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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, November/December 1991

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLVI Number 5

Nov. Dec. 1991



Mike Kaufmann (Ret. Maj-Gen) former Bn Commander in the 60th Inf is shown as he spoke at the Memorial Services held in Milwaukee at the reunion.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
SEPTEMBER 21, 1991

Mike Kauffman was the keynote speaker at the Memorial Services. Here is his fitting tribute given at the Services.

I was recently looking through our World War II History "Eight Stars To Victory" and noted again that during the 30 months of the war we had 4,581 killed and 16,961 wounded.

To many these are cold statistics, but to us assembled here today they are not just numbers, but well remembered, warm, vital friends and comrades.

So, we gather here today to do what Americans have proudly done for decades. We are taking the time to pay our respect to those who have died for our country.

And in doing so, we also reaffirm our faith in this nation and the principles for which it stands. We show our love for America and for those we've protected it for more than 200 years.

It is proper that we take the time, and make the effort to do this.

Yet, let us recognize that what we are doing at this memorial service is not enough — it can never be enough. The flowers and wreaths are pretty. The sentiment is strong. The words spoken are meaningful.

But we don't discharge our obligation to our 9th division dead with laurels and eulogies alone. From their example of dedication and duty, we must draw inspiration. We must be inspired to pay our debt in kind. And how do we pay that debt? By helping to secure the promise of a bright future for Americans yet to be born.

That, of course is what we 9th division and other veterans have done for all Americans. We've helped secure our future so that you and I can stand here today, free and proud, with our families and friends.

When the nation was threatened, we veterans answered the call and stood tall and strong against any and all enemies. Because of that, because of personal sacrifice and undue courage that words can never fully portray, America survived even that darkest of times.

Yet, who are these comrades we honor today? What did they look like? Where did they come from? In truth, our comrades were the very embodiment of America itself. They were the composite of our nation and all that made it great.

Some of our fellow soldiers were well known heroes who've received widespread acclaim. Most were not. Most were just ordinary citizens who answered the call to duty when it came. That call took them from the safety of their homes and families, and often led them to the hardship, danger and death of war. They left the peaceful pursuits of farms, factories, and offices to dedicate their talents and energy to becoming soldiers in the 9th division.

In remembering our deceased heroes, I think it's appropriate to call to mind the words of a great soldier of the past, General Douglas MacArthur. In paying tribute to the American Soldier, MacArthur once said: "His name and fame are the birthright of every American citizen. In his youth and strength, his love and loyalty, he gave all that mortality can give. He needs no eulogy from me or from any other man. He has written his own history and written it in red on his enemy's breast."

The History that MacArthur spoke of is indeed a long and glorious one. It stretches from those early days of the American revolution to Operation Desert Storm. It includes the freezing landscape of Valley Forge, the steaming jungles of Southeast Asia, and the deserts and hills of North Africa. At every stage of that history, young inexperienced Americans became tough, experienced soldiers. They became veterans.

Continued on Page 3

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lucy and I offer our best wishes to one and all for a Merry and Joyous Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year. We also wish to extend sincere (belated) Chanukah wishes to our many Jewish members. Despite the conflagrations in certain sections of our globe, our country's prospects for peace in our immediate future are promising.

50th Anniversary

We are looking forward to one of the largest turnouts ever for the 1992 reunion in Fayetteville, the reunion that will mark the fiftieth anniversary of our departure from Fort Bragg for what was probably the greatest adventure of our lives. The thirty-one months that followed have left indelible marks on us all. Those thirty-one months, though many of them months of horror, also served to bind us into a family with common goals and ideals. The ensuing forty-seven years have seen many of us building and strengthening our Ninth Infantry Division Association into an organization dedicated to perpetuate the memory of the four thousand five hundred eighty-one men we left behind on the battlefields of Africa and Europe, and to be soldiers in the movement to preserve the peace of the world. When strangers see our unity and the love we have for one another, they are amazed that we have preserved these qualities over the years. But we were never amazed, for we always knew it would be thus. We also knew that it wouldn't be easy, and it wasn't. We had our disagreements; we had our misfortunes;

Through it all, the organization persevered, held together mainly by a small core of hard working, dedicated men who kept the unity of the group uppermost in their thoughts. They are the men who kept going so that when others were ready to become active, the Association was there to welcome them. We all know the names of these men. They have earned the gratitude of the rest of us.

REFLECTION

Probably the most serious threat that has come to destroying our Association was the debates over opening our membership rolls to men who wore the Octofoil in the years subsequent to the second World War. These debates were often furious, and acrimonious speeches were often made by both sides. I cannot think of any issue that has been more divisive in the forty-seven years that the Association has been in existence. Most of us thought we had laid the subject to rest during our last visit to Fayetteville in 1982. Now just ten years after our last Fayetteville reunion, the Bordeaux Hotel will be the site of a revival of that discussion. I have heard eloquent arguments in support of both sides of the question.

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1992 REUNION PROGRAM

Fort Bragg Reunion dates June 11, 12, 13

THURSDAY, JUNE 11th

REGISTRATION.....9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
GOLF OUTING.....9:00 AM
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING.....4:00 PM
OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION.....8:00 PM - 11:30 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 12th

REGISTRATION.....9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
BUS ASSEMBLY.....9:00 AM
MEMORIAL - FORT BRAGG.....10:00 AM
LUNCH - FORT BRAGG.....12:00 PM-Noon
DANCE.....8:00 PM - 11:30 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 13th

REGISTRATION.....9:00 AM - Noon
LADIES BRUNCH AND MEETING.....9:30 AM
BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS.....9:45 AM
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.....11:00 AM
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING.....3:00 PM
BANQUET.....6:30 PM

Fiftieth Anniversary

The "old reliables" will return to Fort Bragg this summer for the Fiftieth Anniversary of leaving for "overseas" in 1942. The dates June 11, 12, and 13 are the date to remember.

Reservations are rolling in for the three day gathering in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The Holiday Inn Bordeaux is the Command Post for our quarters and they are handling all reservations (see page 2) as we will have to use other facilities to accommodate all reservations for rooms. Bus service will be provided all day between hotels. We always believe "it is much easier to cancel a hotel reservation than to get a room at the last hour." Don't put it off for another day, sit down and make your reservations now. This reunion promises to be the granddaddy of them all.

Ladies Brunch

While the men folks are attending the business meeting the Ladies Auxiliary will hold their own meeting followed by a Brunch. More news on this will follow in other Octofoils. As we go to press plans have not been finalized.

Committees for 1992 Reunion

A the Board of Governors meeting held in Milwaukee in September and as the National Association is conducting the reunion in Fayetteville this Summer the following members of the Board were assigned to handle or Chair the various committees for the reunion: Bob DeSandy and Dan Quinn will co-chair the reunion committee, The Registration and Finance Committee will be handled by Bob DeSandy, Dan Quinn Walter O'Keefe and Tom Boyle. The Hotel and Banquet Committee will have Bob DeSandy, Tom Hatton and Trevor Jones. The Publicity Committee members are Elmer Wagner, Dan Quinn and Ed Hopkins. The Program, tickets, etc., members are Mike Belmonte, Dan Quinn and Bob DeSandy. Transportation Committee (buses to and from Hotels and Ft. Bragg) will have Al Perna, Mike Blomonte and Board Members. The Memorial Service Committee will have George Brown and Bob DeSandy. The Golf Committee will be headed by Frank Rankin.



At the Monument in Worcester, Vincent Guglielmino and Herb Olsen are about to place the Floral Wreath. Vincent was in Company G and his brother Felice in Company F 47th was killed in Normandy. Herb was also in G Company 47th and his twin brother Jerry was killed in the same Company in Normandy.

The crowds may have thinned out somewhat but the spirit is still there. The New England Members hope to continue with the Memorial Services begun in 1945 by the late Father Connors.

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'Keeffe
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.

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Publication No. 402820

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name..... Serial No.....
Street Address.....
City..... Zone..... State.....

I was a member of:

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

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year..... \$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.

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund was enriched by the generosity of these members and friends.

James Curran

W. H. Mooty - In Memory of John Trevelise
John Vranesic

William A. Miller
Jos. R. Ryan - In Memory of Ted Healey and deceased members of "A" Btry, 60th F.A. Bn.

Donald Lavender - In Memory of Arthur Gotcher, Co I, 39th Inf.

John A. Bauman - In Memory of Frank Russo, 39th Inf. B Co.

Paul Potts

Conda W. Knee
Richard McGrath - In Memory of Glendon Bowman.

J.C. Dawson - In Memory of Arthur Gotcher
John P. Ryan - In Memory of Charles Alcorn, 60th Inf. 1st Bn.

LaVern Clark

Philip Emmons - In Memory of Fred A. Gruhl, Co. A., 15th Engrs.

A. Trent Palmer - In Memory of Arthur Gotcher, 39th Inf. I Co.

Harry Pegg
Anthony Madonna - In Memory of Glendon Bowman

D.M. McCullough

Rosalyn Copleman - In Memory of her husband, Major Hyman B. Copleman

Walter Pochis
We Salute You.



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

If at all possible please send separate checks for dues and pre-registration for the Reunion Strip Tickets.

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

Continued from page 1

Memorial Milwaukee

For no matter where or when our deceased comrades served, in Africa, Sicily, France or Germany, they've always served with distinction. They knew they had to fight. They knew they had to sacrifice, they knew they had to win. And they did just that...time after time...battle after battle.

They also knew the loneliness of leaving loved ones behind, and the fear of death in a fox-hole thousands of miles from home.

In serving America they bled, they sweated, and they cried. They crawled through mud and rain, and regularly ate their food from a tin can. They forged deep friendships...and felt deep pain when their friends were killed.

Such pictures are not pretty. But then, neither was the job of those who fought for, and defended, this nation. Yet, they served anyway. For above it all was a sense of patriotism, and a resolve that freedom and human dignity would not be crushed. They understood that desire alone does not guarantee the existence of freedom. Desire must be coupled with the will to act no matter what the personal consequences.

Yet it happened. In the end, the powerful urge for freedom could not be defeated. I firmly believe that the strength of this nation was an important factor in the current drive to freedom in Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

America was the beacon of light that showed the way. Over many years we veterans helped preserve that light and kept it burning brightly when others wished to extinguish it. Now the results are very clear. Not only does America remain free and democratic, but a new order of freedom is spreading across the globe.

