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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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5-1-1992

## The Octofoil, May/June/July 1992

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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### Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, May/June/July 1992" (1992). *The Octofoil*. 296.  
<https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/296>

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# THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave, Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

May-June-July, 1992

## Worcester Memorial October 25, 1992

Years ago, Father Edward Connors would remind us of the sacrifices made by 4581 men of the Ninth Inf. Div. during World War II. He started in the Fall of 1945 with the constant reminders of what these men did for us and whose memory we should never forget.

Father Connors has gone on to his eternal reward and we who call ourselves "Father's Helpers" will continue this practice with a reminder that our Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, October 25, 1992 at 11:00 AM at the Immaculate Conception Church, Worcester, Mass. After Mass we will conduct a Memorial Service at the monument erected on the ground of the Church set aside by Father Connors to honor our dead.

We ask you to join us at this Mass and Memorial Service (Catholics, Protestants, Jews and all others) to publicly proclaim our feelings for these men, a feeling that lives privately in our own hearts everyday of our lives.

Our ranks are growing thinner, we also pray for the men who returned with us and who now enjoy eternal salvation.

### ROOM RESERVATIONS

We have made arrangements with the Holiday Inn, Worcester (formerly the Sheraton Lincoln) at 500 Lincoln St., Worcester, Mass. (1-508-852-4000) for sixty rooms. We have also made arrangements with the Days Inn Lodge, 50 Oriole Drive, Worcester, Mass. (1-508-852-2800) for five rooms and 10 suites. Deadline for room reservations is September 20, 1992. You must make your own reservations. If any have any problems, please let us know.

### LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Luncheon will be served in the Garden Court of the Holiday Inn at 1:00 PM at a cost of \$15.00. Reservations must be made for the luncheon by mailing \$15.00 to Thomas Boyle, 39 Hall Ave., Somerville, Mass., 02144.

Tentatively, we will be located in Room 102 at the Holiday Inn. It's getting late, let us stay together and pray together.

For all of Father's Helpers  
Thomas J. Boyle



Larry McLaughlin, Chairman of the Veterans Awards Committee (left) presents a check on behalf of the Association to Thomas Arnold of the local VA Hospital (Fayetteville) for the purchase of equipment at the Hospital.

### OLDER BROTHERS SHOULD EXTEND A HELPING HAND

Now that the majority of the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association of WW-2 has voted (again) against changing our membership rules to allow veterans of later wars into our association I feel that we can at least extend a helping hand to our Vietnam comrades to re-activate the Octofoil Association so that they too can enjoy the camaraderie of their buddies who fought the Vietnam War, to experience the childlike anticipation and thrill of meeting an old buddy of years past.

I am willing to expend as much time and energy to that end as I did to keep the "treetop clubhouse door closed" to "my kid brothers." That is, assuming our "kid brothers" want an association such as ours.

I have names and addresses of twelve Vietnam veterans who wrote or called me showing interest in joining their "older brothers' club."

General Westmoreland wrote in the last issue of the Octofoil that the Vietnam veterans had formed their own association. I have not been able to find an address for one other than one for the disbanded Octofoil Asso.

Any ideas or offers of help out there? If my memory is correct there were 129 votes for opening membership, 198 against and 108 abstained, (hardly a minority general), "that other bunch" will probably get together and get the Octofoil Association off to a new start.

Henry Santos  
9811 N. Connechuset Rd.  
Tampa, FL 33617  
Ph (813) 985-5444

## Reflections on the 47th Annual Reunion

Some reflections about the 47th annual 9th Inf. Div. Reunion held a few weeks ago at Ft. Bragg. It was enjoyable because of the great job done by Bob De Sandy, Dan Quinn and their Committees. It is hard to imagine what a gigantic project it must be to cater to a crowd of 1000 old timers. So, mucho thanks to all who so generously gave of their time.

There are many women who do so much for the success of the reunion and I'd like to point out Mrs. Paul Clark of the Illinois Chapter. It seems at every reunion she is always at the front doing volunteer work.

Many thanks to Walter O'Keefe, Dan Quinn and his wonderful wife, Marie for all their work on the Octofoil which, without that message center, there would be no Association. The most important and best part of the reunions is meeting with old buddies from WW II years and the new friends met at past reunions. I was glad to meet Gordie Anderson of the Illinois Chapter and have a nice gabfest about coming events which includes the mini-reunion at Angola, Indiana in October. This out-of-state meeting includes the Michigan Chapter which will be hosted by the Illinois Chapter. Thanks to Gordie for not giving up on recruiting me.

I haven't been active in the Chapter only because it's on the other side of Chicago and that's a stressful journey - I kid you not.

For me, another pleasant surprise at Fort Bragg was seeing Charlie Hoffman, one of the most popular guys in B. Company 15 Engrs. It was a pleasure to spend some time with Charlie and his lovely wife, Gloria.

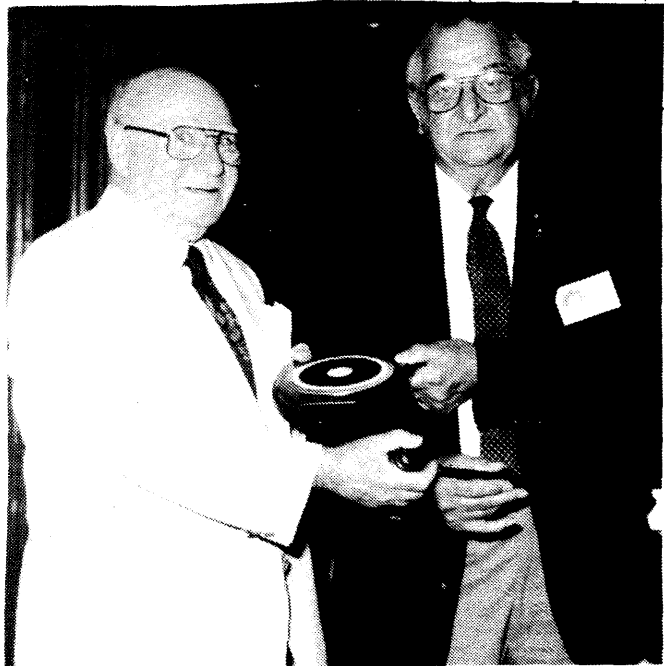
Other from B Company present and accounted for were the Rankins, Newharts, Apels, Mullens, Apostolides, Pat De Colli, Art Schmidt, Oscar Moe, Tony Madonna (Toney had as a guest, his brother, who was a WW II Naval hero), also Ed Kuklewicz c.o., Phil Emmons c.o., and don't forget the McGraths - and if I did forget anyone from B Company, accept my regrets. Also, anyone who was there that I haven't mentioned from the 15th Engineer Battalion. I am sure Henry Santos will fill in the gaps and mention all the A Company people who were there. My memory gears are slipping. I believe we had about 20 from B Company and that counts the ladies.

That was a good showing, but I think A Company beat us this time.

C Company of the 15th had the Murphys, Mahers, Ed McGrath, John Edmunds, and Lt. John Hoyt. I drove Ed dizzy trying to find our way back to the hotel from Fort Bragg. It was hard to believe the growth of Fort Bragg and Fayetteville since 1942. I only spent 4 months at Bragg before going overseas, but the old timers were also astounded by the spread. The Army at Bragg is all air borne and not the foot soldiers we remember.

Continued Page 3

## CHANGE OF COMMAND



Ed Hopkins shown on the left presents the "gavel" of authority to the newly elected President of the Association John Miller, who in turn presents Hoppy with a plaque for his year of service as President of the Division Association.



Shown at the Memorial Services held at Fort Bragg (left to right) B.G. Charles Bauman, XVIII Airborne Corps, Lewis "Chip" Maness, BG Ret of the 47th Inf., Bob DeSandy Co-Chairman of the Reunion, B.G. Frank Gunn Ret. of the 39th Inf and M.G. Scholes, of the XVIII Airborne Corps. The weather was a bit on the dampish side but it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the "Old Reliables" in attendance, as they remembered "our dead."

## "A Taste of Texas"

... continues with a full menu of Fun, Fellowship and Frivolity in San Antonio, Texas October 7, 8 and 9, 1993 ... Now, yaw'll come! Ya hear.

San Antonio, the Fun-tier City of Texas where the Red Carpet will welcome the 48th Annual Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division of World War II. Eight major campaigns ... broke the back of the famed Africa Corps, swept through Western Europe and joined the Red Army on the Elbe ... San Antonio, a feisty city of many faces where the main attraction is a river meanders through the heart of the city for some two controlled miles. A river! ... but what a river, with its many historic overtone components that comprise River Walk on both sides of the main stream. From History to Melodrama; from Fiesta to Folklorico; from Military to Metropolitan; from Renaissance to Rodeo (charreda) ... San Antonio has it all, complete with an international flavor all of its own. All of this and the friendliest people this side of Heaven will welcome old buddies to the 48th Annual Reunion of the "Old Reliables" ... "Hitler's Nemesis."

Make those hotel reservations, like NOW and be assured of being where the action begins. The famed River Walk begins as you walk out of the Holiday Inn Riverwalk North. Remember those official Texas passports (phony money) will get you and yours into the Great State of Texas. That \$10.00 "blue back" and \$1.00 will get you something anywhere in the Alamo City! See, ya...

60th Inf  
Robert H. Rucker #1103  
5055 W. Panther Creek Dr.  
The Woodlands, Texas 77381

Remember the Reunion Dates  
Oct. 7-10, 1993

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  
John Miller  
1511 Cochise Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76012

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

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

Francis Maher, 3rd V.P.  
14 Davenport St.  
Worcester, MA 01610

Dave Heller  
Judge Advocate  
618 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

1993  
Robert DeSandy  
South Pines, NC  
Al Perna  
Philadelphia, PA  
Trevor Jones  
Trumbull, CT  
George Brown  
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Ed McGrath  
Green Harbor, MA  
1994  
Bill Carson  
Melbourne, FL  
Howard Gaertner  
Wauwatosa, WI  
Ron Murphy  
Scituate, MA  
Len Tomassone  
Pennsauken, NJ  
1995  
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Melbourne, FL  
Mary Levy  
Merrick, NY  
Frank Haines  
Trenton, NJ  
Billie Martin  
Birmingham, MI  
Ted Preston  
Walworth, WI  
John Miller  
Arlington, TX

Published five times yearly. May-June-July — Aug.-Sept.-Oct —  
Nov.-Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar-April by and for the members of the Ninth In-  
fantry 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 Divi-  
sion 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 everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educa-  
tional activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members  
of the 9th Infantry Division.

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

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

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

Volume XLVII Number 3

May-June-July 1992

Publication # 402820

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

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

Street Address.....

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

I was a member of:

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

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year..... \$10.00

Sustaining Member.....

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund.....

THREE-YEAR MEMBER..... \$25.00

Life Membership..... \$75.00

Ladies Auxiliary Member..... \$ 2.00

Decals..... 50- each

60th Hist..... \$ 2.50 (incl. post.)

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater New York	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington, D.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>
New England	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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.....

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund received  
donations from these members  
and friends. The Association is  
grateful.

W.H. Ward - In memory of  
Frank Petty

George Connolly - In memory of  
Ricky D'Orazio & Bob  
Gauthier, 34th F.A. Bn.

Robert Pappas - In memory of  
his wife, Beryl, and Col. Randle  
Leo S. Griffin - In memory of  
Chuck Constantine

Joseph Perella -

Wanda Lelak - In memory of  
her husband Steve.

Ted Curless - In memory of  
Capt. Frank Petty and all  
deceased members of E Co.47th  
Inf.

Jack Whiteley - In memory of  
John Neugebauer, L Co. 47th  
Inf.

Phyllis Clemmey - In memory  
of Jack Thomas 34th F.A. Serv.  
Bty.

