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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

3-1-1991

The Octofoil, March/April 1991

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLVI Number 2

Mar.-April 1991



Red Phillips, (M Co 47th) supplies us with this picture taken at the Ceremony of John Davis being inducted into the Distinguished Members of the 47th Infantry Regiment. Shown l-r: Red Phillips, Ken Meyers and John Davis. John started in Company M 47th as a buck private and rose through the ranks to be the Company Commander.

M Company Chronicler (47th)

The mini-reunion of M/47 in Nazareth PA came off swell thanks to the good planning of our man in Tamaqua, Ed Little, and the 47th's Honary Sergeant Major Ken Meyer who made all the arrangements with the Army to induct Johnny Davis as a "Distinguished Member of the Regiment." Ken was there in Dress Blues to M-see the affair and performed splendidly. Davis' big family turned out with bells on and there were a goodly number of Old Reliabilities gathered at the VFW's Nazareth Post for the ceremony. I brought my grandson along as official cameraman and if his work develops and our editor's willing, a sample will be published here.

Johnny Knight came down from Wilkes Barre for the affair and Lloyd Graff from Allentown showed up. I wouldn't have recognized that skinny little guy who used to ramrod one of the squads in my 1st Platoon of M. We had a lot to talk about but too little time for it as the "star of the show" was Davis and no one would disagree that he'd earned it. My grandson was really impressed by the reading of the citation and all. It wasn't a big deal as these things go, but it was honest and touching all the same. It was great seeing all of these fellows again.

Continued on Page 4

Ladies Corner

VINTAGE FASHION SHOWS



featuring
Original Fashions
from 1910-1990

presented by

GOODWILL VOLUNTEER
SERVICES

A unique presentation of women's clothing and accessories, representing 90 years of fashion history. These fashions have been collected through Goodwill's Donated Goods Department and individual clothing donations from the community.

Well - who will be # 10? Who will be the 10th lady to send in her \$10.00 for our Vintage Fashion Show Breakfast on September 20th? Not me - I am already #9. As yet, we do not know the Meeting Room's seating capacity, so ladies please let's get our checks in, you don't want to be caught outside unable to get in, do you? Hopefully, Dan and Marie Quinn can get the AD for the fashion show which I have enclosed, into this column, and in this edition. They were unable to do so in the last one. It looks interesting, doesn't it? Of course, I don't know if I could get into a wasp-waisted dress, do you?

Are you all as happy as I am now that Spring is finally here? Of course, our Winter was not exactly frigid all the time, and the flu virus traveling around was fierce wasn't it? I work in a Pharmacy 3 days a week, so I have had first-hand knowledge of it. Joe and I are feeling pretty good now, recovering today from a 10-day invasion of people for: 1) Open House Party for pregnant daughter, Rosemary, who lives in New Hampshire, plus 30 guests 2) Overnight guest for 2 days 3) a 4-day visit of my sister, Marge and niece, Carolyn from 400 miles away, and whom we entertained at American Museum of Natural History, Ellis Island, and the Bronx Zoo, along with dog-sitting for vacationing son and wife for one week. Of course we know that for women, all this was a breeze Yeah! Yeah! Thank God Joe is a big help and some of my other children (I have 5) helped. Anyway, that's my news, what's yours? Please keep those \$10.00 checks coming, and I will see you all in the next edition. Take care.

Ellie Taubner, Treasurer
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

**1991 Reunion
Milwaukee
Sept 19-21**

BAY PINES MEDICAL CENTER NOT, NOT FORGOTTEN FOR VETERANS AWARDS

Comrade Radicho says he's "disappointed that the Ninth Division Forgot Bay Pines Medical Center". A statement that is in gross error. The awards committee stands ready to assess any and all requests from any of the [172, his figures] VA hospitals that are presented to us by any and all members of our association. To date the only awards made have been presented by members of this committee.

A request was received from Bay Pines last July but it was not in the area of "comfort items" that is not supplied by the government and a letter was returned to "Chief of Voluntary Service" explaining same and inviting another request, to date no second request has been received.

Anyone with a request for any VA hospital or nursing home for veterans only is asked to forward same to any of the following.

Larry McLaughlin,
Chairman
82 Gould St.
Wakefield, MA 01880

Adolph Wadalavage
94-30 96th St.
Ozone Park, NY 11416

Henry Santos
9811 Connechusett
Tampa, FL 33616

Requests should be received as far in advance as possible of the next reunion.

It should be noted that the Tampa VA received \$800.00 in 1989 and \$100.00 in 1990 from the awards committee and Lake City, FL VA hospital received a generous donation as a result of the wood carved plaque one of our members donated to raffle off at the last reunion.

Henry Santos



A Reunions Reunion

The Reunion Committee of the Illinois Chapter has designed a program, within the traditional format, for a genuine reunion. A place, a schedule, and an arrangement for members to meet their wartime buddies and friends, renew their comradeship, and make the acquaintance of others who served in the Ninth Infantry Division during World War II is the program. There will also be entertainment and activities for members and their spouses to enjoy.

The Reunion Committees were formed in August 1990, and have been working ever since to serve the Association members. The Committees are:

General Co-chairmen — Michael Belmonte and John Clouser, with the assistance of David Heller the Chapter President. Pre-Registration — Michael Belmonte, Chairman; Registration Committee — Jack Collier and Howard Gaertner, Co-Chairmen; Golf Tournament — Louis Gray, Chairman; Welcome Party — Ted Preston and Paul Clark, Co-Chairmen; Friday Dance — Michael Carpenter and William Johnston, Co-Chairmen; Memorial Service — David Heller, Chairman; and Banquet — Gordon Anderson and William Hennemuth, Co-Chairmen. Octofoil articles will be submitted by John Clouser, and Howard Gaertner will send news releases to newspapers, radio and television stations.

The Illinois Chapter members listed above constitute the General Committee, and are ably assisted by their wives.

REUNION PROGRAM

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Thursday, September 19, 1991

9:00 AM Registration — Grand Ballroom Lobby

9:00 AM Golf Tournament — Meet In Hotel Lobby

4:00 PM Board of Governors Meeting — Directors 8

8:00 PM Welcome Party - New Orleans Ballroom

Friday, September 20, 1991

9:00 Registration - Grand Ballroom Lobby

9:30 AM General Meeting - New Orleans Ballroom

10:00 AM Committee Meetings

Budget and Finance — Directors 4

By-Laws - Directors 3

Miscellaneous - Directors 7

Newspaper - Directors 2

Nominating - Directors 6

10:00 AM Women's Auxiliary Meeting - Creole Room

11:00 AM General Meeting continues — New Orleans Ballroom

4:00 PM Board of Governors' Meeting — Directors 8

8:30 PM Dance — Grand Ballroom

Saturday, September 21, 1991

10:00 AM Memorial Service — Center Courtyard or Grand Ballroom

5:00 PM Catholic Mass

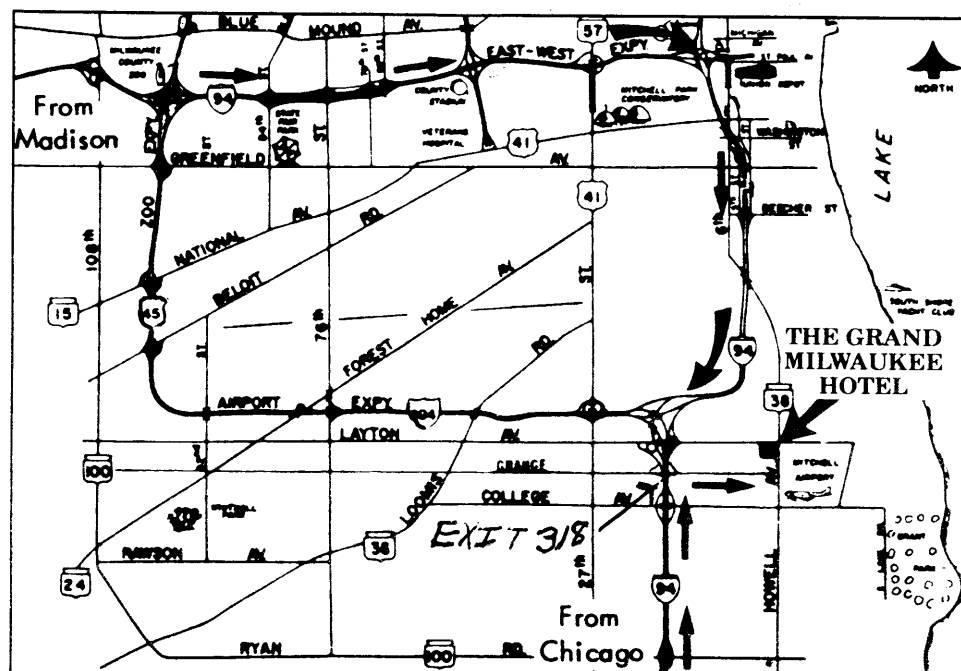
6:30 PM Annual Banquet — Grand Ballroom

8:30 PM Dance — Grand Ballroom

Banquet Table Reservations

Banquet table reservations may be made on Saturday, September 21, from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM in the Grand Ballroom Lobby. Gordon Anderson and William Hennemuth are in charge. Seating at the tables will be for ten (10) people. Reservations for groups of ten or less should be made by one person. All banquet tickets must be presented for marking at the time of making reservations. Individuals or couples not part of a group will be assigned a table by the committee. No table reservations will be made by telephone.

Route to Grand Milwaukee Hotel



THE OCTOFOIL

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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616 Sumac
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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

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund was enriched by the generosity of these "Old Reliables" who remembered. Many thanks.

We salute you.

Mrs. Joy Spencer - In Memory of husband Robert
Fred Ueno
Herbert Stern
George Hulka
Joseph McEldowney
Alice Caddin - In Memory of husband, Sidney
Fred Scott Jr.
Leo W. Charland
Louis A. Sieben - In Memory of Medics of the 47th Inf.
Francis B. McLaughlin
Pat & Al Farese - In Memory of Mary & Joe DeSepio
Anthony Madonna - In Memory of George Bundza
John F. Marston
A.P. Croonquist
Thomas J. Marron
Charles Troccoli - In Memory of Frank Duffy & all E. Co. 47th Inf. 1940-1945
Richard McGrath
George Pedrick, Jr.

PRE-REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Fortysixth Annual Reunion
September 19-21, 1991

Pre-Registration for All-Event (Strip) Tickets will be a feature of the Fortysixth Annual Reunion to be held at the Grand Milwaukee Hotel, September 19-21, 1991, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The procedure to Pre-Register is as follows:

1. Fill out the Pre-Registration Form provided below.
2. Write a check or money order to The Illinois Chapter Ninth Infantry Division Association for the full amount of the tickets.
3. Mail the Pre-Registration Form and the check or money order to: Michael Belmonte, 1161 South Lombard Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60304.
4. Upon receiving the form and check or money order, a Confirmation Card-Receipt will be mailed to the member — sender.
5. The Confirmation Card-Receipt must be presented at the Reunion Pre-Registration Desk to pick up the tickets, program, and registration packet.
6. Cancellation of Pre-Registration will be honored for a full refund received before or on September 10, 1991. Cancellations received after September 10, will have a partial refund.
7. To cancel a Pre-Registration, contact Michael Belmonte at the above address, or telephone (708) 386-7865 prior to September 15, 1991. After September 15, call the Grand Milwaukee Hotel and leave a message to Mike. The Hotel Telephone numbers are: 1-800-558-3862 outside of Wisconsin, in Wisconsin call (414) 481-8000.
8. To assure a ticket for the Thursday Welcome Party, the Friday Dance, and the Saturday Banquet-Dance, PRE-REGISTER now.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Fortysixth Annual Reunion
September 19-21, 1991
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE: (_____) _____ UNIT IN THE 9th _____
GUEST NAME(S) _____
All-Event (Strip) Tickets: Quantity _____ at \$45.00 each, Total \$ _____
Please check if you are a Gold Star Wife _____ or a Member's Widow _____



The
Grand Milwaukee
HOTEL

Name of Group _____ NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
Date(s) of Function _____ September 19-21, 1991
Last Name _____ First _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____ Daytime Phone (_____) _____
Additional Names of Guests Sharing Accommodations:
Last Name _____ First _____
Last Name _____ First _____
Last Name _____ First _____

SINGLE, DOUBLE,
TRIPLE, QUAD

Please Check Type of Room

All prices are subject to state and local taxes.

