

College of the Holy Cross

CrossWorks

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

8-1-1991

The Octofoil, August/September/October 1991

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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



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

Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, August/September/October 1991" (1991). *The Octofoil*. 292.

<https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/292>

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

THE OCTOFOIL

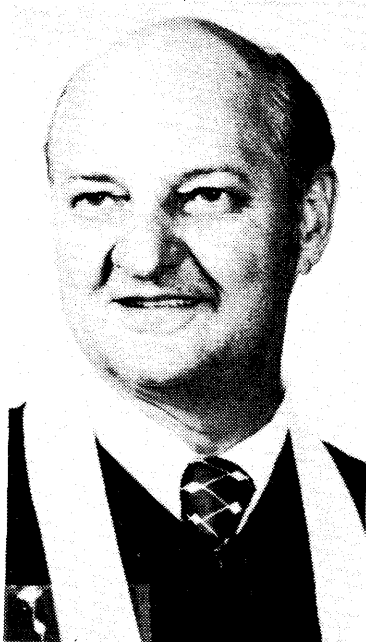
412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLVI Number 4

Aug., Sept., Oct., 1991

TAPS SOUNDED



RALTON M. SPEERS

Ralton M. Speers was born May 7, 1918 in Philadelphia, Pa., oldest son of Isabella Speers and Albert W. Speers. He lived in Albany for 65 years. He graduated from Albany High School Class of 1936. He was an Army Veteran of World War 2, a member of the 9th Division serving overseas from 1941-1945. He married Agnes Maxwell in Philadelphia, Pa. on June 1, 1946. He was employed by General Electric Co. for 34 years, retiring in 1980.

He became a local Pastor through the encouragement of Rev. Frank Bevan who was then District Supt. Ralton had been active as Sunday School Supt. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albany, NY. after returning from the war. In 1958 he became Deacon and in 1961 was ordained an Elder after attending Boston University. He served churches in Gallupville, McKownville United Methodist Church and in Rotterdam Junction United Methodist Church. Due to a stroke he retired from the active ministry in 1980. He is survived by his wife Agnes Maxwell Speers, 2 daughters Nancy Keenholts, and Judith Blankenhorn both of East Greenbush, NY., and two grandchildren, Marcy and Douglas Keenholts.

Ralton passed away suddenly April 30, 1991. Services were held at the McKownville United Methodist Church, Albany, NY. on May 6, 1991. In the eulogy delivered by the Rev. Lillian Johnson she said she could well imagine him saying, "All is well, all is well" since he had a covenant with God and he kept that covenant faithfully throughout his life. He touched the lives of many through his ministry and daily living.

Worcester Memorial

As we go to press the annual Worcester Memorial will be taking place. The New England Chapter members who are continuing with the Services, begun in 1945, by the late Rev. Father Connors, are expecting about 200 people to attend on Sunday October 20th.

1991 Reunion is Gone but not Forgotten Illinois Chapter Reports

Now that the Reunion is over, we can all give a big sigh of relief. We are thankful for all the assistance of our Committee Members. Without everyone's help, we could not have had a successful Reunion. We made a pretty good team. The Hotel was more than adequate for all our members and we trust everyone enjoyed themselves. We also want to thank all the members who attended. Without you, there could not be a reunion.

For those of you who couldn't come and those who had to cancel the last minute, you missed a great reunion. Our only regret was that the weather was a little cold — but we had no control over that.

At this time, we are happy to report that Howard Gaertner was released from the hospital on Sunday, September 22nd. He is improving more and more each day. We are so sorry he was not with us to enjoy all his contributions to the Reunion. He and his wife, Grace, were a tremendous help to us in so many ways. We depended on them since they were from the Milwaukee area and they came through with flying colors.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Our Memorial services, thanks to Dave Heller and the Gaertners, was most impressive. The Cudworth Male Chorus gave a moving performance. We heard a few comments as to how they missed the marching to the Memorial Service. Let's face it, as much as we all enjoyed it, it is a little more difficult to join the ranks as the years go by. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

For those attending the dance Friday, we hope you enjoyed the sound of the Big Band. They played our kind of music and we received many favorable comments.

They also played on Saturday night after the banquet but as per usual, the attendance dropped and there were considerably less people dancing. We trust you all enjoyed the dinner Saturday. Our thanks to Gordan Anderson and Bill Hannemuth for the table arrangements.

GOOD TURNOUT

Overall, we had a good turnout, about 500, and were pleased to see so many new faces, along with the Old Reliables. We are looking forward to going to Ft. Bragg next year in the beginning of June. Our reservations are in already and the Good Lord willing, we'll be there. Good luck to next year's committee.

OUTSTATE MEETING

At this writing, we are getting ready to go to our Outstate Meeting with the Michigan Chapter in Angola, Indiana. Michigan Chapter is hosting this year and we can go and relax and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

In Angola, we will hold a meeting and one of the things up for discussion will be the Christmas Party. We have the date, December 7th, but no details. Gordan will inform the members when a decision is made.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

It's hard to believe the holidays will be here soon. We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. Also our best wishes to all the members and their families for a Happy Hanukah and a Merry Christmas. May you all have a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

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

Fifty Anniversary

Fort Bragg Reunion dates June 11, 12, 13

The 1992 Reunion will find the troops back home where it all began at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The dates June 11, 12, and 13 are the dates to remember.

1992 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the Ninth leaving the States for the long trip to North Africa, Sicily, England and the Continent where 4581 graves, mark the path of the Division.

The National Association will be conducting this reunion as the Chapter in the area ceased operating years ago. Bob DeSandy who recently moved to Southern Pines, North Carolina has done all the leg work necessary for holding a reunion.

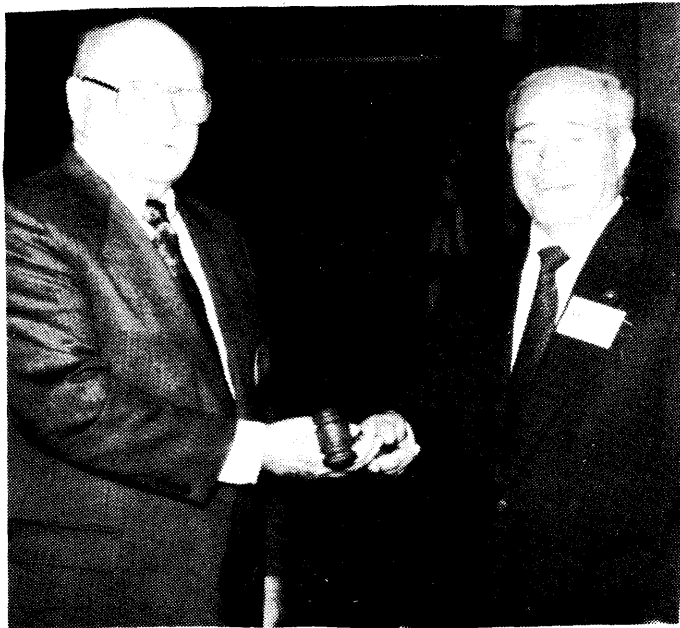
The Holiday Inn Bordeaux will be the Headquarters for the reunion. All room reservations will be made through the Holiday Inn and when necessary other hotels in the area will be used, the Marriott and others have been contracted for housing of the troops. Reservations forms can be found on page 2. The rates of \$52.00 a day for a single or double will prevail for a week before or a week after June 11, 12, and 13th. The Bordeaux Inn is located at 1707 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, N.C. 28304.

A shuttle bus will be used to carry the members back and forth to other hotels and they will be in service from morning to night.

The Fayetteville Regional Airport is a short distance from the hotel and complimentary airport limousine service will be provided. For those traveling by car there will be ample free parking at the Inn.

So come on fellas, start packing your A and B Bags and make plans to attend what should be a most enjoyable reunion down memory lane. Just to meet an old buddy that shared the good and hard times should be enough of an inducement to get the old troops out for the trip to North Carolina.

A number of members have already made reservations and for those who have done so please check the dates that you have reserved rooms. It seems many members are reserving days that are not the reunion dates - June 11, 12, 13, 1992.



Ed "Hoppy" Hopkins, left, accepts the "gavel" of command from retiring President Michael Belmonte. (Picture supplied by Walt Victor)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My very first duty as your president is a pleasurable one: To thank the 46th Annual Reunion Committee Members, its Co-chairmen, Michael Belmonte and John Clouser, and the Illinois Chapter president, Dave Heller, for a job well done! Everything ran so smoothly from the registration through the check-out. The banquet was delicious, the facilities were excellent, and the price was right. Thank you men!

As I sit to write this letter I have mixed feelings: feelings of pride, of humility, of joy, of sadness, and of awe. I am proud to be elected to lead this great group of men into the year 1992; I am humble when I consider the enormity of the task performed by the men in North Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium, and Germany; I am joyful to be here and able to serve; I am sad when I think of the four thousand five hundred eighty-one brave men that we left on the fields of horror and honor, as well as the many who have departed this vale of tears since those killing years; I am in awe when I consider the accomplishments of my predecessors in this office and all other officers and board members who have contributed of their time and energies so generously and able to make this organization the great one it is. I thank you all, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I thank the members of the Board of Directors for having the confidence in me that they exhibited by electing me to this office. My energies during this next year will be expended to make me worthy of that trust. I fully hope to see our organization grow in stature and fulfill its mission of serving the needs of you men who have served so faithfully.

As I studied your faces in Milwaukee in the hotel lobby, in the hospitality rooms, on the dance floor, at the banquet it was hard to visualize those thousands of virile young men who boarded the ships back in 1942, to sail off to the battles of North Africa and Europe. The next three years of anguish and hardship were to sear an unforgettable impression into your very souls. Your devotion to duty and dedication would carry over into your civilian pursuits of the next four-and-a-half decades. Many of you would lavish this devotion, this dedication, on the furtherance of the aims of this Association. To you men so dedicated and devoted through these many years I say, "Thank you. You deserve the thanks of the thousands who are members of this organization today, who, thanks to your efforts, are able to participate in the activities of this great organization, renew and enjoy the companionship of old comrades-in-arms, and themselves are now able to make important contributions to the goals set forth in those early years."

As I rededicate my own energies to adding to the already tremendous accomplishments of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, I realize that I can accomplish very little without your help. With your help we can continue on in the tradition of the past half century and reach new heights, conquer new objectives. Let me know your wants, your needs, your ambitions for our Association. Where do you want us to go? What are you willing to do? What can I do?

In the meantime, I hope most of you are planning to attend our annual reunion in Fayetteville, N.C. We will be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our departure from nearby Fort Bragg. Bob DeSandy has spent this past year making elaborate preparations for this event which should prove to be one of the most memorable reunions ever. Now is the time to contact that old buddy of yours, the one you haven't seen in forty-eight years, and make arrangements to meet him in Fayetteville in June of 1992. Make your motto for the year: "Fayetteville or bust in '92!"

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

Room Reservations

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

National Officers
President
Edward Hopkins
110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

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

Pat DeColli, 2nd VP
1017 Jackson St.
Phila. Pa 19148

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

Dave Heller
Judge Advocate
616 Sumac Rd.
Highland Pk, IL 60036

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Board of Governors
1992
Mike Belmonte
Oak Park, IL
Phil Berman
Daytona Beach, 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
1994
Bill Carson
Melbourne, FL
Howard Gaertner
Wauwatosa, WI
Ron Murphy
Scituate, MA
Leonard Tomassone
Pennsauken, NJ

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

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

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

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

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

Volume XLVI Number 4 Aug., Sept., Oct., 1991

Publication #402s20

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 ☐

Ladies Auxiliary
Ninth Infantry Division Association
Membership Application
Ellie Taubner, Treasurer, Ladies Auxiliary
Ninth Infantry Division Association
85 Smith Avenue, Bergenfield, N.J. 07621

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name.....

