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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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8-1-1992

### The Octofoil, August/September/October 1992

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

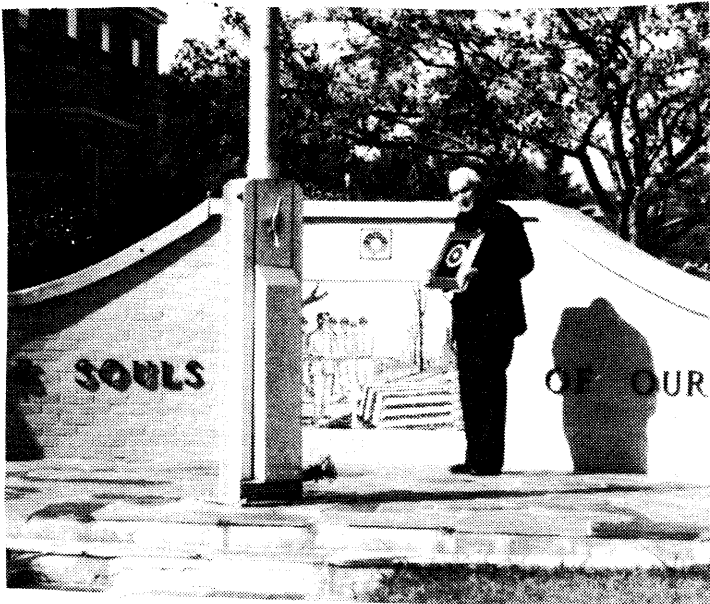
412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Publication No. 402820

Volume XLVII Number 4

Aug-Sept-Oct 1992



Pictured a few years before his demise Father Connors is shown at the Memorial Monument in Worcester. The names of 4581 men killed in WW2 are placed on microfilm and sealed in a capsule in the Monument. Time has taken its toll and the Monument is in need of repairs. The New England members "Friends of Father Connors" are trying to raise funds to meet the necessary expenses.

## Your Help is Needed

The 48th Memorial Mass and Service for the 4,581 men of the 9th division who died in combat in World War II, was held on Sunday, October 25th, at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. Once again we gathered at our outdoor memorial. An Octofoil wreath was placed on the memorial to honor our dead, as part of the service.

The first Memorial Mass and Service was celebrated by Fr. Edward Connors in November of 1945. Later he built the outdoor memorial, dedicated to the 4,581 men who paid the supreme sacrifice while serving with the 9th division in World War II. Father Connors built the memorial as an expression of his love for these men and his devotion to their memory.

It is a place where we meet to publicly express our own loyalty to the memory of our fallen comrades. It will continue to be our meeting place as long as there is a group of us, no matter how small, able to make this annual pilgrimage.

The memorial is badly in need of repair. Time and the elements have taken their toll. Fran Maher has spent many hours meeting with contractors, examining the memorial and getting estimates on the needed repairs. The final cost is \$4,300.

No one has ever found writing about money and striving to raise it a pleasant task. It is a very difficult thing to do. We in New England are asking your help. We only do so in order to preserve this beautiful memorial to our beloved dead. Any amount, no matter how small, will be gratefully appreciated. Once we reach our goal of forty three hundred dollars, we will bring our fund raising to an end.

Sincerely,  
Ron Murphy

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Father Connors and mail to: Thomas Boyle, 39 Hall Avenue, Somerville, Ma 02144.

## Ninth Infantry Division Association Not sponsoring 50th Anniversary Trips

The association has received many inquiries regarding the article that appeared in the last issue of the Octofoil on the 50th Anniversary Trips to Tunisia in 1993 and Normandy in 1994. A member of the association evidently contacted Galaxy Tours, 997 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 207, Post Box 234, Wayne, Pa. 19087 and this travel agency submitted proposals for such trips. Someone also sent a mailing list of the association to Galaxy Tours and they in turn contacted all those on the mailing list. The trips are strictly by the individuals if they so wish but the Association is not responsible in any way for the actions of Galaxy Tours.



The steering Committee for the 48th Annual Reunion, San Antonio, Texas are shown getting down to business for the coming event, Oct. 10 to 17, 1993.