☐ One Person - \$ ☐ Two People - \$

\$65.00
\$ 7.15 Tax
\$72.15 Total

Reservations must be received by cut-off date.

Reservation requests received after cut-off date are subject to space availability.

For Suite accommodations, please contact Hotel direct. Contact Hotel if confirmation is not received in ten days.

Cut Off Date: August 21, 1991

AIRLINE SPECIAL CONVENTION RATES TO MILWAUKEE

The Illinois Chapter has arranged for Airline Special Convention Rates to Milwaukee for the September 19-21, 1991 Reunion. The arrangements were made through the Magic Carpet Travel Agency located in the Reunion Hotel.

Members flying to the Reunion can acquire these special rates by contacting Magic Carpet Travel directly. Their toll-free number is 1-800-776-7011.

The special convention rates were secured by the Travel Agency through Northwest Airlines, Midwest Express and US Air. Both companies will give a 5% discount off the lowest fare and waive all restrictions. If it is not possible to get the lowest rates on a particular flight, they will give a 40% discount off regular coach fares.

Members should contact Magic Carpet Travel to make reservations, determine the least expensive fare available, and purchase their tickets.

The advantage of booking flights through Magic Carpet Travel is there will be no restrictions, such as, purchasing tickets 30 days before the flight date, or change flights and dates without penalty. With the Agency's office in the Grand Milwaukee Hotel, changes can be made directly during the Reunion.

HOSPITALITY ROOMS (CP's)

The Grand Milwaukee Hotel has six Hospitality Rooms which are ideal for unit CP's.

The rooms are 20 feet by 30 feet, or 600 square feet. They can comfortably hold 50 people for a reception type function.

The Hospitality Rooms contain a wet bar, refrigerator, two couches, chairs, a full bathroom, and closet. They also have two single roll away beds and a 24 inch console color television. All the Hospitality rooms are located in the International House, one room on each floor.

The rate for the Hospitality rooms is \$100.00 per night. An adjoining bedroom can be had for the Reunion special rate of \$65.00 for a total of \$165.00 plus tax per night. The combined rooms make an interconnecting suite.

Arrangements for Hospitality Rooms, or Suites, should be made directly with the Hotel's Reservation Department.



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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Volume XLVI Number 2

Mar.-April 1991

Publication #402820

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name _____ Serial No. _____

Street Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

I was a member of:

Battery _____ Company _____ Regiment _____ 9th Div _____

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year _____ \$10.00 ☐

Sustaining Member _____

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund _____ ☐
THREE-YEAR MEMBER _____ \$25.00 ☐
Life Membership _____ \$75.00 ☐
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 ☐
Texas ☐

Deadline for next issue July 20th

DIRECTIONS TO THE GRAND MILWAUKEE HOTEL

FROM CHICAGO: Take I-94 north to Milwaukee - Exit 318 (Airport). Take Howell Avenue Exit off 318. Turn left on Howell. Drive approximately ¾ mile to The Grand Milwaukee Hotel which will be on your left.

FROM NORTHEAST MILWAUKEE: Take I-43 south. Follow Chicago exit (I-94 south). Exit 318 (Airport). Take Howell Avenue Exit off 318. Turn left on Howell. Drive approximately ¾ mile to The Grand Milwaukee Hotel which will be on your left.

FROM NORTHWEST MILWAUKEE: Take 45 south (Zoo Freeway to 894 East (Airport Freeway). Follow Chicago Airport directions to Exit 318 (Airport). Take Howell Avenue Exit off 318. Turn left on Howell. Drive approximately ¾ mile to The Grand Milwaukee Hotel which will be on your left.

FROM MADISON: Take I-94 East to Milwaukee. Follow Chicago Airport directions to Exit 318 (Airport). Take Howell Avenue Exit off 318. Turn left on Howell. Drive approximately ¾ mile to The Grand Milwaukee Hotel which will be on your left.

M Company Chronicler (47th)

Continued from Page 1

Now some sad news. Orin Shell writes that his doctors are pessimistic about his chances following colon cancer surgery early last March. Orin is not the least bit morbid about this. He was seeking confirmation of his title as the oldest surviving M-er and I've assured him that, at 87 this year, it's all his. I suspect he wanted to have something to tell St. Peter at the Gate. This old mortarman would be happy to hear from the old gang; please write to him at Rt. #1, Box 239-B, Becida MN 56625, or call (218) 751-8840.

On part of my recent trip back east my wife and I visited with Bernie Bennick in Springfield VA, and enjoyed his wonderful hospitality. I finally had some of Mrs. T's Pierogie's, fellows, and I can honestly endorse same. Try 'em instead of spuds, as "Auntie Tee" used to say. Anyway Colonel Ben and I did a lot of reminiscing, especially about El Guetter, the subject of my on-going research project. We are officially appealing the VA's negative position on our having a gratis check of their files in order to search for missing M-ers. We don't expect this in order to make our club larger and have more auld lang syne; rather we want to be able to help more guys like John DeSepio and Al Palley get what's due them from VA. We want to be able to use our resources to help VA do a better job for its constituents. That's our pitch, guys. Wish us well!



Red Phillips sends this photo taken at the ceremony of the Induction of John Davis in the Honor Society showing l-r: Lloyd Graft, John Knight and Red Phillips all of Company M 47th. The get together was held recently in Nazareth, Pa.

Part III- "El Guettar- Crucible of Leadership"

According to eyewitnesses, the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry was ambushed by the German's 10th Motorcycle Battalion, 10th Panzer Div., but it was never "lost for 36 hours" as alleged in the Mettleman and Gillespie histories. Rather, under the leadership of G Company's commander, 1st Lt. Lewis E. Maness, F, G, and H Companies reorganized a defensive position not far behind the point of contact with the enemy. Its location was reported to the regimental commander that day. When Colonel Randle realized that L and M Companies were involved in the same fight, Captain James D. Johnston was directed on March 28th, to take charge of the sector with all of these units as a provisional battalion, and to pursue the original objectives of the 2nd Battalion. Johnston's force attacked the next morning.

Similarly on the morning of March 29th, the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry was apparently not ambushed in trucks while trying to by-pass Hill 290, as reported in "East Stars to Victory" Lt. Col. Walter M. Oakes had dismounted his command and was deliberately attacking that feature according to witnesses. Unfortunately, he did not employ all of the forces at his disposal, specifically artillery, and he was unable to prevail. He and others of his command were captured and the battalion withdrew.

The 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry, which was to have been General Eddy's immediate reserve on March 28th, following by bounds behind the 47th, became "lost," according to the history writers yet, in the same paragraph one of them states it participated in an attack by Captain Johnston's provisional battalion at the same time it was allegedly lost. As a matter of fact, in his published memoir, Bill Kreye, once the intelligence NCO of Hg. 1/39, states flatly that his C.O. led the battalion on a 36-hour roundabout march that circled back to El Guetter oasis in that period when it was needed against Djebel Berda.

Red Phillips, "The M Company Chronicler," is seeking information from participants of the Battle of El Guettar, in order to shed more light of these and other incidents of the 9th Division's first go against the Wehrmacht. The purpose is to write a more complete account of actions from 27 March to 7 April 1943, especially as it might depict the leadership given those who wore the Octofoil. Those with information are asked to write Red Phillips at 14002 Hemlock Drive, Penn Valley, CA. 95946; or call (916) 432-1409.

I noticed in the last issue of the Octofoil that Robert D. Moore, 207 Brydon Rd., Dayton, OH45419, and formerly of B/47, for \$5 will make one a copy of Dave Heller's Directory of Association Members. I managed to get hold of one of these dandies from Hizzoner himself at Orlando and it's a great piece of work, well worth \$5. But, be advised that it's quite incomplete. M Company, for example, has only 23 listings and I know we had at least 50 members of the association when Heller put this together. Heller explained to me that the association's directors at the time were hung up on a privacy issue and opposed to using association data without the prior specific permission having been given by each member listed. Not a great deal went into hustling those permissions but who can criticize that. In any event, what nonsense! Look at the junk mail that's crowding our mailboxes, most of which is out and out fraudulent pitching. The recent Time Magazine article on junk mail makes clear that associations, such as ours, have no restrictions on selling their membership rolls as a source of revenue. It's big business, and all Heller was trying to do was provide a service for members trying to get together with other members. I sure hope that the directors got free legal advice in making their decision on this one because free is about all that it was worth.

Texas-Greater Southwest Chapter

Ernest J. Botella
571 Radiance Drive
San Antonio, TX, 78218

As newly elected Secretary/Treasurer of the newly formed Texas and the Greater Southwest Chapter of the 9th Infantry Division Association WW II it is my pleasure to forward to you 7 pages of signed petitions containing 54 signatures of association members for the formation of our chapter.

At our organizational meeting held at Belton, Texas on March 9th, we had 26 9th Infantry Division Association members present all of whom voted on the following items:

Chapter name: Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter.

The following officers were elected for one year terms:

John W. Miller, President
Bob Burky, 1st Vice President
Pete Rice Jr. 2nd Vice President
Richard G. Granberry, 3rd Vice President
Bob Rucker, Public Relations
Bill Lynch, Chaplin
Ernest J. Botella, Secretary/Treasurer

The following individuals were elected to the Board of Directors:

Sam Burns, Phillip B. Emmons, Clyde Wilfong, Willard Norris.

It is contemplated our first formal meeting will probably be in late August in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. The exact date and location will be announced at a later date.

If space in the Octofoil permits we would appreciate running this letter with the following list of presently known Chapter members.

Allsbrook, Billy; Black, James G.; Borthwick, Raymond; Botella, Ernest J.; Burky, Robert; Burns, Sam; Dawson, J.C.; Douthit, William

C.; Downs, Stanford; Granberry, Richard, Jr.; Gray, Robert A.; Everage, Otis R.; Halsey, William; Havard, Grady; Hill, Kenneth W.; Lazenby, Raymond V.; Leaver, Lyle L.; Lynch, William H.; Marshall, Robert S.; Meyer, Kenneth L.; Miller, John W.; Norris, Willard; Newton, Charles B.; Rice, Pete, Jr.; Richey, Tom L.; Rucker, Robert H.; Sanner, David N.; Scott, William C.; Schneider, Gordon A.; Shannon, William; Shields, Roscoe W.; Stern, Herbert; Tittle, John C.; Vaini, Alfredo; Wenxlof, Edward F.; White, Ray; Whitnack, Donald; Wilfong, Clyde M.; Winkler, Robert L. T.; Antwine, William L.; Emmons, Phillip B.; Glover, Edwin E.; Hafliger, Leonard; Heidebrecht, Alvin; Hill, John A.; Hurst, Robert J.; Jordan, Chester M.; Karre, Albert L.; Melanson, Lawrence; Mitchel, Joseph C.; Scheffel, Charles; Stein, George J.