Street Address.....

City..... State..... Zip.....

My spouse (Brother or relative)

Served with.....

One year..... \$2.00

Credit Chapter.....



Welcomes

1707 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304
(919) 323-0111
800-325-0211

A confirmation of your reservation
will be mailed to you.

Reservation Deadline MAY 21, 1992

Group name: Ninth Infantry Division Association

Dates: June 11, 12, 13, 1992

*Group reservations deadline. MAY 21, 1992

Arrival date: _____

Number of nights you will stay: _____

Number of people in room: _____

Approx. arrival time: _____

(check in 3 p.m., check out 12:00 noon)

Method of transportation: _____

☐ Car ☐ Air ☐ Other

*Please Note: Special conference rates are based on reservation deadline. After this date, all subsequent reservations will be subject to availability and current hotel room rates.

Check here _____ if rollaway in needed (\$10.00 ea.).

*If rate requested is not available, the next available rate will be assigned. To secure lowest available rate, early response is suggested.

Print or Type

Name _____ (last) _____ (first) _____ (initial) Company/Group _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Sharing room with: _____

Special Requests: ☐ Prefer non-smoking ☐ Other (specify) _____

(: Every attempt will be made to honor your request, however we cannot guarantee a special request.)

To guarantee your reservation we require first night's deposit or credit card guarantee. Include 8.0% total tax with deposit.

DO NOT SEND CASH. Make check or money order payable to Holiday Inn Bordeaux.

The following methods of payment are acceptable to guarantee your guest room. We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express, Diners/C.B., Discover, Holiday Inn Inc., and JCB.

DON'T BE A NO-SHOW!

To cancel your reservations call toll free 1-800-235-0211 or 1-919-323-0111. Deposit refunded only if reservation is cancelled 7 days prior to arrival and you have your cancellation number.

☐ Credit Card # _____ Exp.: _____
Type: _____
☐ Check # _____ Amount _____
(signature) (date)

SEEKING HELP

I am doing our family history and thought by chance that your reunion may be able to help me gather information on my brother who served in the 9th Div. during WWII. His name and info:

TSGT Thomas W. Thomas Jr.
ASN 13007799
9th Inf. Div.
47th Inf.
Co. E. and Co. K
Enlisted 16 Oct. 1940
Served at Fort Bragg, NC
Was in the invasion of North Africa, and Sicily.

Then into the invasion of Normandy.

He was killed on 22 Jan. 1944 somewhere in France.

He was born in Wind Gap, Pennsylvania and moved to Poultney, Vermont when he was about 12 years old.

I would like to hear from anyone who may have served with him or known him. Also am interested in the history of his outfits.

My name is:
Robert W. Thomas
4255 Gertrude St.
St. Louis, Mo 63116
1-314-832-7733

PS: Years ago a man from Texas sent a letter to my mother about my brother, but I can't find it anywhere. So maybe that gentleman is still around.

I want to thank you for any assistance and for your time.

Editors Note: At the Milwaukee Reunion while talking with a few of the members from the 47th it was learned that two of them remembered the incident very well when Sgt. Thomas was KIA. I asked them to write to him and wrote a letter to his brother Robert with the names of Jim Leopold and Walter O'Keefe. Lt. Leopold was the platoon leader at the time and although O'Keefe was in another platoon he recalled the incident. There was an article in the VFW magazine asking for help with the same matter although they had Sgt. Thomas listed as being with Co. C 47th. Sgt. Thomas was part of the group that reformed Company E after El Guetter when the Company met with disaster.

Pre-Registration Procedure
Forty-Seventh Annual Reunion
June 11, 12, 13, 1992

Pre-Registration for all the events (Strip) Tickets will be used again this year at the Forty-Seventh Reunion and the 50th Anniversary of the Ninth leaving Ft. Bragg.

1. Fill out the Pre-Registration Form provided below.
2. Write a check or money order to The Ninth Infantry Reunion Committee for the full amount of the tickets.
3. Mail the Pre-Registration Form and the check or money order to Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087.
4. You will receive a confirmation Card Receipt.
5. This Card Receipt must be presented at the Reunion Pre-Registration Desk to pick up the tickets, program and registration packet.
6. Cancellation of Pre-Registrations will be honored for a full refund if received before June 1st. Cancellations received after June 1st, will have a partial refund.
7. To Cancel a Pre-Registration, contact Dan Quinn at 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087 or telephone 201-866-8195 prior to June 1, 1992. After June 5th, call the Holiday Inn at Fayetteville, North Carolina, 800-325-0211 and leave a message to Dan Quinn or Bob DeSandy.
8. Pre-Register now and be assured of having tickets for the Welcoming Party on Thursday night, the Friday Dance and the Saturday Banquet.

Pre-Registration Form
Forty-Seventh Annual Reunion
June 11, 12, 13, 1992
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Guest Names _____

Telephone _____ Unit in the Ninth _____

All Event (Strip) Tickets: Quantity _____ at \$55.00 each
Total _____

☐ Please check if you are a Gold Star Wife or Members Widow or Family

El Guetter
Crucible of Leadership
9th U.S. Infantry Division Against
The Wehrmacht in Africa, April 1943

Red Phillips of the 47th Infantry has written a history book that should be of interest to all who served with the Ninth in North Africa and to those who are interested in the early battles of WW2 when the U.S. Army were coming of age against the finest of the German Army.

The cost of the book is \$10.00 and may be obtained by writing to Red Phillips at 14002 Hemlock Drive, Penn Valley, California 95046.

TAPS SOUNDED

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

by John Donne

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

May they rest in peace.

Peter Leshko
47th Inf. B Co.
Harrison Daysh
39th Inf. 1st Bn. Hq
Lou Netta
60th Inf.
William Cardoza Sr.
Hqs. Co.
Andrew "Scotty" Hosie
60th Inf. Co I.
James Richards
Hq. Co. 9th Med. Bn.
John Downey
39th Inf.
Fred Gruhl
A Co. 15th Engrs.
Glendon Bowman
Hq. 15th Engrs.
Harold Sell
M Co. 60th Inf.
Frank Russo
39th Inf. B Co. & Hdqtrs.
Guido Introini
39th Inf. L Co.
Henry Chiarini
47th Inf.
John Lesko
9th Ord. Co.
Charles Turner
60th F.A. Serv. Btry.
Jean Foley
Wife of Pat. 60th Inf.
Albert Hyde

Andy Hosie
60th Inf. Co. I
Glen Bowman
15th Engrs. B. Co.
Walter Landis
47th Inf. Med
Merwin "Corky" Sullivan
47th Inf. M Co.
Joseph Podany
Co. B 47th Inf.
Robert S. Dickey
39th Inf. K. Co.
Marshall Tees

Dorothy Apar
Wife of George Apar 49th Inf.
Loy Teague
M Co. 60th Inf.
60th Inf. At. Co.
JULIA NETTA
2629 Belaire Drive
Wilmington, DE 19808
Ninth Division Members & Family.

Thank you so very much for all your phone calls, sympathy and mass cards, and prayers during Lou's illness and after his death. It means so much more than we can ever say.

To all the guys and gals of B Company — Lou and I want to thank you for making us feel so welcome in your group. We always had a great time and will treasure our memories. Also a big thank you to Pat and Ann Morano. We wish you all well and a big success at the convention in Milwaukee. Please keep in touch. Would love hearing from all of you. Thank you again.

47th Inf.
JAMES E. LEOPOLD
3045 Commercial Avenue
Northbrook, Illinois 60062
Please add my condolences to the many others who will remember Johnny Trevelise

Taps Sounded

The association lost two of its "Old Reliabilities" this summer when Harrison Daysh of the 39th Infantry and Judge Advocate of the association for many years, passed away.

The other old timer and stalwart Frank Russo, also of the 39th Infantry, was called to his final resting place. We got to "know" these men through the association for which the association is much better off. Frank and Charlie Warner, also of the 39th and residents of Raritan and Bound Brook, New Jersey, made (attended) all the reunions the association held going back to when it all started. He shall be missed. Survivors included several sisters and a brother.

Harrison 72, a retired government lawyer, died of a heart attack July 22 at his home in Kensington, Maryland. Born in Greenfield, Mass. he graduated from Yale University and Georgetown University law school. His wife Geraldine died in 1984. She had been his constant companion at all of the reunions. Harrison served with the Ninth through N. Africa, Sicily and was seriously wounded in Normandy. Survivors are two children, Harrison, Jr. and a daughter Melinda Scott, also a sister Elsie Short of Lynnfield Center, Mass.

May they rest in peace.

26th F.A. & 39th Inf.
DOROTHY M. LEWIS
54 Hopewell Dr.
Struthers, Ohio 44471

Thanks so much for sending me the Octofoil.

Please accept my check for the Memorial Fund in honor of my loving husband Bill Lewis -9th Div. - 26th FA 39th Inf. C Battery gone one year now and his birthday is this month.

I have done all I can do to leave things in his memory - to our church - his Masonic Lodge and some friends.

The main thing is his life was to not forget his church and he was so proud of the 9th Div.

Thanks to the many friends who wrote to me. I have kept in contact with some.

With all my love to everyone.
MRS. HUGH CAPELLA
51 Curie Rd.
Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y. 12520

Enclosed is a donation in memory of my husband, Hugh Capella. He subscribed to the "Octofoil" and after his death you sent it to me gratis, thank you. I enjoy reading it, though I don't know the people who write the letters, etc. I'm very appreciative that you continue to send this paper to me since 1987. Thank you again.

G Co. 47th
PAULA BAKO
5275 Monroe Ave. #7
San Diego, CA 92115

Just thought I would drop you a few lines from Calif. to let you know how things are going. It is now four months since I lost my beloved George, and still miss him a whole lot. It's a very lonely life.

I would like to thank all of George's army friends & buddies who sent cards and letters. I really appreciated them. I am going to miss the convention this year as George always looked forward to it.

I appreciate you sending me the Octofoil as I really enjoy reading it. Give my regards to all, and God bless you all.

and George Bako with great love.

We all will miss them especially at our annual reunions. It can't be the same without them.

LADIES CORNER

Well, you did it! You came out in force on September 20th and made our Fashion Show/Breakfast a smashing success! From a count of 70 on September 3rd, when I called Wanda Preston to relay that number to the Grand Milwaukee Hotel, to 108 sold tickets at 9:30 AM on September 20th, We Did It!! Only 101 were actually able to attend, but it was still a nice crowd. Thank You! Thank You! The veterans in need at the VA Hospitals where some of the proceeds of the Breakfast went, Thank you too. And before I go on, I'll tell you where we voted to send some of our money to. Checks of \$400.00 each went out to Marlene Sanchez, Davenport, Iowa for the Iowa City, Iowa VA Hospital, and to Alice Newhart, New Hope, PA for the VA Medical Center in Gulfport, Mississippi. In the next column I will print excerpts from their letters of thanks

DUE TO EFFORTS

The success of our Meeting was largely due to the efforts of Grace Gaertner and Wanda Preston of the Illinois Chapter, who arranged the Breakfast and Show. For you ladies who didn't attend (pity!) we not only had a delicious breakfast, but we were treated to the most unusual and beautiful Fashion Show I have ever seen. Within the time frame of 1910 through to 1990, the clothes were modeled by several Volunteers of the Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin. Ranging in age from the youthful 20s to mature 60s, they were as beautiful as the clothes they wore. I cannot describe all of the clothes; I will save that for future columns. My favorites were the 1960s gorgeous green silk dress w/coat (a la Jackie Kennedy) and the 1913 purple silk and velvet outfit (from my Mother's time). Thank you Wanda and Grace, it was a treat! At the breakfast, Barbara Saum of Elm Creek, NE and Virginia Macken of Baltimore, MD won the \$5.00 under-the-plate prizes. Congratulations! We made lots of money on many donated Pollyanna Gifts, for which tickets were sold by Ruth Jordan, Rosalie Painter and Lorraine Clark (Thanks, ladies!) and the winners went away happy.

