of the roughest days of the war there and I was hoping this book could fill in some of the details. I have tried everywhere to find a copy but without success. I was hoping someone could tell me where I could get a copy.

In the meantime, all you members take care of yourselves and remember you got through a war, anything else they can dish out has got to be easy.

HQ. 34th FA  
O.J. BRUNO  
2359 Otis Ave.  
Deltona, FL 32738

I'm still trying to locate and contact Julius Rozgonyi, 34th FA Ba. I hope someone from the 34th will drop me a line and say they've located him. "Rosy" and I were like brothers during those days.

I'll be 75 years young June 18th and feel good after heart by-pass surgery and foot surgery.

I'd like to hear from the 34th gang.

God bless and have a good year.

B Co. 9th Medics  
WILLARD HAAS  
920 N. St. Elmo Street  
Allentown, PA 18104

My problem is that I moved from one address in Allentown to another in the same city, am not sure THE OCTOFOIL is always being forwarded. At any rate, I'd like to have future issues mailed to the above address.

I really don't know when my subscription runs out, but I think it must be about now. That's why I wish to renew for an additional 3 years. Please keep them coming!

Thanks so much for your great service. It must be unsurpassed except in time like the work of the "Old Reliabilities" in W.W. II.



Bob Gordon, Company L 39th Inf. sends this picture taken in 1945, in Germany at end of War: Some of the names he remembers starting from the left: Ponter is the second man, Heath is the fourth man, Leonard seventh man, Sheppard, Gordon the last man.

MRS. CLEVELAND  
BLANKENSHIP SR.  
9410 Tuxford Rd.  
Richmond, Va. 23236

Want to thank you for sending me the Octofoil since Cleveland's (Shorty) death last September and to say how much I enjoy reading all the letters in your Mail Call column. I read it more now than I did when he was living. I am moving so please note the change of address at the heading of this letter.

I am doing much better than I was a few months ago. Cleveland's (Shorty) death was such a tragic event in my life and it is quite difficult to realize he is gone. I have joined a support group for grieving widows which has helped me so much. There is a Leukemia Chapter forming at the moment in my locality and I plan to become active in it because my husband had leukemia as all of you know.

I'd like to say Hello to all those who used to write to Shorty and would love hearing from some of you. I appreciate so much all the sympathy cards I received from all of you nice people since his death.

Dan, I'd like you to see that my new address gets in the next issue of the Octofoil.

15th Engrs. B. Co.  
BOB APEL  
9424 Harding Blvd.  
Wauwatosa, Wi., 53226

After attending the 44th reunion at the Pines, and this being my first reunion, everyone made my wife and I feel that we were no strangers. And after all the years of wishing to see my buddies, my dream came true.

Now I am looking forward to Orlando. Maybe there will be a few more first-timers, like myself, attending.

It was good hearing from Ernie Newhart and Dick McGrath. Many thanks to both of them and their wives for sending pictures of our get-together.

Also received a letter from buddy Charlie Hoffmann recently. He is doing fine and his family is well.

A Co. - 47th Inf.  
JUSTIN O'KEEFE  
6 Harvard Drive  
Hampton Bays, NY 11946

In packing, I came across this photo of some men of A Co. 47th Inf. taken in Sicily. Their names are on the back.

The check is for the Division Memorial Fund.

With any luck, I'll see you at the Pinelawn/Bethpage affair.

PS Editor's Note: Justin is the brother of Captain John O'Keefe, KIA January 1945 in Germany. About thirty men and 10 officers were privileged to get to Paris (during the Bulge) and the day we returned the Regiment was jumping off and O'Keefe and a Lt. Orville Gove made sure they got back to their companies that night (Gove was out of G Co.) only to meet their death. John was 22 years of age at the time and a company commander.

K Co. 47th Inf.  
OBERT SOHAUG  
Argyle, MN 56713-0204

Joined K Co. a few days before leaving for Invasion at Safi, N. Africa, was one of 13 week wonders but turned out good anyway. The fish in Atlantic ate good as I fed them quite regularly.