Ferdinand Moniz - In memory  
of all past members - May They  
Rest in Peace.

Boardman Lockwood - In  
memory of C.J. "Pete"  
Smalley

Michigan Chapter - In memory  
of Bill Andrews, 26th F.A. &  
Cannon Co. 39th

Robert Mandle - In memory of  
Fred D'Amore & Glendon  
Bowman, 15th Engrs. Bn.

Mrs. Dorothy Lewis - In  
memory of husband, William,  
26th F.A. C. Btry.

Charles McLhinney - In mem-  
ory of his brother, Walter, &  
John Trevelise & Frank Petty

Joseph Horvatis -

John Compel -

Richard McGrath - In memory  
of George De Gennaro, 9th  
M.P.'s & 15th Engrs.

James C. Popeski -

Oscar Moe -

50th Anniversary Trips

My announcement of plans  
for 50th Anniversary trips to  
Tunisia in 1993 and Normandy  
in 1994 brought numerous  
responses and Galaxy Tours  
will be writing those people  
very soon. (By the way, one of  
our guys went to Pearl Harbor  
with Galaxy last year and he  
raved about their attention to  
every detail!)

I am personally working on  
the best routes for us in Tunisia  
and I'm sure we will visit all the  
places we must see (for in-  
stance, El Guettar, Maknassy,  
Sedjenane, etc.)

If you could print this letter  
and tell all interested to write  
to:

Galaxy Tours  
997 Old Eagle School Rd.  
Suite 207  
P.O. Box 234  
Wayne, PA 19087

or call: Mark Burton at  
1-800-523-7287 for more details.

"Tunisia" will be in May,  
1993 and will cost about  
\$2,150.00 per person for nine  
days.

"Normandy" will leave about  
June 1, 1994 so we will be at  
Normandy on June 6, 1994 (50  
yers later!). The cost is  
\$2,475.00 per person if paid this  
summer.

It was just great seeing you  
and so many other old, dear  
frinds at this year's Reunion.  
We have already sent reserva-  
tions for 1993!

I hope each Reunion can be as  
wonderful at this one was!

The Memorial Service at Ft.  
Bragg alone made the trip  
worthwhile. I saw men I hadn't  
seen since 1945 and was  
especially pleased to see Ed  
Janosik, my old Exec. of 'G'  
Company of the 47th who  
never had been to a reunion  
before, and said he was very  
pleased that he had come!

E & G Co 47th Inf  
JAMES E. LEOPOLD  
3045 Commercial Avenue  
Northbrook, IL 60062

HOLIDAY INN RIVERWALK NORTH is pleased to host:

TEXAS & GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER  
9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, ASSOCIATION  
OCTOBER 7 - 10, 1993

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Please reserve accommodations for: (Please Print)

Name:.....

Address:.....

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

Bus. Phone:..... Home:.....

Names of Additional Occupants:.....

Arrival Date:..... Time:.....

Departure Date:..... Time:.....

Check in time is 3:00 PM. Check-out time is 12:00 noon.  
Reservations must be received by 9/7/93 or rooms  
become subject to availability.

Card:..... Exp. Date:.....

Number:.....

Rates: (Circle rate desired)	# rooms	# people
------------------------------	---------	----------

Single Occupancy: \$79

Double Occupancy: \$79

Triple

Quad

( ) Non-smoking preferred

Mail completed application to:  
Holiday Inn Riverwalk North  
110 Lexington  
San Antonio, TX 78205

Specific Details

The hotel will extend the same daily rate to guests for  
three days before and three days after the reunion dates.

A limited number of Non-smoking rooms are available  
on a first come-first served basis. Indicate need on the  
registration card.

The hotel will issue confirmations.

Cancellations with full refund will be granted up to 6  
PM on day of arrival. Must have a confirmation number.

If making 1st nights deposit by check make check  
payable to Holiday Inn Riverwalk North for \$89.27.  
(\$79.00 rate plus 13% tax. Sales tax exemption is pending,  
any excess tax will be credited to final bill.)

Suites and Hospitality Rooms (CP's) are handled by  
hotel on an individual basis. Contact Mr. Jim Malone at  
512-737-1955 for availability and rates.

Special world of caution: There are 7 Holiday Inns in  
San Antonio, we are dealing with Holiday Inn Riverwalk  
North.

Concerning Strip Tickets, information on air lines, auto  
rentals, tours, etc. As most arrangements are still not  
final these details will be covered in later issues of the Oc-  
tofoil.

FORT DIX 75TH ANNIVERSARY AND REUNION

August 20-22, 1992: Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of  
World War II, the 75th Anniversary of Fort Dix as an installa-  
tion, and the last basic training class graduation, at Fort Dix.  
Events include final BT graduation, equipment/skills displays,  
firepower exercise, and memorial ceremony. For details, call  
609-562-2151. Write to SATO, P.O. 240, Fort Dix, NJ 08640 by July  
15 for reservations.

9th Division Golf Caps

9th Division Association golf caps are available and can be ob-  
tained by mail for a total cost of \$9.00 per cap which includes  
postage. These caps, with an adjustable back, (one size fits all)  
have the 9th Division Association embroidered emblem. Four  
styles are available:

1. Summer cap (most popular style) which has a white front  
panel with a royal blue visor and nylon mesh back panel.
2. Winter cap in all navy blue.
3. Light weight all navy blue summer cap.
4. All white plain summer cap.

9th Division License Plates

Because of the large number of requests at the Fayetteville  
reunion, I have a new supply of 9th Division aluminum license  
plates which are available for a total cost of \$8.00 each, which in-  
cludes postage. These plates are white with blue lettering and  
border. A large red, white and blue Octofoil is at the center. The  
lettering is 9th Inf. Div. Assn. Across the bottom are the 8 battle  
stars and invasion arrowhead, like on our newspaper mast head.  
Send all orders payable to: Elmer Wagner

2833 Hotchkiss Rd.  
Bay City, MI 48706

May 25, 1992

# MEMORIAL DAY

I believe every person sometime during this day will stop thinking about what he or she is doing and ask oneself, "what is Memorial Day?"

To me "memorial" is remembering special people and saying thank you. I respect you for what you are. Today I thank a real special person that everyone liked so much.

S/Sgt. John J. Neugebauer  
Company L, 47th Inf.

As I look back I can truly say, what a man! No doubt this man has always been a Memorial. Thank you, John, for the many times you kept us in some kind of order. Who was this Sgt. Neugebauer? Just another one of us that did his job so well. Neuge was second Sgt. in command of the platoon I was with. He was at the rear of the platoon most of the time as the platoon went about its business of playing the war games — keeping the rear squad in support of the attack squad. I guess you would say that we were a team. He was trying to keep as many as possible from getting hurt while I was helping the ones that did.

I'm sure Neuge felt as I did that this could not go on forever. You either would be killed, wounded or captured. Well, after North Africa, Sicily and France it happened to Neuge. He was one of the few who gave it all so many today are having this Memorial Day.

Enclosed is my check for the Memorial Fund in the memory of S/Sgt. John J. Neugebauer, Company L, 47th Infantry.

If anyone remembers John, I would like to hear from you. I believe John was killed in northern France.

Thanks for keeping the paper going.

Jack D. Whiteley  
1403 Austin  
La Marque, TX. 77568  
Aidman with Co. L, 47th Inf.

## REFLECTION

Continued from Page 1

The Ninth Infantry Division's Memorial is still there for future historians and many of the streets are named from our eight campaigns. The Memorial Service was very impressive as usual, but was damp - that's a joke, son.

Bob Rucker was very enthusiastic about having the 48th reunion at San Antonio and with his spirit, it will be another big success. Think Texas in 1993.

Now for the bad news. Fran Maher had a setback at the reunion. I heard from his C Company buddy, Ron Murphy, he is home and bounding back. Fran was elected to be Commander of his Worcester American Legion post while he was at the reunion. They couldn't have picked a better leader. Another sad note, Adolph Wadalavage told me that George De Gennaro passed away. George and I were in the same section of Headquarters Company of the 15th Engineers during the North African campaign. After that, he was transferred to the MP's of the 9th. I had hoped I would meet him at one of the reunions, but it wasn't to be. George was the finest of the finest. May he rest in peace.

Enclosed is donation to the Memorial fund to remember George De Gennaro, 9th M.P.'s & 15th Eng.

Mentioning H.Q. company reminds me to include Lt. Milt Kaminsky as being at the reunion.

I wish everyone a happy summer and look forward to the San Antonio reunion.

B Co., 15th Eng. Bn.  
RICHARD C. MCGRATH  
2856 West 85th St.  
Chicago, Illinois 60652

## Taps Sounded

*Farewell to you and the youth I have spent with you  
It was but yesterday we met in a dream,  
You have sung to me in my aloneness, and I of your longings have built a tower in the sky.*

*But now our sleep has fled and our dream is over, and it is no longer dawn.  
The noontide is upon us and our half waking has turned to a fuller day, and we must part.*

*If in the twilight of memory we should meet once more, we shall speak again together and you shall sing to me a deeper song.*

*And if our hands should meet in another dream we shall build another tower in the sky.  
Kahlil Gibran "The Profit"*

Merton Beebe  
60th Inf.  
Anthony DeCondo  
9th Med. Bn.  
Clifford Conley  
84th F.A.  
Jack Thomas  
34th F.A. Serv. Btry.  
Henry Hain  
39th Inf.  
Vincent Zalis  
39th Inf. D. Co.  
Anthony Klimasz  
1st Bn. 60th Inf.  
Charles Hodges  
9th Signal  
George DeGennaro  
9th M.P.'s & 15th Engrs.  
Joseph D'Aleo  
47th Inf. Service Co.  
Clarence Burke  
376 AAA  
Nick Russick  
47th H. Co. & 2nd Bn. Hq.  
Frank Machek  
47th H. Co.  
Max Auerbach  
1st Bn. Hq. Co. 60th Inf.  
Esther Johnston  
Wife of Wm. E. Johnston,  
K Co. 39th Inf.  
Mrs. Irving Zucker  
Widow of "Pop" F Co.  
47th Inf.

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



## MAX AUERBACH KILLED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

During the 1992 9th Infantry Division Association annual reunion held in Fayetteville, N.C., the Florida Chapter received news that Max Auerbach was killed in an automobile accident. Max and his wife Miriam were returning to their Florida home from a group meeting held several weeks prior to the Ft. Bragg Reunion. According to Vera Schneider, Max lost control of his car, drifted off the road and crashed into a group of trees somewhere in South Carolina. His wife Miriam, suffered severe bruises and spent some time recuperating at her daughter's home in New Jersey.

Complete details are not known at this writing. However we understand that Miriam is much better and has returned to her No. Miami Beach home. Emil J. DeDonato, Secretary FL CHAPT.

47th Inf. F Co.  
ED HOPKINS  
110 Hollywood Ave.  
Metuchen, N.J. 08840-2116

I am saddened to report to all who remembered our beloved Irv "Pop" Zucker that his lovely widow recently passed away. Pop's daughter informed me this past week. Men of "F" Company - 47th Infantry grieve with her. If any want to send their condolences, she can be reached at Ms. Lana Khalaf, 134 Belle Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607.

84th F.A.  
MRS. CLIFFORD CONLEY  
1302 S. 5th St.  
Richmond, In. 47374

I'm writing to let you know that Clifford Conley, my husband for 47 years, died August 3, 1991.

He was not drafted into the service, he enlisted in 1940 (August) and was discharged in August 1945. He was with the 84th Field Artillery, 9th Division. He was very proud of the 9th Division and his wonderful friends and buddies he had then.

Clifford was terminally ill with cancer the last 3 years of his life. His dream was to go back to Ft. Bragg in N.C. one more time and maybe see some of his friends again. How he would have enjoyed this reunion with the 9th that is coming up. And the books you have listed in the March and April Octofoil, how he would have enjoyed having them to read. He was a wonderful Christian man and lived a happy and useful life until the end, and his life in the Service was a very great part of his life.