MEETING & ELECTIONS

After the show, we held our annual meeting with 2-year elections. President Ruth Lees opened with the Flag Salute, Chaplain Ruth Jordan led us in prayer, and told us of her inspirational idea: "A Think Tank". You fill a can/jar with notes of all the good things that happen in a day, then open them at day's end, and read in surprise/wonder that so many good things really happened to you that day! Mary Brasington read Secretary Connie Koneski's Minutes of the 1990 Meeting, because Connie's husband, Ed was unable to make the trip. We missed you, Connie! I read the financial statement, which showed all the ladies how healthy our monetary condition is. Elec-

REUNION REFLECTION

Memories grow much fonder -
If that could possibly be -
Of men like Sgt. Eiler,
Who served so nobly with you
and me.
'Twas not his fate to sail back
home;
Nor was his courage widely
known.
But still his image remains
quite clear,
Although time does spend year
upon year.
What is it that maintains
quite clear

tions followed: New President is Mary Brasington of Richmond, VA (advancing from Vice-President), Vice-President is Carol Saunders of Mosheim, Tenn., Secretary is Phyllis Perna of Philadelphia, PA, and Treasurer is Ellie Taubner. All were elected unanimously.

JOINT EFFORT

After reading some letters from the Men's Donations Committee, we decided to meet with these men after our meeting. So, besides the Officers, Lorraine Clark, Wanda Preston, Lily Krasovetz, Marge Bovanizer, Iris Canales offered to go too, to discuss joint effort on Veterans Hospitals' donations. A discussion followed on what to do with the money we raise, and the vote was to give it to Veterans in Hospitals needing aids and comfort items, rather than to the Hospital's General Fund. It was carried unanimously. At 3:00 PM, eight of us met with the men: Adolph Wadalavage, Henry Santos, and John Bonkowski (A guest of Ruth Lees). We had interesting discussions on the various aspects of our respective donations. We reiterated our position that we send to the individuals, not to the Hospitals' General Funds. A suggestion was made to make a generous combined donation to the Host Chapter's nearby VA Hospital, while visiting the hospital with the gifts as a group. More on that in later columns.

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to the ladies who sold all those Raffle tickets for us on Thursday and Friday: Marlene Sanchez, Mary Brasington, Wanda Preston, Ruth Jordan, Rosalie Painter, Ginny Driscoll, and Ruth Lees. Our Raffle prizes were awarded at the Friday, Sept. 20th Dance by Ruth Lees, assisted by Ruth Jordan, Mary Brasington and myself, and are as follows: Marge Sallee, wife of Owen Sallee, Hdqts, 60th Regiment, picked the beautiful Afghan made by an 89 year-old friend of Ruth Lees, who donated it. Earl Lees, of F Company, 60th Rgt. and husband of Ruth Lees, picked the Duck Lamp donated by the McLHinney Family of Havre, de Grace, Maryland. Ruth Kitchen, wife of Lyle Kitchen, Co. M, 47th Rgt., picked the beautiful ceramic Christmas Tree donated by Mary Brasington. Victoria Cook, wife of Aldor Cook, Co. C, 9th Med. Battalion, picked the White & Gold Round Watch, donated by Ruth Jordan. Julie Hoffer, wife of Curtis Hoffer, F Co., 47th Regt., picked the unusual Toy Soldier donated by Wanda Preston. Lula Wingingham, wife of Cletis Wingingham, Co. C, 39th Rgt., picked the Stained Glass Sun Chaser donated by John Lennon of Lincoln, Rhode Island. This is enough for one column, don't you all think? So I shall say goodbye till my next Ladies Corner column in January. Take care and please keep in touch.

Ellie Taubner, Treasurer
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

The memories of those no
longer here?
No doubt the gathering held
each year
Brings them closer to us, as we
to them draw near.
Imagine when the final role is
called
How each in the Ninth will
stand so tall!
The most splendid reunion of
them all
Will be held in God's Kingdom -
the grandest of Halls!
Joe Rappazini

Greater New York Area Report

After a summer hiatus, the Greater New York Area Chapter met at the Masonic Lodge Building, 71 W. 23rd Street, NYC, on Friday, September 13, 1991. The meeting, which began at 8:00 p.m. was presided over by Prez Marv Levy and ably assisted by Secretary Art Schmidt. Many of the regulars showed up and related to each other on their past summer activities since our last meeting in June.

Saddened

We were saddened by the passing of long-time chapter member Frank Russo, after a long illness. His presence will be missed by this chapter. Also, we note with sadness, the passing of George Apar's dear wife, Dorothy. Dorothy's smiling face will also be missed at many of the functions she formerly attended with other ladies of the Ninth men. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Frank's family and George and his family.

Members attending not mentioned above were: Lou Almassy, George Apar, Bill Canales, Marty Gross, Vincent Gugglielmino, Emil Langer, Dan Quinn, Herminio Suarez, Adolph Wadalavage, Harry Wax, Tony Varone and Al Zenka.

On Friday, October 18, 1991, the NY Chapter assembled at the Masonic Lodge Building for its monthly meeting.

The Worcester Memorial Service and Mass which would be held on Sunday, October 20, was discussed for last minute details. Most members, who would be going, would leave for Worcester on Saturday the 19th.

The correspondence that Secretary Art Schmidt received were sad notices of additional, recently deceased members: Steve Budishin and John Downey. Our condolences to their families.

Another letter received was from Hyman Smith, Co. D. 60th of S. Fallsburg, NY, requesting from anyone for verification of him being wounded so that he could receive a Purple Heart medal. (Hyman's request is also noted elsewhere in the Octofoil).

In reference to our previous report about disposition of deceased member William Kreye's books, "Pawns of War," Tony Varone has volunteered on behalf of the chapter to follow up on this matter and has been in touch with Mrs. Kreye.

Reports by attending NY Chapter members to the Milwaukee Reunion indicated they were very satisfied in all respects. Although the NY Chapter put in a bid for the '93 reunion, San Antonio got the bid.

Because many members would have to leave early the next morning for Worcester, the meeting was adjourned sooner than usual. We nevertheless took time for some casual talk and refreshments.

Those attending this meeting not mentioned above were: Lou Almassy, George Apar, Tony DeRobertis, Marti Gross, Vincent Gugglielmino, Bill Klaus, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, George Nicklin, Dan Quinn, Joe Rzesniowicki, Hermino Suarez, Adolph Wadalavage, Harry Wax and Al Zenka.

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

Arthur R. Schmidt,
Secretary, 69-20 69th Street,
Glendale, NY 11385-6696.

F Company 47th Infantry

Though nobody took a count, I am certain F Company 47th brought more people to Milwaukee than any other company or battery in the Division. We had sixteen old soldiers, twelve of their ladies, and two widows. It was good to see Irma Koskie and Only, Jshel, Chuck and Doc's widows, grace our CP. Seeing them reminded us of two great guys, though I am sure that neither has been out of our thoughts these last few years. Those answering roll call were Bob DeSandy, Ray Schmader, Chuck Jones, Jack Safford, John Zulkiewski (his son accompanied him and videoed much of the festivities), Tex Hoffer, Lee Grimwood, Herb Hoepfner, Bob May, Charlie Williams, George Brown, Milt Zucker, Jack Finnigan, Rodger Alsgaard, Charles Rochelle, and Dan Quinn. We missed a few of our regulars, some who hardly ever miss. We hope their absences were caused by circumstances other than illness.

It was a first for Herb Hoepfner and his lovely June. We doubt very much that it will be their last reunion. Herb lives but five miles from me and he found us by spotting the Ninth decal on Frank Gonzol's license plate and leaving a note on the windshield. It was good to see Lee Grimwood and Tex Hoepfner, those old foxhole buddies, get together again.

Frank Gonzol was prevented from coming after some pretty high powered surgery in New York. Lyl and I spent a day with him in the hospital last month. It is taking him a long time to come back from this one.

We missed Felton Jones and Earl Wilkey, but we have no doubt that they will grace our CP in Fayetteville next June. Hugh Dunlop sent me a nice donation for the CP and I was hoping he would follow it up with a trip to Milwaukee, but it wasn't to be. Paul Girraputo's absence was duly noted when no one was able to do the impression of Harold. Anne's illness requires Paul to be close at hand.

Phil Maresca called me last week from the Poconos where he was been having trouble selling his home, located on four acres in Saylorsburg, Pa. If any of you men are interested in buying a home in this winter/summer resort area, here is a golden opportunity.

60th Inf. K Co.
JOHN JAZDZEWSKI
2523 S. 11th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215

I am writing this letter for my father who served from 1941-1945 with K Company 60th Infantry Regiment 9th U.S. Infantry Division. He is 76 years young and has not been able to attend any reunions. I am writing to see if it is possible that for perhaps one last time some of his old comrades would be able to get in touch with him.

If you have any knowledge whether there are still some comrades in arms surviving from Company 60th Inf. Reg. I am sure he would be glad to hear from them.

While serving with the 9th my father rose to the ranks of Master Sergeant receiving two purple hearts, all the campaign ribbons from North Africa to the Remagen Bridge and also just recently the Bronze Star for a citation he received in January 1945.

Since the war our name has changed, but during the war his name was John Anthony Jazdzewski. He can be reached at 2523 South 11th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215. Telephone # (414) 672-7193.

Once again we shared the CP expenses and amenities with Bill Mooty and his E Company gang, and things worked out well. In fact, things went so well that we will be asking other Second Battalion people to join us next year on a per person basis.

Other men who were unable to make the reunion but who sent in contributions were Ed Johnstone, F Company's contribution to the Federal Judiciary, Bob Landis who was off in Europe celebrating his fiftieth wedding anniversary, and Rud Hoffman whose health has not been the same since that accident while driving home from the Nashville reunion.

We were saddened to learn that Larry Ghere's recurring illness caused him to cancel out at the last minute. This reunion was especially important to Larry because it was hosted by his old Illinois Chapter. When Kay informed me that he had to cancel at the last minute, I knew his illness was serious. We are all rooting for you Larry, and we hope to see you at the Bordeaux in June.

Two of our old company commanders failed to make muster in September. I refer, of course, to Otto Geyer and Jack Armstrong.

I'm sorry that I didn't get a list of the E company men in attendance. In addition to Bill Mooty and Frank Petty, I saw Bob Coldflesh, Walter O'Keefe, and Charles McIlhenny whose brother was killed while serving with E Company. Charles is an honorary member of E Company and makes generous contributions every year in his brother's memory. It was also good to see Jim Leopold, even though it was for such a short time.

Before I close I wish to thank Milt Zucker and George Brown for the great job they did in taking care of the supplies for, and overseeing the CP. Without their able supervision, the comforts and conveniences enjoyed by our members would have been greatly diminished. Your efforts were not unappreciated.