In the event I have inadvertently misspelled someone's name or omitted someone who should be on the roster, please drop me a postcard with the correct name, address, phone number, unit to which you belonged and I'll be happy to make the necessary corrections and/or additions.

I feel all the Chapter membership would join me in extending a sincere thanks to Ken Meyer and Bob Rucker especially for all the hard work and personal experience they went to to make our Chapter a reality.

This should be about it for now except to say we've already started working on hosting the 1993 reunion in Texas. We'll keep you posted.

Thank you and have a nice day.



Rob Rucker, (60th Inf) sends this photo taken at the Texas-Greater Southwest Chapter meeting held recently.

Seeking Information

My uncle William J. Mahlbacher was killed in N. Africa while serving with the Ninth Inf Div. All his brothers and sisters have since passed away and I was wondering if you could give me any information on this man. I don't even know what I'm looking for. I have a certificate signed by FDR saying he was killed in Action and where. I think a cousin of mine has his Purple Heart. If you could supply anything I would appreciate it. All I have to go by is: Corporal William J. Mahlbacher AS# 32056189.

I know he was one of the oldest draftees from Bergen County (NJ). I think he was 35 and single - Thank you for your consideration.

Jack Mahlbacher
PO Box 283

Clatyon, De 19938

Editors Note: The secretary's office found William J. Mahlbacher in our records. William was KIA in N. Africa while serving with Company G 39th Infantry. If any of our members remember this man I'm sure a letter or note would be appreciated to his next of Kin. William was from Woodbridge, NJ at the time he was in the Ninth.

HELP NEEDED

My name is Winslow Davenport. I need your help in locating someone in Co. C 15th Engr. Bn. 9th Div. During the war I was in the 36th Combat Engrs. I was transferred from the 36th to the 15th Engrs. Co. C near Ingolstadt, Germany. Waiting to come home, while I was there, I was injured while guarding an ammo dump. A house fell on my legs and hurt them and I was carried to the 28th field hospital in Ingolstadt, Germany. What I'd like for you to do is: If there is anyone that you know of, that was in the 15th Engr. about Oct. 1945, please let me know by return mail. The records of my injury were destroyed by fire in St. Louis, Missouri in the year 1973. Thanks so much for your help.

REV. WINSLOW DAVENPORT

R#1, Box 34

Chapel Hill, TN 37034

**1991 Reunion
Milwaukee
Sept 19-21**

Deadline for next issue July 20th

Taps Sounded

*There is no death! The stars go down
To rise upon some other shore.
And bright in Heaven's jeweled crown
They shine forevermore.*

*And ever near us, though unseen
The dear immortal spirits tread:
For all the boundless universe
Is Life there are no dead!*

Ira Benton

B Co. 9th Med.

Robert Spener

709 Ord.

Marvin Treackle

60th Inf.

William J. Wolfe

G Co. 29th Inf.

Fred Schmidt

M.P.

Michael Agnetti

47th Inf. A Co.

Nick Androvich

Hq. 39th Inf.

Rudy D'Amato

C Co. 39th Inf.

Walter Dean

Hqs. Co. 39th Inf.

William Morrison

A Co. 39th Inf.

Larry Rosenberg

60th F.A.

Julius Iannotti

Div. Arty. Hq.

John Roman

60th F.A.

Edward Hauschildt

47th Inf. L Co.

Warren Fedder

B Btry. 60th F.A.

Frank Baruzzi

Serv. Btry. 84th F.A.

Dr. Robert Sating

MC 84th F.A.

Donald Renken

34th F.A.

Louis Netta

60th Inf. A.T.

May they rest in peace. To their loved ones we extend our deepest sympathy.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Welcome Spring! It's such a pleasure to see the sun shining, the birds chirping and the trees and plants all blossoming. By now, all our Snowbirds have returned and are enjoying our Midwestern weather.

We are looking forward to our mini reunion in Madison, Wisconsin on May 3, 4 and 5th. Mike Carpenter has been working hard on getting things ready. Of course, Vera is right there with Mike seeing that things are done right. We hope to have a good turnout.

We heard from the Paul Clarks. It seems Lorraine recently had major surgery but is coming along fine. If all goes well, they plan to make the trip to Madison.

We understand from the Grand Wilwaukee Hotel that reservations are coming in great numbers. We have also received many pre-registration applications. Keep those cards and letters coming! We are looking forward to seeing many 9th Division Members, their families and their friends. Ladies, be sure and make your reservations for the Ladies Auxiliary Breakfast. See notice elsewhere in this issue.

Plans will be made for Memorial Services during the reunion in Madison. The date is set for May 26th, time and place will be finalized and members notified by our secretary, Gordon Anderson.

Respectfully,

Mike and Ann Belmont
1161 South Lombard Ave.
Oak Park, Illinois 60304

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

Greetings once again from Chambersburg, Pa. in beautiful Cumberland Valley which at this time is settling down to a beautiful spring. We have had a good winter and it now appears that spring and the upcoming summer is going to be "picture perfect" as far as the weather goes.

It saddens us deeply to write this column and to advise all our "B" Co. buddies and friends on the passing of Louis Netta, a good person and a good friend. Louis was not a 47th right man - he belonged to the 60th Inf. Reg't of the 9th Div. (Louis received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart while serving with our 9th Div. in World War II). Louis and his wife Julia became very much attached to us and other "B" Co. 47th members at attendance of most if not all our 9th Inf. Div. Reunions. They enjoyed being with our "B" Co. group and those of us who became friends of Louis and Julia also enjoyed seeing them at all our affairs and functions.

Louis died after having heart surgery (5-way By-Pass) and suffering a stroke which made him comatose from which he never recovered after a month's stay in the hospital. From all of us in "B" Co., we extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Julia Netta and her family. We shall miss a nice person, Louis Netta.

Mail Received: "B" Co. Buddy Ed Sarnocinski kept in touch with us on Louis Netta's hospitalization. The Netta's were good friends for many years of Ed & Helen Sarnocinski. Ed tells us that her daughter Kathy went with Louis Netta's son (also named Louis) to his prom over 20 years ago - isn't that something? Ed said that he and Helen were going to pay their last respects for Louis and that Kathy may join them also.

We received a nice Easter card and a note from Joe & Stella Cichocki. Joe is going to have cataract surgery - right eye - May 2nd. Stella and Joe are hoping that the surgery will be successful so that they can attend the reunion in Milwaukee as well as celebrating their 49th wedding anniversary. (Sept. 19th) at the same time! Joe and Stella, we

are sure that everything will turn out all right and that you will also be able to enjoy your "big day" in Milwaukee.

We also received a letter from "B" Co. Buddy Dennis. Conedy enclosing copies of 2 letters he received from Bernardo Fierro's brother that he thought should be put in our "B" Co. Photo and History Album that Ann and I maintain and bring to our reunions for all our "B" Co. buddies, their families and friends. We shall do so Dennis. Thank you very much!

Our most recent letter was received from "Shock" Shockley. He tells us that he and Estie have made reservations for the Reunion in Milwaukee. Shock has also reserved the hospitality room on the fourth floor of the International wing of the Grand Milwaukee Hotel, and an adjoining bedroom. "Shock" also said that with our approval, he will set up the Hospitality Room at the Headquarters for "B" Company. This is an offer too good to refuse, "Shock" - so on behalf of all of our "B" Co. buddies, we certainly approve. "Shock" said that this will be at his expense, so no contributions are necessary! We thank you most sincerely "Shock" for this wonderful opportunity in providing us with our own "B" Company Headquarters. This should be an added incentive for those "B" Co. buddies who have not made their plans to attend our upcoming 46th Annual Reunion of the 9th Inf. Div. Association, which will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 19 thru 21st, 1991. Once again we remind you to make your room reservation before August 21, 1991. Please make a note of this date on your calendar.

Well, "B" Co. buddies and friends, we have come to the end of another column. Our prayers have been answered and the war in the Gulf Area is now over and our brave fighting troops are coming home safely to their families and loved ones. Until the next time, enjoy yourselves to the fullest each and every day.

PAT J. MORANO
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201
Phone: (717) 352-3650



Adolph Wadalavage (l) as he and Art Schmidt presented check from the National Association to St. Albans Extended Care Center, New York. Keith Butcher (center) is shown accepting the gift on behalf of the Care center.

F Co. 60th Inf.

EARL LEES

1280 Morris Ave.
North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Enclosed my membership application. I am taking a shot at paying for a three year stint. I hope I can last that long. I would also like to let you know we should all appreciate what you do to keep things going. My wife & I enjoy the get togethers and we think you have a lot to do with any success we have. Hope to see you in Milwaukee.

If the grass is greener in the other fellow's yard, let him worry about cutting it. [But some never do].

People who think they know everything are very irritating to those of us who do.

Fish and visitors smell in 3 days.

COMPANY F 47TH INFANTRY

We're looking forward to a great reunion in September. Milwaukee is one of the greatest beer-drinking towns in the USA. During my traveling days, I always looked forward to spending a week in Milwaukee with its cold beer and warm people. Everything is in order for our CP. I have reserved what appears to be a more than adequate suite which we will share with the E Company men. The hospitality room is 20 ft X 30 ft and it has all the necessary appointments. Lucy and I are looking forward to seeing a good turnout.

Jack Finnigan, Lou Slatnick, Jack Healy, and I had a long lunch last month. We signed Healy up in the New Jersey Chapter. He hadn't been to a reunion since the late forties. He doesn't look much different than he did back at Fort Bragg. Slatnick and Finnigan are doing quite well. Finnigan will soon be on his way to Las Vegas for a week of card counting and dice tossing. George King called Sunday to let me know that he would be on his way to Las Vegas this coming Saturday. Maybe he could team up with Finnigan, put their money together, and buy one of those casinos. George has been frequenting the Finger Lakes Track where he makes his spending money hitting exactas. He reports that he is in good health as of this writing. I plan to visit him after he returns from his Las Vegas Odyssey so we can do a little fishing in the Finger Lakes and a little horsing around at the track. I've been trying to learn George's system for years.

I received a note from Fern MacDonald from Seminole, Florida. She and Mac have been busy with volunteer work at the hospital, though Mac has been in a wheel chair for some time now.

Bob Landis reports that since he and Betty will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on the 18th of September, they won't be able to make it to Milwaukee. They left for a vacation in England and France which will keep them in Europe till the end of this month.

Frank Gonzol was supposed to undergo some surgery last month, but the medics decided that it wasn't necessary at this time.

Earl Wilkey dropped me a note last month to let me know that Miriam had been having some physical problems that confined her to the hospital for a while; she is now coming along as well as can be expected. Felton Jones and Wilma were on their way to spend a few days with them to cheer them up.

See you in Milwaukee!

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

Bty C 26th FA
GEORGE REESE
RT 3
Henbersonsville, S.C.

Hello friends and Buddies. Just a few lines to let you know I still think about my old friends.

I went to Gadsden, SC to try to find an old friend Leroy Sanders of the 47th. I am sorry to say that they told me he had passed on some years ago, and the same thing happened again with Warren Splawn of C Bty 26th FA. I was told the same thing so I quit looking for any more, afraid I might get the same answers. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Harvey Lanier 26th FA?

NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER REPORT

The Greater New York Area Chapter held its regular monthly meeting on Friday, 8 pm, February 15, 1991 at the Masonic Hall, 71 West 23rd Street, N.Y.C.