However, that doesn't mean our job is over. Though the hope of worldwide democracy and lasting peace seem to be on the horizon, this is still a dangerous world.

The acts of irresponsible nations are still a cause for concern. The threat of terrorism continues to hang over us. So we must remain prepared...we must remain strong.

Our military power is still an insurance policy we cannot afford to be without. The need for that insurance policy was emphasized by a great military veteran from our war — General Dwight D. Eisenhower. This year as we celebrate the 101st anniversary of Eisenhower's birth, it's appropriate to recall the words of this famous soldier/statesman. In speaking of America's need for military preparedness, Eisenhower once stated: "Our defenses must be adequate not just today, but tomorrow and in all the years to come, until under the safety of these defenses, we shall have secured a durable and just peace for all the world."

The goal of a durable and just peace remains as important today as it was in Eisenhower's time. Reaching it will not be easy, but the challenge is before us. And if we attain that goal, in a world where freedom and human rights prevail, then the sacrifices of generations of veterans shall not have been in vain.

In closing, let me turn back to World War I and a famous poem of that era. From "In Flanders Fields" the following lines call out to us even today:

"To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high."

We in America are holding that torch of freedom and justice. And we hold it high enough for the world to see. To those nations who want to move towards the light, we offer a helping hand. But to those who would extinguish it, we will resist...now and always.

This must be our pledge.

We owe our dead comrades, and the generations that follow us nothing less.

Co. B. 15 Engrs
CHARLIE HOFFMANN
91-43 81 St.

Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421
"World War II "Pin Up" and Me"

Here is another chapter from the book I'm writing. This was a happening that took place three weeks before I went into the Army.

It was a Sunday morning around the end of Sept., 1941 when the phone rang. It was a friend of mine who asked me if I would like to see the last game of the season played at Ebbets Field. The Dodgers had won the National league pennant and were waiting to play the Yankees in the World Series. I asked him would it be alright if my father would come with us and he said bring him along.

When we were ushered to our seats we found out we were in box seats just off the Dodger's dugout.

Around the third inning I heard loud talking behind us and looking back I saw Betty Grable and George Raft! One of the ushers escorted them to the box we were in and put two folding chairs in the aisle. George Raft sat next to my father as he was seated in front of me. Betty Grable was then seated next to me.

I was absolutely dumbfounded since the two of them were big stars in Hollywood! After a short time George turned around and smiled at me while asking Betty if she was a Dodger fan. She said of course, George and laughed! I wanted to say something to Betty but just couldn't get up enough nerve. My mind kept telling me since it's only the third inning I had lots of time to say "hello." All of a sudden a lady in the box next to ours came to the railing and called out "George, I'm Mrs. Leo Durocher, come over with Betty to our box. We have room." They both left and to this day I could have kicked myself for not saying a word to either of them!

All during the rest of the game a fan who found out George Raft was there, kept shouting "Hello Georgie!" Every once in a while Raft would stand up and wave his fedora at the fans.

When the game ended Betty & George couldn't leave because so many people were crowding their exit. It was decided to take them out by standing on the dugout roof and lifting them down to the field. They both stood on the dugout roof for a few minutes, waving back at the crowd. Two ushers helped George down and now it was Betty's turn. When they reached up to grab Betty, her skirt went up and her famous legs showed. The same guy who kept yelling "Hello George!" shouted "Look at the gams on her!"

When I told my father the man who sat next to him was George Raft, one of the biggest stars in Hollywood, he said "Never heard of the guy!" Pop didn't go to the movies much.

I have a funny ending to this story. Whenever a Betty Grable or a George Raft picture was seen by the guys and me overseas, I would give them a short version of the incident. They would always ask me the same question "You mean to tell us the number 1 pinup of the war was sitting next to you and you didn't say a word to her?!" My answer always was the same. "That's right, but don't forget I split up Betty Grable and George Raft for half an inning!"

PROPOSAL TO AMEND MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS Article II, Section 5 of the Bylaws Ninth Infantry Division Association

I, Henry G. "Red" Phillips, propose to insert the following between "May 7, 1945," and "and served honorably in the Ninth Infantry Division":

"and during the officially established campaigns of the Vietnam War."

The purpose of this amendment is to increase enrollment by permitting combat veterans of our Division from the Vietnam War to join us.

As set forth in its Bylaws, a primary purpose of the Association is to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades and, as the author of two histories of our exploits during World War II, I can testify that to do this sort of thing is hard work requiring, among other attributes, curiosity and tremendous energy. It's not an old man's game.

Also, from time to time proposals are made to raise memorials at various points along our route. As the 50th anniversaries of our passages approach it is timely that we especially consider such endeavors. Again, this will involve many hours of research and persuasion, to say nothing of fundraising, if anything meaningful is to result.

Where is all this energy going to come from?

In my opinion, the Association needs an infusion of new blood in order to offset the shortening of our ranks and the faltering of our pace.

It has been nearly 20 years since our soldiers returned from Vietnam. Whatever the merits or demerits of that conflict — however those called — responded or were supported by the rest of us — it must be agreed that, as a division, the 9th served well and honorably, just as it served in our war. It sacrificed too. Now, the so-called "Octofoil Association," which once welcomed membership of these younger veterans, has folded with the deactivation of the US Army's 9th Infantry Division. They have no way to join and associate with birds of their feather.

What are the consequences of our continuing the march as before? I predict that the Ninth will become one of those Last Man's Clubs, going down to nothing with nothing being done to further its original noble objectives. Our sons and grandsons will have no place special to look to for information on the accomplishments of their forebearers. To me, it's a bleak and dismal prospect. If you agree and wish to avoid it, please vote "yes" on amending Article II, Section 5 of the Bylaws as I have proposed.

Red Phillips
14002 Hemlock Drive
Penn Valley, CA 95946

Continued from Page 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have listened to good friends take opposite sides; I have seen some of our most respected members line up on both sides of the table. I was saddened to hear charges and countercharges hurled back and forth. I was further saddened to see one of our most respected members quit the organization in disgust.

The person who will raise the question (I believe he will have a letter in this issue of *The Octofoil*) is a man who recently became active, a man who brings with him superb credentials, a man who had served the Ninth Division bravely and unselfishly, a man who offers us his tireless energy in the form of a commitment to serve. I refer, of course, to Henry "Red" Phillips, the author of *El Guettar: Crucible of Leadership*. Red certainly is entitled to his strong views on the subject, and he is invited to present those views to his fellow members. We welcome his input and hope he will continue to participate in the affairs of our group with the same fervor that he served his country during the WW II days and the ensuing years.

Red has challenged me to debate him in the current issue of *The Octofoil* on the pros and cons of admitting post-WWII Ninth Division men to the Association. After careful consideration I decided that it would not be proper for me to take sides in such a debate. Rather, I want to exhort all members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association to assemble in Fayetteville in June 1992 to participate in these discussions. Be certain that your dues are paid to date and that you have in your possession your membership card. Only those showing membership cards at the door will be permitted to vote. I believe that this is a most important issue, possibly one of the most important issues to

come before this body. Please, please be there, and carefully consider the issue and vote with the best interests of our fine Association in mind. Hopefully we can all walk away from Fayetteville knowing that the will of the majority was expressed and determined to pull our weight in exercising that will in the full spirit that the vote will have indicated. Then we must join ranks, acknowledging that those with opposing views are just as loyal to the Ninth Division Association as we are, and that they too want to see a strongly unified Association. Remember, a democracy needs an informed electorate, one willing to vote in a rational manner.

I plan to call a meeting of the Board of Directors to take place in the early spring so we can discuss some matters important to our future. Please send me your concerns, or send these concerns to a Board member, so they can be presented at this meeting.

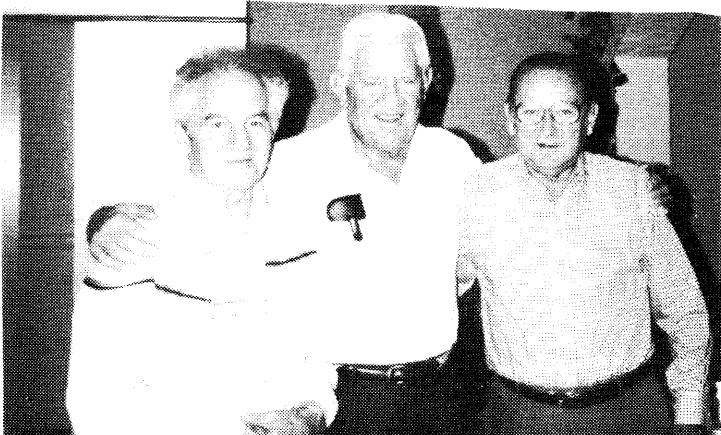
I will set the time and location of our Board meeting with a view to accommodating the most members, but choosing the best location that will please San Francisco, Daytona Beach, Saginaw, and Philadelphia will be a challenge. Just in case the time chosen is before the next edition of *The Octofoil* is in the mail, send me your name and address if you are interested in attending the next Board meeting. The Board members, of course, will receive notices in the mail.

In closing, let me again wish you all the best, and this time let me include those that are not members of the two religions mentioned above. I wish all a Happy, Prosperous, and Healthy year in 1992.

Ed Hopkins,
President Ninth Infantry
Division Association
110 Hollywood Ave.
Metuchen, N.J. 08840



"Ole" Walt Victor took this photo at the E and F Company 47th C.P. in Milwaukee. Shown l-r standing: Bob May, Curtis Hofler, Bob DeSandy, Lee Grimwood, Dave Baker (son of deceased member) and Bill Mooty. Seated l-r: Ed "Hoppy" Hopkins, Bob Coleflesh, Frank Petty, Dan Quinn and Jack Safford.



Shown at the Milwaukee reunion are Joe Rappazini, Keene "Slick" Wilson, and Al Bruchac all former members of the 60th Inf.

Taps Sounded

"Somewhere afar,
Some white, tremendous
daybreak and the light,
Returning, shall give back
the golden hours."

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

Rudolph D'Amato
39th Inf.

Betty MacDougall
Wife of Arthur, 39th Inf.

Horace Abrams
9th Q.M.

Arthur Gotcher
Co. I, 39th Inf.

Charles Alcorn
60th Inf. 1st Bn.

Alvin Becker
39th Inf. B Co.