Have been wondering about a Joe "Yaskonish." He was a jeep driver for me, also tent buddy.

Thank you for sending the "Octofoil," enjoy it.

B Btry 26th F.A.  
LE ROY MILLER  
5317 Second Street  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Hi. I remember sitting in the East Tower of Remagen with F.O. Officer Lt. Allan R. Toffler and some men of the 39th Infantry.

The fire power on the west bank was building up something awesome.

A German rocket came over, but with no damage to the bridge. I don't know where it hit, was when the rumbling stopped, we all just buried ourselves, 'till after the explosion.

A German jet came over and our Pilots in P-38' tried to hit him with no avail. Also when they opened up on the West Bank, like a wise pilot the German high tailed it out of there. There was just a wall of steel up there, in fact I think one of the P-38' got hit instead.

The last action I saw was with the 39th, I don't remember the Co. We were cleaning out an area after Remagen.

The Infantry was walking very slow along both sides of a narrow road and a re-con vehicle was in front of our jeep. All of a sudden there was a "pop"! Someone hollered, "Bazooka!"

It came floating across the Valley from the hill on our left. Everyone hit the right hand ditch and it hit the re-con vehicle on the left rear, also the Germans opened up with small arms fire. Well all of a sudden it became my turn as the Lt. said, "Miller, I need the radio!"

I went to the jeep, turned my back to the Germans and tried to get the radio. I released the snaps quickly but there was a two inch web strap that I just couldn't break loose. Well, needless to say, the Germans were using me for target practice.

Well, that day there were some miracles; #1, I didn't get hit, #2, they didn't fire another Bazooka (maybe they didn't have anymore), as since they got the re-con they surely could have gotten the jeep and me. Then there was #3, that I didn't get the radio as all of a sudden I heard the lovely sound of M-1 popping and I saw the Infantry come running through the woods on the hill with the Germans. If I had gotten the radio, they could have been caught in artillery fire.

Well, the Germans lost, all of a sudden someone hollered, "Medic"! Here a German walked down the road to surrender. His right hand was on his head, his left arm dangled as his shoulder was laid open. One of the fellows gave him a cigarette and another one gave him a light.

Just a few momemts before we were trying to kill each other and now there was sympathy.

I want to thank the guys, whoever and wherever they are who came running up that day.

After that, we just rolled on and we wound up at Dessau on the West Bank of the river waiting for the link-up with the Russians and the War to be declared over.

In Sept. 1945 I re-enlisted for three years, but that's another story for later. Best wishes and good luck to all. See you in Orlando.

B Co. 15th Engrs.  
PAUL LISA  
6638 Claridge St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Enclosed you will find dues for 3 years and a little extra for the memorial fund. I had a triple by-pass and now am on the way to recovery. Cardiac re-hab has done me a world of good. Thanks for the good wishes from my buddies.

39th Inf. "K" and "CAN" Co's  
BURLEIGH BREWER  
408 Silverdale Terrace  
Dayton, Ohio 45440

Just a couple of words, the "top kick" has me on latrine duty today. Whether it's scrubbing heads in Tent City at Fort Bragg; or digging slit trenches in bivouac in North Africa, Sicily or France; it's still latrine duty, and the "top kick" is still in charge. In this case, it's my wife, Lois, writer of this letter. Although I admit to being the "top kick" of this Co., I'm probably not as tough as my predecessors.

Had wonderful surprises over the last few weeks, with contacts from very dear friends; namely Calvin Daniel in Michigan; Bill Nelson in Ohio and George Booth in Iowa. They had information of other friends I knew in service. So happy to hear from all.

Am enclosing a clipping from Dayton, Ohio paper. Have no way of knowing how many 9th Division Vets live in this area. Being one of the Vets who depend upon this facility for my health needs, and although I wait my turn; as all others do, being a Government facility, so far I have received excellent service from the present hospital. Am eagerly awaiting the new, larger one. Enough of this.