Yours truly chaired the meeting; opening with the pledge of allegiance to our flag, Chaplain George Apar's invocation, a moment of silence for our departed comrades, and a hope for the safe return of your young men and women serving in the Persian Gulf in Desert Storm.

To many of the Ninthmen, memories of desert warfare in North Africa were brought home again. Although the 9th Infantry Division was not represented in today's conflict, their 1942 partners in arms was: the 1st Infantry Division. (Of course, all discussion of Desert Storm at the February meeting was before the swift winning ground war that began on Feb. 24, and ended 100 hours later with the liberation of Kuwait on Feb. 26.)

We also acknowledged with deep sorrow, the death of our Comrade Al Orletti, who was a constant companion and dedicated worker in the 9th New York chapter. Our sincerest condolences were made known to Al's family.

In the general meeting Emil Langer informed us of the work of reunion committees for Ft. Bragg in '92 and San Antonio in '93, and the latest information on Milwaukee in '91. Also noted, was a 9th Medics mini-reunion being considered at that time.

After the meeting Secretary Art Schmidt and his hospitality crew served up a cornucopia of delicacies.

Attending members who were not mentioned above: Lou Almasy, William Canales, Anton Dietrich, Vincent Guglielmino, Marv Levy, Charles LiBretto, Dan Quinn, Joe Rzesniowicki, Hermino Suarez and Adolph Wadalavage.

(Correction noted on previously published Christmas Raffle: winner's name should have been Karol S. Wisniewski - not Rzesniowicki. Sorry-ML.)

On March 15, 1991, we convened at the Masonic command post for another Friday meeting. After opening ceremonies we read correspondence from farflung comrades to the assembled, from: Nick Androvich, Hdq. 39th; William T. Archibald, Co E 60th; and Pat Foley, 60th. Also, Edna Hauschildt informed us that Edward, Co L 47th, had passed away. We were also notified of these Ninthmen's passing: John Shenney, Co E 39th; Rudy D'Amato, Co C 39th and Michael Agnetti, Co A 47th. Our deep felt condolences to the families of our deceased comrades.

We also wish Benny Murrel a speedy recovery from triple bypass open heart surgery, and hope for quick recovery for Walter O'Keeffe from his recent operation.

The main business at hand was establishing the coming agenda for the year. The important dates to remember: May 17 - Past Presidents Night; May 18 - Pinelawn Memorial Services and picnic; June 21 - Committee appointments for Milwaukee Reunion; (July-August recess); Sept. 13 - final meeting before reunion 9/19 - 9/21; Oct. 18 - meeting before Worcester Memorial 10/19 - 10/20; Nov. 15 - Nominations for 1992 officers; Dec. 20 - Election of Officers; Jan. 17 - 1992 Installation of Officers. Also on the agenda is a special presentation by Matt Urban of his book to the library at Hofstra University, scheduled for June 11, 1991. A large contingent of Ninthmen and local honor guard are expected to attend the festivities.

Adolph Wadalavage who heads the Committee to place the Matt Urban Story Book in Hofstra University informs us that this will take place on June 11th on the 9th Floor at 3:00 P.M. Matt Urban will be on hand to participate. For directions to Hofstra take Meadowbrook Pky. Ext. M 4 about 1 mile next to Veterans Coliseum. Wadalavage phone is 718-845-4688. For the Jersey members they can phone Charlie LiBretto, Matt Urbans pal, at 201-368-2304.

One last note about dues from Secretary Art Schmidt: If there is a dues envelope enclosed (with the NY Chapter May president's letter) - chapter record shows you haven't paid dues for 1991.

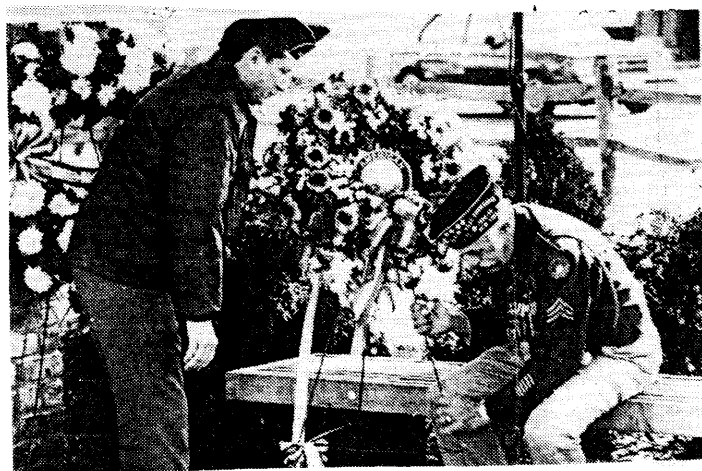
After close of the March meeting we partook of the refreshments ably provided by our favorite secretary.

Attending the meeting not mentioned above were: Lou Almasy, George Apar, William Canales, Anton Dietrich, Vincent Guglielmino, Emil Langer, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, Dan Quinn, Hermino Suarez, Adolph Wadalavage and Alphonse Zenka.

Well, its time to call the April meeting to order more about that in the next report....

Marvin Levy
Co A 60th Inf.
2044 Ellen Drive
Merrick, NY. 11566
Art Schmidt, NY
Secretary
69 - 20 69th St.
Glendale, NY 11385

Alzheimer's disease comes to most politicians early in life, it used to be called a "short memory".



Tony Varone (39th Inf.) is shown placing wreath at the Kings Park Library during Veterans Day Ceremonies. The holiday was marked with parades and services throughout Smithtown Township (NY). The other Vet on the left is not identified.

Co. B. 15th Engs.
RICHARD McGRATH
2856 West 85th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60652

McGrath Reports

Thanks to Fran Maher for sending the address for Father Connors Scholarship Fund. Send to Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA 01610, doesn't hurt to repeat it, maybe someone might have missed it. Fran is one of those, "How can I help guys." The association seems to be filled with those kind of good people.

Great to see Major Forrests letter, he writes a great letter and I hope he will be encouraged to write the history of the 15th Engineers during W.W. II. His experience as head of S-3 makes him the ideal candidate to do the job. I talked to him one time at the Lake Placid reunion and he told me more insights about our travels during the campaigns than I ever imagined.

I met a lot of good friends since I started going to the reunions and two of the best were Virginia and Ed McGrath. Fran and I send our deepest sympathy to Ed on his terrible loss.

Another sad note was to learn of Lindsey Nelson's serious affliction. He was so gracious at the reunions and we wish him well.

The last two months have been downers for me. On February 1st I had a by-pass operation and three days later our son's Air Force reserve unit was called to duty in Saudi Arabia. Anyone who served in North Africa recalls what that part of the world is like, I still taste those sand-covered rations. Outside of sand attacks and never ending gas mask drills, Mike said, it was nothing like our War. The tour of duty was short, but the forecast of a blood bath and thousands of casualties didn't sit well with the home folks. Even though it was short, I feel for the families who lost their sons. Mike is in a Aero medical evaluation Squadron and was stationed at a MASH hospital. He met many paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne and was very impressed with the caliber of men who belong to that division. I wrote and told him of the story that Lindsay Nelson related at the Nashville reunion he said that some of the most memorable battles of W.W. II were fought at THE TOWN PUMP in Fayetteville, between the 9th and the 82nd.

Enclosed is a donation in memory of all 9th Infantry Division men who have preceded us to that ultimate Fort in the heavens.

Thanks to Joe Killackey for his timely get well card, it is very welcome.

I belong to a 12-week cardiac conditioning program and they are trying to bring me back to feeling somewhat normal, again — Paul Lisa understands. I hope you are feeling better Paul, and you can make the Milwaukee reunion. We missed you and Lydia at Orlando. The cardiac kids are a lot like the "Old Reliabilities" they have that strong bond and do help each other.

I also enclose a prayer card that you may care to use. In the, "Golden Years" it pays to keep a little humor in your life.

Anyone reading this, if you care to help your buddies, write to the Octofoil.

1991 Reunion Sept 19-21 Milwaukee

Politician and armpits, need I say more?

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

First off, I offer my apologies to Pat Morano, for not writing to him, for the B Company Column, with the following suggestion for our Reunion in September. We had not had a Command Post for Company B in a long while, so how about reserving a Suite at the Hotel this time and use it for get-togethers between meals and trips? If every member who will attend the Reunion would send me a plain ordinary Post Card (my address is above) saying that you will attend and like my idea, I will reserve it, and we can divide the cost among all who attend. It really wouldn't cost too much if we had a big turnout. The suites hold at least 50 people and are described in the Octofoil. Doesn't it sound like a good idea? So please get those post cards to me and we will see you all in September in Milwaukee.

M Co. 60th Inf.
HARVEY WARNER
240 High Point Dr.
Eadsworth, OH. 44281

I was delighted to read of the mini reunions which the Company has been having. I have not been a member of the association until about two years ago and was not aware of them. I will certainly plan on being at the Clarksville, IN reunion and would like to be put on the mailing list for all the information.

I have not been in contact with any of the old group since the war ended. (I have had continuing contacts and reunions with the guys from the Personnel Section I was assigned to in Ingolstadt from June, 1945 until March, 1946).

I joined M Company on October 6, 1944 in the Huertgen, a replacement from the 78th in Camp Pickett, VA. After the Huertgen I was assigned to be one of the two company runners. I survived without being wounded.

I would be real glad to hear about, and from, any of the old guys who have been on my mind for these many years: Lt. Gronseth, Abe Spies, Bill Sherwin, Bill Helldouser, Dick Palmer, George Richards, Bob Green (was married to a Miss Colorado), Cliff Lee, Jim Deyo, George Bain, Otis Everage.

I'm excited about the prospect of finally getting together with the group. I look forward to whatever contacts anyone can make to me. Thanks very much for your help.

Company G 47th Inf.
RITO F. LICATA
9 North Street
Batavia, NY 14020

I had never heard of the Octofoil. How I got to know about it was through my wife's cousin, Joe Montalchi (39th), from New Jersey.

I was a replacement in Normandy in 1944. I was 19 years old. And I went in as a rifle man then, in two weeks I was picked to be Bazooka man. When we got to Normandy, that's when all hell broke loose for me. I met this boy by the name of Johnny Kurchey. We became such good friends. He was killed. I have been trying to find his family, but have gotten nowhere with it. When I was Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #166 in Batavia, NY, I found out he was buried in Cypress Hills National Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY. I cannot get anymore information on the whereabouts of his family. If anyone lives around there and knows anything about him or his family, please let me know. Thank you.

Shopping In Greater Milwaukee

Visitors to Greater Milwaukee will find an exciting variety of shopping choices. The Greater Milwaukee area abounds with quaint specialty shops, craftsmen's villages and one-of-a-kind galleries.

More traditional but equally inviting shopping is available throughout Greater Milwaukee's many comfortable malls, all offering a vast assortment of goods and services.

The Grand Avenue, a totally enclosed marketplace which has newly revitalized Milwaukee's historic shopping district in Downtown, represents a sparkling achievement in the graceful blending of old and new. The distinctive Plankinton Arcade, built in 1915, remains the heart of the Grand Avenue and its architectural theme is repeated throughout. The Grand Avenue is anchored on one end by Marshall Fields and on the other by the Boston Store. Visitors can travel the four-block long marketplace through connecting glass skywalks, completely protected from the elements. The upper level of the Grand Avenue features a Spiesgarten of assorted sidewalk cafes and an airy, bird's-eye view of shoppers below.