Francis Russo
39th Inf.

Lawrence B. Reifsnnyder
M Co. 47th Inf.

William Seifried
47th Inf. Co. H

John Kimmerle
Serv. Co. 47th Inf.

Harold Werner
M Co. 47th Inf.

May they rest in peace.
On behalf of the members
we extend our heartfelt
sympathy to their loved
ones.

9th QM
TREVOR JONES
34 Geraldine Circle
Trumbull, CT 06611

I sent you the news in November about Horace Abrams passing. This week I talked by phone with Bill Palady in McKeesport, Penna., who informed me that Mike Grace had died last May. Mike was another Tent City buddy who had enlisted from Penna. He had stayed in the Army, and retired to Fayetteville. He attended our last reunion at Fort Bragg.

Floyd Hennessey wrote that Tom Pitzer, (another Trent City/Penna. buddy) had suffered a severe heart attack in November of this year. At the time of our last reunion in Orlando, Tom had been operated on for a tumor in his head.

I called yesterday, and spoke with Tom and his lovely wife, Jean.

The V.A. doctors didn't expect Tom to survive, and there was nothing, including a transplant, that could be done to help him.

He is home because it is more comfortable than the hospital, but he and Jean are facing each morning, one at a time.

Tom's voice is strong, and he sounded the same as he did when we were discharged together, On August 6, 1945, at Indiantown Gap, Penna. (H-Bomb Day)

Any of Tom's buddies can drop a welcome ray of sunshine to him and Jean at 837 St. Anne Shrine, Lake Wales, Florida 33853.

Mae and I are thinking about all our 9th Division friends this Christmas Eve.

Merry Christmas!

47th Inf. H Co.
DOROTHY A. SEYFRIED
4837 Prince George Cir.
New Port Richey, FL 34655
Dear Sirs:

It is with deep regret that I wish to inform you of my husband's death on Dec. 4th. He suffered a sad illness for two months and although it is still hard to believe he is gone, we are happy he is at peace. He never actively participated in the Association but looked forward and enjoyed reading all the news in the Octofoil. He also received and enjoyed sending Christmas greeting cards to many of his ol' buddies. Was so sorry to hear of Al Micolucci's death this year.

I am enclosing an old snap that he always liked taken of him in Germany in 1945. He was with the 47th, Co. H. all the way from Ft. Bragg - Jan. 1941, thru Africa, Sicily, England - Normandy and on to Germany, to the end! I didn't see him for three years but was one of the lucky ones that had a returning husband! (And these girls complained of three months wait from Saudi!)

I respected Bill's wishes and he is interred in the new (1988) Bushnell Florida National Cemetery. It is a beautiful place and he would be proud to be there with other brave men who at one time gave service to their country!



Bill Seyfried

60th Inf.
JOHN "PAT" FOLEY
1522 Kensington Dr.
Hagerstown, MO 21742

A short note to inform you that Jean M. Foley, my wife of 47 years, died Sept. 15, 1991. She had been in ill health for a number of years. Her health did permit us to attend the reunion at The Pines, NY which she enjoyed very much. Over the years she made many friends in the Association and always looked forward to attending the reunions.

Needless to say I miss her very much, I am now in the process of regrouping and deciding on what path to take in the future.

Hope to see you at the next reunion.

47th Inf. 2nd Bn
DOROTHEA TRELIVISE
50 Old Post Rd.
Freehold, N.J. 07728

I was talking to Frank Taddeo's wife, and she told me that Frank has been in a nursing home. Perhaps some of the boys would like to drop him a line. His address is:

The Hazlet Manor
3325 Highway 35
Hazlet, New Jersey 07730

On behalf of the Trelivise family, we gratefully acknowledge and thank each and everyone of you for your kind expression of sympathy.

Hope to see you at Fort Bragg.

TRIBUTE

39 Inf. I Co.
A. TRENT PALMER, JR.
2719 George's Lane
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301

I enclose a check for the Memorial of Sgt. Arthur H. Goetcher who died November 28, 1991.

Sgt. Arthur Goetcher joined the 9th Division I Company 39th Regiment in North Africa and went all the way through the War with a rifle platoon. Sgt. Goetcher was introduced to me by our Company, C.O. Anthony Vincienti Danna, when I joined the 39th I Company in July 1944. Captain Danna told me afterwards, that Goetcher was probably the most battle-wise enlisted man in I Company, at the time. Since then, I could probably testify as to Sgt. Goetcher's ability as a fine man to have with you when the going got rough. Somehow he just had a natural knack to know what to do and what not to do, in combat situations. I have had men in our Company tell me that Goetcher's experiences, that he passed on to the new recruits, saved quite a few lives.

When the battle was over, Goetcher was equally adept at having a good time. He was known all over the 3rd Battalion - 39th with his black Top Hat.



Sgt. Art Goetcher

Forty-five years after the War, Judge Robert Rayner, then Lt. Rayner of 26th Field Artillery asked me who was that man in I Company, wearing the silk Black Top Hat? I told him that was our Sgt. Goetcher. There are many, many tales of Sgt. Goetcher, some wise, some courageous, some humorous, but mostly all true. He was quite a man. We will miss you, Arthur Goetcher.

39th Inf.
MRS. ROBERT STRUMPF
5840 Lowell Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22312

The Octofoil is enjoyed very much reading the memories of the veterans.

In August 1991 my oldest granddaughter, Natalie Strumpf and I took a memorable trip. The G.I. Special and the Battle of the Bulge starting in London - ending in Luxembourg.

I tried to capture the presence of the 9th Div. in the Winchester area, South Hampton, crossing the channel by ferry landing in Cherbourg, visiting Utah Beach, on to St. Lo, on & on. In Luxembourg we came across this monument to the 39th Regiment which thrilled me.

I knew my husband, Bob Strumpf, had been in that area, because he had helped celebrate my father's Donald A. Stroh, birthday 3 No. 1944 in Wiltz, Luxembourg. Of course, by that time my father had taken over the 8th Div. but his heart was always with the 9th Division.

Thank you for all your good work toward continuing the Octofoil.

47th Inf. G Co.
MARTIN J. GILL
2401 Pennington Road
Trenton, New Jersey 08638

This is the previously promised story of recently "catching up" to someone that I hadn't seen, heard from or heard of for forty-eight years.

In March I had a telephone call from Ed Janosik who was, as I remember, a lieutenant and the company executive officer of "G" Company, 47th Infantry, when I joined that unit in the fall of 1941. Enroute to North Africa, aboard the "Dorothea Dix," he was, at that time, named commander of "G" Company - successor to (then) Captain Bailey when the latter was designated battalion executive officer (2nd battalion, 47th Infantry). Ed was later wounded and evacuated at El Guettas.

Ed had seen my name in the Octofoil and called to find out if I might be able to help in his effort to locate Roscoe May, "G" Company's perennial supply sergeant. Unfortunately I wasn't of much help in that regard despite your wonderful wife, Marie, having provided me with Roscoe's last known address as per the Association's files.

Ed is now retired and living in Cape May, New Jersey.

For several yers, Peg and I have been meeting for a couple of days, usually twice each year, at Cape May with three other couples, the male half of each being fellows that I have known since my days at Division Headquarters. Our next get-together was scheduled for mid-May - a few weeks following the date of Ed's telephone call. When I mentioned this his immediate reply was "give me the date that you (the entire group) are coming (to Cape May) and we will have a happy hour at our house." That is what eventually happened. Ed and his gracious wife, Ellen, provided a most elegant array of drinks and hors d'oeuvres after which they joined us for dinner. Sports that we are, they selected the restaurant. We had a wonderful evening.

Earlier this year Ed had a complete knee replacement which hopefully, will result in the completion of recovery from his war-time injuries. He has been a political science professor having taught for many years at the University of Pennsylvania as well as at New York's State University at (or near) Rochester.

Sincere Apologies

We are deeply sorry for the mistake in the last issue of the Octofoil when we announced the demise of Nick Androvich. Nick writes "it was quite a thrill to see my name in the Octofoil but did you have to put it - in the column Taps Sounded." Nick writes he admits that he is not in the best of physical shape but there is life - in the old boy as yet. Sorry about that Nick but happy to learn it was a mistake.

B Co. 47th Inf.
JOHN MORGAN
1534 Hubbard Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Time to renew my membership again for 3 years. Enclosed find membership. I enjoy reading articles from all who write to Octofoil.

Had a nice trip to our reunion in Milwaukee. The hotel was first class and everyone treated us well.

Enjoyed talking with you, Dan. Keep up the good work. Hello to all my B Co. 47th buddies.

M Co. 47th Inf
HAROLD WERNER
315 Ash
Copperas Cove, Tex. 76522

Speaking to Orin Shell via telephone, May 18 of this year, he was aware of the fact that he was in the final phase of his long life. In his usual mild manner, he told me that he is not in pain and seemed to be in good spirits and not at all depressed. In a discussion of Spiritual matters and our destiny after death, he informed me that he had faith in the Lord and nothing to fear in the future.

Orin was one of the many good guys I met in the army. A good buddy and the kind of person I would like to have for a neighbor in civilian life. My senior by 15 years, he was an inspiration to me as well as the other guys. A rugged out-door type of man, he walked in the 230 mile march in North Africa, climbed up the rugged hills and down the wadis at El Guettar without complaining.

He was an ingenious individual, shaping chains out of crating wire and fashioning cooking utensils out of spam cans. A man who would feel naked without a pocketknife. In the Cork Forest he innovated a bath tub by digging a hole in the ground and lining it with his rain slicker. On the Tunisian desert, his resourceful instinct led him to scan the hillside for the scant bunch grass to form a mattress for his fox hole.

We corresponded over the years since the war, usually at Christmas and sometimes in between. Although we lived in the extreme opposite direction of the mid section of the continental United States, we shared common country boy interests. Orin wrote an interesting letter in a neat legible hand writing with artistic illustrations, such as a blue print of an ice fishing hut.

As an avid hunter, Orin never missed a season and seldom failed to bag a deer. In recent years however, deer were not as plentiful as he stated, "there seems to be more hunters than deer." I am not a hunter, however I kept him informed on the whitetail deer population in Texas and the destruction they caused to garden and field crops. He was amazed at my report of a deer season harvest of 300,000 in the state.

Orin's hard work as a lumber-jack in the north woods of Minnesota and his out-door easy going lifestyle probably were contributing factors to his longevity. He was truly a unique individual.