I urge you all to get your reservations in early for the '92 reunion. The early people will get the most desirable facilities. We expect an enormous turnout of F Company people next year. Don't disappoint Bob and me. I know you won't let us down.

Ed Hopkins
110 Hollywood Ave.
Metuchen, NJ 08840

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

Enclosed are my dues for 3 years also 6 decals, my license on 1991 olds are remember?

I attended Reunion in Orlando, FL last year and enjoyed it very much. Although there were very few men from the Artillery there. What happened to Joseph McKenzie's article that used to be in "The Octofoil" issue? Miss it very much! I used to be in touch with Milton Parrott and a few others but have only heard from Harry Schwartz, Jack Sapp, Joe Lightner, Edgar Johnston & Wills lately. Selby White of "C" Battery 26 F.A. lives here in Richmond, VA. Also H.W. Brasington of 65th Infantry I talk to them every now & then! Hope to make the Reunion this year if health permits. Would like to hear from any of the men of 26 F.A.! Thank you.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS, 2D BATTALION 39TH INFANTRY REGIMENT FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29207

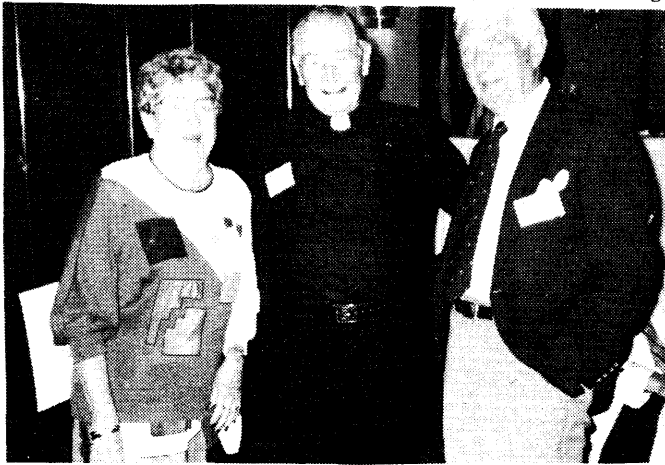
9th Infantry Division Association

I am writing in the hope that you can help the 39th Infantry Regiment. We served with the 9th Infantry Division during World War II and in Vietnam, and are proud of our association with the Division. Currently the 2nd Battalion is the only 39th Regiment unit on active duty, and as such is the Regimental Headquarters. We were reactivated on 24 August 1990 at Fort Jackson, SC., and are trying to collect artifacts and memorabilia of the Regiment. Today our mission is to conduct Basic Combat Training for the Army's new soldiers. Since the 39th Regiment is a highly decorated unit with a proud past, we want to insure that our young soldiers know of the exploits of their predecessors.

Our goal is to establish a small regimental museum. Unfortunately we are constrained by space. I would appreciate any assistance you could provide in contacting former members of the 39th Infantry Regiment for information, pictures, or memorabilia. If the 9th Infantry Division has a publication would it be possible to run an article? If so, I would be more than happy to write an article. Please feel free to contact me, my Executive officer- Major Waks, or Captain Miklos for any assistance at the following telephone numbers (803) 751-7955/4167/4250.

The Regiment is still serving with the motto: Anything, Anywhere, Anytime - Bar Nothing. Thank you for your assistance.

JOHN K. JACCARD
LTC, IN
Commanding



John Maloney one of the old stalwarts of the Association is shown (on the right - so you don't get mixed-up with the Priest) at the reunion held in Milwaukee. The priest who celebrated the Catholic Mass for our members was a retired Army Chaplain. Monsignor Harold Prudell, center, and on the left is Grace Gaertner. She and her husband Howard (Company M 47th) were part of the hard workers at the reunion. (Adolph Wadalavage supplied us with the photo)

Mini Reunion M Co. 60th Inf.

Our 9th Mini Reunion was held September 12-13 and 14th in Clarksville, Ind., just across the river from Louisville, Ky. We had 31 M Co. men present and most of their ladies. Making a total of 60. Although the weather was very hot we had a terrific get together. The food in this area was very good. We had a luncheon cruise on the Star of Louisville that was outstanding, the hotel and the quality. Lakeview gave us a wine and cheese party our first night and planned a Luau, in the pool area, for our last night. This hotel has changed hands recently and they are really trying harder. My wife and I went on to National in Milwaukee the following week, where we were joined by several other M Co. men. The Bruchacs, Lucas, Tyszkas and Lipkas. We are planning to combine our 10th Mini Reunion with the 50th National Reunion in Fayetteville, next June 11-12 and 13th. The National Chairman Bob DeSandy has helped us to get separate hotel arrangements so we can all be together and have our Hospitality Room in the same hotel. This promises to be a very large reunion, so make your reservations early and plan to go back one more time to Ft. Bragg. This promises to be a super reunion so don't miss it.

ROBERT R. BOVANIZER
14 Sabre Park
Niagara Falls, New York 14304

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of October 23, 1962: Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

1A. Title of Publication: THE OCTOFOIL. 1B. Publication No.: 402820. 2. Date of Filing: Oct. 1, 1991. 3. Frequency of Issue: Jan.-Feb., Mar.-April, May-June, July-Aug., Sept.-Oct., Nov.-Dec. 3A. No of Issues Published Annually: Five times yearly. 3B. Annual Subscription Price: Membership 4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 9th Inf Div Assn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (Section 423.12 DMM only) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (check one)

x (1) HAS NOT CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS
10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION

AVERAGE NO. COPIES EACH ISSUE DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS	ACTUAL NO. COPIES OF SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAREST TO FILING DATE
--	--

A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	2400	2400
-------------------------------------	------	------

B. Paid Circulation

1. Sales through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales	None	None
---	------	------

2. Mail Subscriptions	2250	2250
-----------------------	------	------

C. Total Paid Circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)	2250	2250
--	------	------

D. Free Distribution

By Mail, Carrier or other means		
---------------------------------	--	--

Samples, Complimentary, and other free copies	100	100
---	-----	-----

E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)	2350	2350
--	------	------

F. Copies Not Distributed

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

2. Return from news agents	None	None
----------------------------	------	------

G. TOTAL (Sum of E, F1 and 2-should equal net press run shown in A)	2400	2400
---	------	------

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

Daniel Quinn

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

Greetings once again from Chambersburg, Pa. in beautiful Cumberland Valley where at this time the fall foliage is a sight to behold! The colors are all there for the artist to paint in all his glory! I thank Ellie Taubner for writing a most interesting and informative Octofoil column during my absence due to illness which necessitated surgery and a hospital stay of eight days. After being in remission for 9 years (Prostrate Cancer), I once again had to undergo treatment. However this time surgery was performed to forestall and alleviate the possibility of the cancer spreading. I am happy to say that my condition has improved tremendously since my surgery three months ago. I have returned to my daily activities and continue daily walking exercises also to keep in shape. Ann and I were truly sorry that we had to cancel our plans to attend the reunion in Milwaukee.

I am indebted to "Shock" Shockley who phoned me after his return home from the reunion to give me his comments and information on the reunion which I thought should be told here. Our "B" Co. attendance for the reunion wasn't as large as it usually is for our "B" Co. CP "Get-together." Those in attendance were: Arion ("Shock") and "Etsie" Shockley, Ed and Helen Sarnocinski, Tony and Josephine Manzalilla, Joe and Ellie Taubner, Robert and Moira Moore and John Morgan. I received a nice get-well card from Tony and Jo Manzalilla. Tony said that the "B" Co. hospitality room obtained through the generosity of "Shock" was very nice. "Shock" and Etsie were gracious hosts. There was plenty to eat and drink for everyone. Another item I would like to report to all our "B" Co. Buddies and their families is that "SHOCK" opened up the "B" Co. CP Hospitality Room to all other 47th Reg't members as well as other outfits who cared to stop-by. From all accounts the Milwaukee reunion was a success. The attendance was approximately 500 which in itself speaks well for the accomplishment of Mike Belmonte and his reunion committee and the Illinois Chapter of the 9th Inf. Div. Association.



Tip of the Hat

The association is ever grateful to the members and friends who remembered the Memorial Fund. We salute you. Charles O'Connor
Russel Pugh
Julia Netta - In memory of Louis J. Netta (from his wife, and sons Louis, John and family).
Dorothea Trevelise - In memory of husband, John.
Dr. Abraham Kaufman
Ray Wolfe
Richard E. Cohen - In memory of Harrison Daysh, Frank Wade, Lou Becker, Don Clark and Chas. Tingley.
James E. Leopold - In memory of John Trevelise and George Bako.
Andrew H. Crawford
C.B. Baker - In memory of Ira "Pappy" Benton, B Co., 9th Med. Bn.
Dorothy Lewis - In memory of husband, Wm. Lewis, Jr.
Grady Holman

Our next reunion (1992) will be held at Ft. Bragg, N.C., a fitting location in celebration of 50 years since our famous 9th Inf. Div went into combat for the first time (Nov. 8, 1942) in invading North Africa for the first of many successful campaigns of World War II. To all our "B" Co. Buddies I say make your plans and reservations early to attend the 1992 reunion at Ft. Bragg. Let's make it the biggest one yet!! I have just received a beautiful hand made plaque with the inscription which reads: "WEL-COME "B" Co. - 47th Inf." Our Octofoil insignia is in the center of the plaque. The plaque will be placed on tables reserved for "B" Co. members and their families, at all reunions and appropriate 9th Inf. Div. functions. On behalf of all our "B" Co. members I want to thank Tony Manzalilla for this wonderful gift. It will make our "B" Co. buddies proud to be sitting side-by-side with each other. Ann and I have made reservations to attend the 9th Inf. Division Assoc. Memorial Services in Worcester, Mass. on Oct 19, 1991. We will use the "Welcome Plaque" there for the first time. If all goes well, Joe and Stella Cichocki hope to attend the Worcester Memorial Services. Julia Netta, wife of our recently departed friend Louis Netta (of the 60th Inf.) also plans to attend the Worcester Memorial Services. I have just received a letter from Ellie and Joe Taubner telling us of the passing of one of our good Buddies from "B" Co. Joe Padany. Joe was in the 4th Platoon.

Joe could not make the reunion because he was too sick to travel. I have sent Dan Quinn a copy of Elli's letter, for insertion in this issue of the Octofoil. In closing I want to thank "Shock" Shockley, Ellie and Joe Taubner, Tony & Jo Manzalilla, Joe & Stella Cichocki, Julia Netta and to those "B" Co. Buddies and friends who sent me get well cards during my recent illness. Your well wishes and concerns about my welfare are deeply appreciated. To the best of my ability I will continue to write our "B" Co. Column for the Octofoil. Ann and I hope to see some of our "B" Co. Buddies and friends in Worcester, Mass for the 47th Annual 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. Memorial Services on October 19, 1991.

Pat J. Morano
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa 17201

Jane Capella - In memory of husband, Hugh.
Lawrence McLaughlin - In memory of Henry Chiarini.
Samuel N. Ledford
Harry Kenny - In memory of John Trevelise.
Robert A. Turner
Raymond Ditmyer
William Johnston
Mrs. Fred Gruhl - In memory of her husband,
Mrs. Robert Dickey - In memory of her husband.
Mrs. Elizabeth Landis - In memory of her husband, Walter.
Frank Gonzol
Jack A. Dunlap - In memory of Frank Russo.
Richard McGrath - In memory of Fr. Connors.
Charles McLhinney - In memory of Walter McLhinney (K.I.A.) and John Trevelise.