Our metropolitan area shopping centers offer a wide variety of goods and services. Store hours in general are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Sunday 12 (noon) - 5 p.m.

Bay Shore Shopping Center, located at I-43 and Silver Spring Drive, features a unique arrangement of variety shops. Bay Shore Mall... "not an exceptional number of stores, a number of exceptional stores."

Capital Court Shopping Center, 5500 W. Capitol Drive; Northridge, 7700 W. Brown Deer Road; Point Loomis 3555 S. 27th Street; Southridge, 5300 S. 76th Street; and Brookfield Square, 95 N. Moorland Rd. all comfortable indoor shopping and a wide variety of shops, both one-of-a-kind and national chains.

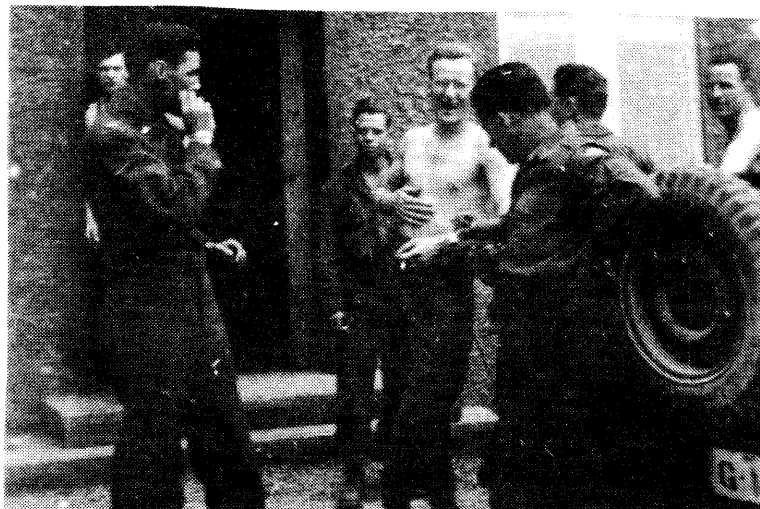
The elegance and beauty of the newly refurbished Mayfair Mall add delightful pleasures to your everyday shopping needs (or wants). Located at 2500 N. Mayfair Road, Mayfair is a must for the "serious" shopper.

Southgate Mall at 3333 S. 27th Street offers a wide variety of shops filled with gift giving ideas. The one-story mall where walking's easy, parking's free and bus routes are convenient.

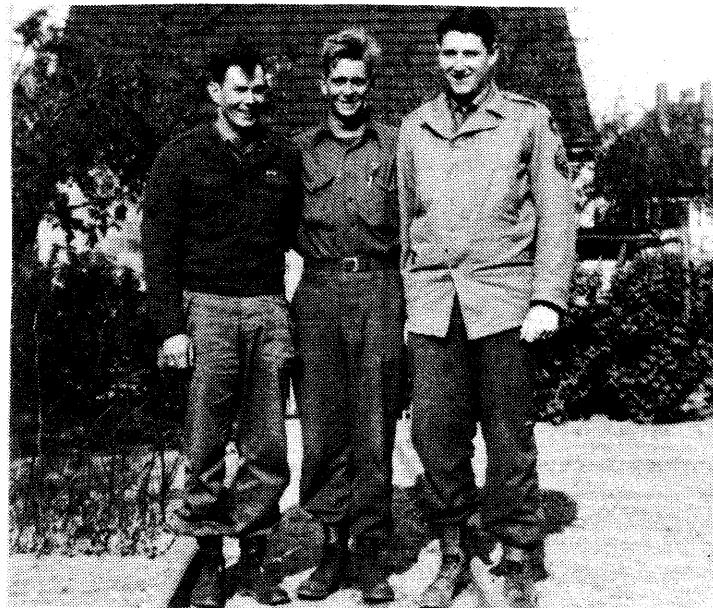
The Brookfield Fashion Center (west of Milwaukee) and the Greenfield Fashion Center (south of the city) are Williamsburg styled strip shopping with approximately 40 national, regional, and local stores and restaurants offering brand name merchandise at value oriented prices.

Reverence for tradition and historical preservation have led many local merchants to restore their buildings. Visitors strolling through Downtown, East Town, or any of the settlements and craftsmen's centers located in nearby areas around the city will notice the painstaking care merchants have taken to maintain the distinctive quality of their business.

In Downtown Milwaukee, visitors should take in Old World Third Street, a two-block area that captures the flavor of the "Streets of Old Milwaukee." Restored buildings (erected in the 1880's), cobblestone intersections, old-style Milwaukee Harp Street Lights, and specialty shops encourage pedestrians to shop and browse.



Siegfried Reinheimer Co G 60th Inf (our Army) supplies this photo taken in Manching, Bavaria at a bombed out airport. The fellow on the left is Lt. Carrol who was the Company Commander at the time, the shirtless GI's were cooks. Other than that Siegfried doesn't remember the names of the others. The time, occupation duty, May 1945.



C.B. Baker, Med 47th sends this photo taken in May 1945 at Dessau, Germany. Reading left to right: Hague O'Quinn, Bill Pauley, and Baker. Story in Mail Call.

M Co 47th Inf
LYLE F KITCHEN
735 Thomas St.
Janesville, Wis. 53545

Enclosing my dues for three years. I hope they are not too late that I will miss getting the Octofoil.

I was happy to read about Jon Davis and see his picture in the last issue. Brings back the old days, he was one of the very best.

I am looking forward to next reunion, hope some new faces will show up. Was saddened to learn that Col Labbitt has passed away.

Hope to see you at the reunion.

K Co. 47th Inf.
OBERT SOLHAUG
P.O. Box 204
Argyle, MN 56713-0204

Had a nice letter from Kenneth L. Meyer of Texas. He sent a list of names of former K Co. men who are among us mortals.

I was Transportation Corporal of K Co. 47. Was with K Co. 47 from the time they left the U.S.A. till before Battle of the Bulge. Was shipped to England for a 5 month stay in hospital when wounded. I came back to the Co. after it was over except for occupation.

Felt like I had let my buddies down.

Visitors can sample the world-famous sausage of Usinger's (made fresh right here), taste cheese from around the world at the Wisconsin Cheese Mart, explore a spice emporium, an oriental grocery, or an international import house. The gift shop at Mader's German Restaurant has a fine selection of imported crystal, china, and Hummel figurines. The sweet tooth in every visitor will be satisfied after a sample from the Ambrosia Chocolate Company.

East of the Milwaukee River (but still Downtown) are the Shops On Jefferson. This elegant street boasts fine restaurants, antique shops, and specialty shops. The well-known George Watts & Sons is a china, crystal and silver emporium.

Close to downtown, the Milwaukee Antique Center has gathered the wares of 75 antique shops under one roof. Shoppers searching for old-time treasures may browse through three floors of antiques.

Cedar Creek Settlement, in suburban Cedarburg, has taken shape in the beautifully restored 1864 Wittenberg

Woolen Mills. The Settlement is a collection of unique crafts, apparel and gift shops, and restaurants. The buildings are listed in the National Register of Historical Places and shelter a working blacksmith's shop, a year-round Christmas store, and the Stone Mill winery (tours are offered regularly with complimentary wine sampling).

South of Milwaukee, in Oak Creek, is the tradefolk village, the Market Place. The village contains more than 25 specialty shops and is modeled after a typical craftsmen's town of the 1800's.

West of the city, in Brookfield, is Stonewood Village. This re-creation of an eighteenth century colonial village offers unusual shops and restaurants grouped together on cobblestone lanes.

An efficient public transportation system aids visitors in getting from one shopping destination to another, and Greater Milwaukee is one of the safest and cleanest cities in the nation. Wherever visitors spend their shopping time, they are treated with courtesy and excellent service.

Down the Road of History

Co K 47th Inf
CHESTER H. JORDAN
1058 West Lakeview Drive
Baton Rouge, La., 70810
(504) 769-5407

Regarding your investigation of a 9th, memorial at Remagen, I have this to offer. I believe I led the first troops, Co. K 47th., across the bridge. I am enclosing excerpts from my book on my war experiences relating to Remagen.

My first copy of the OCTOFOIL was a real revelation — it contained names and photographs of people from my company of which I have absolutely no recollection. This refutes the old saw that we elderly can't remember what we had for dinner but total recall of events fifty years previous. I can't remember what I had for dinner either.

REMAGEN

7-20 MARCH, 1945

The last few days had been more frustrating than normal. The Germans were fighting a delaying action as we approached the Rhine. We would get fire from them and by the time we had worked our way into a position to attack the bastards had "Departed." Only to repeat the performance a little farther on. We weren't losing a hell of a lot of people but we were losing a hell of a lot of time and energy. It also loused up nerves and dispositions.

As we neared the Rhine we could see the army's preparation for an amphibious assault. They were bringing up boats of all sizes including LCT's. They were carrying them on tank retrievers and lowboys and when they went through the old villages with narrow, crooked streets they left straighter streets and smaller houses. They just knocked off the protruding corners. It looked as though we were in for another boat ride.

CASTLE ON THE RHINE

About noon we came out on a ridge overlooking Bonn and the Rhine valley. There was our "CASTLE ON THE RHINE" waiting for us, literally. We moved in immediately. We were met at the grand front door by a grand (no kidding) butler. He spoke no English but his gestures were very fluent and they said "GET LOST!" We no sprechen the gesture and walked in and he hurried off to fetch his master.

The master was a Count, or a Duke, or a Barron or some such and he spoke passable English. He repeated what the butler had said in mime. We were not welcome. His house was occupied by only he, his wife and daughter, and the servants, he did not allow soldiers of any nation on his estate. It was not his war and he wanted nothing to do with its' participants. We were informed that he was now a victim of a war he was not in and we would not decide the future of his estate. If he was a good Count and he and his family followed our instructions carefully we might even let them stay in the house. I don't think that is exactly what he wanted or expected to hear.

We told him to collect everyone in the kitchen until we had given the pitch a thorough going over and then we would decide what to do with them. I don't know if he was a Nazi but he obviously got along with them pretty well. I can't imagine a died in the wool party member doing any better. He had a large stable with a number of well groomed riding horses and the grounds were well manicured.

The most amazing room in the house was tall enough to have clouds floating through the ceiling. I don't know what the room was called nor its function but I'd guess it was fifty feet tall, forty feet wide and seventy-five feet long. There was a huge fireplace in the center of the south wall, four huge windows looking over the valley on the east wall, at the top of the west wall were clerestory windows while racks full of riding quirts, shot guns, and rifles lined the bottom. Every square inch of wall that was not covered with something else had small animal horns mounted on wooden plaques. Everyone immediately liberated a riding quirt and walked around imitating Hollywood's idea of English officers in India.

I was fantasizing about my evening in luxury when we got a call that a bridge across the Rhine south of Bonn had been captured and they needed all the people they could get to exploit this gift. They would send all the trucks they could get their hands on but it would not be enough to carry the whole company. The rest of the company would come when transportation could be arranged.

OVER THE BRIDGE

Being second in command of the company meant that I was to be first over the bridge - I would take the first compliment. The trucks were late but that doesn't explain why it took all night to travel the twenty miles to Remagen. When we dismounted at the bridge it looked like a Hollywood premier. With a gaggle of big brass and their little brass standing around as though they were waiting to be interviewed. There was anti aircraft guns everywhere and quite a few tanks. The bridge at Remagen was a railroad bridge named after Ludendorff. There was no reception committee for K company nor a ticket taker so I decided to go ahead and cross the Rhine. The bridge was in pitiful shape and we had to be very careful not to fall through into the river. On the east side the rail line disappeared into a tunnel heading south. We climbed up the cliff until we were just below the crest. It seemed a good place to await orders. It was certainly a good spot to see the countryside. The hills beyond the river to the west were covered in vineyards and we could see all of the hustle and bustle around the bridge.