60th Inf.
JOHN P. RYAN
P.O. Box 270
Northville, N.Y. 12134

Enclosed is my check payable to your Memorial Fund in memory of the late Charles Alcorn. He served with the 1st Bn., 60th in Sicily and Europe.

He was at the reunion in Nashville, which is the last time I saw him, but we exchanged letters over the years. He died in his sleep last month at his home in Detroit.

Pleased that the '92 Convention will be at Ft. Bragg as I have a horse farm in Camden, S.C., which is about an hour south of Fayetteville, N.C.

Hope life continues to be good to you and yours.

Editor's Note:
John has a son who is quite a horseman riding in steeplechasing etc., starting about 10 years ago in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. His name is Colvin Ryan and is well known among the followers of the Turf and is one of the Nation's top five jump riders winning eight races in 52 mounts this year.

Michigan Chapter

First a note of sadness: Our loss of Kleber Stockford. Kleber served his country in D Company 60th Infantry. He was a loyal supporter of the Michigan Chapter and was well liked by all. He died from the ravishes of cancer but though he was very ill he made the Milwaukee gathering in September. He had the desire and his brother Carl saw to Kleb and Vi being there.

So Taps sounded once more and as ever we are saddened by our loss. Though some time has passed those who knew Kleb may want to write his widow. She can be reached at 13581 Sheridan Rd., Mount Rose, MI 48457.

As it ever was life must go on. The Michigan Chapter held their Annual Christmas Party and a special tribute was given in memory of Kleber.

A meeting was held for the sole purpose of installing officers for 1992. Elmer Wagner, the only past national president was the installing officer and duly installed the following: Billie Martin, President; Thomas Hatton 1st V.P.; Bill DeBruyne, 2nd V.P.; Rodger E. Alsgaard, Secretary; Elmer Wagner, Treasurer; Floyd Hennessey, Adjutant; Barney Tobacco, Chaplain and Billie Martin, Historian.

So the Chapter has things in capable hands for a new and untried year. Tomorrow we leave for the sunny clime of Southern California for two weeks of R & R. Be back in January.

Rodger E. Alsgaard Sec'y.
2834 Wynes St.
Saginaw, MI. 48602

60th Inf. Co. A
RICHARD E. COHEN
5612 Harding Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22311

Although I may not be the first, I regret to inform you that we have lost another distinguished comrade-in-arms.

Harrison Daysh died on Monday, 22 July 1991 of a heart attack at his home.

He was not only the long term Judge Advocate of the Association, but a charter member of the now inactive Washington, D.C. Chapter and in death, joins other illustrious members of the Chapter and Association such as Lou Becker, Don Clarke, Charley Tingley and Frank Wade. I am also enclosing a donation to the Memorial Fund in honor of all of them.

For my own part, I further regret that it has taken these cumulative losses of old friends to push me into long delayed correspondence. I joined the Association in August 1946, while a patient at Walter Reed Army General Hospital recuperating from wounds received on April 7, 1945 during the battle of the Ruhr Pocket. I was signed on by then Captain Charley Jones, later a long-term Board member of the Association, who was also recovering at Walter Reed.

My job with the U.S. Government kept me out of the country for the better part of 20 years — including a bonus assignment of 5½ years in Paris, which kept me from being active with the Association. However, I have recently joined the retired class and hope that I can renew old contacts. Long standing commitments will keep us from the next reunion, but we hope to make it next year.

Best regards to you and all the membership.

Mini Reunion
B Co., 39th Inf.

"And what a great time was had by all!"

I speak of our B. Co. reunion held this past June in Canandaigua, N.Y. The setting was ideal. A motel by the lake (Sheraton). Nice weather, fine turnout, and several good restaurants close by.

This, our 39th B Co. reunion was hosted by Joe Gravino. Joe did his usual "Top Sgt." job taking care of all the necessary details. Flamboyant Al, the Hawk. DiRisio was in fine entertaining form and regaled the troops throughout this four day event.

The C.P. was well stocked at all times. Thus, well fortified, and well nourished, much singing and joking prevailed, as we recalled the past. Not counting guests, those members who attended were, Joe Gravino, Al DiRisio, Al Baccile, Joe Saraceno, Austin Fritsch, Ben Murell, Don Gartland, Fred Cliff, Emory Porch, Clarence Reisinger, Cliff Chew, Don Douvanis, Lucien Lucas, Alvin Becker, Andy Seasock, Irving King, Emmet Austen, John Bauman, Jack Dunlay, Ed McLaughlin, Pat Jerome, and John Mingen.

Also for the first time ever, 4 members of B Co. (Vietnam) attended our function. (We felt it was time to break the status Quo.) These fine people by name, Dick Zimmerman, Calif., J. Dauling (N.Y.), Russel Long (Vt.), and Don Holmes (Pa.). They asked for and received permission to attend.

This contingent plus wives and guests made this reunion a happy event. The one person most missed, Frank Russo, who because of illness, could not attend. And whose subsequent death left a void never to be filled. I don't recall Frank ever missing B. Co. reunion. He was almost always first on the scene and his presence was like a trademark. Enduring and affirmative, "May God Bless this man."

The future is not for us to decide, however we are gearing up for the invasion of Ft. Bragg.

All B. Co. members should have received a flyer from Joe Gravino. Regarding next years reunion before the Octofoils present issue. Kindly follow instructions so he can expedite room reservations for the entire group. So, till we meet again "Au-Revoir."

Albert Baccile
300 Rilla St.
Elmira Heights, N.Y. 14903

Mini-Reunion
Members of Co. F, 60th Inf.

A Mini-Reunion of WWII members of Co. F, 60th Infantry was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Nichols in Walton, New York on Tuesday, July 9, 1991. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. George Arnold of Syracuse, New York, Mr. and Mrs. Bernap Wilder of Johnstown, New York, Mr. and Mrs. William Nichols of Walton, New York and Lt. Col. and Mrs. John W. Miller of Arlington, Texas.

A lovely luncheon was served by Mrs. Florence Nichols at her home in Walton. Following the luncheon the men gathered together to rehash the war in Africa, Sicily and Europe. The wives went antiquing in the surrounding area.

That evening a dinner was enjoyed at a local restaurant in Walton concluding a day of pleasurable camaraderie.

Illinois Chapter

At this writing, we are nearing the Holidays. We had our Illinois Chapter Party on Saturday December 7th, a very memorable day. It was held at the home of Irma Koskie. We had a very small turnout as many of our members are in Florida for the winter. Howard and Grace Gaertner couldn't come as Howard was taken ill again. While the weather was unseasonably warm, it was quite foggy and prevented some long distance driving. Those attending had a good time and there was plenty of food and refreshments for all. Irma was the "Hostess with the Most."

At the party we were going to have election of officers but without a quorum present, we will have to postpone elections until we meet in Madison, Wisconsin at the Ramada Inn on the first weekend in May.

This is a short newsletter this time as there is not much to report. Hope the winter is a short one for all and it won't be long and we'll be basking in the sunshine in Fort Bragg.

Respectfully,
Mike and Ann Belmonte
1161 So. Lombard Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60304

Mini Reunion
39th Inf. - F Co.
ED MCNAMARA
Box 219
Brookfield, N.Y. 13314

Fox Co. 39th. had its mini reunion Sept. 27 - 29 at Days Inn in Oklahoma City. We were within five minute walking time to the airport, and were treated like returning Desert Storm troops.

We had free limo service wherever we wanted to go. The food was the best you could find and the hosts in all departments couldn't do enough for us. Just one big happy family.

Twenty two men showed up for roll call and I would guess about fifteen wives.

Dale Smith a medic off and on with Fox Co. joined us for the first time. He came from the Div. reunion where he had met four of his old Medic buddies.

Stanley Groff of Co. D of Ok. city joined us most every day. He said we were the first 9th men he had seen since he was discharged. He was treated like he was one of our own.

Sam Burns, Dick Neely and Host Ben (Pancho) Rosales had things well in hand when we started arriving, as early as the 25th.

Mesquite smoked turkey and beef brisket highlighted the Sat. night Good Bye supper. This was made a success by the one and only Sam Burns.

While we were gone George Michalec of the 47th left his calling card at our building on Route 20. We have had a big emblem made up and have put it on the building so every one can be sure they have the right place, if they want to hook up for the night.

Next year we will meet in Indianapolis the second week-end in Sept.

Eugene and Mary Mitchell treated every one to a bag of shucked walnut meats from their own trees. Mary gave every woman a room freshner hidden in a beautifully dressed Duck.

Guess my dues are due so enclosed is a check for 3 years.

I have the address of the above men if anyone wants them.

Keep up the great work. (Pancho) entertained us Fri. and Sat. night playing the guitar and singing songs of old. Ed.

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

Greetings once again from beautiful Cumberland Valley, where at this time, Christmas decorations, colorful lights, are taking their places alongside and inside the many homes in our area to celebrate the Christmas Season in gorgeous splendor. The Spirit of Christmas is once again in the hearts of our local citizenry, as well as in the hearts of many tourists who travel through our area, on their way to be with their loved ones and friends to spend the Christmas Holiday this year of 1991. Ann and I read with sadness the passing of Rev. Speers which was detailed in our Octofoil issue of Aug.-Sept.-Oct. 1991. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Agnes and their family. We last saw Rev. Speers at the 9th Inf. Div. Reunion in Orlando, Florida in October 1990. At that time Ann and I had a pleasant meeting at poolside with Rev. Speers and his wife prior to our departure home from the Reunion. We spoke of fond memories of our activities with our beloved 9th Inf. Div. down through the years, starting with Ft. Bragg in 1941. Rev. Speers was a dedicated minister. He will be missed by all of us in the 9th Inf. Div. Association who knew him during our years in the service. Ann and I attended the Annual Worcester Memorial Services in Worcester, Mass. on Oct. 19th, 1991 to honor our departed comrades who served so gallantly with our beloved 9th Inf. Div. The New England Chapter once again is to be commended for an excellent Memorial Service together with an excellent banquet after the Church Services which was held at the Holiday Inn, formerly the Sheraton Hotel. Although the attendance did not meet the expectations of the New England Chapter, the entire affair was well run and no one failed to understand the significance of honoring our departed 9th Div. Comrades once again as we do each year. Ann and I and Dennis Canedy were the only representatives of "B" Co. 47th. The "Welcome "B" Co. 47th Inf." plaque was prominently displayed on our table for all to see. We are happy to say that although most of the people sitting at our table were not "B" Co. 47th members, they were happy to be a part of "B" Co. 47th, and were most appreciative of being guests of "B" Co. 47th and really enjoyed being with us in the spirit of comradery.