## LADIES CORNER

Hi! Our 47th Reunion in Fayetteville is 4 months past, and our 48th Reunion in Texas is 12 months away. So what shall I write about now? How about if I just ramble on with a potpourri of information? OK? Now that the hard part of writing this column (the opening line) is over, here are the details.

First, how is everybody now that our excuse for a Summer is over? What weather? Where was the sun? My Joe's Tomatoes did not start to get red until we came home from Maine on August 29th. How about yours? Are you ready for this so far, crisp and colorful Autumn? I am because maybe then I can stay inside and get more of my correspondence done. The letters I owe to people! Foremost, sympathy notes, on behalf of all of us, to our Chaplain, Mary McLaughlin, whose husband passed away on August 25th. Mary wrote that he became ill shortly after the June Reunion. Then Auxiliary member Miriam Auerbach lost her husband, as a result of an automobile accident prior to our Reunion in June. I had wondered why Miriam wasn't at our Meeting. Forgive my being so late with our condolences. An apology also to Lillian Gonzol, for calling her husband "Henry" when his correct name is "Frank" in my letter to her. How could I do that- blame it on age or a character flaw? Anyway, sorry Lillian! A short "Thank-You" to Marjory Megla of Columbus, Ohio for her "Thank-You" and kind words for all the people who made this convention so enjoyable for her. You are very sweet to write, Marjory. Thanks also to Virginia Driscoll for offering her help to the Charities Committee on its selections next October in Texas.

Speaking of Charities, so far we have received two nominations for next year's donations. Remember if you have any suggestions for them, please write to me with their names, addresses, persons to be contacted, and type of use for the money. In addition, I have received letters of thanks from this year's recipients: From Irv Kupcinet of the Chicago Sun-Times, for the Purple Heart Cruise: "We truly appreciate the concern that your Association has shown towards our Veterans. You have our heartfelt thanks." From Chief of Volunteer Services Norman Datke of the Buffalo VA Medical Center: "Thank you for the donation of \$300.00 for the Family Dining Program. We appreciate your kindness and generosity." He and Marge Bovanizer our Auxiliary member who presented our check to him, decided on "The Family Dining Program." It is a service for families of terminal patients, and the Dietitian Barbara Sutton plans a family dinner in the Hospital for the patients' family, to be together one last time.

## San Antonio for Annual Reunion

This is the 50th year since the ninth infantry Division kicked the "Desert Fox" in his swastika and his famed Afrika Korps went kaput! The city of San Antonio on behalf of the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter welcomes the members of the Ninth Infantry Division to Texas. Among the many things you will do will be the opportunity to "Remember the Alamo" which became the rallying cry for another group of brave men at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. Brave men have always fought for the rights of free men everywhere. Our members of the 9th division have become a continuing epitome of brave men.

As we assemble in San Antonio for our 48th annual reunion, please plan to come early and stay late to experience genuine Texas hospitality. This most exciting national meeting is scheduled for October 7-10, 1993 and will be the first held west of the Mississippi. All roads lead to and through Texas and beyond "South of the Border" to Mexico. The mystic of the six cultures that have molded the character of this fascinating city beckons to all "Old Reliabilities."

Over 200 room reservations have been received and confirmations will be going out in November ... if you want to be where the action is, by choice this time, get a reservation in like NOW! Check information on hotels, strip tickets, airlines and extended travel elsewhere in this issue.

The City of San Antonio makes every effort to make all visitors welcome and especially military personnel because of the vital role their many military installations have had in the defense of our country past and present. The following exciting and tempting information on our host city is provided by the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"Season's greetings from Texas,  
To all Ninth Division Exe's.  
Put a reminder on your tree,  
To make San Antonio in '93!  
To make your sojourn totally complete,

Take a "South of the Border" retreat.  
Twenty years in Mexico, our bilingual hosts,  
Assure us pleasures, more than most!

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jean and I want to wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. To our Jewish Members we want to extend our sincere, belated wishes for Hanukkah to all.

We are looking forward to one of the best reunions ever in 1993 in San Antonio, Texas. Over 400 members and families have made reservations to enjoy the most popular city in the Southwest. If you thought the Texas Hospitality room in Fayetteville was great, you will really enjoy San Antonio. I can assure you, you will always be busy. San Antonio is the center of Texas History and the Convention Center of the Great Southwest.

