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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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## The Octofoil, August/September/October 1990

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Volume XLV Number 4

Aug Sept Oct 1990

## 1991 REUNION IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The 46th Annual Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the Grand Milwaukee Hotel, September 19, 20, and 21, 1991. The Reunion will be hosted by the Illinois Chapter.

### Why Milwaukee?

Why is the Illinois Chapter sponsoring the Reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin? The answer is fourfold: It is centrally located and convenient, it is easily accessible to the nationwide membership, the costs are reasonable (Cheaper than Chicago), and it has the advantages of a large city.

Milwaukee being in the Midwest, is closer to the Association membership than ever before. Today the members live more scattered throughout the nation than in past years.

Transportation is convenient for everyone if they travel by air, by rail, or by car. Two Interstate Highway routes pass through Milwaukee. Airlines have direct flights from many cities in the East and South as well as the Midwest. AMTRAK has trains from all directions. Greyhound provides bus service.

Finding a hotel and a city where costs are reasonable for the members of the Association has become more difficult. Large city hotels are beyond the financial reach of many of our members. Milwaukee has hotels, and the Grand Milwaukee in particular, which are within reason, and can accommodate our group in one location. Banquet rooms at the Grand Milwaukee are large enough to hold everyone in attendance.

Milwaukee provides attractions and activities outside the hotel and reunion to satisfy the interests of all people. There are shopping malls and areas with department stores and small shops. Outlet malls are within easy driving distance.

Attractions such as major league baseball, museums, zoo, and boat cruises on Lake Michigan are available. And, of course, tours of Milwaukee's world famous breweries.

### Reunion Program

The program for the Reunion will consist of tried and true events, such as the Welcome Party on Thursday, the dance on Friday, and the Memorial Service and Banquet on Saturday. The Association general and committee meetings, and the Auxiliary meeting, will be on Friday.

Pre-registration to purchase strip tickets and register for the Reunion will again be a feature. Members who pre-register will avoid long waiting in line for registration. Packets of all materials will be assembled before the Reunion.

Hotel room reservations will be made by individual members directly with the hotel. There will be more information on both hotel room reservations and pre-registration in the next issue of the OCTOFOIL.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At a meeting of the Board of Governors in Orlando, Florida, I was elected to the Presidency of the Ninth Infantry Division Association for the coming year.

It was a great honor bestowed on me and I will do my best to work in cooperation with the Board of Governors and the other National Officers of the Association to continue to seek improvements and solutions to any problems that confront us.

Next year our Annual Reunion will be held at the Grand Milwaukee Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Keep in mind the dates. September 19-21, 1991. Watch for developments in the coming issues of the Octofoil.

I would like to thank the Florida Chapter for a job well done. Also thanks to our retiring President, Henry Santos, for the time and effort he spent on our behalf to insure a successful reunion.

To all of you out there - Make that next reunion - It's later than you think.

Michael Belmonte,  
President



Henry Santos (left) finishing his year as president of the association turns over the gavel of authority to newly elected president Michael Belmonte.

## LADIES CORNER

It seems as though it was only yesterday that I wrote a LADIES CORNER column, but that was back on July 9th, and here it is October 16th already. Time does seem to fly when you are busy and having fun. Our Ladies Auxiliary meeting, held on October 5th at the Orlando Marriott Hotel, was quite successful, and attended by about 80-85 women. Although the attendance was down from last year (as it was at the Reunion itself), we managed to raise enough money from our Raffle, Pollyanna, and Memberships, to vote on sending three \$400.00 checks to Auxiliary member Lorraine Clark, for Daphne Gibbs to use in the local American Legion's work with veterans in Waynetown, an area in Indiana; to Auxiliary member Carol Saunders for the Johnson City, Tennessee VA Hospital; and to Auxiliary member Jean Miller for Mr. Tinker Cassell, Director VA Volunteer Services at the Dallas, Texas VA hospital. This is all in keeping with our pledge to give our veterans in VA Hospitals and Homes as much cheer and comfort as we can.

### PRIZES AWARDED

The Pollyanna gifts were most appreciated by all the winners at the meeting. We had an interesting and lively discussion of the coming Milwaukee, Wisconsin Reunion next September. Wanda Preston, of the Host Illinois Chapter, is sure that we will enjoy our meeting there very much. More details will follow in the future OCTOFOILS. Our Raffle Prizes were awarded at the Saturday, October 5th Banquet, and are as follows:

Mary McLaughlin picked the beautiful Duck Lamp donated by the McLhinney Family of Havre de Grace, Maryland.

Leo Charland, of G Company, 39th Infantry, picked Wanda Preston's beautiful Macramied w/the Octofoil pattern, Lawn Chair.

Julie Cecchini, wife of Nino Cecchini of B Company, 47th Infantry, picked Ruth Lees lovely Father Christmas Ceramic Figures.

Bill Larson, of Company E, 47th Infantry, picked Mary Maness' small painting.

Jo Pauli, relative of a 60th FA man, picked Mary Maness' large painting. Betty Kowalik, a guest of a 9th Med. Battalion man, picked Ruth Jordan's exquisite Red Macramied Hand Bag.

Mary Gaeta picked Wooden Halloween Figures, adorably made by Renee Koneski, Connie's daughter-in-law. All left the Banquet happy that they had won!

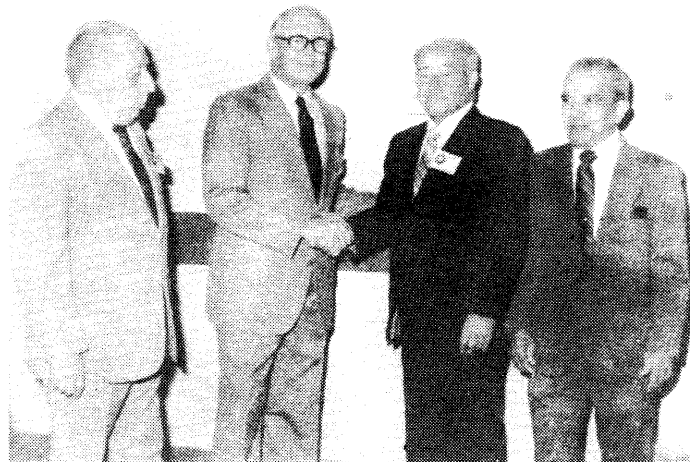
I would like to close with a poem that our Auxiliary Chaplain, Ruth Jordan, read at our meeting. A member, Miriam Auerbach of Miami Beach, Florida, suggested that I put it in this column, as it sums up what we are trying to achieve in our group.

Continued on page 3

### Worcester Memorial

The 46th Annual Memorial Mass and Service Nov. 11, 1990, held in Worcester will be history by the time our members receive this issue of the Octofoil.

Details will appear in the next issue of the Octofoil, the Nov.-Dec. issue.



Newly elected President of the Association Mike Belmonte, third from left, greets General "Chip" Maness speaker at the reunion's banquet. Vice President Vince Guglielmino is shown on the left of the General and out-going President Henry Santos on the right of Belmonte.

## Florida Chapter Does a Great Job

Over 780 men, women, guests and some children enjoyed themselves at the 45th Annual Reunion, October 4 to 7, 1990 in Orlando Florida. Chairman Joseph Williams of Jacksonville did a tremendous job in organizing this event. The Florida Membership all pitched in to make this reunion a success. The weather cooperated with its bright sunshine days... except for a little shower on Friday.

Bob Pappas did a fine job recruiting 36 players and running a good golf tournament on Thursday morning. Thursday was a typical Registration Day with a few mix ups. The Hotel Staff over-booked their facilities causing delays in obtaining rooms and a bit of traffic jams where the Advanced Registration Desk and the many 9th Infantry Division displays were located. By evening everything settled down and it was time for the Welcome Party Dance. The orchestra played our type of music geared to the 1950s and as a result the dance floor was crowded.

Because Orlando, Florida offers many attractions and other things to do, this Reunion was planned so that the members and their families would have time to enjoy the surrounding area. However, one did not have to leave the Marriott Hotel grounds to enjoy a paradise atmosphere to its fullest. Imagine 48 waterscaped acres on famous International Drive, just minutes away from world renowned attractions. Sixteen villa-styled buildings connected by walk-aways that meander through typical Florida gardens, lagoons and fountains. Seven restaurants and lounges inside this complex offered a range of choices from poolside sandwiches to fine continental dining. Within walking distance from the hotel one could go to any number of fast-food places or to a more expensive restaurant. For the simple pleasure seeking person, a world of shopping could be found all along International Drive... practically outside the hotel's door.

Registration continued on Friday, October 5th. Committee meetings were held from 10 A.M. followed by the big General Meeting at 11 o'clock. Various Committee Chairmen gave their report. President Henry Santos called for discus-

sions and new business. Some of the subjects discussed were the need to raise the Organization's yearly dues; the writing of a letter to President Bush supporting his actions in the Middle East. John Miller spoke on organizing a new Texas Chapter. Any veteran who served with the 9th Infantry Division during World War II and resides in Texas is urged to contact John Miller at 1511 Cochise Dr., Arlington, Texas 76012.

Friday night was dance night. Again the tables were filled with happy people and the dance floor was crowded with jitter-bugging couples. Marty Shankman from Miami escorted his young date Joyce Blackburn to the bandstand where she sang several hit songs. She chose "New York, New York" as her first number. Joe Kearns, member of the Florida Chapter, followed with his rendition of "If I Had My Way".

### MEMORIAL

The Memorial Services were held at 9 A.M. Saturday. Larry McLaughlin acted as the Master of Ceremonies. Tom Boyle of the New England Chapter, and Dave Heller, of the Illinois Chapter, delivered the opening prayers. The Navy based in Orlando furnished the Color Guard. A floral wreath of fresh flowers made into the Octofoil emblem design was placed in front of the Speaker's platform in honor of the 4,581 men of the 9th who were killed in action and those who served with the 9th who passed away since the end of that war. The President or a Representative from each of the seven Chapters were escorted to the wreath to pin an individual flower on the wreath. This was followed by presenting a corsage to seven widows who attended this reunion even though their husbands had passed away. Ret. Gen. "Chip" Maness delivered a beautiful eulogy to our deceased comrades. With the playing of "TAPS" and the retreat of the Color Guard, the impressive Memorial Services of the 9th Infantry Division Association came to an end.

### BANQUET

The membership were free to do as they pleased until the Banquet/Dinner which started about 7:15 P.M. Tom Boyle gave the Invocation. Awards were presented by Dan Quinn.

Continued page 3

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

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Oak Park, IL 60304

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Floral Park, NY 11001

Pat DeColli, 2nd V.P.  
1017 Jackson St.  
Phil. PA 19148

Fran Maher, 3rd VP  
14 Davenport St.  
Worcester, MA 01610

Dave Heller  
Judge Advocate  
616 Sumac  
Highland Pk, IL 60036

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer  
39 Hall Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary  
412 Gregory Avenue  
Weehawken, NJ 07087

**Board of Governors  
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

1993

Robert DeSandy  
Southern Pines, NC

Al Perna  
Philadelphia, PA

Trevor Jones  
Trumbull, CT

George Brown  
Freehold, NY

Fred D'Amore  
E. Boston, MA

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

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

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

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

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**NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name..... Serial No.....

Street Address.....

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

I was a member of:

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

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year..... \$5.00 ☐

Sustaining Member.....

Donation Memorial 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 ☐ New Jersey ☐

**LATEST NEWS ABOUT THE DIRECTORY**

Five-hundred copies of a first edition of the Directory of the Ninth Infantry Division Association have been printed, and most of them have already been distributed free-of-charge to the members who attended the 45th Annual Reunion in Orlando. Paid for by the Reunion Committee of the Florida Chapter under the leadership of Henry Santos, Joe Williams, and Phil Berman, the 54-page Directory includes listings for 1145 members who sent in cards giving the necessary information.