Now to the memories of the past. This could be a duplicate of thousands of 9th Division men. At this point, I will close with fond memories of friendships made years ago. We plan to attend the Illinois mini-reunion in Wisconsin and the National Reunion in Orlando. See you all there. Would appreciate hearing from anyone. Thanks to all.

34th FA Btry. B  
SHELDON STODDARD  
122 Meadow Road  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

We all appreciate the wonderful job you do in keeping us well informed through the OCTOFOIL.

In February 1941 approximately 175 recruits arrived at the 9th Inf. Div. Fort Bragg, N.C. for assignment to the 34th FA Bn. for basic training. We came by troop train from Fort Devens, Mass. The 34th FA Bn became our home away from home until something in 1945. The story of what happened in those years is told in "Eight Stars to Victory" hanging in there, and at least once a year we renew old friendships. In November we go to Worcester to attend the Memorial Mass started by Father Conners 45 years ago. During the week-end we have a mini-reunion for the 34th FA Bn. Plenty of laughter, war stories that prove truth is stranger than fiction.

Making the week-end more enjoyable are the many wives who attend. They provide some great food and really enjoy the week-end.

This November, a good number of 34th men and their wives will be back in Worcester. Our C.P. is located at Days Inn. Join the old gang for an enjoyable week-end. If you can't make it, write so we can remember you in November.

39th Medic's 2nd Bn. H Co.  
SAL TRAPANI  
4733 Wyaconda Rd.  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

I went back to Remagen and a lot of places we were. The 39th Hq. in Aichbach has a store front, the school that 39th Medic Hq. is still a school and the old movie house on the corner is still there. The old town looks good.

Say hello to all

60th Inf. A. Co.  
OWEN W. NAROSKY  
413 Maple Manor Drive  
Elmira, New York 14904

I was recently at the Italian American War Veterans Club here in Elmira, NY, and met a friend, who I discovered was in the 9th Infantry Division. He told me of the Association for former members and gave me some old Octofoil papers — sure brought back memories. I've always wanted to attend a reunion when it was near my home — sure wish I had known of the reunion in the Catskill Mountains.

I have no contacts now — I was with the 9th from 1942 to 1945 when I came home from Germany on rotation. I would really like to hear from former members of Company "A", especially John Novelli from around the Philadelphia area, or any others who remember me.

Any information you can provide me regarding your Association or its members would be greatly appreciated. Looking forward to hearing from you.

60th Inf. Hq. 1st Bn.  
CHARLES ALCORN  
9264 Howard  
Detroit, MI 48224

Shortly after WWII and my release from active duty I secured a job in downtown Detroit which necessitated riding a Suburban bus. By the time the bus got to my pickup point in the morning it was a Standing Room only condition so, while standing, I studied those fortunates around me who had obtained a seat.

There was one particular fellow who was almost always in the same seat. I had no recollection of ever seeing him before but I still had a strong feeling that I had known him somewhere, somehow. His glance also indicated some sort of recognition. (ESP?) This went on for several days.

Finally I asked him if we had ever met before and - sure enough - his name was Carl Bunyak, formerly of Co. B., 60th Inf. I saw Carl a few times after that in connection with activities of the Michigan Chapter.

Yesterday I received a call from Carl's wife (now widow) Mary, advising that he had died on about Mar. 26, 1990. He had been dead about 4 days before the body was discovered, so speed was essential and money was scarce. Mrs. Bunyak arranged for Carl's acceptance at the Fort Custer National Cemetery, Battle Creek, Mich. and he was buried there on Thursday Mar. 30, 1990. I salute Carl Bunyak as one of those who did the job of the Infantry.

Those who might wish further contact my write or call Mrs. Bunyak at 6358 McGraw, Detroit, MI 48210. Phone: (313) 898-0636.