May you have a wonderful Reunion and God Bless you all.

## 9th MEDICAL BATTALION REUNION

The 9th annual reunion was held in Pigeon Forge, TN at the Quality Inn the weekend of April 9-10. Pigeon Forge is a resort town, with many attractions, including "Dollywood," which is nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains.

While traveling south from Rochester, three weeks earlier than our usual meeting date, we witnessed nature unfolding its Spring beauty. It was a most welcomed sight, one of the joys of traveling, to see budding trees and shrubs, green grass and blossoming flowers and trees. When we left home snow was still covering the ground.

Through the kindness and efforts of John and Louise Lewis, 24 Medical Battalion Buddies met. Some members came alone, some with their wives, family and friends. Sue Johnstone, widow of our beloved Bruce, also attended. As usual "C" Co. had the best representation with: Alex Balough, Stanley & Helen Busta, Chalmus & Greta Cochran, Aldor & Vicky Cook, Charles & Barbara Denton, Fred & Phyllis Dick, James & Marie Fite, Dr. A.G. & Beulau Floyd, Joe & Marian Kash, Andrew & Ann Kopach and sister Anna Kopach, John & Louise Lewis, Carl & Louise Motley and Family (Virginia, Kay & Chris), Ralph Palermo and Angelo & Betty Rinchiuso; representing "B" Co. Donald & Cynthia Hyde and Peter & Elizabeth Radichio; representing "A" Co. Tandy & Lois Frazier, Oliver & Ruth Karns and Willie & Euna Fay Bobbitt; representing Headquarters George & Odette Abatto, Sab & Virginia Agostinelli, Bill & Bertha Carson, Richard & Juanita Cooley and Joseph & Marian Medea. The following were most welcomed for attending their first reunion: the Abattos and the Cooleys. Congratulations to all the above for attending and making it a most happy reunion.

A great time was had by all renewing friendships, getting acquainted with our new members, taking pictures, browsing through picture albums, and sharing past experiences and recollections. The highlight of our get-together was the gathering of all members, their wives, families, relatives and friends in our CP room. John Lewis called the meeting to order and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. He then introduced those attending their first reunion and followed with a short business meeting.

John then turned the meeting over to Charles Denton, who conducted our memorial service. His theme was "Glad to be an American." He led us in silent prayer paying respect and homage to the 4581 we left behind in Africa and Europe and for those who have since gone to their eternal rest, especially the beloved of our Battalion. To our knowledge our most recent loss was our Battalion Commander Dr. Abraham Kaufman, James Richards from Headquarters and Wilbert Schexsnyder from "C" Co. Our belated sympathy to their families, relatives and friends.

We ask all former Battalion members who are not on John Lewis's mailing list to please send him their name, address and unit to 211 Midland Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160. Sab Agostinelli, Hqrs..

## 9th SIGNAL COMPANY REUNION

Just a few lines to thank you, your lovely wife Marie and the Convention Committee for the excellent work that the 47th Annual Reunion, and the 50th Anniversary of our leaving Ft. Bragg accomplished. It was fantastic ...

The ceremonies at Ft. Bragg, in spite of the "damp" air, were solemn, impressive and sentimental and tears were unashamedly shed when taps were sounded and the wreath was laid at our monument, and I for one, readily admit to that.

The 9th Signal Company held its annual reunion in conjunction with the Division's. The usual "Hole in the Wall" for the fellows and a lovely suite for the ladies became the "C.P." for what was to follow, namely a special banquet held on Friday evening, June 12th. It was a most memorable night of friendship and fellowship and we have to thank the reunion committee of Bill and Evelyn Miller as well as Dick and Mary Craig. These two couples deserve all the credit for a flawless Signal Company Reunion.

We had members from all points of the compass, and our deceased buddies were remembered in prayer and conversations of the past.

I strongly urge all 9th Signal Company personnel to attend the next (1993) reunion, plans for which are already in the making. Remember "buddies," that time is not on our side and as I mentioned at the banquet, "let's get together for at least, one more time."

RAY CONNOLLY  
11 Dunstable Road  
Southampton, N.J. 08088

## 10th Mini Reunion of 60th Inf Co. M

We held our 10th Mini Reunion at the same time and place as the National Association's 50th Anniversary this year, June 11, 12 and 13 at Fayetteville, NC. All M Co. Men were in the Courtyard-Marriott where we had our own Hospitality Room. We attended the Memorial Service at Fort Bragg, held near the Memorial to the men of the 9th Division. The Airborne Band and Color Guard and Rifle Squad were present for our entertainment. The weather was rainy but spirits were high. Our luncheon was at the Officer's Club, then we boarded our buses for the return trip to our Hotel. Saturdays Banquet was well attended. The food was exceptional (Prime Rib) and nice entertainment. We had 34 M Co. Men present and some of their ladies and some grandchildren, making a total of 63. Overall reunion attendance was over 1000. We celebrated Stansell's 45th Anniversary, Pat Gargie's 29th Birthday (one more time) and the birth of a Grandchild to Joe and Mickey DiDuro at a catered dinner in our Hotel. Plans are forthcoming for our 11th Mini Reunion in June 1993 in South Bend, Indiana. Wilfred and Ruth Thornton will be Co-hosts. We are planning a basket workshop for interested ladies conducted by Jennifer Thornton.

60th Inf Co M  
Bob Bovanizer Sect  
14 Sabre Park  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

San Antonio in 1993

Deadline for next issue  
of Octofoil Oct. 20th



Members of the 9th Med Bn who held a mini-reunion in Pigeon Forge, Tn., last April are shown at the gathering. Story appears in Octofoil.



## To "B" (47th) or Not to "B"

**HELP WANTED! NEED FOUR (4) COMPANY B MEMBERS, WILLING TO WRITE THIS COLUMN ONCE A YEAR. PLEASE CONTACT JOSEPH (JOE) TAUBNER AT THE ADDRESS BELOW:**

With that out of the way, we send you Greetings from Bergenfield, NJ, as Pat Morano always did from his home in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Since he no longer feels able to write this column, he asked (in a telephone call on Sunday, July 12th), would Ellie and I write it for him and Company B? The daily pain from Boney Metastatic Disease, has not lessened and he still must undergo hospital treatments. We hope and pray that the treatments will work so that he and Ann can enjoy life again and maybe even join us in Texas in '93.

1992 in Fayetteville was enjoyable because we were with old friends and buddies, but the eight of us were lonely. Yes, only Bill Klauz, John Morgan, Chick & Julie Cecchini, Chuck & Joyce Munger, and Ellie and I were there from Company B. Tony & Pauline Manzollilla were also there, but sat with the Cannon Company group. We were in three different hotels, so getting together was hard. Shockley sent me some money for "A drink for the Boys", but so few came that you have a money credit, to be used at the Texas Reunion. I would suggest that we set up a CP after we all get to Texas with that credit, and then see how many are coming. How does that sound? Please rest up, too for next year, and prepare to do a little dancing. In spite of the Band playing some great music, the audience never lasted to 11:30 PM! Around 11:00 PM, on Thursday and Friday, the dance floor was practically deserted. I didn't mind that at all, but oh, did Ellie! and a couple (except for Chick Cecchine and his Waltzes) of her favorite dance partners were missing too! In spite of constant rain, the Memorial Service at Fort Bragg, was especially moving. Today's young soldiers, male and female, were wonderful to see, going through the service ritual. It was interesting talking to them, finding out that their ranks are on their shirt collars now, not on their sleeves. We went up close to an

assault helicopter, and talked to its pilot. As they all told us, they had such awe and respect for the 9th Division, and its great record in combat. Lunch, Southern Style at the Officers Club, was good and plentiful. Better than "C" Rations I can tell you! The Banquet on Saturday night, was also enjoyable, with no long speeches, only awards, the Ladies' Raffle, and entertainment by Army Wives Singing group. I, for one don't like to sit and hear about what we did 50 years ago, I know what we did!

I mailed out programs from the Reunion, and Reservation forms for the Texas Reunion to as many Company B men as I could. All of us there went home with them, and the Cecchins, Mungers, and Taubners have sent in their reservations already. Bill and John thought that they were not coming, and the Shockleys told em that they were definitely flying there. I hope that I get answers from the men I wrote to, and anybody else out there who reads this. If we do it early enough, we can all be together in one hotel, and not separated as in Fayetteville. Refunds are easily available if you can't make it. We are going to be there a day early, (mostly for Ellie's Ladies Auxiliary business), so we will be able to greet a large turnout of Company B!

I'll end the way I began, please help Pat Morano continue this column, started by Art Stenzel so long ago, and kept up by Pat. Ellie and I will help, but she still writes her "Ladies Corner" column, and feels that a Veteran B member should write it on a regular basis. I'm good for one a year, how about some Volunteers (dirty work, I know) for the other four columns? We'll tell you when and how, if you are interested. Ellie and I are both feeling good, not going anywhere this summer except for short visits to friends, relatives, and nearby places (like the Meadowlands Race Track on July 3rd, where I won 5 out of 10 races, including a trifecta!). The last two weeks in August we'll head up to Maine, the Lake we love, and visit our son and his family. With that said, I'll really end this (writing is like Chinese Water Torture for me!), and hope to hear from at least four of you. Keep well.

Joe Taubner  
85 Smith Avenue  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621  
201-385-5280

Co. B 47th Inf.  
MRS. STEVE LELAK  
(WANDA)  
802 E. Flag Place  
Poinciana, FL 34759

Sending a check for the Memorial Fund in Memory of Steve. Since the reunion is in Ft. Bragg this year, I thought I'd send a few pictures that were taken in the 40's. Perhaps you can take them to the reunion and share them with the men that were there at the time, and maybe some of them will recognize themselves.

I remember the last time Steve and I were at the reunion in Ft. Bragg, he really enjoyed himself, said it brought back a lot of memories.

Keep on sending the Octofoil, enjoy reading it, especially when I recognize some of the names.

I want to thank all those that keep on sending me Christmas cards, forgive me for not sending any, but my heart isn't in it since Steve is gone. For those that remember our daughter, Linda, she is fine and is a T.A.G. teacher in Dallas, Texas and loves her job. She still talks of all the reunions we used to go to, especially George Kopak, how he used to look after the little ones, while we older ones were enjoying ourselves.

Well, Dan, that's enough of going down memory lane. I hope you and your family are in good health. Take care.

### 1993 Reunion in Texas Oct. 7-10

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.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER

Our Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin took place on May 1st and 2nd with a good crowd in attendance. As usual, Mike and Vera Carpenter were in charge handling all the arrangements. Our thanks and appreciation for a job well done. Instead of having Saturday dinner at the Heritage House adjoining the Ramada Hotel, we opted to go our separate ways. We met back at the CP room at 9:00 P.M. and held door prize drawings and a raffle. During the meeting on Saturday, the following officers were elected: Lewis Gray, Pres. Jack Collier, Vice President, Gordon Anderson, Secretary (re-elected), Mike Belmonte, Treasurer (re-elected), and Bill Hennemuth, Sgt. at Arms. Congratulations and best wishes to all the officers.

We also wish to report that the Hellers are proud grandparents to a darling girl, Rebecca, born March 6th. As expected, David and DV are as proud as can be. Also, we became grandparents again. Lauren Ann was born on June 21st and both baby and parents are all doing fine.

Memorial Services were held on Sunday, May 24th at St. Adelbert Cemetery. It was a very moving ceremony conducted by David Heller with speeches by our new President, Lewis Gray and myself. Color Guard was Ted Preston. Services were brief as it was extremely cold and services were concluded with the playing of Taps. Afterwards we adjourned to a local restaurant for lunch. After lunch some of the members went to the Anderson Home for more conversation and a delicious dessert made by Marian.