The Board of Governors has not yet decided where to go from here. If there is sufficient demand, the Board would consider publishing another edition, most likely at a nominal price to cover printing and postage. In the meantime, the few remaining copies as long as they last, will be mailed at no charge to listed members who write a request to: Dave Heller, 618 Sumac Rd., Highland Park, IL 60035.

It would be appreciated if requests are accompanied by 50¢ in stamps to cover postage. If there are more requests than than there are copies available, any remaining stamps will be turned over to the Association.

**LADIES AUXILIARY**

I am writing on behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary to thank the Florida Chapter for being so welcoming. Also, all the help from Mr. Williams and the committee for their help to the Auxiliary members.

I also want to thank all the Auxiliary members for the donations, so that the Auxiliary was able to make a donation of \$400.00 to three Veteran's Hospitals:

#1. Johnsonburg Tenn. Vets Hosp.; check to Mrs. Tom Conners

#2. Fort Bragg Vets Hosp.; check to Mrs. Lorraine Clark

#3. Arlington Texas Vets Hosp.; check to Mrs. John Miller

I also want to thank all the officers for a job well done. Looking forward to meeting everyone in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1991.

Hope everyone has a good Fall and the coming 1991.

As Ever,

Ruth B. Lees

President of the Ladies' Aux.  
1280 Morris Avenue  
North Huntingdon, PA 15642

**Ladies Auxiliary**

To Ruth Lees, Pres.

Back in November, 1989 I wrote to you expressing thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for a \$400.00 donation to the New Jersey Veterans Home in Paramus, New Jersey. I appreciate your very prompt and kind response which I received November 10, 1989.

Inasmuch as I won't be attending the National Convention in Orlando in October, which I regret very much, I am enclosing my check in the sum of \$20.00. Please apply \$10.00 for my dues and \$10.00 for a Pollyanna Gift. I hope you won't mind buying something from me for the ladies.

Hope you have a wonderful time at the coming Convention. Al and I did attend his Company "B", 39th Regiment, Mini-reunion in the Baltimore Inner Harbor in June. We had a wonderful time and must be content with that. Hopefully, we'll make the next National.

My regards to all the ladies and I am very proud to belong to your Auxiliary by way of my husband, who is always reminding me how wonderful the Ninth Infantry Division is and how glad that he was part of it.

Pat Becker

410 Berkshire Rd.  
Ridgewood, N.J. 07450

**STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP  
MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION**

(Act of October 23, 1962: Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

1. Date filed: 10/1/902. Title of Publication: THE OCTOFOIL. 3. 5 times yearly: 4. Location of known office of publication: 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. - Hudson County. 5. Location of headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publisher: 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. - Hudson County. 6. Name and address of the Publisher and Editor: Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J.

9. FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (Section 411.3 DMM only) The purpose function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (check one)

x (1) HAS NOT CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS

10. EXTENT AND AVERAGE NO. ACTUAL NO. NATURE OF COPIES EACH COPIES OF CIRCULATION ISSUE DURING SINGLE PRECEDING 12 ISSUE PUBLISHED MONTHS NEAREST TO FILING DATE

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2. Mail Subscriptions 2150 2150

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Samples, Complimentary, and other free copies 100 100

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F. Copies Not Distributed

1. Office use, left over, Unaccounted, spoiled after printing 50 50

2. Return from news agents None None

G. TOTAL (Sum of E, F1 and 2-should equal net press run shown in A) 2300 2300

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Daniel Quinn

Continued from page 1

**LADIES CORNER****THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP**

by Helen Steiner Rice

Friendship is a priceless gift  
That cannot be bought or sold  
But it's value is far greater  
Than a mountain made of gold  
For gold is cold and lifeless  
It can neither see nor hear  
And in the time of trouble  
It is powerless to cheer.  
It has no ears to listen,  
No heart to understand,  
It cannot bring you comfort  
Or reach out a helping hand.

So when you ask God for a Gift  
Be thankful if he sends  
No Diamonds, pearls, or riches  
But the love of real true friends.

Ellie Taubner

Treasurer

85 Smith Avenue  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

**NEEDS ASSISTANCE**

Co. D. 60th Inf.

HYMAN SMITH

Box 828

S. Fallsburg, NY 12779

Joined 9th Division at St. Lou France, was hit twice. I met Russians at Oder River, then the Division went to Ingelstadt. I joined the 9th Division Association there for \$10.00. We were supposed to go to Japan and we were all ready when the Atom Bomb ended the war in Japan. We were then in the Army of Occupation. I was transferred to the 7th Division to take care of the Jewish refugees in Displaced Persons Camp in Landsberg.

After 6 months I was shipped to Le Havre where I was to be sent home on a Liberty ship. I was examined in Le Havre by doctors and given shots which I could not get in combat. The records were buried in Hertgen Forest when the enemy surrounded us. We had to fight our way out. I was hit again at the buldge but because of all my clothes and being wet, hungry and cold, I felt a sting in my arm and paid no attention to it. I told my medic I was hit but he never made out a report about it. As a soldier I kept on going. A year after I was discharged from Fort Dix. I ended up in Fort Hamilton Hospital because my left arm swelled to the thickness of my thigh. I was immediately admitted to the hospital. I was in the hospital for a while and I was told I have a broken left eardrum and my arm was infested with foreign matter. I was given 10% disability with no money compensation.

I was never given the purple heart and cluster. I have been to the Disabled Army Veterans numerous times and I have many kinds of letters from the army. I am looking for some of my buddies to back me as to my injury. I crossed the Rhine River at Remagen Bridge and fought with the outfit until the end of the war. I believe I should at least get the Purple Heart for my injuries. The Veterans Administration now gives me a hearing aid for my left ear. I am happy that my arm was saved. If anybody was with me in combat please write me a letter or send me an affidavit attesting that I was hit in combat.

Hq & Hq 9th Div.

LOFTUS ROGERS

1405 Morson Rd.

Jackson, MS 39209

I would like for you to print the whereabouts of the following: T.G. Strong, G. A. Anderson and anyone else who served in Hq & Hq of the 9th, The Adjutant Generals Sect. from 1942 to 1945. Many thanks to them for being so nice to me.

Continued from page 1

# FLORIDA CHAPTER DOES A GREAT JOB AT THE 45TH ANNUAL REU- NION

Matt Urban gave an inspirir short talk on his experiences entitled "We Live for the Future and Never Give Up". Ret. Gen. Maness was the main speaker and touched on many old and current subjects. Henry Santos introduced Mike Belmonte of the Illinois Chapter as the new President for the coming term. Mike Belmonte gave a short acceptance speech. He also went on to inform the membership that the 1991 Ninth Infantry Division Association Reunion will be held on September 19th to 21st at The Grand Milwaukee Hotel. (More information regarding this affair will be printed in the coming issues of THE OCTOFOIL).

Portions of the banquet tables were quickly cleared and the dancing and drinking and socializing continued until past midnight.

And so another fine reunion ended made possible by the unselfish amount of time and work by the members of the Florida Chapter so that the fine comradeship of this organization will continue to live.

Emil J. DeDonato,  
Secretary FI. Chapter  
9th Inf. Div. Assn.  
3650 S.W. Mosswood St.  
Dunnellon, FL., 32630

## 9th Signal Mini Reunion

In September, 1990, the 9th Signal Company, 9th Division held their third reunion, at Genetti's in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Their arrival date was September 3 to 7th.

Just to see some of your comrades, after 45 years, was a heart warming feeling that we will never forget, we had so much in common to talk about, that those days just flew by.

However, at our banquet, the saddest part was the silent prayers for our departed comrades, and remembering the last to leave us since our last reunion, Frank Dana, Alfred Rago, Wally Anderson, and Wellsley Shaw.

At this point we all realized that we were not going to count the years, but make those years count. The enthusiasm was so great, that our Buddies decided to have our fourth reunion on September, 1991 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The arrival date will be September 3rd, and departure 6th, 1991.

We will plan to visit many of the Amish areas. The Committee Comrades are: Bill Shaner, Penna.; Edward Wargo, New Jersey.; Zigmond (Doc) Pazyra, Mass.; Pat (John T.) Byrne, Penna.; Tom Carocci, New Jersey; Howard Hughes, Penna.; Harold Stafford, Florida; Bill Snyder, Maryland; Josephj Brobst, Penna.; Ralph Mercer, Penna.; Charles Hodges, Penna.

During our reunion, we have decided that there is many of our comrades that we haven't even contacted. However, during the next few months, the committee will be searching for our comrades. The 9th Signal company, 9th Division will welcome our comrades to come and join us, be on this committee, we would certainly enjoy meeting with you in Lancaster in 1991.

Let's all join and make this reunion and committee bigger.

WE CAN DO IT!!!

Bill Shaner  
Box 103  
Barnesville, Pa. 18214

Charles Hodges  
Box 637

Gouldsboro, Pa. 18424

Watch for the place and information in the Octofoil for this Reunion.

## 39th Inf. Co. Mini-reunion

Forty six years ago, they were all together in the race of the Allied Armies toward Berlin. They were members of Company 1, 39th Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division. Most of them had joined the unit in France or Belgium, but at least one had fought all the way from Sicily.

All had been involved in the Hurtgen Forest, the Bulge, the Rhine River crossing at Remagen before the bridge fell, the Hartz Mountain fighting and the meeting with the Russians on the Elbe River some 60 miles from Berlin at Dessau.

This week, they met again in Indiana. As Reunions go, it was a small one, 12 men, their wives and two widows. Five of them had met once before two years ago, but seven had never seen their old combat buddies since the summer of 1945. Of the group that met two years previously, two had died since then.

Each of the veterans brought old photographs and material they had retained or collected. They viewed video tapes of battles they had fought and documentary films about the war. Some traced their combat route on maps collected for the occasion. All recounted special memories of the days when each of them depended upon the others for their very lives.

Four of them were wounded on the same day in August in France and all four survived to fight again in the heart of Germany a few months later.

Most of the men recalled the incidents that were humorous preferring to talk of them rather than the horrors. One mentioned the time in the Hurtgen Forest when they called for an Engineer with a flame thrower to accompany an attack on a pill box. The Engineer got the wrong map coordinates and as he waited, tried out his flame thrower to see if it was working properly. He did not know the Germans could see him. By the time the boys from Co. I found him, he had several Germans who had surrendered.

Another was reminded of how the Engineers blew up pill boxes at night after they had been captured so the Germans would not be able to use them again in the see-saw battle.

It took 750 pounds of TNT brought in by the case. One morning after such an explosion, the supply of C rations included a case of TNT leading to the conclusion that the pill box had been blown with many cases of TNT and one case of C rations.

All of them remembered the massive parade in July 1945 when the entire 9th Division gathered on an airfield in Germany to pass in review for Gen George Patton. Patton had not been in command of the 9th since the early battles of the war in Africa, but in his gravelly profane voice, he remembered those early days as he spoke to them. In his usual grandiose manner, Patton had landed in a C-47 after all the troops were lined up and he had a seven vehicle procession to take him from the plane to the reviewing stand.

The twelve veterans from as many different states paused to remember those they left behind and the two who died in the last two years.

Cecil Jenkins, of Stanford, KY, was a member of Co. I in World War II, and he attended the Indiana Reunion. This was his first reunion with members of his old unit.