This November-December, 1992 issue of the Octofoil marks the Division's 50th anniversary of its departure from Fort Bragg and landing in North Africa. It was the start of the greatest challenge most of us were to experience in our lifetime. The challenge was to learn quickly from our experiences. This helped us to adapt to the ever changing situations. Many would cry quietly as the casualties mounted and made each appreciate the interdependence of one to another. An American General, before the battle in Desert Storm, admonished his "green" troops that they were not fighting for God or country, "You are fighting for the man next to you."

That was a lesson the people of our Division learned early on in it's first campaign. As replacements joined our ranks, they were to benefit from the advice and counsel of "the veterans." These men in some instances had only a few days or weeks in combat themselves.

In the ensuing 30 months from North Africa to the Mulde River elements of the Division were in combat some 450 days. Indicative of the spirit was the 8221 individual awards and decorations. When you add the 21,542 Purple Hearts for those killed and/or wounded in action, together with unit awards, we perspective can measure the mettle of the "man next to you."

The men of the 9th Infantry Division set the World's record for performance. We wrote American History in blood. General Eisenhower said after World War II that the two greatest Divisions were the 1st and the 9th Infantry Division and you know which was Number One.

Since the inception of the Ninth Division Association, there have been many individuals who have taken the leadership in chapter and national roles. We owe them a debt of gratitude. They have performed selflessly as they did some 50 years ago. There must be something right about this great association. After 47 years, we still gather once a year in brotherhood that is closer than any other because of our combat experience together.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your President and I hope to see you all at the 48th annual reunion in San Antonio, Texas, October 1993.

60th Inf  
John W. Miller  
Pres. 9th Div. Assoc.  
1511 Cochise Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76012.

Continued Page 2

San Antonio in 1993

THE OCTOFOIL  
Form 2579 should be sent to  
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087  
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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  
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NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for.

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

Street Address.....

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

I was a member of:

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

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year..... \$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"/>		

Pre-Registration Form  
Forty-eighth Annual Reunion  
October 7, 8, 9, 1993  
San Antonio, Texas

Name.....

Address.....

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

Full name of  
wife or guest.....

Telephone..... Unit in the 9th.....

All Event Strip Tickets: Quantity..... at \$60.00 each

Total Enclosed:.....

( ) Please check if you are a Gold Star Wife or Member's,  
Widow or family

Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter Members: Please send  
separate checks for dues and Reunion Strip Tickets.

Continued from Page 1

Ladies Corner

The oc-  
casation could be Christmas,  
Thanksgiving, an Anniversary,  
or whatever day suits the pa-  
tient and family. They were  
very grateful and will let us  
know how and when the money  
was used. From Rose Botella  
for the Audie Murphy VA  
Hospital in Texas: "We made  
presentation of your Cashier's  
Check, the VA Representative  
was very appreciative, pictures  
were taken, and they will send  
copies." Finally, From  
Daphne Grubb: "My thanks  
and deepest appreciation for  
your generous donation to aid in  
my work at the Veterans Af-  
fairs Medical Center in  
Fayetteville, North Carolina.  
You have helped to make this a  
productive and exciting job for  
me and for the hospitalized  
veterans who need our concern,  
our love and our assistance.  
Your contribution will enable  
me to do some special things for  
our lady veterans. There are  
usually from five to seven  
ladies and I can now get some  
personal things for them that  
the VA does not make avail-  
able. May the pleasure that you  
gave by showing that you  
"care" be returned to each of  
you many times over."

Before I close with our Chap-  
lain Mary McLaughlin's mes-  
sage to us at our Meeting, let  
me say personally, that I miss-  
ed some members that I have  
grown fond of over the years,  
namely: Ronnie Lee, Elva  
Slagle, Bonnbelle Wakeman,  
and all of my fellow Company B  
ladies missing this June. Let's  
see you all in Texas? Oh, I al-  
most forgot to type this. A note  
to remind you Ladies that to  
vote at our next Meeting in  
Texas, you must be a member.  
Our By-Laws stipulate this.  
Dan Quinn has made it very  
convenient for you by printing a  
membership application form  
on the Octofoil's Page 2. Send it  
to me with a check and I will  
mail you a card. It will save you  
some time next year at the Re-  
union. I'll also save money by  
mailing the card back to you on  
note paper, courtesy of the  
many charities who keep send-  
ing them to me. I used 47 of  
them from Feb/1992 to  
June/1992 in Auxiliary cor-  
respondence. As soon as I re-  
ceive details on our Meeting  
and Program in Texas, I'll  
print them in this column. How-  
ever, I can't remind you early  
enough that I will not sell  
tickets there, you must have  
your order with money in to me  
before the Reunion. OK?