We are sorry to report the loss of one of our member's wife. Bill Johnston's wife, Esther passed away on March 6th. Memorial services were held in Florida at that time and also one in Illinois on Saturday, May 23rd. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to Bill and his family.

## TAPS

We would also like to report the death of another one of our Illinois members. William C. Leslie passed away on February 17, 1992.

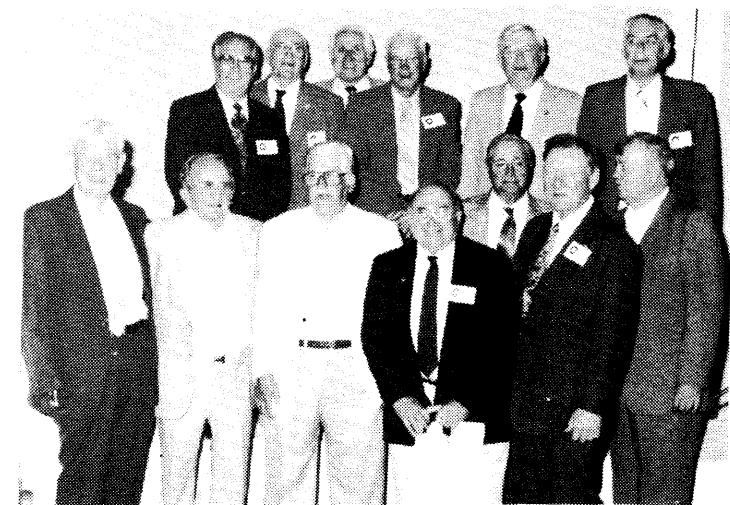
We all arrived home safe and sound from Ft. Bragg. Our congratulations to Bob and Florence DeSandy and Dan and Marie Quinn for a job well done, as well as to their committees. Having just done this last year, we know all the work involved in getting a successful reunion arranged. The accommodations at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux were excellent. We were happy to see Larry Ghre with his son. We missed you Kay, and hope to see you next year. It was great seeing so many of our old buddies.

Unfortunately we had rain for the Memorial Services at Ft. Bragg. The services were very impressive with the Color Guard at attention throughout the time. The luncheon following at the Officers Quarters was well organized. Inasmuch as the services were shortened, we were all served early and returned back to the hotels with no one left behind. We had 23 buses transporting the troops to and from Ft. Bragg. That was some job of arranging and our thanks again to Bob DeSandy.

The Golf outing was well attended and arranged by Frank Rankin. Congratulations to the winners.



Charles Bodnar, at 47th sends this picture taken in Sicily in 1943, near the town of Cefalu, just before the Ninth sailed for England. Charles is like the rest of us — he knew all the men shown but time has erased the names of some of them. Perhaps some of our members can help name them. Shown top row, (l-r): Unknown, Unknown, Deadeye McKay, Catus, Mueller, Blood, Unknown, Busby. Center row, (l-r): Lewis, Unknown, Banas, Unknown, Brewer, Bodnar. Bottom row, (l-r): Milka, Unknown, Unknown, Mangini.



Members of the 84th FA gather for a photo at the Reunion.

## Michigan News

July, 1992. Can any one tell me where the last six months have gone? Seems like yesterday that we were cleaning up after the New Years Eve Party.

So much has happened to all in those past months.

In our house my open heart surgery was the big news. (I am doing well thank you.) Then on May 2nd we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. It doesn't seem that long ago that we, Jennie and I, traded vows at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Time does fly.

On July 22nd I celebrate my 77th birthday. Looking at those figures it is hard to believe that we have been married more than half our lives. Enough of me and mine.

The first order of business is that Don Lewis has a new address. He is now living at 105 Eagle Lakes Dr. Friendswood, Texas 77546. All you Michigan Chapter men can correct your records.

Now on to our social calendar: Our out state meeting is being hosted by the Illinois Chapter this year. For all in the Mid-West we are meeting at Holiday Inn Angola, Ind. on October 16 and 17th. If you have never been to a gathering of the troops now is your opportunity to do so.

Further, socially, the Michigan Chapter will have its annual Christmas Party on December 12th at Christys in Birch Run, Mi. All you Michigan Chapter Guys and Gals mark your calendar for that date.

This past weekend a few of us motored to the home of Ed Wisniewski to join with his family and many friends to celebrate his birthday. A good time and excellent food was enjoyed by all present. I won't tell his age but like many of us he will not see 70 again.

Roger Alsgaard  
2834 Wynes St.  
Saginaw, Mi. 48602-3730

There were over 900 people for the banquet on Saturday night. The food left a little to be desired but the hotel served most of the tables in a satisfactory manner considering the numbers. Trevor Jones and Tom Hatton did a tremendous job on the seating arrangements. The Army Wives Chorus, Stars and Stripes, was a pleasant addition to the evening which moved along quite smoothly. The only mishap of the evening was the announcement of the fact that Fran Mahar was taken away in an ambulance. We have not heard anything further and hope he is fine. We will keep you in our prayers. Get well quick. We also learned that Mike Carpenter had a rough trip home and ended up in the hospital. He is doing better and is now home recuperating.

On June 22nd, Irma Koskie's family surprised her with a party for her 75th birthday. It was a celebration Irma will remember for a long time. Best wishes.

The Illinois Chapter will be busy celebrating 50th Wedding Anniversaries of some of our members. Wanda and Ted Preston have a party scheduled for July 18th and Lewis and Muriel Gray have a party on August 21st. Congratulations to both couples and may you enjoy many more years of happiness together. Also congratulations to Ted Preston on being elected to the Board of Governors.

## OUTSTATE MEETING

The Outstate Meeting with the Michigan Chapter will be hosted by the Illinois Chapter this year. It will be on October 16th and 17th in Angola Indiana at the Holiday Inn. Anyone interested in attending should contact the hotel directly for reservations. Rates will be: King - single \$54.90, King -double \$62.10, Two double beds -single \$51.30, double \$58.50, plus tax

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

## M COMPANY (47TH) CHRONICLER

Dear Compadres:

They didn't give any prizes at the Reunion this year for "best-represented-company" but, if they had, M/47 would have been right up there. There were 20 of us which includes, besides yours truly: John B. Evans of Macon, GA; Lou LaCivita of McKee's Rocks, PA; Sam Draper of Trinity, AL; Leo Fatlan of Braidwood, IL; Howard Gaertner of Wauwatosa, WI; Bill Horan of Columbus, GA; Joe Kearns of West Palm Beach, FL; Ray King of St. Petersburg, FL; Lyle Kitchen of Janesville, WI; Conda Knee of Newark, OH; John Knight of Wilkes-Barre, PA; Don Kothe of Capitol Heights, MD; Joe Kscenaitis of Yorktown Heights, NY; Ed Little of Tamaqua, PA; Willard Norris of Burnet, TX; Bud Rosenfeld of Hewlett, NY; Lou Schneider of Pittsburgh, PA; Dewey Siddons of Richmond, VA; and Ed Wills of Florence, KY. I've listed all those hometowns and embarrass those of you who live within the perimeter and felt it was too far. "Try it; you'll like it."

## REUNION IN TEXAS

The Reunion next year will be at San Antonio, TX, on October 7, 8 and 9. Details are given elsewhere in this issue. Gentlemen, start your planning! Willard Norris, called the other day to say he'll check on the CP set-ups and suggest that the Texas Chapter resume some sort of recognition for the largest turn-out from a company-size unit. Bill Horan says he won't forget the guidons next year. He's on his way in August to the National Matches at Camp Perry, OH. Good shooting, Bill!

At Fayetteville Lou LaCivita gave me a copy of a report on the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall in Pittsburgh. "Poncho" is a member of the Board of that fine establishment. What I'm saying is that we could get all 127 of us M-ers in that place and not quite fill it. We ought to think about it as a place to hold a mini-convention. Al Kaminsky has been talking this up. Pittsburgh would be a central sort of spot.

I said there's now 127 of us. We've gained a couple more from the VA project reported on last month:

Hobart D. Warwick, 233 Radford Pl., Knoxville, TN, 37917; (615) 924-7950, is a Safi vet of the mortar platoon. He was WIA and evacuated from the Katterherberg area in January, '45.

Leon C. Areras, Rt. 1, Box 138, Kenedy, TX, 78119. Since this kid admits to only 67 years, I'm not too sure he's eligible to join us old timers.

Joe Ventura of E. Providence, RI, writes that Joe Cebulski's alleged killer is in custody. He's a 14-year-old kid! You can understand how Cebulski probably failed to take the threat seriously. Ventura's phone no. is (401) 438-9184. Elsewhere in this issue, the editor willing, is a photo of some of the 3rd (mortar) platoon. Ventura and Harry E. Nadeau (remains a missing M-er) are identified. Are any of the others recognized? The tall chap in the center of the rear rank could be "Slim" Lebar of Taylor, MI???

Ralph Graf of Friendship, WI, figured that he might have a world record (44 years plus) for walking on a wooden leg, but I think fellow M-er Joe Kscenaitis can top that. He lost the original in Tunisia nearly 50 years ago, and made it to Fayetteville, you might have noticed.

Those of us at Fayetteville are agreed, I think, that the Reunion Committee did a grand job putting on this 50th Anniversary affair. A big tip of the old steel pot goes to Co-chairpersons Bob DeSandy and Danny Quinn for a Job Well Done. We especially enjoyed the CP which was provided gratis to M by the Holiday Inn.

The weather put the damper on things during the Memorial Service at Fort Bragg. In

outstanding fashion, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Frank B. Gunn, once of the AAA-0, reviewed the 9th WWII history and saluted the sacrifices of its 4,851 fallen.

## CHANGE FAILED

Later at the business meeting, my proposal to amend the Association's Bylaws to allow membership of the 9th Vietnam War vets failed by a vote of 198 to 129. I didn't mind the defeat half as much as I minded the 108 members who were present but sat on their hands.

So, we remain a "Last Man's Club." I'll help anyone who wants to try it again in order to get our Association re-focused on its original purpose — to perpetuate the 9th Division's accomplishments.

Meanwhile, I'm concentrating on building M/47, selling the remaining copies of "El Guettar," and researching a sequel about the great victory won by the 9th in Northern Tunisia. In this connection I call your attention to a package being proposed by Galaxy Tours for May of next year. It will include visits to El Guettar and Sedjenane Valley with lots of time in the sun at one of these lavish seaside resorts which weren't around when we were there last. For the wives there are all those goodies from the Last Big Bazaar. It sounds like a winner to me.

In researching the fighting in N. Tunisia one thing has come up. A historical report of the 47th for 1943 states:

"A mass tank attack was reported the same afternoon (May 7). Tank destroyer units were called by Anti-Tank Company but the attack was ascertained to contain only one or two tanks, The 751st Med. Tank Bn. and the 894th Tank Destroyers continued on the road to Bizerte."

This reminded me of Joe Smith's remembrance of Joe Popeil's death as reported in "Heavy Weapons," so I wrote Joe out in Neopit, WI and he called back, recalling that M's 1st Platoon had been supporting L Company that day. It was late in the afternoon. They had been stopped for several hours astride a black-topped road and, as usual, Ken Holmes had driven up in a jeep bringing mail, water and C's. The two Joe's and others, including Sidney Schwartz, were among some farm buildings which had surrounding fields high with grain. After a while they could hear, but not see, armor moving about in the grain fields ahead. Some fellows, possibly including Holmes, began firing rifles at the direction of this activity and then a cross-marked tank, came through the field across Joe's front, a few hundred yards away. The enemy spotted Joe and his companions. The tank stopped, swung its turret and fired two fast rounds of HE. The first shot was high and exploded in the road behind them. The second was right in their midst but only Popeil was hit. A large fragment had cracked his skull killing him instantly. Smith remembers this as the last action of the day and the African campaign.