For answers to questions or additional information, please contact:

Cecil Jenkins,  
9100-Old-Somerset Rd.  
Stanford, KY 40484  
Phone: 365-7338

## 60TH INF. M CO. MINI REUNION

We had a terrific reunion in Pidgeon Forge, Tenn., Sept. 23-24 and 25th. We were at the Ramada Inn where they have a great chef. It would be well for other Mini Groups to think about this site. There are a lot of shops for the ladies and a good golf course for the men as well as amusements for the younger set.

There were 36 M Co. Men and 32 ladies present. Of the 10 former M Co. Men we have added to our Roster this year, 6 attended the Reunion in Tenn. This brings our M Co. Roster to 101. Not all able and active but alive, none the less. We put our Reunion notice in three veterans magazines this year and had tremendous response.

We raffled a homemade 9th Division M Co. quilt again and Bob Singleton from Florida was the lucky man. This quilt contained 40 personalized squares submitted by the Men on the Roster.

We have several on the sick list. Please remember them with cards and prayers. Bob Sagner, Carl Brady, Carolyn Buchanan and George Gilmore.

Of course it was all over too soon. It is getting harder to say goodbye every year.

Plans are in the works now for 1991. The dates are Sept. 12-13 and 14th in Clarksville, Ind. at the Quality Lakeview, across the river from Louisville, KY. Tippi and Margaret Gilbert will CoHost this, our 9th Mini Reunion. Make plans now to join us it is shaping up to be a great one.

Robert Bovanizer, Secy.  
14 Sabre Park  
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

39th Inf. Co. I  
PAUL J. CALLAHAN  
Newberry Estate,  
435 Orchard W.,  
Dallas, Pa. 18612

Thanks to the Octofoil we found a few more men for a Mini Reunion we held at Mill Creek Inn, Indiana, in August. It was really great . . . The setting was beautiful and scenic.

Charles and Millie Holsapple of Indiana made all the arrangements, deserve credit for the work they put in it.

Each time we received a new edition we would check for names and contact Millie who then contacted the men. Quite a few of them were unable to attend, but promised they would try for the next Reunion. We are not sure where we will hold it, but Cecil Jenkins & Ralph Elkins from Kentucky are checking out parks in Kentucky. Maybe by the next issue we will have a place that we can report on and be able to find more of our Buddies.

It really was a thrill to meet these men again, but in far better surroundings. I think we were all afraid we would not remember each other but after we started recalling incidents everything fell into place and we could relax and enjoy ourselves. This is a closer than family "feeling."

We are still trying to locate Lee Cook, Sid Davis, Angelo Campana, and Thomas Stobo. If you have any information on them please contact me. Thanks.

I am enclosing my dues and gladly. The best to everyone who reads the Octofoil.



## TAPS SOUNDED

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

With sadden heart we announce the passing of these "Old Reliabilities" and friends.

Ernie Long  
47th Inf.-Med. Det.

Wellesley Shaw  
9th Signal

Travis Muirhead  
60th Inf.

James Richardson  
39th Inf. L Co.

Harold "Slim" Hagler  
H Co. 47th Inf.

Ellis Schwab  
60th Inf. L Co.

Vernon Dowers  
M Co. 47th Inf.

Arnold Hagen  
B Co. 47th Inf.

Nick Hilbert  
2nd Bn. Hq. &  
Hq. Co. 60th Inf.

Albert Palley  
Co. M 47th Inf.

Joseph Michalkewicz  
3rd Bn. 47th Inf.

Michael Graziano  
A Co. 15th Engrs.

Rudolph B. Stone  
47th Inf. E Co.

Barry Kline  
Co. B 47th Inf.

Goody Brown  
Wife of George Brown  
47th Inf.

Leora Hennessy  
Wife of Floyd  
9th QM

Mary King  
Wife of George King  
47th

May they rest in peace. To their loved ones we offer our condolences.

## MEMORIAL FUND

The following members remembered by contributing to the Memorial Fund.

We salute you.

Audrey Weber (In memory of husbands John Day and John Weber)

Col. George M. Connolly

Francis X. Yochum

Mrs. Ernie Long (In memory of husband, Ernie)

Leon Robins (In memory of Gen. Randle)

Al Seeley (In memory of Fred W. Mulcaster)

Jerome Cohen

John J. Robinson

Richard McGrath (In memory of Sgt. Fox and Sgt. Lysaught, KIA)

John A. Kocay

Alex Wilcopolski

Charles McLhinney (In memory of brother Walter, KIA)

J.E. Clark

Nate Gaynor

Emil Langer (memory of Goody Brown)

Diets are for those that thick and tired of it...Mary Tyler Moore

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

M.P. & E Co. 60 Inf.  
AUDREY WEBER  
46 Bromfield Street  
Quincy, MA 02170

Enclosed is a check for The Memorial Fund. It is in memory of both my husbands. John D. Day and John T. Weber. They both served with the Military Police and later on, John Day served with "E" Co. 60th Inf., 9th Div. He was badly wounded in Normandy, resulting in the loss of his right arm. Jack thought he got away "easy" compared to others he saw around him. Needless to say, his service days were over at that point. "John "Ted" as we called him, served until the end of the war. John Day passed away in 1956.

I married John Weber in 1962 and we had twenty-five years together. My children were happy to have a Dad again and he was also very attached to them. Time is marching on, these "kids" are now 42 and 37 respectively.

I am enclosing a snapshot taken at a field station in England. The nurse in charge was a great girl and provided some laughs for her patients. Jack is in the snapshot (2nd from left), but I don't know who the other fellows are.

The arrival of the "Octofoil" is red letter day at my house. I want to thank all those who are involved in putting it together and also for continuing to send it. I read everything in it. PS - Please include Arthur Sullivan of Boston on the Memorial Fund List. There is no need to return the snapshot — I have others.

H Co. 47th Inf.  
JOHN A. HILL  
2140 E. 20th Street  
Tulsa, Ok. 74104

Recently I was informed by the son of Harold (SLIM) W. Hagler that his father had died 24 May 1990. After the war we became close friends, our families exchanged visits often. The last time I visited "SLIM" was a year ago. We talked about the 9th Division, of the good times, the bad times, and the sad times. I think everyone knew "SLIM" in the 2nd Bn Bn 47th Inf, and especially in H Company. When I think of "SLIM," I think of Texas, and when I think of Texas I think of "SLIM."

He was an NCO and a great soldier, I was his platoon leader, and I shall miss him very much.

May "SLIM" rest in peace.

Hq. B Co 15 Engrs.  
RICHARD C. MC GRATH  
2856 West 8th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60652

In the last issue of the Octofoil there were two very sincere well written letters that got my attention.

One was from Mrs. William Lewis whose husbands name was in, "Taps Sounded." The other letter was from Dan Szuhay Jr. whose fathers name was also in the, "Taps Sounded" column. Both letters were emotionally touching and showed how important the Octofoil is to so many people.

I believe one of the reasons the 9th was one of the best Infantry Divisions in WWII, was because of its leadership. In the years of 1941 and 1942, at Fort Bragg, the officers had time to select good non coms. They were the best and I was privilege to serve under two of them. Sergeant Fox K.I.A. at St. Lo and Sergeant Lysaught K.I.A. at Remagen.



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

Greetings once again from the Keystone State, Pennsylvania, and our beautiful Cumberland Valley. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania! Well folks, the 45th Annual Reunion held in Orlando, Florida, October 4-6th was in our opinion, "a great reunion." The 1990 Reunion Committee which was hosted by the members of the Florida Chapter of our 9th Infantry Association, are to be commended for a job well done. The many months and days it took to perform this successful event was evidenced each day we were at the ORLANDO MARRIOTT HOTEL. On behalf of Ann and myself, we extend a big "Thank you" to Henry Santos, for his handling of our advance registrations, to Joe Williams, General Chairman, for his assistance in helping our "B" Co. group to be appropriately noted on the 49th Infantry Unit Board and to Beryl Pappas for seeing that our "B" Co. Group were able to be seated at adjoining tables for the Saturday night Banquet Dinner.

## Attending

The following members of our "B" Co. Group were in attendance for the reunion and also were seated at adjoining tables for the Saturday Night Banquet Dinner: Pat and Ann Morano, Orion and Esther ("Etsie") Shockley, Lou and Julia Netta (good friends of "B" Co. — Lou is from the 60th Inf.), Joe and Rose Harvilla, Tony and Josie Manzollila, Joe and Ellie Taubner, Nino and Julia Cecchini, Charles and Joyce Munger, Bob and Moira Moore, Earl and Gertrude Ailor and Guy Lawrence and his wife (whose name escaped me) and members of their family. Our "BECO" members were sorry to hear that Helen Sarnocinski had to be hospitalized just prior to leaving for the Reunion. In phone conversation with Ed Sarnocinski, we learned that Helen was to undergo further tests and possible heart surgery. All of us from "B" Co. wish you well Helen, and our prayers go to you for a complete recovery of all your medical problems.

## Like to Hear

We also learned that "BECO" Buddy John Compagnone was unable to make the Reunion since he could not travel due to medical restrictions which limit his activities. Our buddy Art Stenzel now lives in a residential/retirement community, Ann and I visited him prior to our returning home after our Reunion. We had a pleasant visit with Art who said he was delighted to see us and was doubly surprised since "BECO" Buddies Joe and Ellie Taubner come to see him the day before! Art would like to hear from all our "B" Co. Buddies. His address is: Art Stenzel, c/o Baypoint Village, 7927 State Road 52, Hudson, Florida 34667. A personal note "BECO" buddies: Our "B" Co. 47th Group has been together attending these Reunions for almost 45 years. Our Buddy Art was most responsible in keeping us together all these years. Let us as "BECO" Buddies remember Art by dropping him a line from time to time, to show him that we care about him and have not forgotten him. "BECO" Buddy Joe and Stella Cichocki were unable to attend the reunion due to medical and physical problems. They send their best regards and well wishes to all our "BECO" Buddies. To the rest of our "BECO" Buddies who did not attend this Reunion, we sincerely hope that all of you are in good health and hope that you can attend our next Reunion in 1991,

Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Further information will be detailed in coming issues of our Octofoil. At this time we would like to congratulate Mike Belmonte, the new President of our 9th Infantry Association. We wish him all the best and also for a successful Reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. By the time we "BECO" Buddies receive the next issue of the Octofoil (Nov. - Dec. 1990), the 46th Annual Memorial Mass conducted at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, Mass. on Nov. 11, 1990 will be over. Details of this Annual Pilgrimage to Worcester to remember and honor our dead will be updated in this issue.

## Sorry About That

We are sorry that our "B" Co. group did not win the attendance award for the reunion. Our congratulations go to "F" Co. 47th Inf. for winning the largest attendance award. To our "B" Co. group: let's show them who the real CHAMPS are!! Make your plans early for the 1991 Reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We won before and we can win again! To all our "B" Co. Buddies and their families and friends, keep well and have a great "Fall Season." Enjoy yourself to the fullest each and every day!!

Pat J. Morano  
2208 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
and  
Art J. Stenzel  
c/o Baypoint Village  
7927 State Road 52  
Hudson, Florida 34667

COMPANIES E & F  
47TH INFANTRY CP

Well, Orlando is now history, and except for a few minor problems which I am in the process of clearing up, the reunion was a memorable one. We owe Henry Santos and Joe Williams a vote of thanks for a job well done. When things run smoothly at an affair of this magnitude, we forget that everything didn't just fall in place by itself; the machinery was set in motion through the efforts of a small group of dedicated people. Thanks men!