Now, for Mary's Prayer:  
"There are two days about  
which we should not worry, two  
days which should be free of  
fear and apprehension. Yester-  
day, with its mistakes and  
cares, its faults and blunders,  
its aches and pains. Yesterday  
had passed beyond our control.  
All the money in the world can-  
not bring back yesterday. We  
cannot undo a single act per-  
formed or erase a single word  
we said yesterday. Tomorrow  
is also beyond our immediate  
control. Tomorrow's sun will  
rise, either in splendor or be-  
hind a mask of clouds - but it  
will rise. Until it does we have  
no stake in tomorrow, for it is  
yet unborn. Today any person  
can fight the battles of just one  
day. It is only when we add the  
burdens of yesterday and  
tomorrow that we break down.  
It is not the experience of today  
drives people mad - it's  
remorse or bitterness for some-  
thing that happened yesterday  
and the dread of what tomor-  
row may bring. Let us...live but  
one day at a time." Thanks  
Mary. To all keep in touch.

Ellie Taubner, Treasurer  
85 Smith Avenue  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

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
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Single Occupancy: \$79	Triple	
------------------------	--------	--

Double Occupancy: \$79	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.

Pre-Registration Procedure  
Forty-eighth Annual Reunion  
October 7, 8, 9, 1993

Pre-Registration for all the events, Strip Tickets, will be used  
again this year at the Forty-eighth Annual Reunion.

1. Fill out the Pre-registration Form provided below.
2. Write a check or money order to the Ninth Infantry Reunion  
Committee for the full amount of the tickets.
3. Mail the Pre-registration Form and the check or money  
order to Ernest J. Botella, 571 Radiance Drive, San Antonio,  
Texas, 78218-2646.
4. You will receive a confirmation Card Receipt.
5. This Card Receipt must be presented at the Reunion Pre-  
registration Desk to receive the tickets, program and  
registration packet.
6. Cancellation of Pre-registrations will be honored for a full re-  
fund if received before September 25th. Cancellations receiv-  
ed after September 25th will receive a partial refund.
7. To cancel a Pre-registration, contact Ernest J. Botella at 571  
Radiance Drive, San Antonio, Texas, 78218-2646 or telephone  
210-656-7820 prior to September 25th, 1993. After September  
25th call the Holiday Inn, Riverwalk North in San Antonio,  
Texas, 210-223-9267 and leave a message for Ernest Botella or  
Richard Granberry.
8. Pre-register now and be assured of having tickets for the  
Welcoming Party on Thursday night, the Friday Dance and  
the Saturday Banquet.



Herb Hoepfner of 2 Orchard Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854  
displayed this photo at the Bragg Reunion and we borrowed it to  
place in the Octofoil. The picture was taken VE Day of the 3rd  
Squad F Co, 47th nf., front row: Wayson, D'Achille: Williams,  
Dworak and rear row Hoepfner, Darling, Fahl and Johnstone.  
Jessnitz, Germany.



## THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I reflect on the past year, I can better appreciate all the dedicated people we have in our fine organization, and I cherish the time I have spent interacting with so many of them. Despite the differences of opinion that may exist on various issues, we have been able to resolve our differences, close ranks, and get on with furthering the goals of our Association. We have been able to accomplish this feat because of our deep-seated belief in, and respect for, the democratic process. Our ingrained faith in this system has sustained our nation for over two hundred years, and this same faith has served us well in bringing our Association to its present station in its existence. We can not single out any one person for sustaining our remarkable performance; the credit goes to each and every member of our brotherhood who participates in the affairs of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. There are some men whom I would like to thank for their devotion to the affairs of the Association during the past half century. I refer mainly to Dan Quinn whose efforts did much to shape the course of our fraternity during our formative years as well as the recent past. Not only has Dan kept the records and edited *The Octofoil* for many years, he has advised the numerous officers and board members of their duties and responsibilities. Dan was always there when I sought information and advice. His counsel was invaluable and given unstintingly. We as a group can not thank him enough for his enormous contribution to our group. In the rare instance where we did not agree with his thinking, we recognized that his efforts were always directed toward the betterment of our organization and its ideals.