Our good friend "Shock" Shockley called me on Sat., Dec. 14th just before I was to write this column. "Shock" told me that he was going to undergo surgery in a few days. All of our "B" Co. buddies, families and friends sincerely wish "Shock" the best of luck in a successful outcome of his surgery. "B" Co. buddies and friends, if they wish, may send Get-well cards to the following address:

Mr. Orion C. Shockley
3551 So. Monaco Pky.
Suite 210
Denver, CO 80237

By the time this column is published and received by all our "B" Co. 47th Buddies, families and friends — the Christmas Holiday will be over. Ann and I sincerely wish all of you a most Happy and Blessed Christmas, a Happy Hannukah and may the New Year of 1992 be a year of Good Health, Happiness and Good Will and Peace throughout the world.

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

LADIES CORNER

Hi again! I'm stealing a little time from our holiday preparations (this is December 15th), to write your Column. It's the last one for 1991 and I shall try to make it a good one. But a short one! I hope all of you who were absent from the Milwaukee Reunion got a little taste of what it was like there from my last column, and sharpened your desire to attend our next one in Fort Bragg. I don't quite know what extra special event we ladies are going to give you, at this time, but we'll come up with something and I will certainly let you know in time. After all, it is the 50th Anniversary of 9th's departure from Fort Bragg, and at our stage in life, we have to make all the anniversaries we can, we may not be around for the next one.

Talking about that, on a personal note, I must mention the loss of Joe Podany of Minneapolis, a much-loved and respected member of my husband Joe's 4th Platoon, Company B, 47th Regiment. He was too sick to attend the September Reunion, and died 3 days after its closing. That's why we want to see all who are able, to join us at Fort Bragg. I have never been there, and want to see it very much, but Joe cannot understand WHY? So I have persuaded him to take me there; our reservations and trip tickets' money is in, are yours?

I have had some nice letters from: Ruth Lees, Mary Brasington, Phyllis Perna, and Wanda Preston, but I need to hear from more of you. What was your favorite outfit at the September Fashion Show? Do you have anymore suggestions as to where we should send some more of our money? Oh, just got my mail delivered, a lovely card w/pictures from Ruth Jordan and husband came in it. Just in time, Ruth for this column.

Old Friends

As for old friends: Lily Krasovetz and I resumed our friendship, started in 1987 when I was elected to her office of Treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary, and who helped me so much. She held the post of Secretary-Treasurer for 12 years; I am starting on my fifth year and I don't know or think that I will last as long as she did. Lily is a sweet, lovely lady and I am proud to have her as a friend. Then there is Rosalie Painter, whom I always enjoy seeing. She is a very lovely, unassuming lady whom I'm happy to know. You would never suspect that she enjoyed another life and name during the war. Rosalie was a Riveter in a Defense Plant for several years, and who knows might even have been the model for the famous "Rosie the Riveter" character we all knew! In the next column, I'll spotlight a few more special ladies. OK? If you want to propose someone for the column just write me about her. To quote Richard McGrath from the 15th Engr. B Company: "The camaraderie is so prevalent at the Reunions, no strangers, just friends, even those you have just met." See I even read other parts of the Octofoil, besides our column!

Here I am running on and I was going to make this short! Oh well, that's me. Take care and we'll see you in the next column.

Ellie Taubner, Treasurer
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

Fort Bragg

Reunion Dates

June 11, 12, 13 1992

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE-Feb 20th

Texas & the Greater Southwest Chapter

THE WORD IS OUT ... AND THE WORD IS WORK!

'cause the Forty-Eighth Annual Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association will be in San Antonio in '93!

In Milwaukee, Ernie Botella made a proposal from our chapter to the Board of Governors to host the Association Reunion in 1993 in San Antonio, Texas. Following his excellent presentation that covered the basics in detail, the Board of Governors voted to come to Texas. This will be the first reunion to be held west of the Mississippi! There is much work to be done to make this the biggest and best in true Texas Style. Ernie's request for one of the four courtesy hospitality rooms at Fayetteville next year was honored. So, make your plans NOW to be there to "kick off" this Texas Style invitation. Make your hotel reservations NOW.

First Annual Meeting of our chapter was in Arlington, Texas on August 21, 1991 and was really great. President John Miller called the meeting on time and the members gave the Pledge of Allegiance in unison. This was followed by the invocation given by Ken Mayer. Agenda: 1. Chapter Dues, by common consent it was agreed not to have dues per se but to pass the hat at each meeting. This is "not carved in stone" and may be modified later.

2. Proposal to host the Association reunion in San Antonio was discussed and passed. The basic plans were presented by Ernie Botella. (These were refined and developed further and presented in Milwaukee) John W. Miller will be the general chairman and committees will be developed at a meeting in the near future.

3. **SECOND ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING:** Sam and Dorras Burns again graciously invited the chapter members to meet at the Burns Ranch near Burleson, Texas. Motion to approve was accepted. Details as follows:

Place: Sam Burns Ranch; Burleson, Texas 76028; Telephone: 817-295-8997

Date & time: April 25, 1992. Meeting: 14:00 hours; Dinner: 18:00 hours

Motel: Five Star Inn, Interstate Highway 135 W, Burleson, Texas 76028; Exit 32; (Bathesda Road) Telephone; 817-447-1271;

Committee: Sam Burns, Chairman, James Black, Bob Burkey, Clyde Wilfong, Billy Alsobrook, and John Miller. Please contact Sam for assignment.

4. Business meeting adjourned following prayer by Bill Lynch, Chaplain.

5. Dinner, Prime rib and trimmings.

6. Ballgame: Texas Rangers vs Baltimore.

Forty-six "Old Reliables" and spouses attended and enjoyed a most enjoyable time of reminiscing and "Bull Sessions!" We all look forward to April 25, 1992.

It is never too early to begin promotion for the biggest and best annual reunion for our Buddies. As 1991 comes to a close, many of you will be sending Christmas Greetings to these friends of so many years. Please incorporate this jingle in your greetings:

"Season's Greetings from Texas

To All Ninth Division Ex'es.

Please put this on your tree

To remember San Antonio in '93."

May you and those dear to you have happy holidays.

Balis Rucker

Publicity and Public Relations

Dates to remember:

Second annual chapter

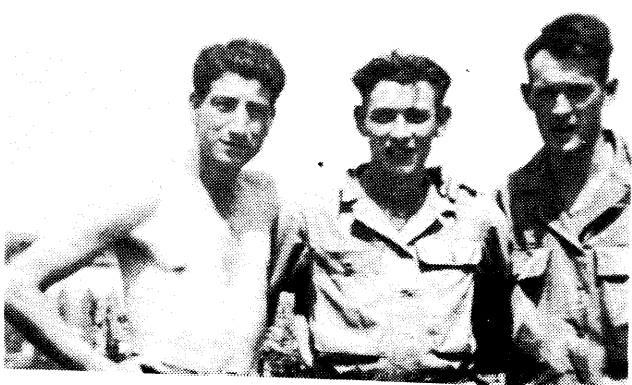
meeting. April 25, 1992.

Burleson, Texas. Guests of:

Sam and Dorras Burns



Grady Holman, Jr., Company B, 60th Inf., supplies this photo taken by the "Stars and Stripes" on January 3, 1945 on Elsenborne Ridge, Huertgen Forest, Germany. Others shown with Captain Holman are, Sgt. Fisher, Sgt. Martin and Pvt. Wessel. Company B 60th Inf. received Battle Honors for this engagement and Holman offers copies of this document to any members who would like to have a copy. He adds very few of the men that were in this drive knew of this Citation.



Three members from Company K 47th are shown in photo taken in Mooseburg, Germany, in May 1944. L-R Sgt. Frank Corvino, Sgt. Eugene Kramer and Pvt. Paul Dougherty.

FLORIDA CHAPTER MEMBERS ENJOY WEST PALM BEACH

The Florida Chapter held their Fall 1991 mini-reunion at the Ramada Palms Hotel in West Palm Beach, Florida on Thursday, Friday, Saturday October 24, 25 & 26 with a departure on Sunday October 28th. Henry Santos was the Chairman in charge of making all the arrangements.

Approximately 56 attended the affair consisting of members, their wives and some guests. Two members from other Chapters attended. They were: Emil Langer, New York Chapter and Gil Pernokas, member of the New England Chapter. By all indications, they enjoyed the hospitality of the Florida Chapter. Gil relished the well stocked Hospitality Room.

On Friday, October 25th, a large group went on an all-day TRI-RAIL/BAYSIDE MARKETPLACE tour. The fee was a mere \$2.00 for senior citizens which included round trip rail transportation to Ft. Lauderdale and then to Miami. There was plenty of time for the group to shop or browse around in the gigantic malls or just go sight seeing.

At 7:00 P.M. the entire membership met in one of the large Conference Rooms supplied by the Ramada to enjoy a scrumptious 3 entree buffet with all of the trimmings. Following the meal, member Joe Kearns entertained the group with his solos of familiar tunes coupled with some jokes and story telling. John Schriften did a good job with an old stand-by song entitled "When Your Old Wedding Ring Was New."

The Saturday morning Business Meeting began moments after 10:00 A.M. It was a lively and brisk meeting with many items on the agenda. Among them was a proposal to go on a 3 day cruise for the Spring 1992 Meeting. As an alternate if the cruise is not possible, areas such as Sarasota and Ft. Myers were to be considered. Richard Boudouy and Bernard Friedkin volunteered to look into the costs, etc. for the cruise and Sarasota. Peter Zimmer to reconnoiter the Ft. Myers area.

The Florida Chapter will hold its election for New Officers during the Spring Meeting. President Berman will appoint a nominating committee prior to the elections. Emil Langer complimented the Florida Chapter membership for holding a well organized and fruitful meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12 o'clock noon.

Saturday afternoon and evening were left open for the members to roam around West Palm Beach...or enjoy the hotel facilities...or get together some more at the hospitality room. Henry Santos always makes sure that there is plenty to drink with different snacks to go with it.