## GRACING OUR CP

Gracing our CP were some Old Reliabilities such as George Brown, Bob DeSandy, Jim Leopold, Sam Bill Buemi, Earl Wilkey, Jack Armstrong, Otto Geyer, Vince Guglielmino, Bob Landis, Charles Rochelle, Ray Schmader, Felton Jones, Bob May, Harry Kenney, Charles McIlheny, Larry Ghre, Bill Larson, Chip Maness, Joe Ayles, Milt Zucker, Willie Mizell, Rud Hoffman, Bill Mooney, Bob Colflesh, John Trevaese, Dan Quinn, Frank Petty, Dave Baker, Ed Combs, Ed Anders, Walter O'Keefe, and Ward. Most of these men were accompanied by their ladies, and a lovely lot they were. Two of our widows, Marie Munatore and Only Rishel, were also present. Marie Tokarchek and some of her daughters were supposed to be in attendance, as was Irma Koslie. I trust their failure to be there was not attributed to ill health. Lucy's sister and brother-in-law drove down from Georgia, spent a couple days with us at Daytona Beach, and then came down to Orlando with us to enjoy our reunion while dancing their hearts out at the dances. They were the ones referred to as "twinkle-toes". Their presence was an added bonus for us.

I was looking for Ed Johnstone, our Federal Judge, and wondered what kept him away. Today a letter arrived with an explanation and a generous check: a heavy docket kept him bench bound, but his

"...thoughts are constantly going toward the Company 'F' guys." He sends his warmest regards to all.

## SAD NEWS

Within an hour after our arrival home I had a call from George King with the sad news that his Mary had gone to her eternal rest. We all grieve with you, George. I don't know of a finer lady. Ken and Olive Yennie and I attended the funeral in Phelps next day where I made a donation from the "F" Company people to the Phelps Volunteer Fire Department in memory of Mary.

Jack Finnigan had to cancel his reservations at the last minute when Bette was hospitalized. I am happy to report that she is now on the mend.

George King reported that Rud Hoffman checked himself into the hospital with a stomach disorder immediately on his arrival home from Orlando. We hope he has recovered by this date.

GENEROUS  
CONTRIBUTIONS

People who made generous contributions to our CP Fund but were unable to get to Florida were Frank Gonzol, Curtis Tex Hoffler, Key Yennie, Mrs. Tony Repetti, Charlie Williams, Phil Maresca, George King, Lee Grimwood, Joe Bergin, and now Ed Johnstone.

I spoke with Yosh Ryncavage Saturday and he thinks that perhaps Marie was sick and therefore unable to make it to Orlando. Yosh is holding his own.

This reunion was a first for Charles Rochelle, Willie Mizell, and Bob May. Now that they have found us we hope to see them at the next forty-five reunions.

Larry Ghre made and presented to me a beautiful leaded, Tiffany-type, table lamp with the Forty-seventh Regimental insignia, the Regimental crest, and the eight Battle Stars inscribed thereon. It is a thing of beauty, a treasure that occupies a prominent place in my study. George Brown was good enough to drop it off in Metuchen for me on his way home. George was also kind enough to place the leftover sauce from the CP in his custody so we'll have it next year. He brought the remains of last year's festivities to Orlando. You guys just aren't doing the drinking you should. If it hadn't been for Colflesh, George would have had to rent a trailer.

## THANK YOU

I want to thank all you guys for pitching in at the CP when we needed help, but I want to give special thanks to Milton Zucker for the extraordinary good job he did in keeping the CP running at top efficiency.

I hope you are all planning to be in Milwaukee in '91. Lucy and I will be there.

Ed Hoppie Hopkins  
110 Hollywood Ave.  
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

Co. A & B 15th Engineers  
ERNEST L. NEWHART, JR.,  
77 West Ferry Street  
New Hope, PA 18938

Thought one of our comrades might be interested in purchasing a copy of EIGHT STARS TO VICTORY: A HISTORY OF THE VETERAN NINTH U.S. INFANTRY DIVISION which turned up in the rare book section of Q. M. Dabney & Co. in Washington, DC. I'm enclosing the order form and I have marked the description on Page 14. From the price tag (\$110.00) it would seem that these books are hard to come by, perhaps a notice in the OCTOFOIL would be helpful to someone who does not have a copy.

Looking forward to seeing you and Marie in October.

## M Company (47th) Chronicler

I always find obits hard going but this one is especially so. Leander Davis, machinegunner par excellence, passed away a year ago. A son finally picked up his telephone out in Pennsylvania and gave me the sad news.

Lee was a 1st Platoon squad leader when I checked in at Fort Bragg. He was a tiny guy (former jockey for "Man of War" I learned) but hard as nails. Rising to section leader and platoon sergeant he was commissioned in the field and had nary a scratch until catching his "Blighty" on the last day of the company's shooting war in Germany on the Elbe River.

"The undestructable one," Willard Norris tagged him at Schevenhutte. I'll never forget his report after the Bovenburg Farm holocaust — "Lieutenant, you better get us out. A bird can't live down there."

Johnny Davis and I dropped in for a visit at Lee's home in Newtown Square, Pa. a few years ago. He didn't seem much older than he does in the Bob Story photo accompanying this column. It's hard to accept that he's gone.

## Another Great Reunion

The Ninth had another Great Reunion in Orlando thanks to the Association's Florida Chapter. There were 16 M-ers present and I was pleased that the Floridians took me up on a suggestion to acknowledge the outstanding company-size unit attendance-wise. While M only tied for third place, the point was made — Association recruitment, so sorely needed, is going to happen easiest at the company level. Next year's affair is going to be at Milwaukee so you might start making plans.

M-ers joining me at Orlando were: John Evans of Macon, Ga.; Fred Falgiano of the Bronx, N.Y.; Leo Fatlan, Braidwood, Ill.; Howard Gaertner, Wauwatosa, Wi.; John Gibbs of Columbu, N.C.; Morris Goldblatt, Delray Beach, Fl.; Bill Horan from Columbus, Ga.; Joe Kearns from West Palm Beach, Fl.; Lyle Kitchen, Janesville, Wi.; Conda Knee of Newark, Oh.; Don Kothe of Capitol Heights, Md.; Ben Kovacs, Norwalk, Ct.; Joe Ksceneitis, Bronx, N.Y.; Ed Wills of Florence, Ky. and Bob Winkelman from Lakeland, Fl.

## Fallen Along The Way

I've learned from government files that, since '45, some other compadres have fallen along the way. These were all Safi vets so a special salute goes to them: George Carnes '84, Paul W. Clark '71, George M. Czaja '75, Vernon E. Dowers '89, Conway H. Fritter '88, James B. Gunn '46, Mike Melnyk '86, Everette Schwarm '82 and William J. Toemmel '84. Some good news came out of this drill. Glen A. Devore, once of the 1st Platoon and now in the process of moving, can be reached at his future home: 4101 Old Highway North, Pocatello ID 83204. He's retired from driving big rigs from sea to shining sea, happy to be back in M and sends regards to all his old buddies.

Bob Story also sent the photo of Miles Jankovic cutting the hair of never — located Stan Roberts of Corbin City, N.J.; the background suggests our camp by Schroberhausen after VE Day. I sent the photo to Miles in St. Petersburg, Fl. to see if this would prod him to write. His wife Doris responded that there's now a large reproduction of the photo decorating their daughter's beauty salon. She adds that eight children and their progeny have kept them pretty busy (they were then expecting

a first great-grandchild). Now Miles "just sits back and puffs his pipe, really easy-going, one great husband and father." Fellows, it just doesn't get much better than that. A tip of the old steel pot to Miles Jankovic.

Speaking of photos, Willard Norris wrote from Burnet, Tx., regarding the one in the last Octofoil of M Company's "string orchestra." He says that the group includes Thurman Jones (deceased) with fiddle, Bob Foster (unlocated) with guitar on Jones' right, and himself on Jones' left. The other guitar-picker remains unidentified. The photo was taken at Moosburg after the war ended.

Orin Shell checked in from Becida, Mn. that he's still going strong. He remembers that his school teacher always said he'd be strung out since "only the good die young." Orin was written off (cancer) by the local medics last year but he's still chasing the girls and keeping his rifle oiled. Says where he lives, "if I saw a moose, bear or timberwolf I wouldn't call the newspaper." He still gets mail from John Knight and Dewey Siddons but would like to hear from others of the old 2nd Platoon gang.

I've heard from a bunch of the guys helping with the El Guettar research project: Dunc Murphy, Bill Horan, Bud Rosenfeld, Joe Farrell, Bill Kowalczyk, Bob Story, Francis Yochum, Don Kothe, Dave Atkinson, John Knight, Harold Werner, and Bernie Bennick. And there have been a good many from other units helping too. Raking 47-year-old coals ain't easy fellows and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your very valuable assistance.

Joe Smith of Neopit, Wi. also called with information about El Guettar. He took command of the 1st Platoon when I got hit. After the war he was on construction projects all over the world.

Another super-nice guy, Frank Borghi of St. Louis, Mo. put in a hard day for us all at the Army Record Center there. After you wouldn't believe how much red tape, I had arranged for our gallant aid man to dig through the dirty old papers and find our missing M Company Morning Reports, that is, from October '42 to '45 (we had the last part). The name of the game will be to substantiate late claims of you fellows of service-related medical disabilities should they come up. These records are better than scars or "believe me, it hurts.doc." Anyway, if you get to St. Loo, fellows, take Frank out for a tall one. He's a prince.

## Lost Persons

John Knight from Wilkes Barre, Pa. asked what had become of Wilton Taylor so Mr. Keene, Tracer of Lost Persons, found this old machinegunner at a retirement home at Rt. 1, Box 493, Wyaconda, Mo 63474; (816) 737-3831. Wilton was surprised to get my call as the change had come about so fast that he had not had time to notify many. However, he's now getting The Octofoil and sends greetings to M-ers. Those who remember Wilton should drop a line. He didn't complain but you know his circumstances are not the very best.

Here's another update of the roster: Dunc Murphy's moved to 2585 9th Ave. E., Twin Falls, Id.; (208) 734-1276. He had hoped to be at Orlando but sale of his property came up at the last minute forcing the move to town.

"Red" Phillips  
14002 Hemlock Dr.  
Penn Valley, Ca. 95946

NEW YORK CHAPTER  
REPORT

The New York Area Chapter held its first fall meeting following the summer recess, on September 21, 1990 at the Masonic Hall, 71 West 23rd St., N.Y.

The Ninthmen greeted each other fondly, exchanging news on the summer past. The meeting got under way with prez Lou Almassy presiding. Last minute details and info on the Orlando convention were discussed. The N.Y. Area delegation would have a strong showing.

Correspondence from elsewhere members were read: from Mike Gatto, Jim Hayes (who was recovering from heart surgery), John Santucci and Grace Stenzel.

Information was received from Fort Dix that the 39th Regiment was to continue activated at the present time.

Adolph Wadalavage brought his house guest to the meeting, named Hans Billig, a former German POW who was captured at Hofen near Monchau. A very pleasant fellow who spoke very little English and won three free lottery tickets in our dark horse drawing. Hans was flying back to Germany the next day. Although none of the members could "sprechen Deutsch," Hans, good naturedly, refused all apparent offers to have him sell back his tickets . . . which, for all we know, he could be wallowing in millions of dollars deutschmark winnings now.

Adolph also informed us that Hofstra University was accepting Matt Urban's book for their library and Matt would make his personal presentation in the near future.

Following the meeting we partook of refreshments provided by Art Schmidt.

Attending, not mentioned above, were: Marty Gross, Vincent Guglielmino, Bill Klaus, Emil Langer, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, John Morris, Jim Mullen, Dan Quinn, Joe Rzesniowicki, Hermino Suarez and Tony Varone.

## OCTOBER 19, 1990

This is a report on the next meeting following the Orlando reunion, which was held as usual at the Masonic Hall, N.Y.C.