47th Inf. M. Co.  
ALBERT PALLEY  
519 S. Main St.  
Zelienople, PA 16063

Mrs. Palley writes that Albert has been in the VA Nursing Home in Butler, PA since May of 1988. However, they don't keep the fellows indefinitely so he is expected to be evicted anyday now. He's had many problems, mostly heart congestion, heart failure many times. He was 80 years old last November. Good luck with the organization. I've hear Albert talk about Orin Shell. I'm hoping Albert will eventually get in touch with him after he is able to get around better. Wish we could go to Orlando. We like to visit Floirda as we used to spend the winters there when Albert was able to travel.

60th Inf. & 47th Inf.  
DAVID BAKER  
1000 Springbrook  
DeSoto, Texas 75115

I enjoyed talking with you and very much appreciate your time. Thanks, for the "Octofoil." It was very interesting and a pleasure to read.

I am enclosing some information about my father, Morris L. (Jack) Baker, 38 116 983. He landed on Utah Beach on D-Day +4, June 10, 1944. He served with the 60th Infantry, C Co., until July 13, 1944, when he was wounded in action in the Battle for Normandy. He was returned to duty on November 7, 1944, with E Co., 47th Infantry. He was wounded in action again on January 4, 1945 near Kalterherberger, Germany. He was wounded a third time with the 47th Infantry near Kalenborn, Germany, on March 11, 1945.

He passed away on July 12, 1982. If anyone happens to remember serving with him, I would like to hear from them.

D Co. 39th Inf.  
ANDREW BALASCHAK  
330 Boyer Street  
Johnstown, PA 15906

My wife and I had a great time at the Pines. Possibly the best we've attended. Hoping that Orlando will be as great.

Co. "D" 39th had a great showing. around 30 of us attended.

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

Enclosed is my check for my dues for "3" years. Sorry it's late but I was looking for the telltale red.

I've always read every Mail Call in the Octofoil, but I see very few letters from the men from "E" Co. 47th.

I was an original "E" Co. member in Fort Bragg until I was separated in Africa.

I enjoy the paper and am looking forward to the reunion in Fla. in Oct. Hope to see some familiar faces there.

47th Inf. H. Co.  
CLARENCE HOLMAN  
2106 Argyle St.  
Hamburg, Iowa 51640

No reunion for us this year. We have a granddaughter graduating from High School. We will go to Washington to help a brother and his wife celebrate their Golden Anniv. At this time the wedding party are all present. Plus later in the year we hope to celebrate 50 years.

These many years make you glad you've made it this long.

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

In reading the last Octofoil, there were three names of the men in my company that taps had sounded for: Ed. Bartowicz, John Moynihan and Steve Tebich. I was hit by the same mine that Tebich, Ralph Renna, Bob Ashworth, Jess Habson. Renna, Hobson and my self returned to the CO. I read Rupert's letter, at Bragg, I was in the same barracks third squad upstairs.

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

Pres. Henry Santos is lining up a great 1990 Florida reunion. Best wishes to him and the Florida Chapter for all their hard work in planning such a great time for all to enjoy. Best regards.

## Reunion Dates

Oct 4-7 1990

**Deadline for next issue July 20th**



# MAIL CALL

## 9th Recon

KURT SANDER  
44 E. Harwood Terrace  
Palisades Park, N.J. 07650

Here are my dues for 1990.

It's hard to believe that it was 45 years ago that we paid our first dues to start the 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. in Germany. The years go faster and faster. It seems I have 2 birthdays a year now.

I give all you guys a lot of credit for all that's been done to keep the Assoc. going strong. If everyone was like me and just sat back, there wouldn't be anything. I was with the 9th Recon. from Normandy to the Elbe River.

## 84th F.A.

DICK O'CONNOR  
9567 Bluford Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90605

Just came back from a visit to old friends in Andover and Winchester, plus I was in Ireland on St. Pat's Day, one long family party.

I had lunch at the Plough Inn at Long Parish across the road from Barton Stacey which is now just farmland.

I went to Winchester to see Elizabeth Ashlin who has known some 47th men and has seen some ex-9th men since the War.

We met at the bus station and had coffee at the big hotel close by. After coffee we toured the town and I saw more of the town than I saw all during the war. After lunch we saw more of the town, then after tea at her house, I took the bus back to Andover. All in all I had a great time in England.