It was my intention to list the names of the others who have made invaluable contributions, devoted hundreds of hours, and served so unselfishly. Composing such a list is almost an impossibility, and the risk of omitting a worthy associate so conceivable, that I have decided to forego the task. I especially want to thank the other officers who have served year after year, the board members who have served during my tenure, and to all of you who have participated in the affairs of the Association by your attendance and your valuable contributions.

In the name of those who attended the Fayetteville reunion, I extend a hearty thanks to Bob DeSandy for his efforts and exertions in making our forty-seventh annual reunion the success it was. Those of you who were there are aware of the hurdles he had to overcome to make it the smoothly running affair it was.

I'd be remiss in my duties if I were to fail to mention a tremendously important segment of our tightly knit family. Kudos certainly should be bestowed on the ladies of our warriors, those gracious wives and daughters who so generously gave of their time and energies at the reservation desks and other reunion stations, those who encouraged their men to participate in the affairs of the Association, and the many who sat around patiently and listened approvingly as their men rehearsed common experiences and adventures for the umpteenth time. You also served! Of this elite group I particularly single out Marie Quinn and Florence DeSandy for their untiring enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication as being representative of all our ladies. Your contributions cannot be exaggerated.

On a more personal basis, I want to thank my own devoted spouse, Lucy, for putting up with my antics this past year (and indeed the past thirty-three years), while I frequently neglected her in going about the affairs of the Association.

In closing, I want to wish John Miller success in leading us during the forthcoming year; if the support you good people give him is near what you gave me, our great Association will continue to be one that we can all continue to be proud of.

Proudly and fondly,  
Ed Hopkins, Past President,  
110 Hollywood Avenue  
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-2116



Members of the 39th (Co G) were snapped at the Bragg reunion with Colonial Gunn (2nd from right top) who was the speaker at the Memorial Services held at the Main Post Ft Bragg. Standing l-r, Ed Zeno, Duane Bloomberg, Bill Canary, Marty Krasovtz, General Gunn, Anton Dietrich. Sitting l-r, John Fazel and Larry Kaufman.



Here is a happy group from the 39th Inf as they and their better halves are shown at the Banquet held on Saturday night in Fayetteville.

## TAKING BIZERTE - PART II

(Last month kicked off the first of a series of reports by the author of "El Guettar: Crucible of Leadership" about progress on that book's in-progress sequel. Continuing...)

Highlighting the 9th Division's operation in Northern Tunisia is undoubtedly the plan for that operation. Some question remains as to whether it sprang from the brain of Donald A. Stroh, assistant division commander, or from that of the "Old Man," Manton S. Eddy. Stroh was on the ground first so perhaps he had time to work it up. And, it was almost too daring to have been Eddy's conception, employing everything up front right away, holding back no reserve. That wasn't what they were teaching at The Infantry School and Eddy already had a reputation for being cautious.

However, the Commanding General had the ultimate responsibility and, if it were Stroh's idea originally, Eddy didn't stand around wringing his hands with it. He acted swiftly, getting the plan approved and in the hands of the troops in plenty of time so that subordinate commanders could reconnoiter and make their plans.

The plan is a classic. It corrected everything that El Guettar had shown could go wrong. It went around the prepared enemy positions. It struck first for the high ground, achieving dominant observation so that supporting artillery fires could be made to work for the infantry advance. The maneuvering arms of the 9th would strike deep enough to take full advantage of available cover and concealment. As Stroh put it, "We're swapping sweat for blood." The 9th Infantry Division pulled off the master stroke: it surprised its foe!