Correspondence was read by prez Lou Almassy, from: J. O. Reilly, Vincent Falis, John Shenny, Mrs. Minerva (Fred) Sargis, Ed Tobin.

Peter Uhl, Frank Russo (in hospital with a broken hip), Ernestine (John - hospitalized) Burke, Roger Vuilleuville and Hyman Smith (who asks for any former buddy verification for his Purple Heart entitlement. His address is: P.O. Box 828 S. Fallsburg, N.Y. 12779.) We wish a speedy recovery to all ailing brothers and their families.

Especially sad to note was the passing of George Brown's wife "Goody." The chapter sends heartfelt condolences to George.

Following the meeting we partook of Secretary Art Schmidt's culinary hospitality. Send your dues in to Art so he knows he's appreciated. Make checks payable to 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. Send to Art at 69-20 69th Street, Glendale, N.Y. 11385-6696.

Members attending not noted above: George Apar, Vincent Guglielmino, Emil Langer, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, John Morris, Jim Mullen, Hermino Suarez, Tony Varone and new member, Alphonse Zenka.

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

ILLINOIS CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER

Just returned from the National Reunion held in Orlando after taking side trips visiting friends. I was honored to be elected National President of the Association for the coming year. I will try to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors.

The Florida reunion was a success with over 700 in attendance. The golfers were drenched on the golf course but generally speaking the weather was beautiful with a few showers. The Marriott was beautiful but spread out. By Saturday night we could walk around finally and not get lost. The Memorial Services on Saturday morning were most inspiring. The wives of some of the deceased men who were present were honored and recognized. The Navy Color Guard and Bugle Corps were present adding a very impressive touch.

There was a little confusion at the banquet. This was due to a mix up by the hotel staff, not the Florida Members who did a beautiful job. Again, we would like to thank Henry Santos, Joe Williams and all the Florida Chapter for a job well done. We can appreciate all the time and efforts that are required in organizing a reunion. The Illinois Chapter will have their work cut out for the next year in Milwaukee.

We were disappointed more of the Illinois Members were not present this year but enjoyed the company of those present. It was great seeing Kay and Larry Ghare from Oklahoma and Georgia and Bob Winkelman of Lakeland Florida. The Winkelman's just celebrated their 45th Anniversary in Chicago. Their children had a surprise party for them but unfortunately, due to other commitments, we were not able to attend. Congratulations! May you have many more years of happiness and good health.

## Outstate Meeting

Our Michigan-Illinois Outstate Meeting in August was great. We were so happy to see so many Illinois and Michigan members. Jenny Alsgaard was there looking great. We didn't have as many in attendance as usual as we changed dates due to the National Reunion. Next year we will be back to the third weekend in October in Angola. John and Helen Clouser came in and it was great seeing them. John and I will be Co-Chairmen for the Reunion to be held at the Grand Milwaukee Hotel on September 19-21, 1991. More details in this issue and future editions of the Octofoil.

The Christmas Party will be held on December 8th at the home of the Heller's in Highland Park. It's hard to believe it's that time of the year already. We look forward to a big turnout and that the weather will cooperate.

Just a reminder, we still plan to meet in May at the Ramada in Madison, Wisconsin. Till then, we would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Holiday Season.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mike Belmonte  
1161 S. Lombard  
Oak Park, Illinois

39th Inf. G Co.  
EVERETT HAMMOND  
Rt. 2 Box 45  
Chieflood, FL 32626

I would like to hear from anyone from G Co. Especially Capt. Roth, Lt. Marsky, Sgt. Roff, Sgt. Mike Krack. I was machine sect. sgt. at the time of my bad luck with two German machine bullets. I took over after Sgt. Wood was wounded about Nov. 1944.

Continue from last Issue

## Debt is repaid

John Wessmiller 60th Inf A Co  
11 Wequasset Way,  
Chatham, Mass. 02366

So begins Chapter 2 of the story of a man and a bicycle, one story that links two lives across almost half a century and a quarter of the globe, a story of two small triumphs in the Allied victory over the Nazis in World War II.

Past the hedgerows, he came upon two houses, and despite the possibility that the enemy waited inside, he ventured into one, a pocket knife between his teeth. The home turned out to be deserted, but the enemy had seen him enter. He went out through a window and into the second house, apparently unnoticed, as the Nazi troops filled the first house with a deadly fusillade.

Inside the second house, he discovered the means for his escape.

"There against the wall," he said, "was an old bicycle."

Wessmiller destroyed the documents identifying him as an American soldier, and took off his uniform, under which he was wearing a sweater his mother had knitted for him. Untucking his pants from his boots, he climbed on the bicycle — which had two flat tires — and set out to bluff his way out of danger.

## A successful charade

He would play a drunken French bicyclist. He rode out ringing the cycle's bell and singing the only thing he remembered from his high school French lessons, "Au Clair de la Lune," over and over at the top of his lungs.

"I was weaving for two reasons," he said, to give the appearance of a drunkard and, "to avoid a bullet to the back of my head."

His charade worked.

"I went past two squads of Germans," he recalled, "and they didn't say a thing to me."

Even after he had cleared the enemy lines, he nearly didn't make it to safety. When he came to the anti-tank gun squad marking the American lines, the sergeant there initially took him for a stranger, as Wessmiller found out when he met the sergeant by chance at a reunion two years later.

"I want you to know," the sergeant told him, "that the corporal and I flipped a coin to see which one of us was going to put a bullet in your chest. I won the toss, and I finally said the hell with it. We'll capture the guy and question him."

Among the questions he answered was one seeking information on the Nazis' position. The area where he had escaped capture came in for vigorous Allied attack that night.

Two days later, Wessmiller was hit by a German shell that killed several men and injured him badly enough to force him out of action. He was shipped to an English hospital — taking with him the bicycle's bell, a memento he has to this day — and never returned to the Cotentin Peninsula.

In Barneville, France, residents erected a memorial to Wessmiller's division, the men who wrested the villages' freedom from the Nazis. The events of June 1944 are commemorated each year on June 18 at the base of that memorial. A return to Barnville

It took some trying, but Wessmiller finally convinced his wife, Olivia, to go with him to Barneville.

"I wanted to go back," he said, "to see the graves of those guys, to get that feeling."

And to repay a debt.

## EL GUETTAR — CRUCIBLE OF LEADERSHIP

El Guettar was the 9th Infantry Division's "baptism of fire." While its major parts had forced their way ashore in North Africa a little over four months before, this would be the first time the division fought as a unit. It joined a battle which had been intensifying since its kickoff ten days earlier at Gafsa.

The Ninth assembled at Gafsa without the 60th Regimental Combat Team, then already committed to another battle with part of the 1st Armored Division far to the northeast at Maknassy. In conjunction with the 1st Infantry Division, the Ninth would attack through the desert east of the village of El Buettar and south of the Gafsa-Gabes highway as a part of II Corps' effort to open a hole in the German-Italian defense so that its tanks could exploit.

II U.S. Corps, still smarting from the licking taken from the Germans the previous month at Faid and Kassarine Passes, was newly led by profane, combative and experienced Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. "Blood and Guts" would put his personal touch on every aspect of the Battle of El Buettar. His tactical mission was to threaten the rear of the Axis forces facing the British Eighth Army at the Tunisian-Libyan frontier not far to the southeast, possibly drawing off some of the reserves available for the German defense there. Perhaps equally important to Patton was the task of restoring his commands' esprit and reputation.

The Ninth's commander, Maj. Gen. Manton S. Eddy, was new to desert warfare and his approach in planning the fight at El Guettar was careful and flexible. Surprisingly, not very much was known about the enemy notwithstanding its major counter-attack against the 1st Division over the same ground only a few days earlier. Eddy, therefore, would attack on a narrow front, keeping back a large reserve to employ as the battle developed. To better the chance of achieving surprise of the enemy, there would be no artillery preparation. The 47th Infantry, leading, would advance under cover of darkness to seize Hill 369, the northernmost feature of the mountains which formed the southern side of the El Guettar gap in the chain guarding the enemy's rear.

The 47th Infantry, led by Colonel Edwin H. Randle, met a buzz saw on 28 March 1943. Nine days later it was still short of Hill 369 when the enemy, his rear undone by the British rupture of the positions on the Tunisian frontier, withdrew. The 39th Infantry had been as badly punished in trying to help the 47th gain its objective. Total casualties for the Ninth at El Guettar included 120 killed, 872 wounded and 504 evacuated for other reasons, plus 316 captured or missing. That the sacrifice was militarily worthwhile is debatable; that it was exaggerated by inexperience, lack of appropriate training beforehand and weak leadership in many instances is not.

The 9th Infantry Division emerged from its blood bath as a greatly improved fighting machine. The deadwood was gone. The survivors had learned and never again would the unit stumble so badly on its way to final victory.

"Red" Phillips, then a platoon leader of M Company, 47th Infantry, later a career Infantry officer and now an amateur military historian and collector of old M-ers, is writing of El Guettar and would appreciate hearing from veterans of the Ninth who served there. Write to: 14002 Hemlock Drive, Penn Valley, CA 95946, or call (916) 432-1409.

"I wanted to replace that bicycle," Wessmiller said.

So he wrote to the mayor of Barneville-Carteret — with Raymond Cafer, a sailing friend in Chatham serving as translator — asking if there was any way the owner of the bicycle could be found. The mayor and a colleague from the nearby village of Saint-Maurice went on door-to-door searches for the bicycle's owner. The Saint-Maurice mayor came eventually — on June 18, as it happened — to the home of Albert Lerosier, a retired bricklayer.

Leroiser at the age of 16, had lost a bicycle in the events of 44 years previous, but was convinced it had been stolen by the Nazis. In fact, in the days following the fighting at his village, he came upon an abandoned bicycle of German extraction and claimed it for his own. He was caught and jailed, but the next day Barneville was liberated, and so was he.

It wasn't until the details of Wessmiller's letter were read to him that Lerosier realized that Wessmiller's getaway bike had indeed been his.

Barneville's mayor was presiding over his village's memorial ceremonies when Lerosier arrived, and it was announced that the owner of the bicycle had been found.

According to an article in the French newspaper La Presse de la Manche (as transmitted by Cafer), "Monsieur Lerosier who was obviously moved, added, 'I would never have thought that our bicycle saved the life of an American soldier. I am very happy about it for him, for on that night a veritable massacre took place.'"

The third and final chapter of the story has yet to be completed — and may never be. Health problems forced cancellation of the Wessmiller's trip, and he sent a \$350 money order to pay for the bicycle.

A subsequent trip also had to be cancelled.

"Sometime in the future," Wessmiller says, "I still hope to go."

He has established an ongoing correspondence with the mayor of Barneville, and on June 18, they will reflect on the strange episodes of 1944, when the American escaped the Nazis by pretending to be French, and the Frenchman blamed the Nazis for the theft of a bicycle used in that escape. And on the larger event — the beginning of the end for the Nazis — of which their connection was a part.

"They toast the members of the 9th Division both living and dead, who liberated the town of Barneville," Wessmiller said. "On June 18 for the rest of my life, I will toast the Town of Barneville and Mr. Lerosiere for his bicycle."

"To this day, I don't know how the hell I survived and 12 others didn't. They should've got me, no question."

—John Wessmiller

60th Inf. L. Co.  
OTIS EVERAGE  
6401 Deihl Road, 1011  
Houston, Tx. 77092

Enclosed is a picture of Co. L, 60th at Inglesstadt, Germany, July 4th, 1945. I hope you will be able to use it in the publication. After VE Day Co. L was sent to Inglesstadt for occupation duties.