39th Inf I Co. Mini Reunion

Fourteen veterans of Co. I, 39th Infantry met in Indiana on July 30 and 31. Several of them had been together before since the war, but three were attending the mini-reunion for the first time.

The group spent more than six hours with each one telling of his military experience before joining the 9th Division, the date he joined the unit, his most memorable combat experience, what he did in civilian life since the war, what he was most proud of and what his hobbies are.

The mourned the recent passing of John F. Murphy, an officer in Company I during the war. He died in May. Col. A. Paul Croonquist, former Captain in the Company was not present, but he sent a collection of photographs and a letter telling of his 30 years in the service. He also sent one copy of the Battalion log covering from Sicily to the end of the war.

Boris Raynes, former artillery liaison to Company I, sent a letter telling of his experience. Raynes is a retired judge who lives in California.

Paul Callahan presented each member present with a glass mug decorated with the Combat Infantry Badge and showing the unit name.

Don Lavender brought copies of the official Regimental History - now declassified - listing the names of all wounded, killed or missing in action from the landing in France to the end of the war.

Six of those present talked to their old Battalion Commander, Col. Richard Kent, in Montgomery, Alabama in a 20 minute phone conversation. Col. Kent had sent a message with A. Trent Palmer, who stopped in Montgomery on the way to the reunion. Highlights of Col. Kent's message included comments about certain combat actions as well as his personal experience when he was liaison to II Corps in Africa and when he served with Col. Paddy Flint in France.

The fourteen present came from 11 different states. They plan to meet again next year also in Indiana. They are looking for Lt. John H. Adams, and Lt. Harold Johnson. Anyone who knows of Co. I, 39th members is encouraged to have them contact Don Lavender, 2913-49th Street, Des Moines, IA 50310.

TEXAS & THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

"K" Company 60th
Robert H. Rucker
205 Greenway Drive,
Bryan, Texas 77801

The first annual meeting of the new TEXAS & THE GREATER SOUTHWEST Chapter was in Arlington, Texas at Howard Johnson's on August 21. Forty-seven members and spouses attended for a genuine time of fellowship, food and fun!

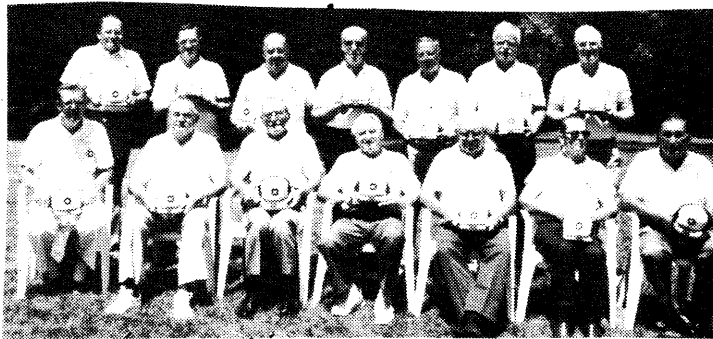
President John Miller opened the business session promptly as scheduled and presided for the fast moving agenda. Following the Pledge of Allegiance by the group, Ken Meyer gave the invocation. A short discussion regarding the pros and cons of chapter dues, it was decided to dispense with dues for the present. By common consent, the "hat will be passed" at each meeting to cover operating expenses. There has been a total of \$281.00 collected so far from two meetings. It was agreed that it may become necessary to have dues at some future date.

Primary discussion was on the proposal to host the Annual Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association in San Antonio, Texas in 1993. Ernest J. Botella, secretary-treasurer will present the proposal to the Board of Governors in Milwaukee, and attending members will be the support group.

The next annual meeting of the chapter will be Saturday, April 25 in Burleson, Texas. Sam and Dorras Burns have graciously invited the chapter members and spouses to their ranch for an old-fashioned Texas "Hoe-Down" and barbecue! Details will be in the Christmas Newsletter ... or call/write Rucker.

Everyone adjourned to the Reflection Bar and "reflected" as to how we had a good meeting and re-told some stories but the "good guys" still won the war! A delicious banquet followed with Prime Rib and all the "fixin's," Chaplain Bill Lynch gave the invocation. He was elated to be with us and see people that he had not seen for over forty years! The "Old Reliabilities" were recognized at the Baltimore/Ranger Baseball game as they were given VIP treatment and sat together in a special box.

In the words of Sam Burns, host for the next meeting, "See you down the road."



Co. I 39th Inf. members are shown at their Mini Reunion held July 30 and 31, 1991 in Indiana. Front row, l-r: Koneski, Overton, Gotcher, Mercier, DeWitt, Dawson, and Chipura. 2nd row, l-r: Lavender, Holsapple, Callahan, Jenkins, Elkins, Palmer and Radabaugh.



Forty-seven members of the association were at the First Annual Meeting of the Texas & The Greater Southwest Chapter held in Arlington, Texas on August 21.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

On Sunday, October 6, 1991, the New Jersey Chapter held its first dinner/dance at the Moose Lodge in Bound Brook. We had fifty people in attendance, and to say the affair was a rousing success is the understatement of the year. In addition to the current president and secretary of the national association we had recently joined members as well as old timers. The seven piece band played both our style of conventional music as well as Blue Grass. They were as enthusiastic as any musicians I have ever seen. Our host and chief cook was Frank Gonzol's protege Rich Sturdivant. We certainly owe Rich a resounding vote of thanks for his efforts, ably supported by his loving wife. He left very little to be desired. How Rich was able to provide us with the bountiful buffet, the great music, and an open bar for the price we paid is beyond my comprehension. Fate was at work when Rich turned up to be the winner of the fifty/fifty. It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy and a more worthy gentleman. And talk about talent: Rich bought the food, cooked it, bought the booze, hired the bartender, engaged the band, played first trumpet, wrote a song about and dedicated to the Ninth Division, and sang it!

We have a number of men at our dinner who were not members before the eventful Sunday: Joseph Przyborowski, M Company 650th Infantry, Frederic Peterson, Hq. 84th Field, and Pasquale Iuspa from Newark, whom I hope to enroll in the Association in the very near future. Peterson was especially happy to have attended the dinner when he was reunited with an old Headquarters Battery 84th Field Artilleryman at the festivities. As usual, F Company 47th Infantry had a large turnout: Jack Finnigan, Lou Slatnick, Frank Gonzol, Ken Yennie, Herb Hoepfner, and Jack Healey. Some other F Company 47th men generously sent checks though they were unable to attend: Bill Larson, Rud Hoffman and Paul Giarraputo.

Tom Cook and Harry Schwartz sent in checks, though unable to attend. Harry made it to Milwaukee, his first reunion ever. I was saddened to learn that he had a slight stroke last week. Hopefully it will remind him to look after his health. It was nice to receive checks from these men, but it would have been so much more satisfying to see them and their spouses at the affair. Bill Canary drove up from Whiting along with his old G Company 39th buddy John Fasel. John Dranchak was on hand as were Peter Fotio, Marty Gill, Bill Green, John Maak, Ed Prusek, Dan Quinn, Ed Ritter, Mike Wengryn, Bob Young, and Frank Zarawiecki.

We agreed to continue combining our regular meetings with lunch and to have another dinner meeting with our ladies again soon. We also agreed to have more meetings in the southern and south-central parts of the state in order to be more accessible to the men located in those areas. Our next luncheon meeting will be in the Trenton area. Join us!

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

C Co. 60th Inf.
ELMER SCHULTZ
Al Seery Dr.
Box 30
Belen, New Mexico 87002

I was in "C" Company 60th from 1941 to 1945. I would like to hear from anyone who was in the service with me.

Business Conducted at Reunion

BOARD MEETING

The 169th Board Meeting of the 9th Infantry Division Association September 19, 1991 was held at the Grand Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The meeting commenced at 4:10 PM when President Michael Belmonte called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand for a moment of silence in memory of our departed Comrades.

Attending were: Henry Santos, Trevor Jones, Al Perna, Nick D'Ogostino, George Brown, Walter O'Keefe, Tom Hatton, Bob De Sandy, Ed Hopkins, and Jack Collier.

Also in attendance were: Dave Heller, Judge Advocate, Treasurer Tom Boyle, Fran Maher, Art Schmidt, Pat De Colli, Len Tomassone, John Bonhowski, Roger Alsgard, A. Wadalavage, Paul Keller and Elmer Wgner.

Secretary, Dan Quinn read the minutes of report held in Worcester on November 10 1990 and upon a motion made by Bob DeSandy seconded by Al Perna, it was voted to: accept the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

Tom Boyle, Treasurer, gave his report and explained that because of the dates of the reunion (Sept. instead of June), the report was somewhat extended.

A motion was made by H. Santos, seconded by Tom Hatton to: accept the Treasurer's Report.

Mike Belmonte, Co-Chairman of the 1991 Reunion reported that as of this date there were 473 people registered for the 3-day gathering. Mike outlined events that were going to take place, etc. His committee was projecting for a goal of 500 people and so they were certain that they will attain that goal.

Various Committees

President Belmonte then proceeded to appoint Chairmen for the various committee meetings that will take place on Friday, September 20th. The Finance Committee will be chaired by Walter O'Keefe, the By-Laws committee by Bob De Sandy, the Newspaper Committee by Al Perna, the Miscellaneous Committee by Ed Hopkins, the Nomination Committee by Tom Hatton.

Tom Boyle spoke of the continuation of the Worcester Memorial by the N.E. members and this year it will be held on October 20, 1991 and the Mass will be offered at 11 AM at Immaculate Conception Church, Worcester, Mass.

President Belmonte thanked Boyle for his report.

1992 Reunion

Bob De Sandy who now lives in Southern Pines, NC reported on the 1992 Reunion to be held in Fayetteville, Ft. Bragg on June 11, 12 & 13 (Th., Fri., & Sat.) 1992. Memorial Services will be held at Ft. Bragg, etc. Details will appear in the Octofoil.

Henry Santos made a final Financial Report on the 1990 Orlando Reunion. A profit of \$2,500.00 was realized and close to 800 people were in attendance.

President Belmonte thanked Santos and the Committee for a great reunion.

Upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Nick D'Ogostino to: grant the Florida Chapter a \$100.00 stipend for a job well done.

Adolfe Wadalavage reported on the negative side as far as placing a plaque on the Remagen Bridge. There will be a ceremony held in 1995 and he recommended to wait until then to join with that group.

President Belmonte thanked Wadalavage for his report.

There being no other matters to come before the Board and upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by it was voted to adjourn at 5:55 PM.

Minutes of the General Meeting 46th Reunion

The General Meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held on September 20, 1991 at the Grand Hotel, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M. by the President of the Association Michael Belmonte with 225 members in attendance.

Belmonte asked the members to stand for a moment of silence in memory of the departed members of the Ninth. He then asked the members if they would care to serve on one of the various committees along with the designated members from the Chapters. Belmonte had appointed the Chairman at the Board meeting held the previous day and he asked the Chairmen to stand in order to be recognized by the members.

The meeting was adjourned till 11 A.M. in order for the committee meetings to be held.

At 11:03 A.M. President Belmonte called the general session meeting to order and asked the 234 members present to recite with him the "Pledge of Allegiance" to our flag.

Secretary Quinn was called upon to read the minutes of the last reunion held in Orlando, Florida 1990. Upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Marty Krasovitz it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and instruct the secretary to place copy of same on file.

Tom Boyle the treasurer called for his report and he explained to the members that the yearly report had been extended for two months as the reunion are usually held in June or July and for the last two years they have been held in October or September. He then gave a detailed account of the income and spendings of the association.

Upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Jack Finnigan it was voted to: Accept the treasurers report.

President Belmonte thanked Boyle for his report.

Finance Committee

Walter O'Keefe, Chairman of the Finance Committee was asked to give his report and he named the following members who served with him on this committee: Bob Hurst, Elmer Wagner, Len Tomassone, Joe Ryan, Norris Gray, Gordon Anderson and Roger Elmer.

O'Keefe and the committee suggested that the financial report be submitted on a yearly basis or the fiscal year of the association, (July to the following June), and that the report be submitted to association before the reunion and distributed to members who will serve on the financial committee. It is not fair to expect the members of this committee be handed a report a few minutes before they meet. It will also be wise to have a budget made up for 12 months and not 14 or 10 months.

The Finance Committee submits the following budget for 1992:

Anticipated Income	
Dues	\$ 9,000.00
Loomis Say	1,500.00
Scudder	1,000.00
Sales Items	200.00
Reunion	1,000.00
	\$12,700.00
Available from General Fund	3,737.00
	\$16,437.43

Expenses

Octofoil	\$ 7,635.00
Postage	3,120.00
Secretary Salary	1,000.00
Clerical Salary	1,000.00
Utilities	1,330.00
Supplies	650.00
Accountant	325.00
Secretary Expense	1,000.00
Treasurer Expense	300.00
Editor's Expense	400.00
Florida Chapter	
Gratuity	100.00
Miscellaneous Expense	450.00
FICA	76.50
	\$17,386.00

Expenses	\$17,386.50
Income	\$16,437.43

Deficit --\$ 949.00

Upon a motion made by Bob DeSandy and seconded by Henry Santos it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee.

President Belmonte thanked Walter O'Keefe and his committee for their report.

By-Laws Committee

Robert DeSandy chairman of the By-Laws Committee named these members who served on the committee with him: Fran Maher, Pat DeColli, George Brown, Ted Preston, Ray Bouthwick, Dave Heller and Ed Wisniewski.

Chairman DeSandy reported that the committee had a lively and stimulating discussion on several items. (1) The Change in membership dues that was made last year by the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the Financial Committee. The change was in order and in accordance with the By-Laws. (2) The question that was raised on the future term of the President (perhaps two years instead of one) that is now being adhered to by the Association was tabled.

No action was taken on any of the above subjects. (Par #2.)

Upon a motion made by Tom Mickerson and seconded by Ed Wisniewski it was voted to: Accept the report of the By-Laws Committee.

President Belmonte thanked Bob DeSandy and his committee for their report.

Newspaper Committee

Al Perna Chairman of the Newspaper Committee named the following members who served on this committee: Paul Clark, Red Phillips, Bob Rucker, Tony Soprano, Dick Granbury, Karl Balbuvarny, Art Schmidt, Mike Carpenter and Bill Martin.

The committee extend their appreciation to the staff of the Octofoil for a "job well done."

They would also like to encourage the membership to write to the Editors with stories or news notes.

The suggestion to reduce expenses by using a newspaper type instead of the glossy paper. This already had been implemented by the Editors of the Octofoil with the May-June-July issue, the first to be used.

Upon a motion made by Ernie Newheart and seconded by Ray Schmader it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Newspaper Committee. President Belmonte thanked Al Perna and his committee for their report.

Miscellaneous Committee

Ed Hopkins Chairman of the Miscellaneous Committee was called upon for his report and he named these members who served with him on this committee: Marty Krasovetz, Al Zenka, Michael Wengryn, Phil Emmons, Gordon Schneider, Charls Rochelle, Bill Johnston and Rodger Alsgard.

The committee discussed the membership dues that was increased last year but the commissions for the local chapters was never raised. They also talked of the possibility of a trip to Europe in the near future.

Upon a motion made by George Brown and seconded by Pat DeColli it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Miscellaneous Committee. President Belmonte thanked Ed Hopkins and his committee for their report.

Nominating Committee

Tom Hatton Chairman of the Nominating Committee reported the following members who served with him on this committee: Henry Santos, Nick Dogastino, Ron Murphy, Ernie Bottella, Lou Gray and Adolph Wadalavage.

There are four members going off the Board this year and the committee recommends that their places be filled by the following members:

Howard Gaertner from the Illinois Chapter

Leonard Tomassone from the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter

Ron Murphy from the New England Chapter

Sewell Carson from the Florida Chapter

Pat DeColli moved to accept the recommendations of the committee. This was seconded by Red Phillips and so voted: An open discussion was held regarding the naming of a member to the Board from the new Chapter, Texas, Great South Western. In order to increase the number of Board members a change would have to be made in the By-Laws and that requires that a 30 day notice be given to the membership. The members representing the new Chapter were satisfied with the ruling and so upon a motion made by Marty Krasovetz and seconded by Al Perna it was voted to: Close the nominations and instruct the secretary to cast one ballot for a unanimous election.

The Committee reports finished President Belmonte asked for "Old Business" from the floor. Bob Lynch suggested that more publicity be given to the reunions and the association by advertising in various veterans magazines or publications.

President Belmonte thanked Bob Lynch for his suggestions.

50th Anniversary

Bob DeSandy addressed the membership regarding the 1992 Reunion being held in Fayetteville, N.C. (Ft. Bragg), the 50th Anniversary (the Ninth Infantry Division leaving for overseas in 1942). The dates June 11, 12, 13, 1992 (Thurs., Fri., Sat.). Details will appear in the Octofoil.

Worcester Memorial

Tom Boyle spoke for the New England Chapter who are continuing with the Memorial Services started in 1945 by the late Father Connors. This year the Services will be held on Sunday, Oct. 20, 1991 at 11:00 A.M. in the Immaculate Conception Church with outdoor service after the Mass at the Ninth Division Monument, in Worcester.

Fran Maher spoke of a Mass being celebrated in Father Connors memory at Holy Cross College on Sunday, November 10, 1991, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Upon a motion made by George Brown and seconded by Red Phillips it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 12:20 P.M.

Fort Bragg

Reunion Dates

June 11, 12, 13 1992

Deadline for next issue of the Octofoil Dec 20th

Meeting Board of Governors

The 170th meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division took place on September 20, 1991 at 4:05 PM at the Grand Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

President of the Association Michael Belmonte called the meeting to order and asked the Members to stand with him for a moment of silent prayer in memory of our departed comrades.

Attending the meeting were: Al Perna, Bob DeSandy, Trevor Jones, Walter O'Keefe, Tom Hatton, George Brown, Ed Hopkins and newly elected Board members, Sewell (Bill) Carson Len Tomassone, and Ron Murphy. Also in attendance were Judge Advocate Dave Heller, Treasurer Tom Boyle, 2nd V-Pres. Pat DeColli, 3rd V-Pres. Fran Maher, Roger Alsgard, Nich Dodgostino, Henry Santos, Adolph Wadalavage, Bob Rucker, Ernie Botella and John Bonkowski.

Bob DeSandy made a motion that was seconded by Len Tomassone to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. So moved.

Trevor Jones made a motion that was seconded by Ron Murphy to omit the Treasurers report. So moved.

President Belmonte called for Election of Officers for the coming year.

Elected as the President of the Association was Edward Hopkins; 1st Vice-President Vincent Guglielmino; 2nd Vice-President Pat DeColli; 3rd Vice-President Fran Maher; Judge Advocate Dave Heller; Treasurer Thomas Boyle; Secretary Daniel Quinn.

Michael Belmonte outgoing President of the Association turned over the gavel of authority to Ed Hopkins. Michael thanked the members for their support this past year and wished Ed the best for his coming year at the helm of the association. Ed Hopkins expressed his appreciation for the honor bestowed upon him and promised to do all in his power to keep the association on a steady keel and looked forward to the challenge before him.

Ed Hopkins, in his first act as president, called for bids for the 1993 Reunion, Texas in 1993. Several bids were made and a closed vote taken with the winner being the new Chapter — The Texas-Greater South Western Chapter. The other two bidders then withdrew their bids to make the choice unanimous.

Henry Santos and Adolph Wadalavage members of the Committee to assist veterans hospitals recommended that a grant of \$878.00 be made to V.A. Medical Center, Batavia, New York.

Upon a motion made by Walter O'Keefe and seconded by Bob DeSandy it was voted to: Grant the Committee the monies for the VA Medical Center, in Batavia, New York.

Walter O'Keefe suggested that a Special Award of a plaque or something suitable be made to the family of the late Harrison Daysh for his efforts on behalf of the association as legal advisor for over thirty years. This motion or suggestion was seconded by several members and appropriate measures will be taken.

There being no other matters to come before the Board and upon a motion made by Bob DeSandy and seconded by George Brown it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

M Company (47th) Chronicler

Lee and I drove to Milwaukee for the Association's Reunion, a three-week, 6,400-mile loop which took us north through Canada and then back home via the Southwest. It was one more opportunity to see our land and its people and, after so much negative news lately about economic conditions, it was good to find things in general not so bad. There's no question — the bloom is off the sage, people aren't going crazy anymore trying to spend their money, but things don't look so glum either.

So much for my State of the Union Message. M Company's representation at this year's gathering was down a bit. There were but nine of us flying the old guidon but, of course, Milwaukee's a far piece for your typical stuck-in-the-mud easterner. You were represented at the "Home of Beer" by Don Creighton, Leo Fatlan, Bill Horan, Lyle Kitchen, Don Kothe, Jack Rowe, Merwin Walters and Ed Wills, as well as your chronicler. We should also count local boy Howard Gaertner even though he worked himself into the hospital getting things ready for this affair and so missed the hoopla. He and his wife were honored from the podium for their contributions to the success of the Reunion and it was announced that Howard has been elected to the Association's Board of Trustees, representing the Greater Illinois Chapter. M Company is also proud to have a representative flying so high, Howard. Way to go!

Visited

On the way to Milwaukee I visited a couple of our guys. Near Polson, Montana, I found Bob Story way back on the edge of the Mission Mountain Wilderness. Bob leads a good wholesome life, hiking and fishing and hunting for berries, one that has to be started early I think. But he and his family seem to be thriving on it and that's what counts. In northern Wisconsin I located Joe Smith, another one-time machinegunner, on the Menominee Indian reservation. Joe has not changed much in appearance since dragging your wounded chronicler into a hole at El Guettar. Over the years Joe's had quite a life, knocking about the world in the construction game. Finally, he returned to the Great North Woods where it all started and he has dedicated himself to teaching the Menominee tongue and culture to young people at the local school. Joe is quite discouraged from fighting a losing battle to TV with its facility of raising expectations of the young Indians, and the continued racial prejudice in our country which stultifies their getting ahead in general society. I think this guy is doing important work and needs all the help he can get. A letter from an old buddy would help. Simply write to Joe Smith, Neopit, WI 54150 or call (715) 756-2326.

I have some sad news to relate: Bill Evans' wife has written from Providence, Kentucky, that after a heck of a battle he's passed on. Then, Leo Fatlan called after our return from Milwaukee that Merwin "Corky" Sullivan never learned what a good party he had missed.

47th Inf. E Co.
MAURICE HOUCKES
133 Jackson St.
Haskell, N.J. 07420

Its been quite sometime that I have written to the Octofoil paper. My wife and I were really saddened with the passing of John Trevelise. Our sympathy to Dottie. ?

On the bright side, we now have a lead on some 48 former M-ers who are apparently alive and kicking, and letters have gone to VA for delivery to them. Perhaps shortly we'll be having some replacements for our more recent casualties.