From this spot I almost became the only infantry (details in FLY BOYS) ace by shooting down three Stukas. Eventually someone showed up with orders. They weren't much - take my detachment about a half a mile to the east and occupy a purported village. He had no map, I had no map and it was getting dark. Now I knew what they meant by exploit - it was me not the bridgehead.

JOHNNIE COME LATELIES

As we reached the top of the cliff a company of happy soldiers were walking down shouting insults at the "Johnnie Come Latelies." This was from an outfit that landed in France in October. There was not a star in the sky, the world was dead black. Except for an occasional shell flash I might as well have closed my eyes. I ran into fences and trees and fell into ditches. I lost contact with everyone except a radioman and runner. After an eternity of bumbling along I ran into a building. As I was feeling my way around it, I ran into someone. When my heart started again, I found it was one of our sergeants and he had two or three people with him.

I told him we had come from the left and there were no openings there so we should try the right. As we turned the corner we could see a slit of light coming under the door. In that blackness it looked like a light house. The light was almost at eye level because the house was raised. We went up the steps in a rush, kicked open the door and interrupted seven German soldiers at their dinner.

They jumped to attention and promptly surrendered. They told us where their officer was and urged speed because he had a radio and an automobile. I send a couple of men over but he had flown the coop. I left the door open and the lamp burning so that my men could see if they happened by. They stumbled in in dribbles and drabs. There was a young German civilian (at least he didn't have on a uniform) in the house who said he was home on sick leave from a torpedo factory. He also said the soldiers we had were the only ones he had seen. I told my men to find a house and go to sleep.

Several of us pulled some feather beds into the floor and died. The next morning the battalion was on the radio. They said the rest of the company would be in later, but in the meantime I was to take what I had and occupy a group of farm houses about a quarter of a mile to the east. I think the strategy behind this was to get us out of those houses and to give them a buffer.

I got our little party rolling. In the light of day I could see that we were in rolling country and there was a gentle rise up to our objective surrounded by orchards. Our initial contact was from MG fire coming from our right front but it stopped as we walked amongst them and a half dozen krauts surrendered. One of their sergeants begged me to take his 7.65 Walther which turned out to be the only pistol I got home with. As we were accepting gifts from the welcoming committee we started getting a stream of 40mm cannon fire from a multi-barreled anti-aircraft gun on our left. Fortunately the gun was exposed and we blew the men away from the gun. We found no soldiers nor anyone else in the houses. It looked like a good place for retirement.

NO BAZOOKA

The next morning I was sitting in the barn where I had slept. It seemed highly improbable that we would get chow that day so I took out a can of "C" lights and my can of orange marmalade for my days meal. As I was spreading my first cracker a soldiers standing by the front door called in a hushed voice, "Come here lieutenant and take a look at this!" I could hear the purr of the engine before I got there but when I looked around the door jamb I was looking right down the barrel of a Mark V's cannon. We had no bazooka and I wasn't about to play hand grenade with the bastard so I said "Get the hell back to the village we were in yesterday."

We went out the door trotting and as panic took over we ran like spotted assed apes. We passed the ack-ack gun in a cloud of dust and raced on. As we approached the village the Germans were attacking it from the north. We shot them up as we ran down their line. I saw one kraut carrying a schmisser who turned to see what was happening die with a look of amazement on his face. If the tank we were running from fired I didn't hear it. Our retrograde movement could not be dignified with the name retreat. it was a route. It was

the only retreat that K company made while I was with it and I was responsible. I paid for it dearly, I left my kraut eating utensils with my marmalade.

I checked in at battalion and said, "WE are back home" and gave them the good news bad news routine. I do believe the bad news loomed larger in their view despite the fact that we probably saved their ass in thwarting the German attack. C'est la gurre. We returned to our feather beds with the fervent hope that they could find a more competent group to retake the farm houses.

RETAKE

The radio awakened me. The Battalion commander wanted to talk to me. He asked if I didn't think it would be better for K company morale to retake the place we had been kicked out of. I said, "No!" He said the remainder of the company was still not there but he would send a tank with me today. I said, "Roger, over and out."

The German tank had pulled out but there were twenty or thirty soldiers south-east of the houses. Their resistance was half hearted and we took them prisoner.

Sgt. Sheldon and I were standing in a house whose west wall had been blown off, the floor was three or four feet off the ground where our prisoners were standing with their hands clasped behind their head. They were watching Sheldon and me on the stage as though they were expecting a soft shoe number. ENTER: Stage Center. A soldier brought a German officer through a door from an adjoining room. He was clean, his uniform immaculate, his boots were shining, and he had a fifty mission crush in his cap. He was slight of build and about Sheldon's height. He wore a big smile as he gave me a snappy salute.

OUR FRIEND

When I didn't return his salute he hastened to say that he was delighted to see us because he was our friend, a

Czechoslovakian. Sgt. Sheldon grabbed him by the tunic with his left hand and said, "You don't know how long we have been looking for a friend," and he hit him with his right. "We have been traveling for months and everyone we meet is hostile, they shoot at us!" and he hit him again. The effect on the soldiers was more devastating than on the officer. You could imagine them saying to themselves, "If they do this to officers what will they do to us?" I didn't want to stop my laughing long enough to stop Sheldon. There was probably something in the Geneva Convention about hitting Czech friends but I wasn't conversant with that part. Sheldon finally wound down or hurt his hand or something because he stopped and threw our friend off the stage. EXIT: Stage Front.

It was in one of those farmhouses that my runner found the Rolliflex camera lurking in a potato bin, that I eventually liberated. There were several houses spread around the area and now that the company was back together most of the platoon leaders moved into houses and the men were dug in to the east. The entire officer corp consisted of Mac Waters, DeVall, and myself. We got in two new lieutenants but they were so incredibly naive and inexperienced that I put both in the weapons platoon.

It was here I received my large shipment of Air Corps retreats (se Repple Depple) and lost all of them immediately. Our company was tired and depleted. It seemed like the ultimate insult to have our own anti-aircraft fire falling on us all the time. The Ludendorff Bridge had fallen some time ago but the krauts were trying to get the pontoon replacement. A pox on all their houses - I was sick to death of war.



PRISONER OF WAR - THE LONG MARCH ACROSS GERMANY

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

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JIM PERRY

P.O. Box 55575
North Pole, Alaska 99705

My name is Jim Perry and I live in North Pole, Alaska. My purpose for writing is concerning the patches you wore during your WWII military service. I collect all types of insignia and I would like to add the patches you wore to my collection. My collection contains over 1200 patches from all services and it would be a honor to add yours to my collection. I have been collecting for a little over 18 months and have contacted many veterans concerning patches.

I recently retired after 21 years in the Air Force and only wish I had begun collecting when I came into the service. I got your name and address from the American Legion magazine, as I am a member of the post in Fairbanks. I hope my letter doesn't offend you and I hope you can fulfill my request. My mailing address is: P.O. Box 55575, North Pole, Alaska 99705.

AT 47th Inf.

ROGER GARTLAND
706 Marianna Rd.
Auburndale, FL. 33823

We've had a good winter; enjoyed bingo and lots of card playing. I've been on the golf courses several times and have tried my hand at shuffling a few times.

On St. Patrick Day we attended the ball game between the Red Sox and Cincinnati Reds. The Chain of Lakes Stadium in Winter Haven was packed.

In about a month, we'll be heading north to our permanent address, 255 Charles Street, Watertown, NY. We hope you and the family have had a good winter.

We plan to attend the Fla. Chapter meeting in Ocala in April. Our plans for attending the reunion in Milwaukee in September are not definite.

Deadline for next issue July 20th

Med Det. 47th Inf.
LOUIS A. SIEBEN
68 Richard Street
Dover, N.J. 07801

Enclosed in my dues for the next three years, and a bit extra for the Memorial Fund in memory of the medics of the 47th who made the supreme sacrifice.

It was just 50 years ago that I had the good fortune of being assigned to the 47th Inf. Medical Detachment and I would like to say to that great group of guys who shared my life for the next 4 years, "Thanks for the memories."

34th F.A.
GEORGE I. CONNOLLY, JR.
681 Village Road
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

A sad note to inform you that Arnold R. Renchen of the 34th F.A. Bn passed away on 22 March in St. James, NY. I didn't know where he had joined the Assoc. since I located him after many years, in December. I know he was excited about establishing contact with old friends again and joining the Assoc.

Arn was able to make a significant contribution to Phillips research in El Guettar.

As I look at my membership card, it says dues are paid through 1989 and then I found a check in August to pay for a life membership. Must have destroyed the life card.

60th Inf.
ROBERT H. RUCKER
205 Greenway Drive
Bryan, Tex.
77801

I know that you have received a story about our organizational meeting in Belton. I am enclosing a picture, for possible use in the OCTOFOIL. I made the picture with 400 film inside and I hope that it is clear enough to print.

This was an excellent meeting and the work went smoothly. There was a lot of enthusiasm about the chapter and the possibility of hosting the National Reunion in Texas in the future.

Looking forward to Milwaukee. I have my hotel reservation as of 10/24/90! I want to be where the action is... as always.

Give my best regards to Marie.

Co. F. 47th Inf.
JAMES S. MOORE
2128 31st St., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020
Sorry Dan,

I have gotten so used to that red ink warning, my dues slip up on me this time. Here they are for the next three years and good luck to all of you.

I see from the last issue of Octofoil that my old company commander, Ray Schmader is still active and writing letters. More power to him and his.

LEO SMITH
215 Geary Dr.
Montgomery, Ala. 36108

Letter to friends, in Octofoil. I know you all have heard what heroes were in Desert Storm. I too, am proud of those young men. But they could learn a lot about hardship, and fellowship from the old 9th Infantry Div.

I just had heart surgery and I'm doing great; still think of all those I knew in the Ninth — and wish and hope one day to get to one of the reunions.

Leo (rebel) Smith

9th Signal Co.
JAMES W. BROWN
P.O. Box #204
Roseboro, N.C. 28382

I enjoy reading the Octofoil. So I guess it's time for my dues. Keep up the good work!

G Co. 47th Inf.
AL FARESE
15 Ambar Place
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Enclosed check for \$50.00 to the Memorial Fund in memory of John and Mary DeSepio. Pat and I knew them only for a few short years but we both learned to love them for their own good selves but also for the medical problems they both suffered through with much patience.

John was out of "M" Co. of long standing and I was a greeneyed rookie that came to the 9th in the hedge rows of Normandy. We met at the local VA hospital in Lyons, NJ and he introduced me to the Association for which I am ever grateful.

May God rest their souls and all those of the many others gone to their eternal reward.

Happy Easter to you and your First Lady.

With all our best wishes,

Co. B 15 Eng.
TONY MADONNA
40 Orient Way
Worcester, MA 01604

I just received the Jan.-Feb. issue of the Octofoil. I noticed I was paid up to 1992 with the old rate. The new rate for 3 years is \$25.00 so I send you the difference. Enclosed a check for that and a little something for the Memorial Fund in memory of a fellow Worcesterite, George Bunoza who passed on to eternity January 28th. The same date our beloved Father Connors died a few years ago! 1986. George served with A Co. 15th Engineers.

I am pleased about the new Texas Chapter. It should bring more members to the Association.