I'm writing this from the hallway of the Norwalk Superior Court. I'm on jury duty for two weeks.

Everyone here is well and happy, say "Hello" to the N.Y. boys. Regards to all.

## 39th Inf. A Co.

WILLIAM MORRISON  
10334 Grapefruit Drive  
Port Richey, FL 34668-3111  
RE: A memorable moment in a Paris hospital.

I was taken off the line toward the end of March, 1945 and sent to our aid station and then sent to a field hospital. From here I was sent to a hospital in Belgium and finally sent to a rear hospital in Paris.

While being carried into this hospital at Paris on a litter, the wind blew the blanket over my head. The litter bearer placed me on the reception room floor.

I heard a voice - an American voice speaking and praying at my side - a last rites was being recited - at that moment I pulled the blanket off my head and saw a most startled priest one ever saw. He grabbed my hand and knelt down besides me and we prayed together.

I was there for three weeks and then to a hospital in England.

As the litter bearers were carrying me to the Paris hospital - my priest came over held my both hands and said "God Bless you and safe journey home."

I have wished a thousand times I had asked that dear Father for his name so I might thank him properly for his care.

I am now 80 years of age and still rocking along despite two heart attacks, a hip replacement and just got out of a leg cast due to a nasty fall - so Father, wherever you are may I say with all my heart, Dominus VoBiscum.

To you Dan, good luck, stay well and have fun.

## 60th Inf. G Co.

WILLIAM BONSALE  
345 Elmhurst St.  
Morgantown, WV 26505

Even though war stories are a dime a dozen, they are usually received with eager listeners. I think this story is unique, and if others can come up with something better, I'd like to hear about it.

About a year ago or so, I met a man named Jim Jones from Largo, Florida. We started talking wartime, and this is what came up.

We are originally from the same Phila. PA area, and we enlisted in 1942. We both took basic training in Texas at the same time, but in different units. We both were sent to a college Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP), and when it was shut down, we both reported to the 76th Div. at Camp McCoy, WI for winter training. When this was shut down, we both were sent to Ft. Meade, MD for embarkation via Camp Kilmer, NJ. We both were shipped through Liverpool, England and wound up as replacements with the 9th Div. Inf. He was in E Co. and I was in G Co. of the 60th Inf. Reg. We both became squad leaders with a Sgt.'s rank. We obviously travelled the same combat routes through France and into Belgium until we were captured on the same day, Sept. 5th, 1944 at Namur, Belgium. We both were taken to a transit POW Camp at Aachen, Germany and later transferred to Stalag 12A at Limburg.

The Germans, generally, were trying to clear out their western camps, so Jim and I wound up at Stalag 3-C in Eastern Germany. This is where we stayed throughout the winter, until on Jan. 31st, 1945, there was an attempt to evacuate the camp. I escaped that day, and Jim got out on the 2nd of Feb. We both made our way across Germany into Poland and eventually to Warsaw. The American Military Mission from Moscow supervised our passage to Odessa, Russia where we sailed on British boats until we got to Naples, Italy back under US control.

We both left Naples about April 1st, and arrived in Boston Apr. 4. We were given a 62 (!) day furlough at which time Jim and I reported to Lake Placid Rehab Center. A short time later we were discharged from Indiantown Gap Military Reservation in Penna.

Many soldiers have gone through a lot of their military hitch with a buddy. The whole point of this story is, however, that Jim and I never met each other until we got together last year!

Just as an addenda. We were born 3 days apart, our wives are the same age, and we were married the same year. Wouldn't it be very interesting if our children were the same age?! I'll have to ask Jim about that the next time we meet.

47th Inf. M Co.  
ERVIN WALTERS  
RR2 box 24A  
Watkins, Mn. 55389

Another 3 years has rolled by and it's time to pay my dues. Enclosed is a check for 3 more years, plus a little extra for the Memorial Fund.

Sorry I can't make the reunion in Orlando this fall. But hope to attend the next one at Milwaukee.