60th M Co.

H.F. STANSELL

217 River Beach Dr.

Ormond Beach, FL 32176

It was great being in Fayetteville at the convention, seeing all our friends with the 9th Division.

It was beautiful at the Memorial Service, wish the sun had shined and we could have taken more pictures. Lila and I are really looking forward to going to San Antonio in 1993. To spend a vacation in San Antonio sounds interesting. We hope the person that made the beautiful Octofoil pillow will make another one to raffle off. Naturally, I would like to win it.

Bob & Marge, thank you for the picture in your letter, it is a good one of all five of us.

Thanks to all the M Co. people for a lovely party on our anniversary and Pat's birthday. We enjoyed it immensely. We had a lot of cards from friends when we got home, plus all the lovely ones up there. All you people are wonderful. Thanks again, it was great.

It was good to see Phillip Emmons from Shreveport, La., we will be looking forward to seeing you again in 1993 in Texas. Was great to see Chester Braune from Mountain Brook, Ala. We met him when he saw the Octofoil tag on my car in a shopping mall in Valdosta, Ga. I was very pleased, we like to meet new people that were in the 9th Division.

To all you M Co. men that didn't get to come to Fayetteville, we sure missed you and hope you will try very hard to be in South Bend, Ind. next June. You will be notified of the dates.

On the 12th of July, we had a phone call from Cole Gronseth. He had had surgery, was home and feeling real well. He goes back to his surgeon in two weeks, if all is well at that time, they will go to Michigan for the rest of the summer. We are glad the surgery is over and he is doing fine. Continued "Good Luck" Cole.

34th F.A., Hq. Btry.

BOB TURNER

6 Monroe Ave.

Woburn, MA 01801

Just a note to say how much I enjoyed the reunion, despite the weather. The 34th had the best turnout that I can remember at the reunions I have attended. We had 23 members in attendance due to two factors, I think: Leon Birum's newsletter, and the reunion being in Fayetteville, where most of us started. Anyway, it was a great time to just renew old acquaintances and gab from morning 'till night!

On the way down, my wife and I stopped to visit Hank Gordon and his wife. Hank was unable to come to the reunion for health reasons, but wanted to be remembered to all. Hank was in the wire section of Hq. Btry.

I was disappointed in the fact that brochures of Fayetteville and Ft. Bragg made no mention of the 9th Division.

I'd like to hear from others who recall this incident. Were other men from L. Company killed or wounded in the melee? How many tanks were involved? Where did they go after the shooting stopped?

Joe is building a new home for himself and his son's family out there on the Menominee Indian Reservation and he's quite pleased about this happy event. It's a good break for him — long overdue.

I'm writing this as my Fourth of July thing. Keep cool! Red Phillips  
14002 Hemlock Dr.  
Penn Valley, CA, 95946

## Ladies Corner

Well we did it again, and only 9 months after our Milwaukee Reunion! On June 13, 1992, at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux's Versailles Room, we turned out in record numbers: 166 Ladies attended. At least, that's what the Hotel staff collected for our Brunch. I think that all of you who attended and enjoyed our Brunch, show and meeting should take a bow! And take another one for the amount we raised: over \$1,800.00 from our Raffle, Pollyanna, Membership fees, and the Meeting's slight profit. Of course, we immediately voted to give away most of it. To Auxiliary member Rose Bottella we gave a \$400.00 check for the Audie Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. Four \$300.00 checks were given to: Auxiliary member Marjorie Bovanizer for the Buffalo VA Hospital in New York; Auxiliary member Dvora Heller for the "Purple Heart Cruise" on Lake Michigan, organized and conducted by Columnist Irv Kupcinet of the Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago, Illinois; Daphne Grubb (VA's representative American Legion Auxiliary, Fayetteville Medical Center, who was Lorraine Clark's guest at our Brunch) for use in that hospital; Ruth Webster, Auxiliary member, for the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton, New Hampshire. This action was taken after much discussion where we all restated our position that we want our money to go to individual Veterans and their comfort. All the Ladies so designated promise to do so, and we know from the letters of thanks received in the past, that this happens. In the next column, I will quote from the letters of thanks I have already received. Of course, all this business transpired after our divinely delicious Brunch and Show were over. The food (what I had of it) was scrumptious and apparently all the Ladies agreed with me. The Show, arranged and narrated by Jan Fox of Belk Department Store of Fayetteville, was very interesting. Mrs. Fox, a self-described "Army Brat," now married to a career officer, who served in the Persian Gulf War, was as beautiful as she was capable. She told us of colors, their effect on women regarding their attitudes and emotions. We then viewed some lovely clothes in various styles and colors suitable for mature women. They were not on models, but carried around on hangers by some of our Ladies (Ruth Lees, Rosalie Painter, Carol Saunders, etc.). All were available at the Belk Store, and we received a 20% off coupon if we wished to purchase any of the clothes there. I think I missed some of the show, as I was busy with some necessary

details. If anyone can fill in the missing gaps in my description, please write me with them?

Our Pollyanna gifts made many ladies happy, and as usual was a financial success. Our thanks to those ladies who sold those tickets: Rosalie Painter, Ruth Jordan, Lorraine Clark, and Ruth Lees were some of them, I think. Correct me if I am wrong, please.

In the business part of the meeting, Mary McLaughlin, our Chaplain, led us in prayer, and quoted one beautiful piece, which she is still going to send to me for publication in this column. Marlene Sanchez, Alice Newhouse and Daphne Grubb moved us very much with their accounts of how the money we sent to them for use in the nearby Veterans Hospitals, was so needed and how gratefully they received the gifts.

Last, but not least, the results of our Big Raffle (whose tickets were sold by Ruth Lees, Wanda Preston, Carol Saunders, Rosalie Painter and Ruth Jordan), which was held on Saturday, June 13th at the Banquet. President Mary Brasington, assisted by Vice-President Carol Saunders awarded the prizes as follows: to Billy Martin of 26th F.A. Battery A, the Duck Lamp donated by the McLhinney family of Havre de Grace, Maryland; to Marion Anderson, wife of Gordon Anderson, 9th Reconnaissance, the Ceramic Christmas Lamp made by Ruth Lees; to George Armaniaco of Cresskill, NJ, also of the 9th Reconnaissance, the Hand-Made chair by Mary & Herb Brasington; to Bill Carson, Florida, of the 9th Medics, the Bed Sack donated by Emil Langer; to Ruth Webster, wife of Robert Webster of Company H, 47th Regiment, the Quilt & Pillow Sham, made by Mary Brasington; to Mary McLaughlin, Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain, and wife of William McLaughlin of Cannon Company, 47th Regiment the Afghan made by Carol Saunders; to Nadine Collier, St. Louis, Mo. wife of Jack Collier, Company C, 47th Regiment, the Baby Cradle made by the hands of Herb & Mary Brasington; to Will Green, Trenton, NJ, of Company L, 47th Regiment, the Ceramic Flower Pot Lamp made by Wanda & Ted Preston; to Arlene Sailors, Nebraska, wife of Stan Sailors of the 9th Signal Corps, the Door Stop made by Lorraine Clark.

All were happy with their prizes and I am happy to end this column Right now! Further details on the Reunion and my feature "Spotlight Ladies" will appear in the next column. Take care and please keep in touch.

Ellie Taubner, Treasurer  
85 Smith Avenue  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621



Members of Company E, 39th Inf are shown at the Fayetteville reunion.

Texas in October 1993



## Business Conducted at Reunion

### Minutes of the 172nd Meeting of the National Board of Governors

The 172nd Board Meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held in Fayetteville, North Carolina at the Holiday Inn, on June 11, 1992.

The meeting began at 4:15 PM when President Ed Hopkins called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand for a moment of silence in memory of our departed members.

Attending the meeting were: Al Perna, Len Tomassone, Walter O'Keeffe, George Brown, Bob DeSandy, Howard Gaertner, Michael Belmonte, Trevor Jones, Ron Murphy, Bill Carson, Phil Berman and Tom Hatton. Also present were 1st V.P. Vincent Guglielmino, Judge Advocate Dave Heller, Larry MacLaughlin, Emil Langer, Ed Wisniewski, Fran Maher, Henri Santos, Ed McGrath, Bill Billings and Pat DeColli.

Secretary Dan Quinn read the minutes of the last meeting held in April in Fayetteville, NC and upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Phil Berman it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and instruct the secretary to place copy of same on file.

Tom Boyle the Treasurer was called upon for his report and he gave a detailed account of the income and spending of the Association including the end of June (our fiscal year) and upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Walter O'Keeffe, it was voted to: Accept the treasurers report.

Bob DeSandy reported on the events of the reunion in Fayetteville. Bob told the members that over 950 members were expected to attend and he stressed the importance of the tickets for the luncheon being held in the Officers Club at Ft. Bragg after the Memorial Services on Friday, June 12th. DeSandy briefed the members as what to expect for the next three days. President Hopkins thanked DeSandy for his report.

Dave Heller spoke of a proposed trip to Tunisia and Europe and more details will be discussed at the General Meeting being held on Saturday.

#### Veterans Award

Larry McLaughlin Chairman of the Veterans Awards Committee and members of the committee Adolph Wadalavage and Henry Santos recommended to the members of the Board that the VA Hospital in Fayetteville be granted an award of \$1095.00 for two items that will be used by the patients of the hospital. Upon a motion made by Walter O'Keeffe and seconded by Len Tomassone it was voted to: Approve the recommendations of this committee.

Walter O'Keeffe made the following proposal to change the status of the Board of Governors, this was seconded by Robert DeSandy and so moved.

1. That the first sentence of Article V - Section 27 "Board of Governors" which now reads as follows; "The members of the Association at the Annual Meeting shall elect by plurality vote sufficient members of the Board of Governors so that it will consist of a total of fourteen (14) members." BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

"The members of the Association at the Annual Meeting shall elect by plurality vote sufficient members of the Board of Governors so that it will consist of a total of fifteen (15) members."

2. That the third sentence of Article VII - Section 33 "Meeting of The Board" which now reads as follows; "At all meetings of the Board six (6) Governors shall be necessary

and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the act of a majority of the Governors present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Board of Governors, except as otherwise provided by the statute or by the certificate of incorporation or by these by-laws;" BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

"At all meetings of the Board eight (8) Governors shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the act of a majority of the Governors present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Board of Governors, except as otherwise provided by the statute or by the certificate of incorporation or by these bylaws."

President Hopkins named the following Board members to act as Chairman of the various committees at the General Meeting:

Financial Committee - Walter O'Keeffe

By-laws - George Brown

Newspaper - Michael Belmonte

Miscellaneous - Bill Carson

Nominating - Tom Hatton

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Al Perna it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 5:30 P.M.

### Minutes of the 173rd General Membership Meeting

The General Membership Meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place at the Holiday Inn, Fayetteville, North Carolina on June 13, 1992. President of the Association called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and named the following members who will chair the various committees for the Meeting: Walter O'Keeffe, Finance Committee; George Brown, By-Laws Committee; Michael Belmonte, Newspaper Committee; Miscellaneous Committee - Bill Carson; Nominating Committee Tom Hatton.

President Hopkins requested the Chairmen to rise and be recognized for the members who will serve on these committee. Different meeting places had been designated for the committees who will meet and return at 11:15 A.M. for the regular meeting to begin.

At 11:15 A.M. President Hopkins reopened the meeting and asked the members to stand for a moment of silence in memory of our departed members. Hopkins led the members in "The Pledge of Allegiance" to the Flag of the USA.

President Hopkins asked the Secretary to read the minutes of the last reunion held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1991.

Upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Nick Dogostino it was voted to: Accept the reading of minutes by the Secretary and to instruct the secretary place copy of same on file.