# Business transacted at Reunion

## Minutes of the 166th Meeting National Board of Governors

The 166th Meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place on October 4, 1990 at the Marriott Hotel, Orlando, Florida. Present were Ed Hopkins, Richard Martin, Jack Collier, Mike Belmonte, Adolph Wadalavage, Tom Hatton, Nick Dogostino, Walter O'Keeffe, Phil Berman, and President Henry Santos; also present were Vince Guglielmino 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President Fred D. Amore, 3rd Vice President Pat DiColli, Treasurer Tom Boyle, Past Presidents Elmer Wagner, Emil Langer, Paul Keller and Al Perna, and Judge Advocate Dave Heller.

President Henry Santos asked the members to stand for a moment of silence in memory of our departed comrades. Henry called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and introduce a guest Dave Turner a publisher who is interested in publishing an up-to-date book of the Ninth. President Santos thanked Mr. Turner for his presentation and a feeler will be made among the membership to ascertain if enough members would be interested in such a book. Till that time no commitment will be made by the association for such an endeavor.

Ed Hopkins motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the last board meeting held in Worcester last November (1989). This was seconded by Walt O'Keeffe and so voted.

Tom Boyle was called upon for his treasurer report and Tom gave a detailed report on the income and spending for the last 14 months where as the report is usually made at the end of our year-June 30. Mike Belmonte made a motion that was seconded by Tom Hatton to accept the treasurers report.

President Santos reported on the happenings of the reunion as of this date. The returns were gratifying with about 800 people or close to it in attendance. Henry bried the members at the events to take place starting with the Thursday night welcoming party.

### Committees

President Santos then appointed the following board members to serve as chairman for the various committees at the General Meeting to be held on Friday: Waler O'Keeffe will chair the Finance Committee, Mike Belmonte will chair the Newspaper Committee, Adolph Wadalavage will chair the By-laws Committee, Ed Hopkins will chair the Miscellaneous Committee and Tom Hatton will chair the Nominating Committee.

Tom Boyle reported on the Worcester Memorial to be held Nov. 11, 1990. The format will be the same as in other years with the exception of the march to the church. The members will meet at the church grounds and enter the church together. A brunch will be held immediately after the Memorial services at the Sheraton Lincoln Motel. The price of the tickets \$15.00.

### Directory

Dave Heller reported on the membership directory that he had made up and was distributed at the reunion registration desk. Dave will inquire among the membership to see if enough members are interested to receive a copy at a nominal fee.

Tom Hatton made a motion that was seconded by Jack Colliers to reimburse Dave Heller and Henry Santos the sum of \$722.00 for the cost of the Directory that was distributed at this reunion. So passed.

Walter O'Keeffe made a motion that was seconded by Adolph Wadalavage to place notification in the Octofoil to check if enough of the members are interested for additional copies of the Directory at a small charge.

Mike Bellmonte reported for next years reunion, to be held by the Illinois Chapter members on Sept. 19, 20, and 21st in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The hotel selected - The Grand Hotel that contains over 1000 rooms so that all our members will be quartered in the same building and the banquet room holds over 1200 people. Details will appear in the Octofoil.

There being no other business to come before this meeting an upon a motion made by Nick Dogostino and seconded by Tom Hatton it was voted to; adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

## Minutes of the 45th Annual Reunion Orlando, Florida The Ninth Infantry Division Association

The General Meeting of the Membership met at 11:00 A.M., October 5, 1990 at the Marriott Hotel, Orlando, Florida with 225 members present. President Santos called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand for a moment of silence in memory of our departed comrades, and then to recite with him the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. The Committee meetings had taken place earlier in the morning.

The secretary read the minutes of the 44th meeting held in New York in June of 1989 and upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Pat Morano it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and instruct the secretary to place copy of same on file.

Tom Boyle the treasurer of the association was called upon for his report and Tom gave a detailed listing of expenses and income for the last 14 months. The reason for the 14 month report Tom explained was that the reunion is held earlier, usually in June when the association's year comes to an end but that he wanted to give a more up to date account of the financial structure of the association. Upon a motion made by Bob Pappas and seconded by John Sabato it was voted to: Accept the treasurer's report. Boyle concluded his report by stating "All expenses are recorded when paid and receipts credited when deposits are made. All balances have been proved by me through copies of bank statements and Pass Book. To the best of my knowledge all demands that have been made upon this association have been paid or settlement made thereof. I have no knowledge of outstanding receipts or expenses.

It is my considered opinion that our fine association is in good financial condition. Barring unforeseen conditions, it is my belief that the Ninth Infantry Division Association is in a comfortable financial condition for the future. A large part of this condition is due to the Attention given by its Officers and the Board of Governors. President Santos thanked Tom Boyle for his report.

President Santos then called upon Walter O'Keefe Chairman of the Finance Committee who named the following members who served with him on this committee: Al Perna, Fred D'Amore, Charles Vanderpool, Jack Collier and Vince Guglielmino.

The committee recommends the following Proposed Budget for the year 1991.

Expenses	
Postage	\$3,565
Octofoil	7,110
Utilities	1,330

Supplies	945
Misc. Expenses	600
Gratuities	200
FICA	76
Accountant	275
Secretary Salary	1,000
Clerical Help	1,000
Secretary Expenses	1,000
Treasurer's Expenses	300
Editor's Expense	400
Total	\$17,801.00

Income-Anticipated	
Dues	\$10,000*
Loomis Sayes	2,115
Scudder SC	2,100*
Reunion	1,000
Sales	120
Total	\$15,335

\*Based on the assumption that the association will adopt the Finance Committees Recommendations

Expenses	\$17,801
Income	\$15,335.00
Operating deficit	\$2,466.00

The Committee Recommendations:

The Committee advised the membership that the association is experiencing a serious negative cash flow-in short we are spending more than we are taking in. The committee also advised the membership that our operating budget is a "bare-bones" budget that contains no frills-it cannot be pared down without reducing the services rendered to our members. The committee also pointed out that the practice of borrowing from other funds is a practice that jeopardizes the financial health of our association. Reducing other funds will eventually lead to a situation where we will be hard pressed to meet our financial obligations and our moral commitment to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades. The committee strongly urges the membership to take immediate action to correct the situation and recommends the following:

Increase yearly dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00

Increase 3 years dues from \$13.00 to \$30.00

Increase Life Membership from \$50.00 to \$75.00

The committee also recommends that a notice be placed in the Octofoil advising Life Members of the bargain they had received and that if they wish to make a voluntary contribution to our operating fund it would be gladly accepted.

Upon a motion made by Vince Guglielmino and seconded by Bob DeSandy it was voted to: Accept the Finance Committee report and recommendations. President Santos thanked Walter O'Keeffe and his committee for their report.

### Nominating

Tom Hatton Chairman of the Nominating Committee was called upon for his report and Tom named the following members who served with him on this committee: Nick Dogostino, Bob Pappas, Tom Boyle, Tom Hatton, and Dan Quinn.

There are five members going off the Board of Governors and the committee recommends the following members to replace them:

From New York George Brown

From New England Fred D'Amore

From Phil-Delaware Al Perna

From Michigan Bob DeSandy

From At-Large Trevor Jones

President Santos thanked Tom Hatton and his committee for their report and then asked for nominations from the floor.

There being none and upon a motion made by Pat Morano and seconded by Richard Martin it was voted to: Close the nominations. And so the slate of nominees recommended by the committee were accepted and Bob DeSandy stated to have the secretary cast one ballot for unanimous election of the body.

### By Laws

Adolph Wadalavage Chairman of the By-laws Committee named the following members who served with him on this committee: Fran Maher, Eugene Reed, Ted Preston, Paul Dupuis, and Pat DeColli.

The committee recommends that no changes be made in our present By-laws. President Santos thanked Wadalavage and his committee for their report. Upon a motion made by Richard Trahey and seconded by Chas Mongon it was voted to: Accept the By-laws committee report.

### Miscellaneous

Edward Hopkins chairman of the Miscellaneous Committee named the following members who served on this committee: Lou Netta, Elmer Wagner, Rich Trahey, Dave Heller and Emil Langer. The following items were discussed:

Dave Heller announced that he will ask the Ladies Auxiliary members for assistance with the Directory that he had made up and seemed to be waiting on a response from the membership whether to continue with this endeavor because of the cost factor involved.

Also discussed were the deficit budget the association has been operating under for the last several years. It was suggested that the membership dues might be increased to \$10.00 instead of the \$5.00 now charged also to ask the Life Members to consider contributing (or donating) to the operating budget. It was brought out that the By-laws read in Sec 16 "Any amount in excess of \$5.00 could be considered for dues" and everyone who can afford it voluntarily pay \$10.00 a year including Life Members.

President Santos thanked Ed Hopkins and his committee for their report.

Upon a motion made by Carlos Esteva and seconded by Earl Ailor it was voted to: Accept the Miscellaneous Committees report.

### Newspaper

Michael Belmonte Chairman of the Newspaper Committee named the following members who served with him on this committee: Art Schmidt, Frederick Dick, Paul Clark, Billie Martin and Leon Kowalski.

Belmonte's committee recommends that no changes be made in the format of the Octofoil, to continue with five copies a year, encourage members to send in stories or any news items and above all to thank the Editor's and Staff for a Job well done.

President thanked Mike Belmonte and his committee for their report and upon a motion made by Bob DeSandy and seconded by Mike Deresh it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendation of the Newspaper committee.

### Old and New

Mike Kauffman who Chaired the Committee to encourage communications between the old Ninth (our association) and the New Ninth Infantry Division stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington sadly reported that the New Ninth Infantry Division was being deactivated as a Division but that elements of the Division would soon be part of the 7th Infantry Division that would be moving to Fort Lewis, Washington. Mike will continue communicating with the elements that remain.

President Santos thanked Mike Kaufman for his report.

John Miller former member of the 60th Infantry now living in Texas told the members how he was hopeful of starting a Chapter in Texas by the Spring of 1991.

Henry "Red" Phillips addressed the membership regarding how he had accomplished locating members from his old outfit Company M 47th Infantry to where they are now one of the largest groups among the association.

Norris Gray told the members of the Space Program where he is employed and the launching that is scheduled for Saturday October 6, 1990. He suggested that our members rise a little early Saturday morning and look out to the East, where the launching will take place.

Fran Maher spoke of the Scholarship Program conducted by Holy Cross College in memory of Father Connors our beloved Chaplain. Donations can be made to the College for this Fund.

President Santos gave a run-down on the Reunion as he is Co-Chairman of the event along with Joe Williams. Close to 800 are expected at the three day gathering with the Friday night dance scheduled for this evening and the Saturday morning Memorial Service to be held inside at the Grand Ballroom, Saturday evening the Banquet will take place with Retired General Chip Maness as main speaker.

Upon a motion made by Michael Belmonte and seconded by Ed Hopkins it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 12:45 P.M.

## Minutes of the 167th Meeting National Board of Governors

The 167th meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place on October 5, 1990 at the Marriott Hotel, Orlando, Florida. Present for the meeting were: Henry Santos, Phil Berman, Nick Dogostino, Tom Hatton, Ed Hopkins, Mike Belmonte, Dick Martin and Larry McLaughlin. Also present were new Board members, Trevor Jones, Fred D'Amore, George Brown, Al Perna and Bob DeSandy. Also Dave Heller, Judge Advocate, 1st Vice President Vince Guglielmino, 2nd Vice President Pat DeColli, 3rd Vice President Fran Maher and outgoing board member Adolph Wadalavage and Ed McGrath. President Santos began the meeting at 4:10 p.m. and asked the members to stand for a moment of silence. Upon a motion made by Ed Hopkins and seconded by Bob DeSandy it was voted to: Dispense with the reading of the previous Board meeting held October 4, 1990.