My wife and I really enjoy reading the Octofoil. Keep up the good work. Thank you.

## A.T. Co. 47th Inf.

CHARLES BODNER  
187 N.Y. Avenue  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621  
Greetings fellows!

Almost lost out on the Octofoil after noticing the expiration date on the last one. The three year subscription ran out, and since I paid my dues last, I ran through three operations. Double hernia, spinal, and prostate; one for each year. Luckily all were successful and I'm doing well with any discomfort. I must be a reject between Heaven and Hell, it looks like I'm destined to make a nuisance of myself a while longer on Earth.

Just finished a conversation on the telephone with Henry Cassata, and I asked why he was listed on the sick list in the last three issues of the Octofoil. He mistook my pronunciation and said he was always on the S-T list and never got off. It's been 45 years since a lot of us saw one another, if any of you would like to trade photographs of each other with a short note, I'll be happy to reciprocate. I was reminiscing through some letters and came across an old picture taken at Fort Bragg in 1942 of Raginski (killed in Normandy), Henry Cassata and me.

Don't know if I'll be able to make the Orlando reunion, but if I don't any any of you guys are up in my neighborhood, drop in and we'll uncork the bottle.

Let's keep the vision in the Division.

## 47th Inf. H. Co.

PAUL GOLOBISH  
6791 Thornapple Drive  
Mayfield Village, Ohio 44143

It's been a long time since I thought about Army days and if I would ever attend one of the division reunions. Whenever there was any write-ups in newspapers or magazines with lists of service reunions, I've always read them, but never seen any for the 9th Inf. So I was pleasantly surprised when I ran across Bill Buemi of F Co. 47th at the Richmond Mall. We chewed the fat awhile and went over old times and the guys we knew. I joined the Company in England as a replacement, so I was only familiar with the ones in H Company, such as Nick Forkavich, Al Papai, and Frank Fazio, those three guys. I think everybody knew I'm sure it will be nice to see them again. I remember a few of the names but sure forgot a lot of the others after 40 years.

Bill told me about the Octofoil and that he would drop off a copy at my house. After I read every bit of print I got out the old photos of the third platoon. Instantly, I was 21 again!

Dan, here is my check for three years of membership. Please send me all the particulars and applications for hotel reservations in Orlando. I'm looking forward to attending and getting to see a few of the guys.

## 39th Inf. Hq. Co. & 2nd Bn.

A. B. CASEY  
715 Walnut St.  
Paris, Tn. 38242

Please find attached check to cover three more years dues. Hope I can stay around that much longer to receive and enjoy the Octofoil.

I received Christmas cards from several members and hear from some fellows occasionally.

The Taps Sounded column grows longer with each issue, after all, most of the original members have been around for some time.

As I still work every day I could last long enough to have to renew the subscription yet another three years.

47th Inf. M Co  
EDMUND TUENGE  
220 N. Franklin  
Sioux Falls, S.D. 57103

I'm sending \$10 to help pay and will send more later on. You can't send out material for nothing. By the way, I would like to know if anyone else from M Co. Got their discharge papers like mine.

Was discharged from Camp McCay, Wis., Sept. 23 of '45 and have organization Co. C 54 armored Infantry BN 2. Never heard of the outfit and I think it should have been Co. M 3rd BN 47th Infantry 9th Div. and its signed by HL Oldenburg. He is the Disbursing Officer and on the bottom of discharge signed by John F. Burris, 2nd Lt. Assistant Adjutant.

I might have come back to the States with that outfit but was always in M Co. from the time I left States until the war was over. If you heard of anyone else, have it in the magazine. Maybe I will write to that Walter from Minn. I remember him and see what they put down on his discharge.

## 39th Inf. E & F Co.

WARD PAYNE  
395 D Avenida Castilla  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

My wife Ruth and I greatly enjoyed the Reunion at the Pines in Fallsburg, N.Y. last year and particularly the day at West Point and the most impressive Memorial Service in the Cadet Chapel.