As the operation unfolded there were other highlights. The defense of Djebel Dardys against German counterattacks won Mike Kauffman's 2/60 the Presidential Unit Citation and Sgt. William L. Nelson, posthumously, the Congressional Medal of Honor. Then there was Quentin R. Hardage's advance with C/60 up Djebel Cheniti, leaning into the close supporting fires of the 60th FA Bn. until close enough to assault with the bayonet. As one high-ranking observer noted: "For a while I thought I was watching a Fort Benning demonstration." Finally, there was the 47th's foot-charge into Bizerte when Hardage's key opened the door. The Germans never had a chance to get set again.

Indeed, taking Bizerte was a classic but the existing military histories do not do it justice. In some instances they are in error. They rarely pause to point out lessons which emerge for developing military leadership. That is why I have undertaken "Sedjenane: The Pay-Off Battle." The new book will be in the same style and format as "El Guettar: Crucible of Leadership," that is, it will be another oral history depending heavily on the anecdotes of survivors to bring it to life, to give full flavor and to tell it the way it really was.

As before, I need your help. If you were there and remember, please jot it down and sent it to me — nothing fancy, just the words down on paper. Together we will make a monument to what was accomplished in the Sedjenane Valley nearly 50 years ago.

Red Phillips  
14002 Hemlock Dr.  
Penn Valley, CA, 95946



Ruth and Walter Victor appear to be celebrating their wedding actually it was their fiftieth anniversary. Ole Walter has been supplying us with photos from reunions etc. for years. Congratulations to a very nice couple, hope we'll all be around for their next fiftieth anniversary.



Members of the 15th Engineers were well represented at Ft. Bragg and here they gathered for a photo.

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

## MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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

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Daniel Quinn, Editor

## A Combat Medic Learns to Heal Others and Himself

Part 2 Continued from last issue

George Nicklin was a rifleman in Company K 47th when he was transferred over to the Medic's as he was a Pre-med student. After the War he graduated from Medical School. The first part of his story gave us an insight of the fears and anxiety of a combat soldier. The story continues..

I was apprehensive because the night before I had a dream in which I was shot. I had previously had many dreams of fighting, but never been of being shot. I think I subliminally sensed the danger of the situation. About 8:00 in the morning, hot breakfast canisters were brought up and a chow-line formed in the Huertgen Forest. The Germans could look directly into our position from the hills on the other side of the river. I refused to leave my hole for food and was enjoying my "C" rations when mortar shells started dropping in the company area. Almost immediately there were calls for MEDIC. I went out to render aid but I had a strong sense that shells were coming in, and I hit the ground.

Shells were exploding everywhere, including the trees overhead. When the firing ceased, I started on my way, but stopped when I noticed that my left wrist was broken — pieces of shrapnel had hit the joint. I took cover in a dugout with two other soldiers, one of whom began cutting my clothes off. They found I had wounds on my left arm, back, left buttock, and left leg. It was apparent that my tour was over. I was evacuated by stretcher and one of the men that carried it was the one I had been called to assist — he had a minor leg wound. Unfortunately, the barrage had eliminated about one-quarter of the men in my well-trained unit, who had lined up for breakfast that morning.

I was taken by jeep to a collecting station and there was given a pint of plasma. I never received blood, as far as I know, at any time. I was taken eventually to the 102nd Evacuation Hospital in Aachen. It required 12 hours for the trip. I found myself in a tent with many, many others wounded from the war. I had been very worried about the long trip, because I knew from my medical experience that of those who die from wounds, 99% die before reaching the hospital.

A young physician examined me and said that I had many (fifty-five) wounds, including seven holes in my testicles. When I learned this, I said, "Don't cut off my balls! I want to go back to the States and make babies."

Eventually I was taken to the operating room, given a general anesthetic and was on the operating table for about five hours. The surgical team removed 25 pieces of shrapnel and left 30 pieces in. That was the GOOD MORNING news from my surgeon. My testes were intact!

Most of the wounds were on the left side of my body, but the one bone that had been fractured was the wrist and the only nerve severed was the left median (wrist nerve). A piece of shrapnel in my left lung was

about two inches below the apex of the heart. Another rested on my spinal column. I was in good shape.