Sunday morning farewells lasted most of the morning. And so with the "good-byes" another successful and enjoyable mini-reunion of the Florida Chapter came to an end.

To those Florida Chapter Members who haven't attended any of these Chapter meetings, we urge you to make every effort to come to the Spring 1992 meeting. Also a cordial invitation is extended to any member of the different Chapters who happen to be in Florida during the time of our meetings to feel free and join us for a few days. That goes for any veteran who served with the 9th Infantry Division and its attached units

M COMPANY (47TH) CHRONICLER

We're now 122 strong! I've been looking for 2nd Platoon machine gunner Louis F. Cassarino for years. No one knew anything about him and, since he hailed from the Bronx, I thought he was another of those who had migrated from there after the war. I've been trying to track him through VA channels. Then, the other day I received the Octofoil's mailing list from Dan Quinn and came across the name Cassarino. A check by phone had the guy on the line, still in the Bronx. He's probably been getting the Octofoil and reading the M Company Chronicle's column all these years, wondering why Red Phillips never mentioned him. It's never too late, Lou. Welcome to the club!

Louis F. Cassarino, 2927 Herling Ave., Bronx, NY 10469, (212) 547-8303

"EL GUETTAR"

Those who have read "El Guettar: Crucible of Leadership" will recall my description of the valiant but vain attack of the 2/39th down the highway to Gabes just before dawn on March 29th. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary I stated that General Eddy conceived that tactic, probably thinking that with the enemy's attention drawn to the south where the 47th had been attacking on the 28th, the way might be open for a plunge up the middle. Now, Colonel (Ret.) Richard F. Kent of Montgomery, AL has written that the idea was Patton's not Eddy's. At the time that Patton's order was received, Kent was the junior officer in the 9th Division's G3 (Operations) Section and he says:

"I personally heard General Eddy plead with him (Patton) on the G3 telephone not to do it — to no avail."

Kent also relates that later, after it was determined by triangulating flare bursts that the 47th had been reporting itself much further along towards Hill 369 than was actually the case, it fell to Eddy personally to appraise Patton of the facts:

"It was early in the morning and I was the only person in the G2-3 tent when they entered. Eddy led Patton to the map and told him the bad news. He then sat down in a corner chair, certain that he would be relieved — it was written all over his face. Patton strode up and down snorting fire for a while and then said, 'Well! Well! Get up here and tell me what you're going to do about it.' Eddy knew then he wasn't going to get relieved and came to life again."

Kent ended up in the spring of '45 in command of the 3/39th. I regret not having had his observations in time to include them in the book.

during World War II to accept our welcome. If possible, the OCTOFOIL will carry more details as time approaches. However, you may obtain more information by contacting Henry Santos, 9811 N. Connecticut Rd., Tampa, FL 33617, phone: (813) 985-5444 or Emil J. De Donato, Secretary, 3650 S. W. Mosswood Street, Dunnellon, FL, 32630 (phone 904/489-4070).

Submitted by:
Emil J. De Donato, Sec.
FL Chapt. 9th Infantry
Div. Assn.

Fort Bragg Reunion Dates

June 11, 12, 13 1992

I have also been corrected by Wilhelm Reile from Germany that his company of K-10 at El Guettar (they were the ones who shot up the 2/47th on March 27th) was armed with the even faster-firing and more dependable MG42, not the MG34 as reported. He adds an additional observation of the surrender:

"When the white flag went up I called over, 'Come out boys!' However, when anyone showed himself some units of ours started to fire again. I walked over the open (intervening) area with one of my men in order to forestall losses. The shooting stopped and the surrender followed. I can also confirm the attempt of some soldiers to get away."

Reile added: "I thank you for your fair presentation of the German story for the media mostly presents the German soldier as stupid, arrogant and brutal."

Now I have to confess an out-and-out error that's left this former editor cringing. I've referred in the book to Major Wendel T. Chappin — not Chaffin as it should be. I had believed the man was no longer about but he also turned up on the Octofoil's mailing list. He's the same who assumed command of the 1/47th at El Guettar when Major Turner was evacuated. Now I'm looking forward to having his comments on the rest of the story.

Fascinating

Corrections and additions such as these are the stuff that makes writing history so fascinating. The jigsaw puzzle is never truly finished. It's also nice just to learn that one's product was well-received. Bob Dunn's comment from Swedesboro, NJ was especially so as the former recreation specialist in HQ 47th is a professional writer of some renown:

"You are to be commended for the time, effort and research that went into the preparation, and for the interesting manner in which the facts are presented. In short, you have done one helluva job."

So far I've moved 40% of "El Guettar's" initial printing (500). Sales analysis shows that of M Company's 122 guys today, 23, or a little over 19%, have picked up copies. Of these customers, 15 were at El Guettar and 8 were not and this probably holds true of total sales. Mostly they're going to those interested in seeing the whole of what they then were experiencing at the foxhole level, but there's still a lot of those who came along later and are looking for something with which to compare the BS the old guys were putting out around the campfire.

In any event, there are plenty of copies left and can be had by sending \$11.25 (including postage and handling) to the M Company Chronicler.

47th Inf. M Co.
JOHN KNIGHT
52 Woodview Road
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Enclosed check for dues that I may or may not owe. Can't remember since the Red Lapel was eliminated. Surely do remember 50 years ago today. Smoke, Pot Hill, Chicken-Road - Town Pump and the Slave Market. Col. Patch and Lt. Col. Randle. Just finished reading "Red" Phillips Crucible. Leadership, it is a masterpiece. All El Guettar Veterans should have this book in their library. If I knew then, what I know now concerning El Guettar, I would have found that proverbial hill in No. Africa at all cost.

See you all at the Towne-Pump.

The Greater New York Area Report

On November 15, 1991, the Greater New York Area Chapter assembled at the Masonic Hall, 71 West 23rd Street, NYC, for its monthly meeting which began at 8 p.m.

After the pledge of allegiance and invocation by our resident chaplain, George Apar, we proceeded with Secretary Art Schmidt's previous minutes and treasurer's report. Following the reports Prez Marv Levy read correspondence from our far flung members: Charlie Warner, Hyman Smith, Al Baccile, Walter O'Keefe, Joe Devine, Tom Rumore, Benjamin Kovacs, Mike Gatto, and friend Nick Budishin (thanking the chapter for its condolences for deceased member Steve Budishin). Also heard from were Harold Schram, Joe Donovan, Frank Ridzi, Dennis Canedy, Raymond Kaiser, and family of deceased Frank Russo, and from Grace Stenzel.

The president then presented to the chapter a new flag which was flown over the Capitol at the request of Adolph Wadalavage and accommodated by Representative Tom Carper and William Miller (9th Signal) of Delaware. Our sincere thanks to these gentlemen for their effort in our behalf.

The next major order of business were the nominations of chapter officers for 1992. By acclamation, the membership approved to move up the 1991 slate of officers to the next office position. Those nominated were — President: Tony DeRobertis, 1st Vice President: Tony Varone, and 2nd Vice President: (newly nominated) Al Zenka. The rest of the 1991 officers remain in their posts for '92 — Sgt. of Arms: Charlie Libretto, Secretary: Art Schmidt, Treasurer: Anton Dietrich, and Chaplain: George Apar.

The NY Area Chapter met on Friday December 20 at the Masonic Hall in NYC for its last meeting of 1991. The slate of officers for 1992 (nominated in the November report) were officially elected. They will be installed at our meeting on January 17.

Correspondence was read from Pete and Jennice Uhl, James Mullen, Aaron Weinberg, Roger Vuilleumier,

Anthony Klimasz, Joseph J. Devine, Pat and Ann Morano, Mrs. Mildred Taddeo, Maurice Houckes, James P. Malley and Wilbert Goldsmith.

The meeting was brief, to allow more of the evening for our membership holiday dinner. We adjourned at 8:30 p.m. and proceeded to draw the 50-50 raffle winners. Charlie LiBretto pulled the winning tickets and names which were announced by Prez Marv Levy and recorded by Secretary Art Schmidt. The lucky ones were: Bill Jackson, Martin Gill, Jerry Faisano, George Merz, Emil Langer, James Mullen, Dan Quinn (won twice and donated to chapter), John Parisi, Nicholas Colombo (also two winning tickets), Marcus Sciarappie, Vin Bresciano, Ed Tobin, Marie Vanni, and Joseph Mazzarese. Congratulations to all winners and thanks to all Ninthmen who participated and supported the chapter's fundraiser.

Following the 50-50 raffle drawing the members retired to The Square & Compasses Restaurant of the Masonic Lodge.

As outgoing 1991 NY area chapter president I wish our new president Tony DeRobertis and his staff the best of luck for 1992. It has been a privilege and an honor for me to have served the chapter and I hope to continue supporting my 9th comrades, local and national in whatever capacity I'm able to. As a final official statement I encourage more Ninthmen to attend our get togethers every month...or whenever you can. Your NY chapter is here for your pleasure and your benefit. Don't miss out! And don't forget your 1992 dues. Our secretary Art Schmidt loves the extra bookkeeping work of receiving \$10 for one year, \$25 for 3 years or \$75 for a Lifetime Membership...payable to Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Ass'n., Inc.

Best wishes to all our Ninthmen and families everywhere for a happy and healthy New Year. •

Marv Levy
Co. A 60th Inf.
2044 Ellen Drive
Merrick, NY 11566
Arthur R. Schmidt,
Secretary,
69-20 69th Street
Glendale, NY 11385-6696

47th Inf. K Co.
JOHN MRUGALA
Box 12, R.D. I
Barnesboro, PA 15714

First a note to let you know we had a wonderful time at the reunion in Milwaukee.

It was good to see my old K Co. 47th Inf. buddies. It was also a surprise to see one of our old executive officers, Chet Jordan. It was his first reunion and he had a good time.

God willing, we will be in Fayetteville, N.C. for the reunion. We have already received a confirmation to our reservation at the Holiday Bordeaux. We were there in 1982 and had one heck of a time. You just can't beat that old southern hospitality.

34th FA Hq. Btry.
ALBERT J. WILINGHAM
(Alabam)
2226 Wilcox Drive
Greensboro, N.C. 27405

I was a member of Hq. & Hq. Btry. 34th F.A. from September 1940 through December 1945. Look forward to seeing all at Fort Bragg in June. Sure hope some of the old bunch shows up.