About 3 years ago we returned to Normandy and among the places visited was Fort Du Roule in Cherbourg. They have a museum there (rather small) which features giant flags of the 9th and 79th (cross of Lorraine) Infantry Division, VII Corps., and many pictures relating to the liberation of that most important Port City. We also visited the beautifully manicured and impeccably maintained American Cemetery just back of Omaha Beach.

This year we will be attending the Fox Co. 39th Reunion in Rochester, Minnesota in September. All good wishes for continued success for our great 9th Infantry Division Association.

## B Co. 15th Engrs.

WM. (GERRY) SHEA  
5 Gunstock Road  
Scarboro, ME 04074

My wife Patricia and I will not be in Orlando for this year's reunion. We made plans to tour Italy the last week in September and first week of October 1990. We cannot be in two places at one, but wish you all the best and hope to make the next one.

Sorry to see so many A Co. 15th Engrs. passing on, but glad that B Co. members are still hanging in there.

Look forward to Dick McGrath's letter every copy of the Octofoil, and glad to hear Barney Angell is doing O.K.

I don't know if there is anyone from Maine that was in the Ninth Division and receive the Octofoil. If there is, please get in touch with me.

My best wishes to all the men of the 9th and to you, Dan and Marie.

39th Inf. Hqts.  
FRANCIS TIERNEY  
98 Medford Farms  
Goffstown, N.H. 03045

Enclosed are my dues for another 3 years.

Continue your fine work in keeping open this important means of communication between members.

Best wishes to you and your family. P.S. - Met a Veteran (not from the 9th) who referred to the 9th as the "cookie cutters" because our shoulder patch resembled the domestic utensil.

## THE OCTOFOIL

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

Publication No. 402820

L100 0002212 E1688  
JOHN CLUSER  
PO BOX 258  
METRORE, MI

49895

## Co. L 39th Inf.

ROBERT F. GORDON  
Space 558  
36505 W. Florida Ave.  
Hemet, CA 92343

After reading the timely reminder concerning the dues I realized that mine are now due. Enclosed is a check for a few more years dues.

I enjoy reading the Octofoil even though I never see any names from our company, and I do not keep in touch with anyone.

I ran across these two pictures that might interest someone who is in them. I see that you print pictures sometimes that are sent in. I cannot identify all who are there, but maybe someone can.

In picture #1 the man holding the guidon is 1st Sgt. Bertis who I will not forget when he took my BAR, and the belts of ammo I was loaded down with and gave me a much needed break, as I was exhausted, while the Co. was falling back to a new position in the Hurtgen Forest. I think he was from the Chicago area. The others I cannot remember.

In picture #2 is the machine gun section where I was placed when that section was depleted by casualties, and stayed there until I was rotated home in Dec. of 45.

Some of these names I can remember. Starting from the left: second man, Ponter, fourth man, Heath, fifth man, Leonard, seventh man, Sheppard, last man, Gordon. I would enjoy hearing from any of them.

I hope this letter is not too long as I know your space is limited. Have a nice reunion. It is not possible for me to be there.

## 60th B Inf. C Co.

SULLIVAN LEE  
614 Byland Dr.  
Beech Grove, In. 46107

Enjoy the paper very much and would like to see some articles from guys from C. Co. Hope to make the Florida reunion. Keep up the good work.

## Co F & Hdqts Co 2nd BN

60th INF  
THEODORE L. PRESTON  
PO Box 362  
Water Tower Place  
Walworth, WI 53184

Enclosed find check for 3 yrs. dues. Our covered wagon made it down to Florida this winter. I'll have to send you a bill for all the advertisement the Ninth Inf. Div. Ass'n is getting, 93,000 miles worth. Here is a picture of our Beauties at the Angola Indiana gathering. While in Florida we had a nice visit with Pete & Liz Radichio of Homosossa. Bill & Esther Johnston of Estero, Cliff & Rosallie Painter of Sarasota and Elton & Catherine Harrell of Hazelhurst, GA. Thanks to all for a lovely time.