Another news item for the members of B Co. 15th Engineers that landed at Saifi, Nov. 8. Samuel Matejzel is in a nursing home in Aledo, ILL. His sister wrote to me, said he was amputated above the knee on one leg. He can be reached by writing to his sister: Ida Matejzel, Box 118, Matherville, ILL. 61263. Sam was discharged after the African Campaign.

Co. I 39th Reg.
J.C. DAWSON
P.O. Box 622
Decatur, TX 76234

Just a few lines to the Octofoil and to send my dues for (3) three years. I enjoy reading the Octofoil. Always looking to see if I find someone I know.

I've been trying to locate John C. Seals who was in I Company in 1944 and 1945. He was from Tennessee. Last time I saw him was Jan. 30, 1945.

If my health permits, I'm planning to go to Spencer, Indiana, July 30, 31, and Aug. 1 for a mini-reunion of Co. I. I missed the reunion last year. Hope to make this one.

15th Engs.
WILLIAM F. BONGIORNO
2018 E. Prairie Cir.
Deltona, FL 32725

Enclosed find a check for my dues for three years. I'm looking forward to seeing the gang at the Milwaukee reunion. Florida has been good to my wife & I. Six years already. My, how time flies. Weather here has just been great. I play golf three times a week. I'm a hacker, but I love it. See you in September.

47th Inf.
JOSEPH KAMINSKI
5820 Greenridge
Toledo, Ohio 43615

Here's my renewal for 3 years.

I can see you're doing one super job on the Octofoil. It has to take up a lot of your time. We're trying to go to Milwaukee for the convention if at all possible. Maybe you'll also be there.

Co. M 60th Inf.
WILFRED M. THORNTON
515 East Dubail Avenue
South Bend, Indiana 46613

It has been a while since I wrote a letter to the Div. Association.

Enclosed a check for \$25.00 to help out. I have been a life member for many years. It is such a good feeling not to have to send in dues, each year, or each 3 years.

I saw this article about John Davis, Com. 47th in the last Octofoil. It was of great interest to me, as I always wondered if anyone else had gone from Buck Private to Commanding officer in the same company, besides myself.

Now I know. I wonder if there were any more in our Division that had this great Honor.

I have made several telephone calls lately to some of my old buddies. Cole Gronseth of Fla. had triple bypass surgery and is recovering in fine shape. Talked to Allan Luce & Dick Newell, they are fine. Also paid a visit to Phil Gilbert in Illinois. He has retired to an apartment in the city, no more farming for him. Regis Sharbough of the Pittsburgh area, is in very bad shape right now and we all pray for him to recover soon.

Co. M, 6th Inf. will be having another Mini Reunion this year. It will be in Clarksville, Ind., Sept. 12, 13, and 14th. Since 1982 our attendance has been from 50 to 70 each year; we always have a great time. We had several new faces last year. It is amazing how much we change in 45 years+ but our old stories don't change!! I promise I won't wait so long to write next time.

2nd Bn. & 3rd Bn. 39th Inf.
A.P. CROONQUIST
2833 Forest Lodge Rd.
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Enclosed a check for 3 year's dues. Please place the rest in your Memorial Fund.

I've thoroughly enjoyed reading the Octofoil over the past several years and it has jogged many memories of some wonderful people and interesting places.

Several years ago, while visiting my daughter in Nuremberg, my wife and I were able to visit a number of areas where the 2nd and 3rd Bns. 39th Inf. passed through — Jungersdorf, Merode Castle, Kalterherberg, Schmidt Vossenack, Neideggen on Ruhr, Inchenhofen, Traunstein, Bad Tuzl — also checked through Bad Godesberg and Remagen — It was a nostalgic trip. We are making another jaunt in July to do a little more touring.

Keep up the great work with the Octofoil, My congratulations to the Editors and to the Association Board.

Co. A 39th Inf.
ROBERT SCHOENEKEASE
1515 Locust
Quincy, FL 62301

Here it is, dues time again. I sure enjoy every issue of Mail Call, although I don't see many names, which I am familiar with. It seems that the number of 39th Regiment are rapidly passing on. I sure would like to hear from anyone who spent the winter of 1944 and 1945 in the Hurtegen Forest. Must sign off now, will enclose check for another year.

Co. C 9th Med.
A.G. FLOYD, M.D.
302 N. Thompson Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

Keep the Octofoil going this time. We do plan on going to Ninth Med mini reunion in May — can't make National. 3 years dues enclosed.

Co. L 47th Inf.
VESTAL R. LESTER
19631 Strathern Street
Reseda, CA 91335

Enclosed is a \$25.00 check for three year membership in the 9th Inf. Div. Assn.

I joined L Co., 47th Inf. in Oran, North Africa, as a 2nd Lt. replacement while they were loading on shipboard for action in Sicily.

I was given command of L Co., still a 2nd Lt., just before the bombing along the St. Lo-Periers Road. After clearing western France of Germans, we loaded on trucks and caught the 3rd Armoured Div. and rode tanks into Belgium. We assisted in the Meuse River crossing near Dinant. We walked into Schevenhuetten, Germany in the Huertgen Forrest, southeast of Aachen. There we waited for supplies to catch up. The next push started November 21st to get out on the Cologne plains. I was hit that day with an artillery tree burst. This was just north of the area of the Battle of the Bulge that began Dec. 15th. Seven days later I lost my left leg above the knee.

In addition to all the theatre ribbons etc., I was awarded the Purple Heart with cluster, the Distinguished Service Cross, and was retired May 1st, 1946, as a Captain, Inf., AUS.

I enrolled at the University of Kentucky, got married, and received a BS degree in Electrical Engineering in three years. I was a civil instructor/supervisor in Electronic Center Measures for the Air Force five years at Kessler AFB, Biloxi, Miss. Counter Measures were then automated so I went to work in the Primary Standards Department of Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, CA in 1957. I retired from HAC in 1984.

I have an Amateur Radio Operator's license and can be heard each evening from 5:00 to 8:00 PDT transmitting on 14.286 MHz.

My wife, Melba, and I raised two boys and 4 daughters resulting in eleven grandchildren.

Co. C 47th Inf.
JOHN D. GREGORY
1106 Woodmont Circle
Franklin, Ky. 42134

I guess I had better get my dues in, I sure would miss the OCTOFOIL. There is no way to express my joy, about reading about the exploits of each one in the 9th Division.

I joined Co. C. 47th in the Hedge rows. I fought until St. Lo July 28th, 1944. There I received a wound in my right thigh. I was sent back to England, near Stratford-On-Avon. This was near Shakespeare's home. I returned to Co 47th at Monschau. There I remained until the end of the war.

The things I remember most were of course St. Lo, Remaagen, Dachau.

I have a nephew, now in Germany. He brought me a tape of Dachau. This tape made my hair stand-up. This was a horrible place.

I can close my eyes now and still see that place. I had to pull Sgt. of the Guard here for a while. The stench of that place, early in the morning, was almost unbearable. That place was a disgrace to humanity.

I am a retired rural mail carrier, and have had bypass surgery, so letter writing is my main pastime.

I would like to hear from any 9th people, especially Co. C. 47th 3rd Platoon.

B Btry. 26th FA & K Co. 39th Inf.
LeROY F. MILLER
5317 2nd St.
St. Augustine, FL. 32084

I arrived in Europe as an Infantry replacement and was assigned to the Div., well in time someone must have been hurt in the Artillery and since I had training as a communication man in the Artillery I was reassigned to "B" Battery 26th F.A. Boy was I mad (OH YEAH), but I took the orders like a good soldier and left rapidly. Well the 2nd or third night after being with them I was assigned guard duty. It was a pitch dark night and bitter cold, before I went out, one of the fellows told me that there were a couple of clowns in the outfit that may try me out so be careful. Well, about the end of the tour I heard the sound of German Boots coming towards me from our rear. Now you really couldn't see a thing and the cold made the sounds that much louder, I just couldn't believe that any German could be that dumb to be walking that way down the middle of a macadam road that way. It sounded like he was in a parade. Well, I thought, O.K. here we go, it must be one of them clowns. I waited till he was fairly close, all I could do was guess, since it was so dark. I challenged him with "Halt." The cleats came to a snappy halt. When I just got the first word to challenge him further, all of a sudden it sounded like a dogs nail scratching on a tile floor trying to run away.

Well joke or no, I opened up with the M-1 (which I still had) and fired in the area that I thought he was heading. I heard nothing and in a very short time I had all kinds of company wanting to know what happened. We looked around as best we could. And again, when it started to get daybreak, but again nothing. Well, the next morning I was told to report to the C.O. I went in, reported and saluted, the officer told me to sit down and he wanted me to tell him what happened last night. Somewhere between the time and I don't know how but as I unslung the M-1 and got the butt to the floor the sucker went off and sent a round through the ceiling. Now that created a bit of turmoil and all I could do was stand there and wait till the --hit the fan. Well it did, I reported, got my lecture and was dismissed, and within the next few days was back with the Infantry only this time as a radio operator and driver for the F.O. Officer, plus minus my M-1, but now with a Carbine. Now!, that is another matter for a later date that may give a grin to someone. I still want to get back with the matters after I had re-enlisted, but I feel these are better and not get ahead of myself in my love affair with the 9th Div.

See You Later.

P.S. I read The Octofoil from front to back several times over and am truly sorry that I had missed so many back issues. I originally joined the Assn. when it first started and my No. was 1068 and it expired in Dec. 51 and was signed by (it looks like), Charles G. Though??? I dropped out as even though the money was small at that time, there were more important things needed. Plus at that time all I received was dues are due.

9th QM Co.
BOB ELMES
23 Williamstowne Ct., #6
Cheektowage, NY 14227

Guess I'm a little late for my '91 dues. I'm an 80-year old semi-invalid and don't get out anymore.

All the best.

**1991 Reunion
Sept 19-21
Milwaukee**

MAIL CALL

F Co 60th Inf
2nd Bn Hq 39th Inf
GEORGE A. PEDRICK
 2302 Riddle Ave #405
 Wilmington, DE 19806

Enclosed find check for 3 more years and a little extra for the Memorial Fund. Each issue of the Octofoil brings pleasurable reading and a search for familiar names and memories of time and places. Some were pleasant and many were sad.

These years go so quickly. I served for 1 year in F Co 60th and almost 4 years with 2nd Bn Hq 39th Inf.

I have wonderful memories of many of the men I served with and also sadness for those friends I lost in combat. The Division meant an awful lot to me. I would like information on two buddies if any of our readers can furnish it.

Gerald Mullaney, Co F, 60th Inf Jan. 1941 until I left for OCS Feb. 42 and Jack Wells, either E Co or G Co 60th Inf. I knew him for some period of time.

I hope to make the reunion in Milwaukee since I have no health problem.

Co C 60th Inf
SAM SWARTZ
 160 S. Ridge Rd.
 Reinholds, PA 17569

A friend of mine, Lester Lutz, of New Holland, PA gave me your name and address to write you concerning membership in your Assn.

I would also like information about the date and the convention for this year as I have never been in touch with my unit since sometime in 1945. I served in the 60th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Infantry Div. I joined the 60th Infantry Regiment somewhere in Belgium; the only town I can remember in LIEGE, Belgium and from there to the front lines which were in Huertegen Forest. The 60th Infantry Regiment was known as "Go-Devis."

Lester Lutz wrote to you for information on the 9th Infantry Div. and I do have your purpose of organization with your address. Perhaps you could send me an application and whatever other things I should need.