I was so heavily bandaged that I could not effectively feed myself, go to the bathroom, or do anything for myself. My entire left arm and left leg were immobilized and I was bandaged from slightly above the left knee to just below my shoulders on the back side of the body. I was not able to walk for six weeks after the injuries. During the first week I was transferred from the 102nd to a General Hospital in Aachen and thence to a hospital train to Paris. There I was in the Fifth General Hospital for two days, where I had my first bowel movement in seven days. I then spent two days on the stretcher at Orly Airport, waiting for a DC3 to take me to Shrewsbury, England. Thence to the 155th General Hospital at Greater Malverne, where I remained for three months and underwent two more surgical procedures. These were to debride my wounds and to recast me. The cast was removed from my left arm and I had one remaining open wound on my left leg that remained that way until May 1945. I was sent back to the U.S. on the Moore-Mac-Cormick ship S.S. BRAZIL with 3,000 other wounded on May 23, 1945.

The hospital ship docked at Staten Island and I was taken to Halloran Army Hospital (now Willowbrook School) and remained there for nine months. During this period I had two more operations on my left wrist in an attempt to repair the median nerve, but more importantly (from my point of view) I was able to work in the orthopedic cast room as part of my rehabilitation. This was made possible by an orthopedic surgeon, John Sharp, M.D., who was also my cousin. I was able to return to college in September 1945 on convalescent furlough and come into the hospital at Thanksgiving and Christmas for check-ups and final operations. I was discharged on February 5, 1946.

The hospital experience was greatly enjoyed — getting to know the medical personnel and working in the cast room. I did suffer from a severe bout of depression in January 1946, when I realized I was going to be discharged from the armed services and would lose the sheltering aspect of them. This had been a great source of reassurance during the past two and a half years, with the bed, board, clothing, medical care and stipend. Fortunately, I left to cast my lot with civilian life and in 1951 I received my M.D. degree from Columbia University in New York City.

(George Nicklin and his wife Kate have subsequently had four children of their own and ten grandchildren.)

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

## 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.

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

The New Jersey Chapter of the Association will be holding its next meeting on Thursday, November 5, at 12:30 PM at the Rutgers Alumni-Faculty Club, 199 College Avenue, New Brunswick. We will be joined by our ladies at this meeting and buffet luncheon. We will elect new officers who will lead us in the coming year. We are expecting a good turnout for this affair because of its central location and because of the excellent reputation and fine atmosphere at the Club.

It has been some time since our last meeting, so it will be good to see this fine group of men again, though I did get to see many of them in Fayetteville in June.

Unfortunately, Lucy and I will be unable to make the trip to Worcester this year. We always did enjoy both the solemnity of the occasion as well as the joy of meeting with good friends for a convivial weekend. Just visiting New England when the colors of its foliage is at its brightest is worth the trip.

Frank Haines, New Jersey's representative on the board of Directors, called this morning to inform me that he would not be attending this year. He hasn't been to the Worcester affair since the demise of Father Connors, who had been a good friend of his since the days when the good Father would chow down at the artillerymen's mess. Frank had spent this past summer on an island in Casco Bay, Maine, where he and his wife have a summer place.

Jack Finnegan departed last week for a week's stay in England, to spend a fortnight with two of his sister-in-laws in the town of Hay, located right on the Welsh border.

Lou Slatnick and I plan to have lunch later this week. It is always good to see Lou's smiling face. I feel honored to have known him these many years and to have enjoyed his friendship.

Our loyal member and good friend, Frank Gonzol, has been on and off sick call quite a bit this past year, as has been his faithful helpmate Lyl. We hope the stamina that brought him through eight campaigns, will sustain him through this latest one, and will help him carry his beloved will with him.

We hope all our friends in Worcester have a good turnout for the memorial service, and we hope to see many of the rest of you in San Antonio in '93.

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

## N.E. Chapter News

On Wednesday, September 30th, members of the New England Chapter met for lunch at the Pillar House in Newton, Massachusetts. Here we made our final plans for the 48th Memorial Mass and Service that will be held at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, Wa.

After lunch, we held an election of officers for the coming year. Fran Maher was elected President; Ed M'Grath, Vice President; Tom Boyle, Treasurer and myself, Ron Murphy, Secretary.

We also discussed plans for the 1994 Reunion that will be held in June at Lake Placid, New York. Fran Maher was selected as chairman of the reunion; Ron Murphy and Ed M'Grath as Co-chairman and Tom Boyle as Treasurer. It was a productive meeting and an enjoyable afternoon.