Upon motion made by George Brown and seconded by Phil Berman it was voted to:

Dispense the Treasurers report.

Larry McLaughlin chairman of the Vet's Gift Committee reported that his committee recommends the sum of \$1000.00 be given to St. Albans VA Hospital Extension Care Unit for a stove and cabinet to be used for training of men about to be released from the VA Hospital.

Upon a motion made by Bob DeSandy and seconded by Fred D'Amore it was voted to:

Approve the recommendations of this committee.

### Special Board Meeting

The Board members were of the opinion that a meeting should be held as soon as possible and Worcester, Massachusetts the site for the meeting in conjunction with the Annual Memorial Mass and Services being held on November 11, 1990. November 10, 1990 was selected as the date for the meeting.

Continued from page 6

# The Ninth Infantry Division Association

The Financial situation of the association is of the most importance and a deficit budget year after year has left the association short of cash flow.

A motion made by Fred D'Amore and seconded by Nick Dogostino was so voted and passed.

## Election of Officers

Michael Belmonte was elected President  
Vince Guglielmino - 1st Vice-President  
Pat DeColli - 2nd Vice-President  
Fran Maher - 3rd Vice-President  
Judge Advocate - Dave Heller  
Treasurer - Thomas Boyle  
Secretary - Daniel Quinn

## Change of Command

Henry Santos turned over the gavel of authority to newly elected Mike Belmonte. Henry thanked the members for their cooperation this past year and wished Mike Belmonte the best of luck for the coming year. Mike thanked the members for the honor bestowed upon him and promised to do his best for the next year and carry on the tradition of the association.

## 1992 Reunion

Bids were accepted for the 1992 Reunion. Bob DeSandy who recently moved to North Carolina submitted a bid for the Fort Bragg area and this was approved by the Board with, Fayetteville as our Headquarters area.

There being no other matters to come before the Board and upon a motion made by Walter O'Keefe and seconded by Nick Dogostino it was voted to:

Adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel Quinn  
National Secretary

## Michigan News Notes

The curtain has fallen once more. This time on the life of Leora Hennessey. A phone call from her husband, Floyd, informed me of another set back which Leora could not fight off. So we surrender her soul to her maker and offer our condolences to the Hennessey family. We pray that her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed may rest in peace.

Leora will be missed by all who knew her. She was a faithful supporter of all the Michigan Chapter activities.

I go now to August 1990 and happier times.

Our Annual Out State Meeting at Angola, Ind. was another success. Sixty members and guests were present at the banquet. A good time was had by all.

Our roster shows the names of Paul & Genevieve Lemon and Larry & Laura Morgan indicate that they were "first timers". We welcome them and say that there is room for many more "first timers." The good thing of being a first timer is that you are bound to meet someone who thought that you were long dead.

Because the Illinois Chapter will be busy with the National Reunion in 1991 they have asked the Michigan Chapter to host the next Out State. It will be in October. It is not too early to mark your calendar and make plans to turn out. More on this to follow.

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

The easiest way to keep up with the Joneses is to wait until you meet them on their way back down.

47th Inf. Hq. Co. 2nd Bn.  
HOWARD FITZPATRICK  
#2 Overdale Drive  
Louisville, Kentucky 40229

Enclosed find dues for another 3 yrs., 1992-93-94. My wife and I really enjoy reading the Octofoil and about all the news of the 9th Division. I was with the 47th from Fort Bragg and went overseas Nov. 8, 1942 with the invasion of North Africa. We landed at Safi, French Morocco. After the fighting ended there, we were put in a large Hotel where we stayed for some time, I forget the name of the Hotel.

After that we moved on up our first action at El Guettar. We were in a big wadi behind a big hill, the Germans would fire artillery which kept us in our fox holes all the time. We saw lots of German planes day and night, not too many of ours. They would fly over at night and drop flares that would light up the area where we were at, and then drop their bombs. There was this one plane that would fly over about the same time every night. We would call it "Bed Check Charlie."

At El Guettar we lost a lot of good men, most of E Co. was captured or killed. In Africa, it was one hill after another.

After Africa, we landed at Palermo, Sicily. Before we got off the ships, German planes bombed us all that night, a few ships were hit. Next day we embarked, and Palermo was just about all bombed to pieces, just a few houses that were left standing. The smell of dead bodies was really bad.

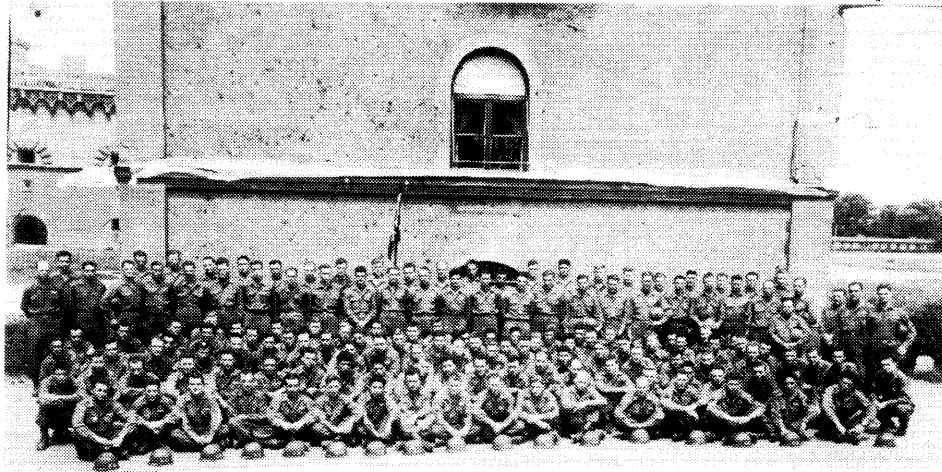
We moved on up the next day and pitched our pup tents on a hill. The next day while I was relaxing in my tent, an officer came up to my tent and said there was someone who wanted to see me. So I walked down to where he was sitting in a Jeep, and he got out and it was my brother whom I hadn't seen in about 2 years. We really had a time talking about things to each other. He was stationed in Palermo in the Signal Corp.

A few days later they started giving passes where we could go to Palermo. I got a pass and went to Palermo and stayed with my brother all day. They really treated me nice, I had a good meal with my brother. They all respected the 9th Division and what it had been doing. My sister from Somerset, KY heard about it and had it put in the Somerset Paper, headlines which read, "2 Brother Meet Up In Palermo, Sicily." We embarked a ship headed for England, where we trained for the invasion of France. I fought with the 47th through France, Belgium and Germany. We ended up on the Elbe River, where we were ordered to stop to let the Russians do the rest of the fighting. We met up with the Russians and the war ended there.

I was in the 57mm Anti Tank Platoon, 2nd Squad Gunner, my Sgt.'s name was Edward Schultz; Lt. Russo was the Platoon Leader. Another was Pvt. Pat Warnick, Sgt. Rampy. Others I can't remember. My wife, Hazel, is a big help to me although she is 69 and sick most of the time. I don't know what I would do without her. I am 74 years old and don't get around as much as I used to. I have Arthritis in both legs, I get in a little hunting and fishing now and then. So keep up the good work you are doing, Dan.

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

I have never heard from any member of M Co. 39th. Enclosed find check for Life Membership.



Otis Everage sends this photo taken July 4, 1945 at Inglestadt, Germany showing Co L-60th Inf. Otis is the 2nd man on the third row from the left.



Miles Jankovic is shown cutting the hair of another M Company 47th man Stan Roberts. Miles now has a beauty parlor in St. Petersburg, Florida. Story appears in M Co 47th Mail Call.

Lee Davis pictured after receiving his battlefield promotion in Germany near the end of 1944. A former Jockey he once rode the famous "Man of War." Red Phillips informs us, that Lee passed away a year ago. Story appears in Company M 47th Inf.



Audrey Webber sends this photo taken in England where her husband John Day was recuperating from wounds received in Normandy. The nurse was in charge of the Ward and was a great morale builder for the troops. Jack is 2nd from right-the others are not identified.



Co I 39th Inf. members at mini-reunion held recently in Indiana. Left to right front row: Jack Rodabaugh, Nick Chipura, James Orrenton, Art Gatchn, Elbert De Witt, Alonzo Palmer. Back row 1-r: Charles Holsoapple, Paul Callaan, Ralph Elkins, Cecil Jenkins, and Don Lanendor. Story appears in Mail Call.

60th Inf. B Co.  
JOHN ALLER  
48 Grant Ave.  
Stanford, CT 06902

Just a few lines to thank all my buddies who came to my aid as to where I would get the book "The Battle for the Hurtgen Forest." This has to say something about our organization. The "Old Reliables" are still there when you want them. A special thanks to James Berane, Cal., Bill Moran, Pa., George Cyphers, Ohio and Dick McGrath of B Co. 15 Engrs. In the meantime take care of yourselves and stay healthy.

47th Inf. D Co  
IRWIN DUPUY  
12233 N. Yorkdale Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70811

I just found out about the OCTOFOIL, and was so glad to see, some of us are still around. I often wonder if friends like Sgt. Matlock of Woodbury, N.J. and other members of "D" Co., are still around. Write WWII buddies.

The modern child will answer you back before you've said anything. ...Laurence J. Peter

Company B 47th Infantry  
JOSEPH TAUBNER  
85 Smith Avenue  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

What happened to B Company at our Florida Reunion? Only 16 people showed up — the lowest figure we have had in years! I know some people were ill, and couldn't make it and I'm sure that all you missing guys and gals had good excuses, but we sure did miss you. However, we did have 2 brand-new faces at our table: Robert Moore and his lovely wife, Moira, from Dayton, Ohio. Rob was a Mortarman in my 4th Platoon, and finally made good on the promise he made to Ellie and me when we visited them on our Cross-Country trip in 1987. He got to renew old friendships with Nino Cecchini and Chuck Munger, while his wife Moira, Julie Cecchini, and Joyce Munger, got to know each other. Meanwhile, Oren and Etsie (what a sweetheart she is) Schockley, Pat & Ann Morano, Joe & Rose Havilla, and Tony & Pauline Manzolilla rounded out our Company B roster, and we manged to have a very good time. To the Missing: Stan & Florence Adowski, Joe & Stella Cichocki, John Compagone, Dennis Canedy, Joe Metzcvavage, Olga Palega, Joe & Edie Podany, Ed & Helen Sarnowski, Les & Clara Campen — are you going to attend the Milwaukee Reunion next September? I hope so!!

One of the missing was Artie Stenzel, who kept us together for so long, so Ellie and I rented a car on Sunday, Oct. 7th, after the Reunion had ended, and drove over to Hudson, Florida, to visit him. We stayed for about 3 hours, then had to leave to catch our 7:20 p.m. flight home. It was so good to see him again, and we hope to get to Florida again this winter, and visit him. Please let's hear from Company B before next September? Regards from Ellie and Joe until then.

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

I attended the reunion in Orlando and would like to hear from anyone from the 709 Ord. Hello to John Kowalski and William Stoban.



# MAIL CALL

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

About thirty years ago, I was driving down to Florida on my way to Arizona via the Gulf Coast... sort of a round about way! I visited Mt. Vernon, George Washington's grist mill, and Gunston Hall, home of George Mason. In conversation with a hostess at the latter, I was told about Pohick Church at Lorton, VA, and it was suggested that I ought to visit it, because it was the church George Washington attended and George Mason also. Both men had been closely associated with its founding. So, I decided to go and learn more. I was glad that I did, at the time... but then forgot about it in the intervening years until recently, when I found a post card view of the church among other 'travel material' I have accumulated.