Tom Boyle the Treasurer was called upon for his report and he gave a detailed account of the income and spendings of the association and that the income received in May and June will be added to later reports. Tom concluded with these remarks, "It is my considered opinion that our Association is in good financial condition. This condition is due fully to the attention given by its Officers and Board of Governors. Upon a motion made by Anthony Varone and seconded by Henry Santos it was voted to: Accept the Treasurer Report.

Bob DeSandy Co-Chairman of the Reunion Committee reported as to events that had taken place and those that will

take place. He expects 1000 members and their families to be part of this 48th Reunion and 50th Anniversary of the Ninth's leaving for overseas in WW2. President Hopkins thanked Bob DeSandy and his committee for their efforts and a job well done.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Thomas Hatton Chairman of the Nominating Committee was called upon and he named the following members who served with him: Al Perna Philly, Del. Val. Chapter, Ron Murphy NE Chapter, Adolph Wadalavage, NY Chapter, Herb Hoesfner NJ Chapter, Ed Wisniewski Michigan Chapter, Howard Gaertner Illinois Chapter, Arnold Tomaneck Florida Chapter, Ernie Botella Texas Chapter, and Michael Wengryn at large.

There are five members leaving the Board of Governors after the completion of their three years of serving and the committee recommends that the following members replace them. Going off are Mike Belmonte of the Illinois Chapter, Tom Hatton of the Michigan Chapter, Ed Hopkins of the New Jersey Chapter, Walter O'Keeffe of the New York Chapter, Phil Berman of the Florida Chapter.

The committee recommends these members: New York Chapter - Mary Levy, New Jersey Chapter - Frank Haines, Michigan Chapter - Billie Martin, Illinois Chapter - Ted Preston, Florida Chapter - Lewis "Chip" Maness, Texas Chapter - John W. Miller, a replacement for the late Fred D'Amore of the New England Chapter - Ed McGrath.

The President asked for nomination from the floor and upon a motion by Fran Maher it was voted: to close the nomination, this was seconded by John Sabato and so moved. Bill Klauz motioned for the secretary to cast one ballot for a unanimous election-seconded by Art Schmidt and so moved.

President Ed Hopkins thanked Tom Hatton and his committee for their efforts.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Walter O'Keeffe, Chairman of the Finance Committee, when called upon for his report named the following members who served with him on his committee: Gordon Anderson, Illinois Chapter; Lewis Gray, Illinois Chapter; Elmer Wagner, Michigan Chapter; Len Tomassone, Philly Del Valley Chapter; Frank Haines, New Jersey Chapter; John Miller, Texas Gr. South Western Chapter; Norris Gray, Florida Chapter; Larry Kaufman, New England Chapter; Vincent Guglielmino, New York Chapter; and Tom Boyle, Treasurer.

Anticipated income  
Dues \$10,000.00  
CGM (Mutual Funds) 2,000.00  
Scudder Stevens 1,000.00  
Mutual Fund  
Reunion 1,000.00  
Sales 2,000.00  
\$14,200.00

#### 1993 Budget

Octofoil \$7,635.00  
Secretary Salary 1,000.00  
Clerical Help 1,000.00  
Utilities 1,330.00  
Postage 3,200.00  
Miscellaneous 450.00  
Supplies 650.00  
Secretary Expense 1,000.00  
Editors Expense 400.00  
Treasurer Expense 300.00  
Account 300.00  
FICA 76.00  
Total \$17,391.00  
General Fund \$6,684.21 (as of this date) June 30, 1992  
\$17,391.00  
\$14,200.00  
\$-3,191.00 (deficit) - funds available from Gen Fund.

The finance committee recommends that the Association Investments Portfolio be reviewed.

Upon a motion made by Pat DeColli and seconded by Henry Santos it was voted to: Accept the Finance Committee's report and budget.

President Hopkins thanked O'Keeffe and his committee for their report.

#### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

George Brown Chairman of the By-Laws Committee was called upon for his report and he named the following members who served on this committee: Dave Heller, John Edmonds, Al Zenka, Fran Maher, Ted Preston, Floyd Hennessey, Pete Zimmer, Pat DeColli, Gordon Schneider, and Lowell Frederichs. The committee discussed the proposed changes to the By-Laws and found that the proposed amendment as submitted by Red Phillips regarding the status of membership qualifications had been duly submitted in the proper form and 30 days notice to the membership had been complied with.

Proposal to limit debates on the proposed changes to the By-Laws was discussed. It was recommended that each speaker be limited to three minutes and total time for discussion be limited to 30 minutes.

The committee recommends the amendment be brought to the membership for their consideration.

Paul Clark made a motion that was seconded by Bob DeSandy to: Accept the report and recommendations of the By-Laws Committee.

President Ed Hopkins thanked George Brown and his committee for their report.

#### NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

Michael Belmonte who chaired the Newspaper Committee reported and named the following members who served with him on this committee: Marvin Levy, New York Chapter; Emil DeDonato, Florida Chapter; Richard Granbery, Texas Gr. S. Western Chapter; Rob Rucker, Texas Gr. South West Chapter; Bill Martin, Michigan Chapter; Mike Carpenter, Illinois Chapter; Paul Clark, Illinois Chapter and Nick Dogostino, Philly Del Val Chapter.

Belmonte reported that a "heartly discussion" was held by the committee on the pros and cons of how to improve and make the Octofoil a better paper and the unanimous conclusion was that the Octofoil Personnel in charge of getting out the newspaper are doing an excellent job and that because of economic conditions five issues are not to be cut. If there were funds available, six issues a year would be better.

Upon a motion made by Trevor Jones and seconded by Dick O'Connor it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Newspaper Committee.

President Hopkins thanked Belmonte and his committee for their report.

#### MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE

Bill Carson Chairman of the Miscellaneous Committee reported and named the following members on this committee: Pete Rice, Texas, Gr. Southwest Chapter; Marty Krasovetz, Philly-Del Valley Chapter; Martin Gross, New York Chapter; William DeBruyn, Michigan Chapter; and Bill Hennemuth, Illinois Chapter.

The committee recommends that all future reunions be held in the Fall of the year. If a golf outing is to be included in the reunion scheduled that a "shotgun start" be used. Reimburse the secretary and treasurer for the cost of strip tickets at the reunion. Memorial Services be conducted in the hotel site and

eliminate the use of buses in traveling to the Memorial Site.

Upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Ernie Newhardt it was voted to: Accept the report of the Miscellaneous Committee. President Hopkins thanked Bill Carson and his committee for their report.

#### CHANGE OF BY-LAWS

President Hopkins then called for new business and Henry "Red" Phillips asked to address the members. He had proposed a change of the By-Laws and notified the members of such change via the Octofoil - Reds proposal "between May 1, 1945 and who 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."

Bob DeSandy seconded the motion and several members spoke for and against the change. Walter Clark motion to close the discussion and call for a vote of the proposal: this was seconded by Al Perna, and so moved. The membership cards of the members entering the meeting had been checked (all were in order) and a ballot handed to each member as he entered the meeting.

#### CHANGE DEFEATED

When the ballots were counted by the committee the majority of the members who had voted (a number had abstained) voted against the change of the By-Laws.

Jim Leopold spoke of a proposed trip to the ETO and North Africa and asked those members interested to contact him after the meeting. Details will follow in the Octofoil for those who are interested.

Fran Maher spoke of the possibility of an Ocean Cruise for our members and while he had the floor spoke also of a Memorial Mass at Holy Cross College for the late Father Connors, in November.

John Miller reminded the members of next year's reunion being held in San Antonio Texas on Oct. 7, 8, 9, 1993.

Thomas Boyle spoke for the New England Chapter who will conduct the annual Memorial Mass and Luncheon began in 1945 by the late Father Connors. The next Memorial Service will be held October 25 in Worcester 1992.

There being no other business to come before this body and upon a motion made by Pat DeColli and seconded by Al Perna it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 12:38 P.M.

### The 173rd Meeting of the National Board of Governors

The 173rd meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place at the Holiday Inn (Bordeaux) Fayetteville, North Carolina on June 13, 1992. The meeting was called to order by President Edward Hopkins at 12:55 P.M. who welcomed the new Board members and asked the members to stand in a moment of silence for our departed members. Those in attendance were new members Lewis "Chip" Maness, Billie Martin, Frank Haines, Marv Levy, John Miller and Ted Preston. Also Ed McGrath who will replace the late Fred D'Amore of the New England Chapter. Also present were Howard Gaertner, Al Perna, Len Tomassone, Trevor Jones, George Brown, Ron Murphy and Past Presidents Michael Belmonte and Emil Langer, Dave Heller Judge Advocate, Pat DeColli and Phil Berman. Treasurer Tom Boyle was also present.

Continued Next Page

Continued from preceding page  
**Board of Governors Meeting**  
 A motion was made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Al Perna to: Dispense with the reading of the previous meeting and so moved.

A motion was made by Ron Murphy and seconded by Bob DeSandy to: Omit the report of the treasurer. — So moved.

President Hopkins in his last act as President of the association called for election of officers for the coming year.

#### Election of Officers

John Miller was elected President and Ed Hopkins turned over the gavel of authority to John, wished him well and thanked the members for their cooperation for the past year while he was in office. Miller accept the gavel and thanked the members for the honor bestowed upon him and promised to do all in his power to further the betterment of the association. The following members were elected to serve for the coming year:

1st Vice-President Vincent Guglielmino; 2nd Vice-President Pat DeColli; 3rd Vice-President Fran Maher; Judge Advocate Dave Heller; Secretary Daniel Quinn; Treasurer Thomas Boyle.

#### Lake Placid in 1994

President Miller called for bids for the 1994 Reunion. Three bids were received one from the New York Chapter, another for the reunion to be held in New Orleans and the New England proposed a bid with the reunion to be held in Lake Placid. Lake Placid was chosen for the 1994 reunion.

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Ron Murphy it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Daniel Quinn  
 National Secretary

#### THE GREATER NEW YORK AREA REPORT

Greetings to our members and families of the association from the Greater NY Area Chapter. We hope a good summer was had by all. Here's the update on NY Area troops since our last report.

Because the April meeting would have fallen on Good Friday and Passover, no NY Chapter meeting was held that month.

#### Past Presidents Night

On Friday, May 15, at 8:00 pm, we held our meeting at the Masonic Hall, 71 W 23rd St., NYC, with the annual honoring of Past Presidents of the Greater NY Area Chapter. Those past-presidents who attended were: Lou Almassy '90; George Apar '86; Vincent Guglielmino '59, '89; Emil Langer '66, '70, '76; Marv Levy '91; Dan Quinn '56; Art Schmidt '58, '72; Hermine Suarez '80; Tony Varone '87; Adolph Wadalavage '84 and Harry Wax '78, '85.

Also, down memory lane, these deceased Past Presidents of the NY Chapter were fondly remembered: George Bako '73; Vincent D'Addona '88; Charles Fabre '54; Harry Meltzer '77; Al Oletti '79; Harry Orenstein '71; John Rizzo '64; Max Uman-sky '60 and Joe Uzchak '69. We salute these passed-on dedicated officers.

Current prez Tony DeRobertis chaired the meeting and read correspondence from Joe Kzenaitis; Al Lipton—84th FA; Charles Vandermark—Canon Co. and Vincent Zallo—Co B 39th. (Attending members are always happy to hear from our farflung NY Chapter 9th men, so keep sending in those notes and letters.) Last minute plans were detailed for the following day's March and Memorial

Service at the National Cemetery at Pinelawn, Long Island, NY.