Co. I 60th Inf.
ANDREW HOSIE
 1420 N.W. 19th St. Ct.
 Crystal River, FL 32629

Henry Santos of the Florida Chapter received this letter.

We enjoyed your letter on back of info. sheet. We think of you often but I just never think to use the phone after I get Andy in bed at night. I can't talk freely when he's listening to every call I make or get. Things are not going well at all, again. The new experimental drug hasn't done a thing for him. The nodes are all back (plus new ones) all around the neck-base, shoulder area and in back arm pits. Very painful this time and he is now more depressed than usual. He goes into the hospital Monday, more tests and we'll find out "what's left to try." I thought the last series was going to be the "miracle" we had both been waiting for, but I guess the Good Lord has other plans!

Sure wish we were able to go to Ocala with you all. Falling on the 20th again we could have celebrated our 45th Anniversary as we did in St. Pete(?). I will be thinking of you all, we'll be there in spirit!!!!

P.S. A really nice couple — maybe a few cards will boost their morale.

Co. B 39th Inf.
PAUL R. SAPP
 P.O. Box 34
 Hoboken, GA 31542

You will find a check in this letter for three year's membership. I enjoy reading the Octofoil very much for some times I will read about someone that I used to know back in World War II and it seems so good to know they are well and doing just fine.

If any of them happens to read this letter and would like to write to me sometime, I would be very happy to hear from any of them.

I have never been to any of the reunions. I have always wanted to go but I can't make it. So I hope all of you guys will have a great one this year.

3rd Bn. Hq 39th Inf.
LUCIEN SOUMIER
 RD #2 Box 299
 Norfolk, NY 13667

Sending you my dues for '91. I am housebound for the next 8 months. Keep up the good work. I joined the 39th, 3rd Bn Hq Co. in France I & R Platoon. My service record does not show that I was awarded the CIB; how can I get it put in? Hurtgen Forest was my first combat and all the way through. Wounded February 22nd, '45 and got the Bronze Star same day. Also Purple Heart. Bill Sweeney was in the Platoon. Frank Sumter, I believe, was my Platoon Sgt. but can't locate him. He was from Baltimore, Maryland — need help to get things straightened out.

Thanks Dan.

Thierney was also in our outfit. He was Sgt. in Communication and he knew me. We still correspond. He lives in New Hampshire.

K Co. 60th Inf.
LEO PAT WILLIAMSON
 1725 Anastasia Way, So.
 St. Petersburg, FL 33712

I don't know if I'm paid up or not — think I gave Henry Santos some money sometime. Whatever — use it wherever it fits.

There are some people I wonder about — 60th Inf. E.M. Vinny Brandenburg — 1st Bn. Poscullo—E.M. Gotch Capt. 3rd Bn. Co. I?

I had a Catholic Chaplain in 1st Bn. — Good man, can't remember his name.

Eddy Self — 1st Bn. Co. C? I believe, Vionni Capt— 1st Bn. S., Coulter & McAdoo — both Capt. commanded A & B, I believe.

I know that Capt. Alcorn, S-3 was healthy up to a month or so ago & John Moore, D Co, will outlive us all. John our 40th commanding a company — he was made of tough stuff. I commanded 1 Bn. 60th Combat, 2 Bn. 10th Inf. 5th Div. — 1st Bn. 7 Inf. 3rd Div., 2 Bn. 5th Ca - 1st Cav. Div. peace time. And kind of get my people mixed up.

Med. Det. 47th Inf.
WALTER S. LANDIS
 1203 Olympic Cir. S.
 Apt. #3
 Whitehall, Pa. 18052

Enclosed find check for \$25.00 for three years dues for The Octofoil.

Unfortunately I had a stroke in Dec. 1984 and then six bypasses in 1987, therefore, we had to move into an apartment as we could not do the work needed with a big house and an acre of property.

I am fairly good now but must be checked regularly by the doctors.

I look forward to receiving The Octofoil.

LOUISE E. WEBER
 1736 Route 52
 Hopewell Jct, NY 12533-6642
 To the Octofoil Publishing Staff!

Greetings!

Some time ago, I sent you information about firms where books about The Huertgen Forest Battle might be obtained. I have since been informed that the MacDonald volume is no longer available. Unfortunately! However, the Charles Whiting book still is!

For persons interested in magnificent W.W. II reporting in extreme military detail! With emphasis on the Battle of the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) — I do recommend John S.D. Eisenhower's The Bitter Woods published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY (1969).

It is probably available only in libraries. Also for excellent reading, attention Veterans of St. Lo — in the volume A Sense of History, the best writings from pages of American heritage — Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, MA The essay St. Lo by Charles Cawthon "A soldier who fought there recalls the struggle".

In closing, I wish to add a personal note. In the reading of these records — there results not only a sense of justified pride, earned at the price of blood, but often a warm glow of remembrance, of friendship when a certain unit — (ex. the various infantry units of the 9th Division) are mentioned. With such recollection, also come remembered fears and anxieties, and ultimately relief and a feeling of our eternal gratitude to all participants.

The above sent in remembrance of Sgt. Leon L. Weber (32002229), 9th Div., 2nd Bn. Hq Co. 39th Inf.

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

As usual, I am probably a little late in sending in my dues, but I guess that is nothing new.

I continue to enjoy reading all of the interesting letters and notes in the Octofoil.

The recent events in the Middle East brought back many memories of our experiences in Africa, especially, and W.W. II in general.

Once again, this kindled my spirits and patriotism. I felt like putting on my uniform (which I can wear) and strut around to let my friends know I was on the First Team, the Ninth Division. I do still drive around with the license plate 9th Div. on my car.

Best wishes, once again to everyone.

K Co. 47th
EVERETT SERFLING
 RR2 Box 206
 Preston, Minn. 55965

Dear Dan Quinn,
 I am writing this for my husband Everett Serfling. He joined the 9th Infantry Division in May of 1942.

He was taken prisoner at Schenenboute, Germany, September 26, 1944. He lost all track of the Division till we got in touch with Red Philips. He was in Company K 2nd Platoon and he is wondering if anyone might possibly remember him. He'd like to hear from them.

Cypress Shaw also from Preston, Minn. was in the same 2nd Platoon. We visit with him & his wife.

Everett recognized Victor Chuck's picture of the boys that went to Paris. Seeing it in the Nov./Dec. 1990 issue of the Octofoil. He was their cook all the time he was in K Company.

We hope to make the reunion in Milwaukee in Sept. 1991. It will be his first one. Wondering if Chuck is still living.

Medics & C Co. 47th Inf.
C.B.B. MAKER

2001 Oakland Avenue
 Johnson City, Tennessee 37601

It has been a long time since I have written, so I had better get busy and do so. It is always good to read the letters from others and to be in touch with them through the OCTOFOIL. There is a very warm feeling to read a letter from someone you remember from WW II days.

Had a nice letter from our own Dr. Sordill in recent weeks. We celebrated the 75th. anniversary of our funeral business a few weeks ago, and I had sent him a copy of the brochure we gave out at the open house. I am sure you remember the photo of Dr. Sordill in the History of the 9th. Infantry Division Book. It was made at Monschau, Germany at the 1st Bn. Aid Station during the Bulge in December, 1944. I was at the aid station at the time the photo was made with frost bitten feet.

Have not heard from our friend Bill Klauz in a long time. Hope he has not forgotten his old friends. He was Executive Officer in C Company 47th. while I was one of the aid men there. I have very kind feelings for him.

Had a phone call from Myrlene Benton today at noon telling me that her husband Ira C. Benton "Pappy" had died a few days ago from a massive stroke in Columbia, Alabama - "Pappy" drove the number fifteen ambulance from B Company 9th. Med. Bn. and was at all the aid stations in the 47th. Regiment from time to time. Think I sent you a copy of a photo of "Pappy" and his asst. driver Caulk standing by old number 15 after it had been hit by a German 88 shell while transporting three wounded men from the 1st. Bn. Aid station 47th. to a hospital in the rear. The photo came out in one of the Octofoil issues later. I am sure you remember "Pappy."

Had several cards at Christmas time from people in the Medics and C Company 47th. One from Dr. Larimer who was C.O. of the 1st. Bn. Aid Station from the Bulge on to occupational duty. He is now retired in Colorado Springs.

I am enclosing you a photo of O'Quinn, Pauley and Baker made at the 1st. Bn. Aid Station in Dessau, Germany in May, 1945. Don't believe you have ever had a copy of this one. Pauley is no longer with us and O'Quinn lives in Hawthorne, Florida.

Must close for this time.

Co. H 47th Inf.
GEORGE B. SHAW
 702 E. 5th Street
 Metropolis, ILL 62960

Hello Dan,
 Hope this finds you doing OK. Not much new with me — same old six & seven.

There is a guy who lives in my hometown & I have known him all my life. We were talking not long ago & he told me he was in the 47th Anti Tank Co. 9th Div. in Europe and never knew that the 9th had an Assoc. His name is "Bryce Meftzger" & he was wounded around the Battle of the Bulge & received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

He has declined to join the Assoc. but would like to hear from some of the guys he served with in the Anti Tank Co. His address is 903 E. 6th Street, Metropolis, ILL., 62960; phone # 618-524-5349. I presume the dues are still \$5.00. Take care.

PS — If you publish this in the Octofoil, maybe some of Bryce's buddies in Anti Tank Co. will read it & contact him!

1991 Reunion
Sept 19-21

THE OCTOFOIL
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E Company 39th Inf.
GILBERT E. GRICOSKIE
 939 W. Holly Street
 Shamokin, PA 17872

Enclosed is a check for one year's dues.

I also would like to thank the guys from E. Company of the 39th for the cards and well wishes while I was in the hospital for my heart by-pass operation October 6th, 1990 instead of the Reunion I wound up in the hospital.

I am feeling fine since the operation and want to say hello to Snuffy Goldsmith, Ken Hill, Joe Donovan, Nicholas, Sabato, Faulkner, Lauer, Payne, Rigsby and Ray White. If I missed anyone, I am sorry.

Co. M 47th Inf.
EDWARD S. LITTLE
 313 Washington Street
 Tamaqua, PA 18252

March 30, 1991 is past and it has been some time since I have sent any kind of letter to the Octofoil. I will try and get a small letter off to you.

Fellows. It was something really nice and all of you that didn't come, really missed something.

I had a list of all that was invited and as sorry as I am to say it, only one came out of list from NY. That is, I think that is right. "Red" came in from NY but he doesn't live there. Adolph Wadalavage came and so did 2 or 3 fellows from the 47th. Other companies.

No if you all don't know what I am talking about yet. Well here goes.

Ken Meyers came from Texas and between him and Red they presented Johnny Davis into the 47th club of fame. A man so deserving of the honor. It didn't last long in reality but will remain in our minds a lifetime.

In closing, again let me say. I am sorry that some of you that knew Johnny better than I did was missed at the important ceremony. Lots of luck to all and good health.

B CO 15th Engrs & M.P.
MORRIS SOBER
 4420 Evamay Rd 2-A
 Baltimore, Md. 21215

The other day a copy of the OCTOFOIL arrived. I was really surprised, and I enjoyed reading the paper about the division - old happenings, plus some new ones.

Some of the stories that were told and reprinted, kind of touches you.

During my time with the Ninth Division, I was with the 15th Engineers "B" Company and also was with the Division "M.P.s", in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy.

There are fellows I still correspond with — Tony Madonna, Charles Hoffman and John Maloney and a few others.

Enclosed you'll find a check for \$10 - a one year's subscription.

Thanks for remembering me. Good health and best wishes.