## SHRINE

The reason I am writing you all this IS because I don't believe many, if any, of the 9th know about the church, not only because of its associations with General Washington, but Pohick Church was designated a SHRINE of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in 1944.

The then National Junior Vice Commander, of the Military Order of The Purple Heart, Inc. John R. McGee, wrote a letter to his Command Officers and Delegates assembled on the occasion of the National Convention of the order in Lancaster, PA. It read...

"... it is with profound appreciation that both my Command and Patriots of the Order accept your invitation in making Pohick Church a SHRINE of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, which to us, and I am sure to you, is in keeping with the devotion expressed by our General Washington who served as a vestryman in your church, and as a soldier, founded our Order." This letter was addressed to the then Rector and Vestry of Pohick Church, August 9, 1944.

The Order was founded by General Washington in 1782. Decoration was recreated by Gen. Douglas MacArthur in 1932.

I received a photocopy of this letter, after I had written the Secretary of Pohick Church. I also was sent a very interesting pamphlet, a post card view, and a letter from the present rector, a photo copy of which I have enclosed. You can see it is a very cordial one. I mentioned having seen a sign at the church about the Purple Heart Order, but, as you see, it has long since disappeared. He does not give the reason. I strongly urge anyone interested in this bit of history, so meaningful to those of us who were awarded the medal, honorably, to seek out this church on one of their trips. It is in fine condition. Gen. Washington, later President, was very much involved with the founding, selection of site to build it, drew plans and the elevation, and also did a great deal of surveying. He had been a surveyor in his earlier years. I have a slide I took at the time of my visit in '61 but it was taken on Kodak Verichrome film, which anyone involved in slide taking knows, is not lasting as far as proper color representation is concerned and this slide is now a faded yellowish brown, a depressing sight to see!

When I wrote inquiring about the church, etc. I sent a check (\$10.00) contribution for church

J.E. KAUFMANN  
P.O. Box 680484  
San Antonio, Texas  
78268-0484  
(512) 647-3801

## NEEDS ASSISTANCE

I would like to ask for your assistance. I am preparing a book for Pictorial Histories Publishing Co. on the 1944 Normandy campaign (June - Aug). I have not been able to contact any veterans of your division. Since I am a school teacher my time and resources are limited. I need to be put in contact with veterans of the various units that took part in the campaign.

Mr. Cravens of the Octofoil Association gave me your address and informed me you work with the World War II organization. What follows is the contents of the letter I sent to him:

I would appreciate it if you could mention my request for anyone who would like to contribute information in your news letter. Those who send me their address will be sent a four page questionnaire which also requests information on their personal experiences. Those who return the questionnaires will be mentioned in the book. My address is:

J.E. Kaufmann  
P.O. BOX 680484  
San Antonio, Texas  
78268-0484

I am looking for veterans of any rank who served in the rear echelons as well as in the combat units which took part in the campaign. If you could refer me to several veterans at this time, it would be most helpful.

Any help you could provide in contacting veterans who were in Normandy anytime between June and August would be helpful. I might add that I am especially interested in those who took part in the reduction of Cherbourg. I would appreciate any help you can offer.

9th Signal  
CHUCK HODGE  
Box 637  
Gouldsboro, PA 18424  
"TRIBUTE"

It is with a sad heart and deep regret, to write that on June 26, 1990, Wellesley R. Shaw from Charlestown, N.H. passed away.

Wellesley Shaw was one of our comrades of the 9th Signal Company, 9th Division.

He has brought joy and great comradeship to our two reunions. He will certainly be missed by each of us.

Wellesley told me that this was one of his favorite verses:

May you know the peace and comfort

This heartfelt thought imparts

The ones we love are never gone.

They live within our hearts.

We pray that God will bless him with this peace as he certainly suffered.

maintenance, since it is still a functioning parish church. Those of you interested, might do so, too. I wrote the rector that I expected to write the OCTOFOIL about it.

The word 'pohick,' by the way, is an Indian word meaning: HICKORY.

This information about a medal awarded to some of us, in W.W. II. more than once in some cases... was of interest to me, and I am sure, to others as well.

P.S. In the early African days, after the invasion, the purple heart medals issued carried a serial number (mine is #86142) March 31, 1943. I am not sure that ones later did so?

ROBERT H. FRANKE  
Route 1, Box 81  
Winterville, NC 28590  
Phone: 919-756-2335

A recent issue of the VFW magazine identified you as the contact person for 9th Infantry Division Association reunion which was held in June. Now that the reunion is over (and I certainly hope that it went off well) perhaps you can take a little time to consider a request for assistance on a different, but definitely related, subject.

I have been corresponding with a German historian who has been very helpful to me in my own modest research effort concerning my outfit, the 776th Field Artillery Battalion, in Bullingen and Krinkelt/-Rocherath, Belgium, in the early days of the Battle of the Bulge. His name is Gunter von der Weiden, and his address is Obersteinstr. 38, D-5190 Stolberg, Federal Republic of Germany.

In a recent letter, he mentioned that he would like very much to establish contact with veterans from the 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Division, who participated in the fighting in the Schevenhutte area, which now lies within the municipal boundaries of my friend's home town of Stolberg. With your assistance, I hope to be able to help him with this request and thus partially repay him for the many favors he has done for me.

On page 685 of Charles B. MacDonald's major work: A TIME FOR TRUMPETS: The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge, the author acknowledged the great help he received in the preparation of his book from Mr. von der Weiden. Although I have not met him personally, I feel as though I know him well enough to vouch for him as a very solid citizen. You would not have to worry that he might try to take advantage of any relationship which might develop. He types his letters in excellent English, so communication with him presents no problems, other than perhaps the airmail postage rate to West Germany which is 45¢ per 1/2 ounce.

Of course I would welcome any other ideas or suggestions which you might have to help Mr. von der Weiden get in touch with the former members of the 47th whom he is seeking. PS I feel like an absolute idiot! I just noticed that this announcement was in the March 1988 issue, not March 1990! But I'm still asking for whatever help you can give.

Cannon Co. 39th Inf.  
GEORGE W. BOOTH  
621 S. Olive  
Jefferson, Iowa 50129

Thought it about time to drop a few lines and let you know how much I enjoyed my first Reunion. Already making plans to attend the one in Milwaukee next year. Want to thank Henry and Bob for the way they handled things. I think they did a great job. Saw two buddies from the old Company that I hadn't seen for 45 years, so you know we had a lot to talk over after all these years. Also met and made friends with a lot of other people while there. Seemed like one big family. Really enjoyed the golf outing, but haven't figured how they scored it to determine the winner.

People who haven't attended one of these Reunions don't really know what they are missing. Well, about enough rambling on for this time. Once again, congratulations on a well-handled Reunion. Hoping to see everyone there next year.

Good Luck and I hope to hear from anyone connected to Cannon Co.

You cannot shake hands with a cleuched first...Indira Gandhi

I Co. 47 Inf.  
GORDON MORK  
1407 N. Oakhill Ave.  
Janesville, Wi. 53545

Trying to get things in order here so we can leave for our annual trip to the southland for the winter. They call us "SNOWBIRDS" in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Going through my things I see I am due for a reinstatement on my dues to the Association, which are enclosed for three years.

Been reading about the troops in Saudi Arabia and the threat again of gas warfare. Sounds the same as we had when we were in North Africa. I think of the impregnated O D's we had to wear at that time. That was the only uniform there was at that time, at least for us, except in Magenta where we only wore our shorts. Nice Memories.

Enjoy the "OCTOFOIL." And keep up the good work.

60th Inf K Co  
JOSEPH RAPPAZINI  
24001 Sherman Street  
Oak Park, MI 48237

## THE CAUSE

I wasn't at Port Lyautey; Nor did I march through Kasserine Pass.

It was at the Sedjanane that memories began to amass.

'Twas Major John Dilley who was in command.

'Twas he who expressed the NINTH was truly grand.

Right to this day his words rightly live.

Proof lies in the fact of what each man did give.

Through desert sands and o'er mountain slopes;

Over rocky trails and fortress moats;

Across the seas and rivers wide;

(Any wonder the NINTH beams with pride!)

Through the hedgerows and forests deep.

On G.I. rations and little sleep.

The men of the NINTH fought a brutal war.

So that people on earth could live once more.

With the hope that when the conflict would cease,

Men, women, children and nations could live in PEACE.

60th Inf. C Co.  
RUSSELL LOMAX  
6001 Krueger Ave.  
Evansville, In. 47720

I wish to thank Sullivan Lee of "C" Co. 60th Infantry for sending me a copy of the Octofoil — the first I have seen in 45 years. I enjoyed it very much. It brought back a lot of pleasant memories.

Recently Ernest "Meathead" Carlsrud from Rothsay, MN, formally "C" Co. 9th Division visited with us for a few days. Until last year it was our first reunion since 1944 when we became separated after escaping German captivity. He was then hospitalized and I rejoined C Company. At the time of our capture there were approximately 12 G.I.'s including a tanker crew sleeping outside their tank. One of the Americans taken prisoner was Red Hunt from Alabama. He was from C Co., 60th Infantry Heavy weapons and was married to an English girl from Winchester, England by the name of Eileen Porteous. If anyone out there would know his whereabouts or if he survived as a POW, I would appreciate hearing from you, as well as from any other "C" Company friends.

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

There are too many people and too few human beings...Robert Zend

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JOSEPH LIGHTNER  
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Altoona, PA 16601

## NEEDS HELP

I was wondering if you could help me or advise me. I have been to the Veterans for a number of years about my ears. The last couple of years they treated them. I need someone who knew I had ear complaints, to write a letter stating about it, while in the service.

I went to an ear doctor, on my own (Dr. Zimmerman). He examined my ears, and asked if I was around loud noise, I said I was in the service, and was the one who loaded the gun, with the 9th Inf. I was in 8 battles in the European War of World War 2. He said my ear condition was from concussion. He sent me to the V.A. and he turned out to be the Dr. at the V.A. He would not write down what he told me in his office. I filed another claim, they sent back for me to get two letters from buddies. I did Harry Schwartz and Gussie Clay. They were not proof enough, said I waited too long. I went to the V.A. in Altoona, 11th Ave., they have no record. They did have a fire in the bldg. I went to the V.A. Hospital, when they opened and was checked, they said I needed a sound proof room, to see T.V. or listen to radio. They have no record of this either.

They have treated me and, Dr. Zimmerman sent me to "Easter Seals for Examination and Elevation." This I paid for (\$85.00). They said I needed two hearing aids. I also had some tests that came out, my nerve from ear to brain was dead. They couldn't do anything till I get more proof from buddies or someone with me while in the service.

I was a patient in the V.A. for an eye operation. Dr. checked me and said both my ear drums were collapsed. I was with the 9th Inf. from the beginning to the end.

47th Inf., M Co.  
FRANCIS YOCHUM  
1506 Kimmell Rd.  
Vincennes, In. 47591

I know my dues are due, it has slipped by so fast the past three years, "Time and Tide waits for no one." As I read all the news in the Octofoil I get choked up, about the ones you once knew who had passed on. I think it is the best published news around. One of these days if I live long enough I'll make it to the reunion. Keep up the good print, and the good of all of the 9th Div.

Renew my subscription for three more years and the remainder for the memorial fund. God Bless.

Hq. 2nd Bn. 60 Inf.  
ERNEST BROWN  
312 Lee Rd. 228  
Smiths, AL 36877

I wanted to attend the reunion but there was no vacancy at the Orlando Marriott. Hoping to see you all next year.

Deadline for next issue of the Octofoil Dec. 20th