#### Memorial Service

On Saturday, May 16, 22 members, wives and friends assembled at the LI National Cemetery at 10:30 am. The morning was damp and dreary but the 9thmen unfurled their standards, and stoically and proudly marched from the parking lot down the cemetery boulevard flanked by the rows of grave markers that honor our war dead, to the main flag pole where the tricolor Octofoil wreath was placed. Mr. Dennis Kuehl, VA cemetery director and his staff had provided chairs, lectern and sound system to accommodate the 9th men. After a pledge of allegiance the convocation was given by George Apar, Chapter prez, Tony DeRobertis, George Nicklin and Marv Levy gave short addresses honoring the 4,851 9th comrades who died in WWII, and those who have since gone to their eternal reward. Tony Varone provided the closing recorded "taps". Our special thanks go to Mr. Kuehl and staff, and to our honorary 9th man, George Danas, an inspired American, who always freely creates the beautiful Octofoil floral wreath as a labor of love for the liberators of his former North African nation.

Following the ceremony we drove our cars to nearby Bethpage State Park where we had a picnic. Although the weather remained dismal everyone enjoyed the charcoal broiled sausages, hot dogs and hamburgers. The ladies seemed to have a good time together, while the men, some of whom have not made the NYC meetings in a while, enjoyed the camaraderie. Much appreciation of the chapter goes to Art Schmidt, Tony DeRobertis, Tony Varone and Adolph Wadalavage for their efforts in providing the victuals.

#### Reunion Followup

This writer (delegate w/ George Brown on the Board of Governors) reported to the members why the NY bid for the 1994 convention was not successful. The New England delegation made an eloquent, detailed bid to hold the 1994 reunion at Lake Placid, NY, describing all its benefits for the association. Yours truly put in a bid for the Greater NY Area Chapter to host the reunion but since the location had not been determined by the NY Chapter before I met with the board, the board voted in favor of New England as host. I'm sure they'll do a fine job, as usual.

NY Chapter reminder—if you still have not paid your dues. Dues are \$10.00 per year, \$25.00 for three years and \$75.00 for a Lifetime Membership. Make checks payable to the Greater New York Chapter, 9th Infantry Division Association. Send to Secretary Art Schmidt at address below.

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

Art Schmidt, Secretary  
 69-20 69th St.  
 Glendale, NY 11385-6696.

#### BOOKS FOR SALE

The Pawns Of War  
 by: William Kreye

Bill Kreye (now deceased) of the 39th Inf. tells his engrossing personal story while interweaving the historical account of WWII with the 9th Infantry Division from Ft. Bragg to Germany. Only 100 hardcover books left. Send \$10.95 (+ \$3.00 for mailing). Make checks payable to the Greater NY Area Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. Note "for Pawns of War" on check. Send to Secretary Art

#### A COMAT MEDIC LEARNS TO HEAL OTHERS AND HIMSELF

George Nicklin, Medic  
 K Company, 47th Regiment  
 Garden City, N.Y. 11530-4603

Although I had embarked upon my life goal of becoming a physician, Hitler and the world politicians intervened. I attempted to enlist in the Navy in June 1943, but I was rejected for bad eyesight. Accordingly, I was not surprised after being drafted, to be assigned to the infantry, where good eyesight is at a premium, (one of the many paradoxes of the military and the government). Upon induction in late September 1943, I was tested and offered a chance at Officers Candidate School. I rejected this because of the high morbidity/mortality rate of infantry officers and was therefore assigned to the College Engineering Training Program. This program was discontinued after eleven weeks (and higher than expected casualties) and I was sent to train for overseas assignment. My infantry training experience took me from Ft. Benning, GA. to Camp Livingston, LA. to Ft. Mead, MD. In September 1944 I crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Elizabeth I with 17,000 other troops.

I landed in Greenoch, Scotland, by lighter then by train to a replacement depot in Nantwich, England. I crossed the channel on the S.S. Leopoldville with 5,000 other troops and landed on Omaha Beach. Five trips later the Leopoldville was sunk with its crew and 5,000 GI's. From Omaha Beach we traveled by rail to LeMans, France, then by truck to Liege, Belgium. The last leg of the journey left me at Schevenhutte, Germany. I was assigned to King Co. 47th Inf. 9th Div. that occupied Schevenhutte, which was the deepest penetration of Germany for several months.

There then ensued four months of intense infantry fighting — from October 22, 1944 until February 19, 1945. During this time the 120 man unit known as "K" company went through about 500 replacements. Incidentally, the only way in which one could leave combat was to be wounded, psychotic, or dead. There was no rotation during that time. I was amazed to find a few men who had survived until now, who had made the original invasion of Africa in 1944. (Safi, French Morocco) and usually had been personally wounded and hospitalized one or more times — and then returned to "K" Company.

"K" Co. was holding Schevenhutte until the First Div. could clear out Aachen. On November 15, 1944 the push to Duren and thence Cologne was resumed and by the 20th we were in a forest to the northeast of the village of Hamich. During the half day in the woods we were cut from 120 to about 65 effectives. The number of wounded, dead and psychotic seemed incredible. The bombardments seemed endless. Under great stress, I found myself praying. From the carnage around me I quickly found myself at stage three of Elizabeth Kubler-Ross's PSYCHOLOGIC STATES THAT PRECEDE DYING," which I believe went on to a NEW sixth stage, which was psychologically crucial.

#### ROSS'S FIVE STAGES ARE:

1. Couldn't be me.
2. Rage at God, Faith, Nature, whatever, that made this occur.
3. Bargaining with God, Faith, Nature, for reprieve.
4. Cognitive depression at seeing the reality of it.
5. Acceptance.

#### GEORGE NICKLIN'S 6th STAGE IS:

6. An awareness of the divine quality of living and dying to peace of mind, in laying down one's life in war or peace, one contributes to God's Divine Plan, especially if perceived on God's "right" side.

During this period I experienced a sense that something divine had occurred inside of me and that I could rest assured that I would survive with much to do when I got home. I was shaking uncontrollably and continued to do so for about 24 hours. This shaking was from fear and anxiety, which, although better, was still unresolved. Subsequently a clammy came over me, which is called "COMBAT HARDEN-ED" by the military.

This was my first massive psychiatric exposure, it did not move me toward the field but it did make me aware of the problems. When I found myself in the midst of heavy fighting about a third of our casualties were psychiatric. It seemed bizarre to me when I later realized that those who stayed and fought in this sociologic madness called war were regarded as sane, and those who broke down were regarded as insane. Their breakdown led to survival, which seemed sane. Sanity, which was defined as "staying in combat," led to death or wounding, which seemed insane. With this "Catch-22" environment, there were only four exits provided: DEATH, WOUNDING, MADNESS, SURVIVAL INTACT. The last option was virtually impossible in this line of work.

The following is a quotation from Gen. Omar Bradley, who was regarded as the infantryman's general:

"The rifleman trudges into battles knowing that the statistics are stacked against his survival. He fights without either promise or reward or relief; behind every river is another hill — and behind the hill another river. After weeks and months on the line, only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety, shelter, and a bed. Those who are left to fight, fight on to evade death by knowing that each day of evasion, they have exhausted one more chance for survival. Sooner or later, unless victory comes, the chase must end on the litter or in the grave."

I will add, if a Power wants to occupy another country, that Power must have persons willing to die, be wounded or become psychotic, to be able to stand on that country's land.

The November fighting continued at Frenzerberg Castle with "K" being cut to about 35 men. The company was pulled back to Verviers for rest and replacements and I, because of my prior medical training, was transferred to the Medical Corps. I did not go willingly, because they had the highest casualty rate in the business. This was the 16th December, the day the "BULGE" started and most of my early patients were German Paratroopers.

I was sent back to "K" Co. as an Aide Man. They were at Katterherberg on the northern flank of the Bulge. When the Bulge was ironed out, the push to the Rhine began again. During the four months of the winter, K had 499 replacements — I was to become number 500.

On February 18, 1945, "K" Co. was moved to the Roer River east of Schmidt, to replace the 82nd Airborne Division. On the morning of the 19th, hot food was ordered brought up. I protested to my Lieutenant, as we were in clear view of the Germans, that this would produce casualties.

Continued Next Issue

Divarty •  
 BERT C. WALLER  
 12944 Camino Del Valle  
 Poway, CA 92064

#### Commanders We Knew

Many of you picked up a copy of my book, *Commanders We Knew Volume One*, for ten bucks (no profit) at Fayetteville. I ran through all of the copies I had brought to the reunion, but have additional copies available here. If you want a copy please write or call me at (619) 487-3260.

The book is a collection of stories about nineteen people, from privates to generals, of the WW II Ninth Infantry Division from their growing up days, through Fort Bragg, eight campaigns, and into post-war life. The principals are Eddy, Irwin, Gunn, Maness, Kauffman, Fields, Connors, Tepper, DeLaura, Nicklin, Strong, Rucker, Eisenstatt, Curtis, Clarke, Hancock, McGonagle, Lester and Urban. Units covered are the 39th Inf., 47th Inf., 60th Inf., Divarty, Special Troops, and a full section about chaplains.

I enjoyed the reunion. Great work was done by all, especially Bob DeSandy, Ed Hopkins, George Brown and the lovely ladies in the registration line. A salute to them! Looking forward to SAN ANTONIO. Incidentally, God willing, there will be a *Commanders We Knew Volume Two* in about a year, or so.

#### 47th Special Services

BOB DUNN  
 527 Lakeview Drive  
 Swedesboro, NJ 08085

#### SAFE AT THE FRONT!

A convoy carrying elements of the 47th Infantry arrived in Palermo harbor late one afternoon in July of 1943. Because of the hour, it was decided to delay debarking until the following morning.

We were jammed into the transports — many of us well below the water line.

Sometime during the night 18 German planes based in Corsica attacked our convoy. Our anti-aircraft crews sent up a steady barrage in an effort to ward them off.

All of us were sweating it out, many saying prayers.

The attack continued, some of the bombs coming too close for comfort.

Then, just as things seemed to be at their worst, a lone voice piped up: "Oh, for the safety and comfort of the front lines!"

We all laughed, the tension was broken and we lived to see another day.

Co. E, 47th Inf.  
 MAURICE HOUCHES  
 133 Jackson St.  
 Haskell, NJ 07420

My wife and I wish to express our sympathy to my former Company Commander, Frank Petty. Frank was a great leader and did his job well. He will be missed by all who served under him.

#### 15th Engrs. A & B Co.

OSCAR MOE  
 222 Sunrise Ave.  
 Sayville, NY 11782

Ruth and I want to express our complete appreciation for the hospitality at the Fayetteville Reunion. We have great memories to store. We rode through the old area at Ft. Bragg - found the old barracks still there - but the paint rusted a bit.

Too bad controversy kept some of the guys away. I'd like to have Ruth meet some very special guys. Ernie Micila and Alex Forrest - The Mullins were most helpful in reacquainting us with the old gang.



# MAIL CALL

34th F.A.  
PHYLLIS CLEMMEY  
2020 N. Atlantic Ave.  
Cocoa Bch. Fla.

It is with deep sympathy I inform you of the passing of Jack Thomas of Pleasant Valley, N.Y. February 1992.

He was the late John Clemmey's co-driver in the 34th F.A. service battery.

He is survived by his wife Charlotte of forty-six years.

Please find enclosed a donation in his memory for the Memorial Fund.

39th Inf. Hq. & Hq. Co.  
BYRON (Bebe) Wertman  
1749 Shiffler Ave.  
Williamsport, Pa. 17701

Just to let you former members of above named company know, good old Barton Stacey, England is still on the face of the earth. I returned recently from a fifteen-day trip to the United Kingdom with wife, son and daughter-in-law. After visiting Stonehenge and general area, we made the short jaunt to Barton Stacey. I talked with several natives and was told the Camp "was pulled down" seven or eight years ago.

With son on a two year Post-doctorate position at the University of Liverpool Surface Science Center, we had a built in tour guide.

Spoke by phone with Paul Potts in Bedford, Indiana, several years ago and I keep in touch quite regularly with Damon Loveless in Hague, Virginia.