At Milwaukee I was kept pretty busy peddling "El Guettar-Crucible of Leadership." Sales aren't setting any records but I may get lucky and make expenses. The fun was in the contacts and trying to figure out what happened and when. There are plenty of gaps and unanswered questions but I had taken it about as far as I could at this late date. If you haven't ordered a copy yet, you might think out their suitability as Christmas gifts.

New address for Bob Cunningham, 3057 S. Higvera St., (#88), San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93401. tel 805 549 0259.

Welcome aboard to Rufus M. McCollom, formerly 1st Plt now at Rt#4, Box 315 E, Broken Arrow, Ol 74014 tel 918 357 1135.

A couple of books long out-of-print at the U.S. Government Printing Office are now available in new editions: "US Army in WW II, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, Northwest Africa, Seizing the Initiative in the West," is available for \$36, and "To Bizerte with the Second Corps, 23 April-13 May 1943" can be had for \$4.75 plus mailing. Write to Superintendent of Documents, USGPO, Washington, DC 20402.

A final thought about Milwaukee: once again we've had a meeting of the 9th Division Association without any report or debate about the future of the organization. I attended the meeting of the Newspaper Committee, hoping to get a recommendation that the Octofoil be charged with publishing both sides of the question of amending the by-laws to admit other than veterans of WW II. Nothing doing! Now I can see why there might be some objection to taking into the Association any Tom, Dick or Harry who had happened to wear the Octofoil, but it seems to me that we're only doing ourselves a disservice by denying enrollment to the 9th Division's veterans of the Vietnam War. What's the alternative? Going on as we are, we'll end up having Danny Quinn making the Secretary's Report to himself.

How about you guys expressing yourselves on this subject in letters to the Octofoil.

Erwin Waktters has had a slight change of address: it's 56245 CSAH - 2, Watkins, MN 55389.

The next Reunion will be at Fayetteville, NC, the Golden Anniversary of getting snookered at the Town Pump maybe? Anyway, it's June 11-12-13 so start making plans. M Company already has a CP established, gratis from the host hotel, due to our being quick in asking for the privilege. This ought to be a bell-ringer, fellows. I hope to see you there. Ciao!

Red Phillips
14002 Hemlock Drive
Penn Valley, CA 95946

39th Inf C Co.
CARLOS D. WARD
10280 Eaton Pike
New Lebanon OH 45345

Enclosed are my dues for the next year. Sorry I didn't make it to this year's reunion. I know everyone had a wonderful time because we always do when we are together. I sure do miss all my buddies and remember the years gone by. But I will make the next one if it is the good Lord's will. Good health and best wishes to everyone.

47th Inf.
JOE WILLIAMS
1900 Holly Oak Lake Rd. E.
Jacksonville, Fl. 32225

Couldn't make the reunion this year due to a bad fall in July, which resulted in a broken shoulder. Hopefully, this week when I check back with my doctor, I will be discharged and will not require surgery. I hope the reunion was successful and enjoyable.

I am retiring from the book printing and reprinting business. I have only a few copies left of "Eight Stars to Victory", and the 47th Infantry history. The books on the attached list have been reduced in price. I would appreciate it if you would place an ad in the next issue of the Octofoil.

9th Div. Books & Pamphlets FOR SALE

No more copies to be printed
All books reduced in price

1. "Eight Stars to Victory" hardback, 407 pages; \$32.50 incl. tax & postage. Copies: 11.
2. 47th Infantry History. WW I, WW II, Vietnam. Hardback; 225 pages, (74 pages added to original book). \$20.00 incl. tax & postage. Copies: 16.
3. "Captor-Captive". Author Joe Williams. Hardback: 427 pages. History of 47th & 9th Div. and war crimes role each played in Germany at the end of WW II. Photographs, illustrations, last words of executed war criminals, index. \$16.00 incl. tax & postage. Copies: 17.
4. "Hold Fast", (booklet - 60 pgs.). Historical pathos; lore, heroism & satire about the veteran 9th Inf. Div. \$3.50 incl. tax & postage. Copies: 22.
5. "The Final Thrust", (booklet - 74 pgs.). Combat actions from Sept. 1944 thru May 1945. \$4.00 incl. tax & postage. Copies: 20.
6. "9th Inf. Div. 1918-1968", (booklet). WW I, WW II, Vietnam. \$2.00 incl. tax & postage. Copies: 29.
7. 47th Infantry Commemorative Coin. Brass; silver dollar size. \$3.00 incl. tax & postage. Available: 9.

**Make check or money order payable to: JOE WILLIAMS; 1900 HOLLY OAKS LANE RD. E.; JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225. (904) 641-9751.

60th Inf.
NORBERT HENNEN
4558 - 58th Ave. No., #257
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

A rousing "well done" to you, the staff of the Octofoil, and to all those responsible for the success of our recent reunion at the Grand Milwaukee Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

It was a great reunion and both my wife, Anne, and I were delighted by the fine turnout of the 60th Infantry Regiment. Inspiring addresses were the contributions of Lt. Col. Matt Urban and MG M.B. Kauffman with one Dan Quinn providing many a chuckle.

We were especially pleased to visit with Mike Kauffman and Peg, Bob Rucker, Herb and Ruth Clark, Al and Pat Bruchac, Joe and Nancy Joyce, Charley Stewart, Barney Ingebretsen, Slick Wilson, Harold and Dorothy Smith, Owen and Marge Sallee, Al and Genevieve Zenka, as well as Joe Rappazini and his charming wife. And, of course, the famous Matt Urban.

Of course, the memorial service provided a sobering interlude and brought to mind the names of those who are no longer with us.

One very recent death appeared in the obituary column of our Minneapolis Star of 29 September. Herewith is the obituary of Joseph S. Podany.

Co. E. KIA 47th Inf.
CHARLES McLHINNEY
Brother of Walter
208 N. Washington St.
Havre De Grace, Md. 21078

Once again we had the privilege to be among some of the most wonderful and thoughtful people in the world, the men of the Ninth. It is certainly an honor to be with you. Never have I seen such devotion to each other as remembering the men that were left behind during the long years you were overseas.

We missed you Marie and I am sure Dan did too, we hope your mother is doing better by now. Marie you always seem to keep Dan straightened out with his program and collecting the dues and money for the Memorial Fund. The Association would certainly be at a loss without you two. You both do such a great service to the organization and have been doing it for so many years.

Dottie Travalise was supposed to come with us but she had to go in the hospital one week before the reunion and her daughter did not want her to make the trip. We did call her from Milwaukee to tell her we were thinking of her but then, we think of you folks everyday of our lives. There are very few days that I do not read the books about the Ninth or the 47th Inf., or my brothers letters that my mother saved all these years. She saved the telegram when he was wounded 3 times, his induction papers, his Purple Hearts, his personal effects he had with him when he was killed. I carried his Missal he had with him when he was killed, to Mass last year with me at the Memorial Service.

We met a man in Milwaukee that made his first reunion in 46 years. He was with my brother when he was killed and he explained it just as the letter from the Chaplain did to my Father in 1945. He also gave me several names of men who could possibly tell me more. One man we met is Joe W. Hasenfus, from Pennsauken, N.J. We will try to get in touch with the other men.

NINTH SIGNAL COMPANY REUNION

Some of our Companies never have a reunion and here we have the 9th Signal Company that holds two separate reunions within weeks of one another. It would be nice if they could get together and have one gathering. In any event here are the reports the Octofoil received for publication.

The 9th Signal Company held its fourth annual reunion at the Inn at Reading, Pennsylvania, on August 27th, 28th and 29th. The 9th Signal Company will hold its fifth reunion where it all started. We will meet with the 9th Division Association at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in the early part of June 1992. This will be our biggest celebration of getting together since our first mini reunion. We know that you will want to be there in full force.

Some comrades go as far back as "Tent City" at "Bragg". Our roster of those living in "Tent City" and present for the first Thanksgiving dinner is as follows: Wilber Dodd, Charles R. Hodges, William A. Miller, William J. Mamau, John K. Reeder, Joseph Reese, William J. Shaner, Harold Stafford, John T. Watts and Norbert Zylka.

More information will follow as arrangements are finalized.

Your Co-Chairmen
Bill Miller
507 Eskridge Drive
Wilmington, Del. 19809
Dick Craig
10 Whitney Street
White Plains, NY 10606

Co. M 60th Inf. 9th Div.
SUSAN ALBERTS
202 North Irvine,
Aroma Park, Illinois 60910

I wish to thank everyone for sending cards and letters of sympathy after the death of my husband, David. Your kindness will always be remembered and appreciated. I miss David and think of all the times we would be talking he would mention the names of his buddies and comment on some of the things they had done together. He never forgot any of you and wanted so much to go to the reunions but he was too ill to travel that far. Do you know he had hopes of getting to Wisconsin this year as it was close, but I knew better even though I never let on otherwise. I guess he will be there in spirit this time.

I write little poems now and then so I am sending one in memory of David. Thanking all of you once more for your kindness and comfort.

A candle so long burning has flickered and gone out.

It spread a glorious brightness to loved ones all about. It guided many anxious eyes to tell the time of day and to go in the right direction as they walked down life's great way. It taught them joy of Christmas and the love of Easter bright. Oh such a tiny candle but radiant was it's light.

The world seems sad this evening; there's darkness all about for God has called; the time has come and the candle has gone out.

We miss him since he went away and sometimes question why, but a bright new star is shining now in God's great spacious sky.

For David who left us June 4th 1991.

P.S. David had a very nice military funeral. The shots, taps and flag draped casket. The Brady Legion and F Troops from Aroma Park performed the service. The flag was presented to me after the service at the cemetery. The burial was close to our home in Memorial Gardens section of devotion.

9th SIGNAL COMPANY

The 9th Signal Company, 9th Division of WWII, held it's fourth reunion on September 3, 4, 5, and left on the 6th, after a beautiful breakfast that everyone shared.

For the fourth consecutive reunion, Charles (Chuck) Hodges presented each comrade with an American flag, and sent a couple to comrades that were too ill to make the reunion. Like Chuck has always said, "If heaven had an address and a zip code, he would make sure that every comrade had a flag."

Everyone was so happy, that reservations were made at Bird In Hand in Lancaster next year. It will be September 8, 9, 10, and will leave on the 11th. We sincerely hope that all Signalmen will join us at this fifth reunion.

At our reunions, we have no leader. We all work together. Each does their own part in making our reunion a happy and memorial occasion.

All you 9th Signalmen that are reading this, please try and meet all your buddies next year in Lancaster. Call Lyn Poniz, toll free (1-537-2535) or 1-717-768-8271 or write to: Box b, Bird In Hand, Pa. 17505.

During the war, we were a team, let's always remain that way.

Chuck Hodges,
Box 637
Gouldsboro, Pa. 18424.
or Bill Shaner,
Box 103,
Barnsville, Pa. 18214.
See you in Lancaster, Sept. 8, 9, 10, of 1992.

MAIL CALL

47th Inf. Ser. Co.
ROBERT H.J. DUNN
527 Lakeview Drive
Swedesboro, N.J. 08085

Have just received the May-June-July issue of the Octofoil and discovered that I'm past due in renewing my subscription.

Check is enclosed to cover three years. And along with it goes my sincere thanks to you for putting up with procrastinators such as I for so many years.

Parkinson's Disease, coupled with my advancing years, have forced me into retirement. I sold my community newspaper two years ago and my printing business this past June.