47th Inf. M. Co.
DUANE D. OLSON
131 North Bay Lane #5
Port Ludlow, Wa. 98365

I have read Red Phillip's account of El Guettar twice, and to me this piece of work was extraordinary. Such an effort to locate the eye-witnesses and then put the whole thing together. A story and a half, believe me. Anyone remotely connected to the battle should have a pervasive interest; beyond that, it's an exceptionally good read for anyone. I hope you print this, to give the sales a bit of a push.

Still looking forward to attending one of the National Reunions. It seems as though other travel plans have interfered each of these past years. We all better get there pretty soon, or our war will be over!

Sorry about the lapse!

60th Inf. A, B & Hqs. 1st Bn.
JOHN K. MOORE
1055-301 Blvd. E.
Apt. 505
Bradenton, FL. 34203

It is getting near that time for another dues payment. So rather than show up on the delinquent list, I am enclosing check for three years dues.

The Octofoil, which you so ably publish, does marvelous work in keeping the Assoc. alive and active. You and Marie are to be heartily commended for the hard work entailed.

Being only a late comer to the 9th Inf. Div. (I joined as a replacement just as we were entering the Huertgen Forest), and not having experienced Fort Bragg, or Africa, or Sicily, or the Normandy campaigns, I still feel that the 9th was mine, and rejoice in the memories of my time spent as a member.

It has a glorious record, one that might be equalled but never surpassed. Its record is star-studded with accounts of bravery, and successes, and prevailing over obstacles.

I take particular pride in "A" Co., "B" Co. of the 1st Bn. 60th. Regt, in both of which I had the privilege of serving. Their collective achievements of spirit, bravery, and courage, will be in my memory til the end of my days. My hat is always off in their memory.

I happened to be a 36 year old draftee in early '41. As such I am close to being the oldest member of the Assoc. Last year, when I reached 86, I surrendered my drivers license and sold my car. Then my good wife Nellie and I moved into a Retirement Complex, where we are attempting to grow old gracefully.

But always with me will be thoughts and memories of those good and courageous men of the 9th.

15th Engrs. A & B Co.
OSCAR G. MOE
222 Sunrise Ave.
Sayville, N.Y. 11782

After 46 years another head has appeared - that's me. I was a member of the 15th Engrs., "A" and "B" Co. from Feb. '42 until the end of the Sicily campaign when I was transferred to the 3rd Inf. Div. 10th Eng.

Alex Forrest sent many clippings from the Octofoil and I find that many of my buddies are still around and kicking.

Thank you for Al's address - he returned a 10 page letter plus clippings - glad to be back in touch.

Called Jimmy Mullen who lives 45 minutes away (so I discover) and we will soon be in contact. Going to Sutton, Ma. Nov. 2nd and will attempt further contact with Maher.

Kindest personal regards.

P.S. Got a copy of 8 stars from Joe Williams.

39th Inf. Co. I
J.C. DAWSON
Box 622
Decatur, TX 76234

Enclosed find check for a donation to the Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Arthur H. (Dick) Gotcher, who passed away in November, in Florence, Alabama. We served in Co. I 9th Inf. Division overseas in World War II. In July we met again at the Co. I Mini Reunion in Spencer, Indiana. Gotcher will be missed by his friends and army buddies. Co. I '9th Reg.

39th Inf. Co. I
DONALD E. LAVENDER
2913 49th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Enclosed is information about the passing of one of our Company I, 39th friends from WW II.

Gotcher was well regarded in I Company for his combat experience and his leadership ability.

I am also enclosing my dues for 1992 and a small contribution as a memorial to Arthur (Dick) Gotcher.

39th Inf. Hq. Co.
PAUL POTTS
2100 Norton Ln.
Bedford, IN 47421

I am enclosing \$20.00 for 1992 dues and four decals and the remaining for whatever. Situation calm here in Bedford, In.

I remember Dec. 7, 1941 well. "Steamboat" Meridith and I were downtown Fayetteville and had lunch left and forgot to pay and was about ready to catch bus back to the Fort when I remembered and we went back and paid waitress. Sometime between boarding the bus and arriving back at Ft. Bragg, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Thanks much, Dan for all you have done over the years. Wishing you and all people of the 9th Div. a good Holiday Season.

Co. M 47th Inf.
CONDA W. KNEE
625 Ridgefield Road
Newark, Ohio 43055

We didn't make the reunion this year. Had to cancel out due to major surgery of a close family friend. Enclosed is a check for three years dues for myself and the dues for my wife. The balance to go to the Memorial Fund. I had a hospital stay for 6 days in March and a 6 day stay in June. But I am feeling better now. We have the reservations in and confirmed for the 1992 Ft. Bragg Reunion. Dan, keep up the good work. I always look forward to getting the Octofoil.

47th Inf. A Co.
JOHN SAQUELLA
6200 Upsal Street
Pennsauken, NJ 08110

I just realized that my dues are about to run out, so enclosed you will find my dues for another year.

I didn't make the last convention, but I am in hopes of being able to be in Fort Bragg in June.

Things are fairly stable here. My health is not too bad. I keep in shape by playing golf, walking and tending bar at the local VFW Club.

You and all the other great men who have made this organization the success it is, deserve a world of thanks and praise. Give my regards to all of my former mates in A Co. 47th and I hope to hear from some. Thanks again.

34th F.A.B.N. & Div. Hqs.
ALFRED R. BENOIT
156 Harris Street
Pawtucket, RI 02861-1721

I have just returned from VFW Post 1271 here in R.I. where we had a ceremony and prayers for the comrades who gave their lives at Pearl Harbor, 50 years ago today. I believe there were 2400 killed in the Japanese invasion in 1941, or I should say, attack.

Noella and I are in good health at present, hoping you, and yours are at your very best. We could not attend the last convention, or reunion in Worcester, for the annual Memorial Mass this year, since yours truly had a major operation (tumor of the large intestine). It was all cut out, and all is back to normal, thank God.

We have our confirmation for the Holiday Inn, Bordeaux, come June, for next year — we hope to see you, Marie and all the good comrades, of all units of the 9th Inf. Div. in 1992. Enclosing our check for the Pre-Registration, for our 47th Annual Reunion in Fayetteville, North Carolina, June 11-13, 1992.

Thank you for all past courtesies, and we wish you and Marie all the best for the holidays. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours, also to all members of our great organization.

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

The Co. I reunion last July was enjoyed by my wife, daughter and myself.

Got to see several of the men of Co. I that I hadn't seen in 46 years. Also, their wives. In Aug. I also saw A.H. Mayes of I Co. Also, in Oct., I got to visit with Donald Dale of F Company. Donald and I took basic training together at Ft. McClellan, Alabama 1944 and went overseas together.

60th Inf. D Co.
ALEXANDER SMITH
10 S. Rogosin Street
E. Rockingham, N.C. 28379

How are you? Fine, I hope. I'm doing pretty good, thank the good Lord.

Well, it's that time again, time to get my dues in so I won't miss getting the Octofoil, wouldn't miss getting it for anything. Wife and I enjoy reading all the news.

Well, Dan, if nothing happens, I'll see you at the Reunion in '92, at Fort Bragg. It's only about 60 miles from Rockingham where we live. I have never been to one yet, but sure hope we can make this one.

I wonder what has happened to all the guy's of Co. D 60th Inf. I never see any of their names in the Octofoil. If you would please put this letter in the Octofoil for me, I'm sure there must be someone out there, somewhere, who remembers me. Everyone in the Company called me Smitty, I was a jeep driver from St. Lo, through to end of war. I had a very dear friend, Charles T. Walker from Fair Field, Ill. We have visited each other a few times over the years. I'm going to get in touch with him and see if he and wife will come down to visit us and go to the Reunion with my wife and I.

Please guys, all you Co. D boys, come on down to N.C. We'll make you feel right at home. I'll be looking for you. Please don't let me down. Smitty thanks Dan for everything.

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.

MAIL CALL

60th F.A. "A" Btry
JOSEPH R. RYAN
846 Brick Mill Run, D-1
Westlake, OH 44145-1675

Just a note to tell you that Mrs. Ryan and I really enjoyed the recent convention (reunion) in Milwaukee. It was the first 9th Division Reunion that we have attended and our only regret is that there were not more of the fellows with whom I served at Fort Bragg in attendance.

I sincerely regret that we will not be able to attend the 1992 reunion at Ft. Bragg. On the exact days of the 9th Division Reunion I have to attend a reunion of the Midwest Chapter, 36th Division Association where I serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Can't get out of that one easily.

I am enclosing herewith a check payable to the 9th Division Memorial Fund. This is in memory of First Sergeant Ted Healey and all of the deceased members of A Battery, 60th Field Artillery Battalion.

Enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful Holiday Season.

9th Signal
KENDALL W. GUILFORD
Box 8164

John F. Kennedy Sta.
Boston, Mass. 02114

Enclosed M.O. for one year membership. Am pushing 87 come April next, believe am the oldest living member missed being sent home at Magenta N. Africa by two weeks but made it through 7 campaigns to the end.

In touch with comrades via U.S. Mails from both split reunions as unable any long travels due to stroke and its complications.

Hopefully a good Signal Co. turnout at Ft. Bragg next division reunion.

9th Div. Hdq. Co.
JOHN BRANDI
400 Buckeye St.
Tiltonsville, Oh 43963

I just noticed my membership card and it tells me that my dues are about due. They are enclosed for three years.

Nell and I are in pretty good shape considering the condition of a lot of other people.

I called Art McDougal a while back. He and Betty have had more than their share of bad luck.

We have missed some of the reunions and miss all of our friends. We will try to attend the next one. Give our best wishes to all.

M Co. & 3rd Bn. S-3
EDWIN LUSK
131 Auburn Rd.
Indian Springs, AL 35124

This is a big wish for a very Merry Christmas to all the men of the 9th Div. I am enclosing a check for my dues for 1992.

I was originally assigned to "B" Co. 60th Inf. in Aug. 1941 and was transferred to "M" Co. 60th near the end of the year. I served as Co. Ex. under Gail Brown until the Cork Forrest of Marrocco at which time Lt. Col. John Toffey made me Bn. S-3.

While there I knew Capt. Richard Kent who I believe was mentioned in a recent Octofoil as Col. Richard Kent of the 47th Inf.