Question Damon and I asked each other - How many men were stationed at Barton Stacey? Would appreciate hearing from anyone who remembers this former member of switchboard and wire crew.

60th Inf.  
JAMES POPESKI  
1228 Shenk Ave.  
Erie, Pa. 16505

I am sorry for being late with my dues, but the reason for this is that I have been in and out of the Hospital for quite some time. After prostrate surgery I ended up in intensive care for a week, and then I was told at the VA hospital that there were malignant tumors in my bladder that they had missed.

I am sending you a couple of pictures of Lt. Col. Matt Urban who served with the 60th. Regiment 9th. Division that were taken here in Erie, Pa. VAMC where he was honored, and I am standing on his right with the polka-dot shirt and cane in my hand.

I hope that you may find the space to put the one picture of us in the Octofoil so that some of the fellows who served can see it and recall some fond memories.

I received two letters from two members of "E" Co. 60th, Inf. Reg. J.W. Baswell and Donald Buelow and also a letter from Irving F. Blabon of the 39th, and I want them to know how sorry I am for not answering them due to my severe medical problems and I will write to them as soon as possible.

Enclosed you will find my dues for three years, and the rest you may use for the Memorial Fund.

Keep up the good work, and May God Bless you and your's and all of the members of the 9th. and their families.

P.S. Again a reminder that while I was in the army my name was Casimir J. Popieski and after being discharged I had it changed to James C. Popeski.

"B" Btry., 84 F.A.  
CHESTER MIKUS  
215 E. Camden Ave.  
8 Inwood House  
Moorestown, NJ 08057

First, I must thank all the members who voted to make it possible to maintain that "One big happy family atmosphere". I'm glad that proposal was defeated once again, soundly. I hope it is the last time it will be proposed so we may continue with our close relationship.

Our reunion was one of the greatest turnouts I ever remember. In spite of the rain one day, I did not hear any complaints.

The good Lord willing, I hope to see you all in Texas. If "Henssk" Dawns, the "Southern Gentleman", as my wife and Lee Terricola refer to him, is there, I'm going to keep an eye on him. Just kidding Hensk. It was great to see you after so many years.

That's all for now, I have to get a letter out to Nick Labecki or I not only will be losing a "Polish Gentleman" but also a comrade.

39th Inf. G Co.  
GARLAND GLOVIER  
R-3, Box 341  
Lebanon, VA 24226

Just happen to think of my dues. Thought I had better get them sent. Enclosing check for 3 yrs. dues.

I enjoy reading "The Octofoil" and reading about all the other fellows who served our country during WW II.

My wife and I were in Fayetteville, N.C. for the Reunion. Enjoyed the Memorial Service at Ft. Bragg.

Wishing all my buddies of the 9th Div. the best. May God Bless all who served our country and let us never forget those who gave their lives.

Co. K, 60th Inf.  
WILLIAM E. KENNINGTON  
Rt. 2, Box 307  
Lancaster, S.C. 29720

I saw in the last Octofoil where a John Bosko was on the Susan B. Anthony. Some of the members might like to know I have found pictures of these ships. I also have some pictures of the 60th Inf. and can get a few on the 39th and 47th. The printing office in Washington has several books entitled *To Bizi With the II Corps.* (a WW II 650th Anniversary Commemorative Edition), and *Utah 20 Cherbourg.* These have a lot of maps and information about the 9th Inf. I will be glad to help anyone who wants some of the pictures or book. Just get in touch with me.

I would like to know if anyone knows or has an address of a Charles Tucker, Jr. who lived in Thorndale, Texas (as of 1949) after the war. He was a member of K Co., 60th Inf.

47th B Co.  
DENNIS CANEDY  
117 Rocky Hill Ave.  
New Britain, CT 06051

I am enclosing an obituary for Merton Beebe who died on May 9. Mr. Beebe was a soldier in the 60th Regt. I have never met Merton face to face, but talked with him on the phone last year. He said he was suffering from wounds he received in France. He enjoyed our phone conversation, as I did.

Best Regards.

Hqrs. Co., 3rd Bn. 60th Inf.  
MICHAEL J. FAZIO  
8304 Parsons Blvd.  
Jamaica, NY 11432

Let us all congratulate Pat & Al Bruchac on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. A veritable Diamond Jubilee. Pat & Al, may you enjoy many more anniversaries of marital bliss together.

34th F.A. Bn.  
WILLIAM FOX  
7276 Stewart Sharon Rd.  
Hubbard, OH 44425

I was just looking through the Jan./Feb. '92 issue of the Octofoil. I'm looking on the last page and see in bold letters "HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR DUES"? Then I look further on down the page and see a note from one of my old buddies from the 34th F.A. Bn. He was sending in his dues for the next 3 years. This sort of prompted me to reread the Octofoil from stem to stern. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I would like to see more letters from the Field Artillery. Of course, this is my first contribution. I would also like to thank Leon (Buck) Birum, 34th F.A. Bn. for the real neat booklet he put out around Christmas time last year. Buck has been a contributor of letters to the Octofoil many times in the past and I'm sure he will see our "thank you" from Jesse Davis in the past issue and this thank you also.

For the past 40 some odd years, Jesse Davis has been one of a kind. I believe this guy has been a jewel in getting old buddies together and keeping these contacts going all these years. Lord only knows how many letters he has sent out, how many calls he has made and how many personal visits he has made. Great guy.

Am enclosing check to cover next 3 years dues. Sorry I'm late.

Co. K, 60th Inf.  
WILLIAM DOBBINS  
78 Rogers Ave.  
Lockport, NY 14094

Enclosed is my check for three years dues. Sorry to be late, but lost track of time.

I enjoy reading the Octofoil from cover to cover and look forward to reading about Robert Rucker and the men I served with in Co. K.

I appreciate the fine job you do with the Octofoil and am sorry I missed attending the reunion.  
God Bless.

60th Inf., 3rd Bn. Hq. Co.  
OWEN M. SALLEE  
4730 Beacon Dr.  
Decatur, Illinois

I not only waited too long to get reservations for Fort Bragg reunion, but find I'm behind on my dues. Enclosed find dues for three years.

With or without any type of reservation, I'll be at Bragg. I'm one of the tent city boys.

47th M Co.  
FRED MONIZ  
37 Nyack St.  
Watertown, MA 02172

Before my membership runs out, please find payment of dues for three years, '93-'94-'95. The balance of the enclosed check is to be added to the Memorial Fund for past members "may they rest in peace."

Has any of the 9th members ever heard from Charles Puleo? When I first joined the 9th Div., we were together in the Med.; 3rd Bn. 47th Inf., 9th Div. Frank Borgia was with us also for a while. Left the 3rd Bn. and was assigned to the M Co. of the 47th as an aid man. Regards to all.

60th Inf. D Co.  
CHARLES WALKER  
RRI Box 558  
Fairfield, IL 62837

I was a member of the Company D, 60th Inf., 9th Div. from Oct. 1, 1940 to June 25, 1945 (Serial #16040440).

I would appreciate hearing from any of the Co. D soldiers that served at that time.

Three of my buddies from Illinois have passed away. Lloyd L. Vest, James V. Deal and Delbert Thompson.

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

Hope you and Marie arrived home O.K. and had a good time the following week, in the Cat-skills. It was a great Reunion.

I'm scribbling a few notes for "The Octofoil", that may be of interest to our Q.M. guys who couldn't make the trip to Fayetteville. Ten of us did!

Those of us who made the journey were:

Jake and Val Grgurich, from Missouri, Floyd Hennessey from Michigan, Joe Willis from Virginia, Gene Berasi, and brother Carl from Ohio, Everett and Irene Tapp from Florida, Mike and Jackie Dembitskey from New York State, with Mike's brother Bill and wife Jean, also, Mike's sisters Julie and Ann. From Pennsylvania Dutch country, we had Marvin and Dottie Balthaser.

I spoke with Tom Pitzer on June 6. He is not too well; had another heart attack in February.

I had some correspondence with Dick Robbins, who thought that he might make the reunion, but evidently it didn't work out.

Joe Russo called to say that he and Harold Hokanson had made reservations, but medical problems knocked their plans awry, and they were forced to cancel. Andy Sinare didn't make it either.

Those of us present signed a card to Dean Privett, who has been hospitalized for a long time, down in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Julius Edster, John Prehodic, and Ken Deck have passed away.

The Memorial Ceremony at Fort Bragg was quite moving. The Color Guard, Guard of Honor and firing squad were from the XVIII Airborne Corp., and were they impressive! Excellent soldiers who made us proud that they were ours.

It rained the entire time we spent at the Post, and everyone was soaked to the skin, but we hung in, nobody left early.

The Airborne Troopers didn't move a muscle or blink an eye. Reminded me of us — fifty years ago.

The Memorial Service in Worcester is scheduled for October 25th.

I hope to see some old, familiar faces then. Best Wishes.

39th Inf.  
CARLOS WARD  
10280 Eaton Pike  
New Lebanon, OH 45345

Sorry I was unable to attend the Reunion at Ft. Bragg, N.C. I sure was looking forward to that one, for that is where I started, and so many memories there.

I sure did miss seeing my buddies, but other commitments took over. But if the good Lord is willing, I will be at the next one.

Here are my dues for the next year and say hello for each and every one of the 9th Div. men. Thank you.

Co. A 39th Inf  
BOB SCHOENEKASE  
1515 Locust  
Quincy, IL 62301-1462

Well, here I am, late again. Time seems to slip by me, so often. I enjoy "The Octofoil," although many times there is bad news in it. Many of the old timers have passed on. I am still able to take care of a large garden for which I am thankful.

Enclosed is a check for dues for the Assn. I don't hear from many of the 9th Div. boys. I sure would enjoy a few lines from some of them. Most of the boys that I served with were killed before the end of the war.

I must ring off now, and get this in the mail. I will try to be on time next time.

THE OCTOFOIL

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

Publication No. 402820

Second Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as of October 1, 1991.

## TAKING BIZERTE

Everything was different about Northern Tunisia. After the fighting at El Guettar and Maknassy sputtered out an exhausted and depleted 9th Infantry Division was trucked to the northernmost sector of the Allied forces to help beleaguer what was left of Axis military power in Africa. Here, for the first time in combat, Manton S. Eddy would command his entire force, showing its emergency as a first-class fighting team.

For a week or so the division restored itself, planned and replaced the British units which had been holding the line. Then, on April 23rd came the kick-off!

The 9th's opposition was formidable but Eddy's tactics in approaching Bizerte were brilliant. The enemy was uprooted from positions it had held against the British since the campaign began. Logistic skill and mastery of supporting arms were demonstrated repeatedly as the German stronghold was taken and Tunisia's port city was captured only 15 days after fighting began.

Are there questions about that operation of 49 years ago still bugging you? Has something been overlooked in its earlier accounts? Red Phillips is now collecting memories of the good and the bad of those action-packed days from every corner of the 9th and its attachments. Every member of the Association who was then present once again has his chance to help "make" history. Phillips also needs contacts with those veterans who are still around but who are not Association members and won't be reading this notice.

Write to Red if you want to help at 14002 Hemlock Dr., Penn Valley, CA. 95946.

9th QM  
WILLIAM PALADY  
403-29th Street  
McKeesport, PA 15132

The Reunion at Ft. Bragg was great, as we had 10 members show up. Also, that it was 47 years since any of us had seen Gene Clarke, who lives in Southern Pines, N.C. We also learned that J.B. Dodds and Ken Dech passed away, may they rest in peace.

Attending the reunion were: Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Balthaser, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Dembitsky (two sisters and brother), Mr. and Mrs. Jake Grgurich, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Tapp, Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Palady, Gene Berasi, Joe Willis, and Floyd Hennessey.

Hope to make the next reunion in Texas. To everyone, take care.