In closing, I appreciate the outstanding job you and your good wife have done for the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

39th Inf. L Co.
HERB TAFF
6 Horizon Rd.
Ft. Lee, NJ 07024

Enclosed find my dues for 3 years — I joined the 9th in January 1941 — I was drafted for (1) year. I had 90 meals to be discharged when December 7, 1941 — Pearl Harbor — Was a member of Co. "L" — 39th — missed the final 2 months of the War — was wounded at Remagen — March 18, 1945. Was in 1st General Hospital when war in Europe was over. Had 132 points & was discharged in June 1945. It's an honor to be a member of the famous and prestigious 9th Inf. Assoc. PS — You guys are doing a great job. Keep up the good work.

Co. F 1st Inf.
BOB LANDIS
2050 Short Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

Recently Betty and I made a trip to Normandy and while there we visited the American Cemetery and Memorial at Omaha Beach.

We had been there before but this time I had the opportunity to visit with one of the staff members and during our conversation she inquired if I would like to have a roster of the men of the 47th who are buried there. Naturally, I was pleased.

She also inquired if the Division had an association and when I told her there was one she asked if I might have them send her the address for her files.

So - I'm passing this on to you Dan to do whatever you wish.

If you do contact them I am sure they could send you a roster of all the 9th Division men who are buried there - if you do not already have one.

I arrived at the cemetery late in the day and was there for the retreat ceremony. Since I was the only American there I must say I have never felt so proud and so humble to have stood among so many American heroes. It was a moment I shall always remember.

The Battle Monument Commission is doing a superb job in maintaining the Cemetery. It is immaculate.

I'm sorry we will not make the reunion this year but best wishes for a good one.

47th Inf. Hq. Co.
ANDREW CRAWFORD
Box 27
Bucke, NY 12917

Enclosed is my check for 3 years & something for the Memorial Fund.

Time is marching on, will be 75 August 29, 1991 and feeling fairly good.

I love to read the Octofoil, but very sorry to read of those passing on.

9th M. P.
JACOB S. NAILOR
312 Brandy Lane
Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055

It is about time for my dues so I am enclosing a check for three years so I don't miss any of the Octofoil's. I usually pay Marie at the reunion but was unable to get to Milwaukee this year. If the good Lord is willing I will be at Fort Bragg next year.

I hope some of the M.P.'s living in the Fort Bragg area would try to attend this reunion to renew old times. There were a lot from down that way. I hear from Adolph Wadalavage, Ken Meyer and Gerry Bryant and several other at Xmas time and would like to see them. Come on guys and come to Bragg next year.

I hope all went well in Milwaukee. I hope to hear from Wadalavage in a few weeks and I am sure he will bring me up to date. I haven't heard from Bryant lately and will have to give him a call.

I hope this finds you and Marie in the best of health. You are doing a terrific job and I send my thanks for a job well done. Hope to see you at Bragg in '92.

HQ Co. 47th Inf.
LAURENCE MELANSON
2005 Diana Drive
Loveland, CO 80537

My wife and I recently flew to Philadelphia, rented a car, and looked up a few old buddies from the 47th Radio Section. Saw Joe Trout, Wayne Shelly, Frank Venezia, and even drove as far north as Denville, NJ to see Leon Robins. Had a great time. Hadn't seen Robins since 1945.

The purpose of this note is to ask you to please reinstate Joe Trout as a member in good standing of the association, and start sending him the Octofoil again. I am enclosing my check for \$10.00 to cover the next year. Joe had a stroke 12 years ago and more recently has had heart bypass. He is paralyzed on the right side, but gets around quite well. I do not have his serial #, but you must have it in your files - he has been a member. Hope the following information is sufficient:

47th Inf., G & Serv. Co.
HARRY G. WALLS
Rte. 3, Box 610
Cumming, Ga. 30130

I see my subscription has run out. I am enclosing a check for \$25.00 for a 3 year subscription to The Octofoil. I was in the first group of replacements after the invasion of Normandy. I was 3rd Platoon runner until Remagen; then I went to Service Co. as 3rd. Battalion ammunition truck driver. Left from Dachau, Sept. 1945 for the U.S.A. I have survived 2 heart attacks and a 6 by-pass operation. I have forgotten many of the men's names - do remember Bill Coates, Aaron Zacharias, Frank Proper and Lt. Actkinson.

My wife and I had the privilege of attending the Fort Bragg and the Orlando Reunions. I hope to attend some others when they are closer to Georgia. I am still able to operate my Wrecker Service.

Here's hoping to hear from other 9th Infantry buddies. God bless you all.



15th Engrs. B Co.
RICHARD C. MCGRATH
2856 West 85th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60652

The Forty Sixth annual reunion held at the Grand Milwaukee Hotel from Sept. 19th to 21st was a very enjoyable time and the Illinois Chapter did themselves proud. Mike Belmonte and his team of Dave Heller, John Clouser, Lew Gray, and all the rest of the reunion committee did an outstanding job in making it one memorable affair.

All the ladies, headed by Ann Belmonte, who worked so well to coordinate all the jobs in welcoming and registering are to be commended.

The hotel was big enough to handle the 450 people, estimated, that showed up.

Memorial service was highlighted by the male choral group that sang patriotic songs.

The inspiring talk by Mike Kaufmann was also a feature of the service.

Dave Heller as Master of Ceremonies kept the memorial moving at a good pace.

The association really has outstanding speakers and that includes a man who says he's short of words. You know who I mean!!

The dance band was a group that understood our kind of music and the trio who emulated the Andrew Sisters with their rendition of the, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B" was a show stopper. It's amazing to see graceful energetic dancers like Ernie Micka and Dot, also Mike and Ann Belmonte glide around the dance floor. Beautiful and graceful.

We have a bunch of dancers that never seem to grow old. They got the secret.

Before I forget I want Dave Heller to know how much I appreciate the 9th Inf. Div. Assn. directory he put together. It comes in handy after a reunion when you want someone's address that you have just met. A lot of good info in that directory. Thanks Dave.

The banquet was excellent with good food and good service. Dan Quinn did his usual outstanding imitation of the old vaudeville routine. He kept us laughing with his jokes and one liners.

The kid from Hoboken will never grow old, thank good-

39th Inf. B Co.
JACK DUNLAP
17310 LaJunta Street
Hesperia, CA 92345

Enclosed is a money order for a three year membership. The balance I wish to donate to the Memorial Fund in memory of Frank Russo. Frank was one of Company B's stalwarts during the many actions in which the company participated. He could always be relied upon no matter what the perils or consequences. A true comrade in arms!

Frank carried his camaraderie into the post-war years to such an extent that I believed he made all the reunions as well as the company mini-reunions except for the one held last June.

In his quiet and unassuming way he will be missed by all. May God Bless him and keep him.

47th Inf. Med.
RALPH DELMONICO
11 Church St.
Westminster, MA 01473

Hoping this letter finds you and your wife in good health. I finally retired last year. Still in good health. I checked my card and found out my membership was due. Enjoy reading the Octofoil and I give you people a lot of credit doing what you do.

ness, and he also keeps us from taking ourselves too seriously.

After Dan roasted and toasted the ones he called up for achievements he asked Mike Belmonte to turn over the gavel to our new President, Ed Hopkins.

From one good leader to another.

Congratulations to Mike for a term well served and best wishes to Ed.

Henry Santos had a good idea with the hospitality room for the 15th Engineers battalion. As far as I know it was the first time all companies could be united and we had good happy get togethers. Henry ran out of money to pay the rent, but donations from Bob Apel and Carroll Devold who gave his raffle winnings, kept the Sheriff at Bay. Also the donations from men who couldn't make the reunion. Generous people.

I had a letter from Henry today with a breakdown of expenses for the hospitality room. It's expensive, but I hope we can have it again. Henry closed by saying Eva is calling me for chow, she made the hospitality room a welcome room.

B Company 15th Engineers battalion had: 4 Officers - Frank Rankin, John Moore, Ed Kuklewicz, Phil Emmons, present and accounted. Also 6 enlisted men — Art Schmidt, Bob Apel, Pat DeColli, Ernie Newhart, Ernie Micka, and myself answering the roll call.

We missed the regulars like Fred D'Amore, Tony Madonna, Jim Mullen, Paul Lisa, Allie Ferrante, Jerry Shea, and Bill Davidson. Those along with Barney Angell, Henry Hill, and Paul Bolduc we hope will be at Bragg in '92.

Close ranks and dress right, dress right, a sad note, someone reported that our ex TOPKICK Glendon Bowman (before he earned his battlefield commission) has passed away.

Thanks to all who made the 46th reunion such a joy. The camaraderie is so prevalent at the reunions, no strangers just friends, even those you have just met.

Because the Worcester Memorial will be soon I enclosed a donation in memory of Father Connors. A special man never to be forgotten.

34th F.A.
ROBERT TURNER
6 Munroe Avenue
Woburn, MA 01801

Thanks for continuing to do a great job with the Octofoil. I look forward to each issue and read it word for word.

Please renew my membership for 3 years, send me two decals, and use the rest for the Memorial Fund.

Sorry I will be unable to attend the Milwaukee Reunion, but hope to make next year's at Fayetteville.

Good luck to all and hope to see a few more 34 F.A. names among the correspondents to our Octofoil.

60th Inf. K Co.
RUSSELL PUGH
R.D. 4, Box 360
Slatington, PA 18080

I received two copies of the Octofoil. I wish I had heard about the Octofoil 40 years ago.

I joined K Co. 60th Infantry in September 1944 and was wounded in February 1945. I was the squad leader and the Lieutenant's name was Woodrow W. Jones.

I would like to hear from anyone who was in this outfit and the buddy who gave me the German piston in England. He was going over for seconds, I was being shipped home.

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

Publication No. 102820

15th Engr. A Co.
Henry Santos
9811 N. Connechuset Rd.
Tampa, FL 33617
Dear Engineer Comrade:

Hopefully, like Eva and I, you all arrived home or some other planned destination, safe and sound. We visited with a niece and her family in Wauwatosa, (next to Milwaukee) and a nephew in Indiana on the way south.

This wasn't a banner year for us and I doubt we would have won a prize for attendance as we did last year, quite a few regular reunion attendees were AWOL and missed. Illness and/or death in the family were reasons given by several and we hope those who were ill are feeling much better. We hope the bereaved have found solace with their Ninth Division family as well as blood family. Virginia Bowman wrote of Glen's passing as did Mary Gruhl telling of Fred's passing. May they rest in peace.

For me reunions are a mixed bag, joy, sadness, excitement, anticipation and above all, pride.

JOY in being with my engineer buddies and new ones from other units we've met over the years.

SADNESS in learning of another call to the great beyond or of a buddy too ill to attend.

EXCITEMENT I scan a group looking for a familiar face.

ANTICIPATION that someone with whom I shared moments of apprehension, and yes fright and/or laughter will come forward.

PRIDE to have been a part of what we all agree was the greatest combat division of WW-2.

REMORSE (not mentioned above) in being transferred to another engineer battalion after the Sicilian campaign, my presidential written speech explains it all in the May-June-July 1989 issue "Bad Boy etc.").

Co-ordinating the engineer hospitality room, hindsight now tells me, is something we should have done years ago and hopefully we can continue for whatever reunions we have left but we must start thinking about a hospitality room now. I could even consider a Special Troops room, any suggestions out there? Plans should be in place by April.

Those of you who participated in the hospitality room, raffle and/or made a donation should have received a financial report by mid-October. Contact me if you did not receive your copy.

Sincerely yours in comradeship
Henry Santos A-Co.



Remember the Reunion Dates June 11, 12, 13 1992