I was wounded April 8, 1943 at Maknossey — a German artillery shell landed between me and Capt. Calclasure. He got 14 pieces and I got 3. Very lucky!



60th Inf. D Co.
JAMES CANADA
Box 434
Shannon, GA 30172

It is time for my dues for 1992. Don't want to miss any of the Octofoil. I enjoy reading it very much. Seldom see anyone's name from the 60th D Co. very often. I haven't heard from any of the fellows I served with in quite some time. If there are any of them that remember me from the kitchen of the Company. Would like to hear from them. Here is wishing you and your wife and all the 9th a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Btry "C" 60th FA Bn.
ROSCOE W. SHIELDS
2917 Sunset Circle
Vernon, Texas 76384

I sure hope a lot of the men attend from C Btry, as I plan to make the one at Ft. Bragg and the one in San Antonio. Then I think we will stay in Texas. It's getting harder to make long trips with my wife in a wheelchair. I have been trying for years to find 2 men from Texas C Btry 1st Sgt. C. Clayton. Also, the 1st Sgt. in Service Btry C, Baurous. I remember one night somewhere in France, Sgt. Baurous detailed Pee Wee Masingale, his jeep driver, to take the 3 of us to some town about 40 miles to the rear where we could sew a few wild oats. We had a good time and got in before daylight. Pee Wee was driving, lights out, and just before we got to Serv. Btry, he drove into a deep ditch, turned the jeep over and we had to walk in just in time to move out when we got to C Btry. The first thing we heard was March orders, "we are moving out." We were lucky and got by with that one!

39th Inf. B Co.
JOHN BAUMAN
3331 N. Natchez Avenue
Chicago, IL 60634

Time crept up on me, so I thought I better renew my membership before it expires. Had a great time in Milwaukee. Met a few buddies I hadn't seen since '45. Enclosed check for 3 years membership dues for my wife Dolores, and the balance for Memorial Fund for Frank Russo. Wishing you and the Mrs. and all members of the Association a Happy and Healthful New Year.

60th Inf. G Co.
PAUL GRIMM
P.O. Box 235
Normandy Beach, NJ 08739

I joined "G" Company of the 60th Infantry in October 1942 and left after being wounded in France, in July 1944.

Since joining the 9th Inf. Div. Association a few years ago, I have never seen a name with the Octofoil that I recognized, especially from "G" Company.

I sure would like to hear from anyone who was in the service with me.

60th Inf. Hdqtrs. Co.
THOMAS "BUCK" Marris
P. O. Box 69
Elm City, N.C. 27822

Enclosed is my check for \$10.00. Thanks for the continuing great job you are doing with the Octofoil, the day I get it I never put it down until I've read the whole thing. Bet it's that way with most everyone. I'd like to hear from some of my old buddies, including Johnnie Christina from Binghamton, N.Y., Mel Kearns from Butler, P.A., Red Lafferty from Flatbush, Brooklyn, Robert Brown, Mitch Russo, and Jimmie Russo from Peapack, N.J.

Co.B 15th Engs.
TONY MADONNA
40 Orient St.
Worcester, MA 01604
Hi Guys:

I received some nice reports and beautiful pictures from Ernie Micka about the Milwaukee Reunion. I also enjoyed reading Dick McGrath's letter in the last Octofoil. I hope to meet our gang at Bragg.

I attended the Father Connors Memorial in Worcester and also the Memorial Mass at the Holy Cross Chapel in November at the Immaculate Conception Church. I met with our usual gang. We had a bonus this year. Ernie Micka and his wife Dot came for their visit and they were a delight to be with. The reunion of Pete Thomas and Ernie Micka came about after 50 years.

Most of our gang have met with some maladies but are now on the mend. Well time has caught up to me. I had my gall bladder removed but there is some unfinished work. Hope to have that corrected next week. Sorry to hear Glendon Bowman past on. Enclosed a check for the Memorial Fund in his honor.

In Sincere Wishes to all

47th Inf. G & Hq. Co.
SPENCER NORWOOD
635-30th Ave W #211F
Bradenton, FL

You and your Octofoil staff sure do deserve a lot of credit for keeping our little paper doing so well all these years. Thanks.

Enclosed you will find dues for three more years. This time of life is a lot like being in Combat. I wonder when my time will be up. Each Octofoil had a list of those that have left us. That is the sad part.

Earl Mosel, Alex Prasnick, Mersey, Quinlan, and I came to Fort Bragg from Camp Walters, Texas on August 17, 1942. Laurence Melanson (Speed), came about the same time. I don't know what happened to Mersey and Quinlan, but the rest of us went all the way. Earl and I were discharged on September 16, 1945 at Fort Sheridan, Ill. Alex died a few years ago. Earl is up in Wisc., and Speed is out in Colorado.

I hope you and all the rest of the "old reliables" have a happy Xmas and New Year.

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

I thought I should write a few lines while I am sending you a check to extend my subscription.

I would like all my 9th Division friends to know I bought Red Phillips book on El Guettar and I was not only delighted with the reading, which brought back old memories but this fine author PRINTED — my name which made me feel so proud. He put it on page 36. I have written before asking why no one from 'D CO. is ever mentioned in the OCTOFOIL and after reading two books I see clearly. My prayers go out to them and their families.

On page 20 Captain Nivens name was mentioned. He was one of my commanding officers. May God bless and keep him, I think he is deceased. Let me close down this machine and wait for winter. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR to all.

47th Inf. Co A.
FRANK VOLPA
331 Vashon St.
Morro Bay, CA 93442

I am sending to you a copy of a letter that I have sent to Social Security Sub-committee members of both Houses of Congress.

I joined Company A - 47th Infantry a few days after they arrived at Tichborne Farms near Alresford, England.

I enjoy reading about my old Infantry in the Octofoil very much. The reason I call myself "The Ex Pitted Rifleman" is because there was a supply Sergeant named John Saquella who liked to play tricks and issued me that rifle, because I was from the Quarter Master Corps.

I was with Captain John O'Keefe the day he was KIA, Jan. 31, 1945 in Germany. He was shot by a sniper and I was wounded on my way to help him. I saw his brothers name, Justin O'Keefe, in the Octofoil, so I called him up to tell him of the circumstances of his brothers death, and how proud I was to have served with such a brave and great man.

I believe I am behind with my dues so I am sending you a check, please find same enclosed.

E Co. 47th Inf. & C Co. 60th Inf.
DAVID BAKER
Son of Morris Baker
1000 Springbrook
DeSoto, Texas 75115

I want to thank you for a great time in Milwaukee. I enjoyed visiting with my friends and with new friends I made while I was there.

When I began to look into my dad's Army record 3 or 4 years ago I had no idea where it might lead. I had hoped maybe to find someone that might have known him. I realized at the time that was a long shot at best by him being a replacement and serving with both C Co. of the 60th and E Co. of the 47th.

I have met several people who were in E Co. of the 47th at the same time he was, but not anyone that really knew him; some thought that they recognized him from a couple of pictures that I have. We have decided that he served with the 3rd platoon of E Co., with the help of a list kept by John Trevelise and the help given to me by Bill Mooty. I have not yet met anyone who was with the 3rd platoon during the time he was there, November, 1944, until March 11, 1945.

I wish we had known of the Association before his death, because I know he would have enjoyed visiting with you all again. I know I have been very impressed with the many people I have met and with the warmth and friendliness with which I have been received. I look forward to seeing y'all again soon.

H Co., 60th Inf.
RICHARD M. IRWIN
2155 E. Hammond Lk. Dr.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013

Sorry to be so late with my dues. I am recovering from my 2nd open-heart surgery and am doing well, (I think). I hit the Ninth just after the Muse River as a former A.S.T.P. soldier. I was asked what I knew about a 30 cal. machine gun — "nothing," I said. "Well you'll have time to learn on a road block." Later went back to the 81 mm mortars where I spend the rest of the war.

Got hit in the ear just before the Rhine crossing. Walked back to the Aid Station and they said, "Patch him up and send him right back," so they did.

Enjoy the Octofoil. Will make a convention some time, I hope. Best to all.

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Co. C 47th Inf.
JACK A. COLLIER
126 St. John Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63119

I was great to see you again at the Milwaukee, WI 46th annual Reunion of the 9th Div., we all missed your lovely wife Marie. Once again I had a wonderful time greeting my many friends that I have met in my 21 years of reunions, also meeting new friends, first timers to one of our reunions. I am proud to be a member of the 11. Chapter and I think they all did a Bang-up-Job in Milwaukee. Nadine and I enjoyed the hospitality of Orion Shockley and his lovely wife Et-sie, Co. B 47th. I was very disappointed when they informed me that they would be unable to attend the next reunion at Ft. Bragg. Looking forward to seeing all of the old regulars at the Ft. Bragg reunion, even though I did not train at Bragg I look forward to going as I did in 1982, to see all of the good old 9th Div. men. In 1983 Detroit reunion someone said we are Family, and as the years go by it is so true. A few years back talking to Peggy, Mike Kauffman's wife, M/G Kauffman of the 60th Regt. and Pfc. Collier of the 47th have something in common, we were both born in England. I hope no one holds this against us as no one has any control over where they are born. We were both lucky to be brought over to this country while we were very young. When I was in the hospital in Devizes, England, my Dad came to visit me Christmas 1944. This was made possible because he and Mom divorced in 1935 and he went back to England. In the bed next to me was a real good soldier, Clem Przybylski from St. Joseph, Mo., and a 15th Engineer no less. I never forgot Clem and did get to see him in St. Joe a few years back when Nadine and I were there for a Vets. Org. Convention. He was well and really knew that I was in bed next to him when I reminded him of the maggots they had put into his wound, a real bad wound in the right hip. Clem must have been a good soldier as he earned a Silver Star.

The main purpose of this letter was to send in my Dues for the next 3 years but I believe that I have given information in this letter that I have not told before. Take care of yourself and Marie, see you in Bragg.

39th Inf. F Co.
D. M. MCCULLOUGH, JR.
1724 Lake Park Ci.
Birmingham, Al. 35215

Enclosed is check for three years dues. I think it is wonderful the magnificent job you people do and as an Alabamian thrown in with mostly folks who enjoyed our Southern accent say thanks to all my Buddies of F Co. 39th for taking care of me.

**Fort Bragg
Reunion Dates
June 11, 12, 13 1992**