Sincerely,  
Ron Murphy  
Secretary of N.E. Chapter

## M Company (47th) Chronicler

Dear Compadres:

Mostly I have news this time of new members of the firm. Some of these turned up as the result of our on-going VA project; others by virtue of Joe Kscenaitis' backdoor efforts. All are most welcome and I trust that old buddies who recognize these names will sharpen pencils and drop 'em a line.

Frank P. Vanesky, 9934 Pleasant Lakes Blvd., Apt. T-410, Parma, OH, 44129; (216) 886-0704, was a mortarman who, according to the Udovich File, joined us in Schevenhutte in November '44. Frank says he was in Africa. We need confirmation of this before we award Frank the fur-lined fez with Safi boa.

And we had a letter from Paul Pfeiffer's wife, Leonora, who says that Paul is in a nursing home (stroke), but doing ok. She says that he's aware of what's going on and can speak. Paul remembers his soldiering days with the 2nd Platoon. Write him in care of Good Samaritan Home, Hobart, OK, 73651.

Earl F. Woodard is in much worse shape. His sister writes that he is terminal with cancer and now incoherent. Earl was WIA outside St. Lo on 20 July '44 and ultimately lost a leg and part of a hand. Seven years ago he had a stroke that blinded him and since then he has been in a local health care facility. His sister is Mrs. Ruth Winfree, Rt. 1, Box 66, Gordonville, TN, 38563. "I attended the first Reunion held in New York. Married shortly after but always wondered what happened to the fellows." So write former mortarman.

Frank Silva, 15 Chatham St., New Bedford, MA, 02745; (617) 995-3260. How many times have we heard that one? Marriage has got to be the greatest calamity to fellowship that ever was. Anyway, Frank joined us in the Normandy hedgerow country, was WIA at Schevenhutte and rejoined just before things were wrapped up in Germany. From time-to-time he's run into guys like Jim Jamoulis (R.I.P.), Bernie Silverman and Mike Rinaldi, and he remembers playing ball and winning the Division Softball Championship in '45 with Slim LeBar, "Big" Ed Little and Rinaldi. With all that going on we wonder why it took so long to find this guy?

SFC (Ret.) Stanley Roberts is another one of those nuckleheads who didn't get enough during WWII; he stayed in and did Korea and Vietnam too. Stan was with the 2nd Platoon and remembers Dave Yates, Ralph Graf, Bob Story and Linus Vonderheide. He can be reached at: 816 E. Pine St., Millville, NJ, 08332; (609) 327-3151.

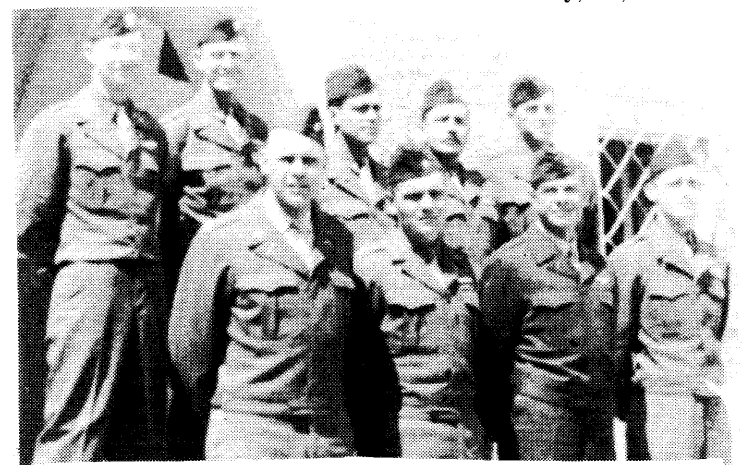
Joe Duraski was one of your truly's "Fighting First" when we stormed ashore at Safi. What a warm thing it was when he answered my phone call.

We gassed a spell. Joe caught malaria in Africa and it finally caught up with him in England. He was reclassified and spent the remainder of the war chasing POW's in France, poor fellow. After that he had a career with the New York Telephone Co. and is now at: 317 Mountain St., Albany, NY, 12209; (518) 462-6864.

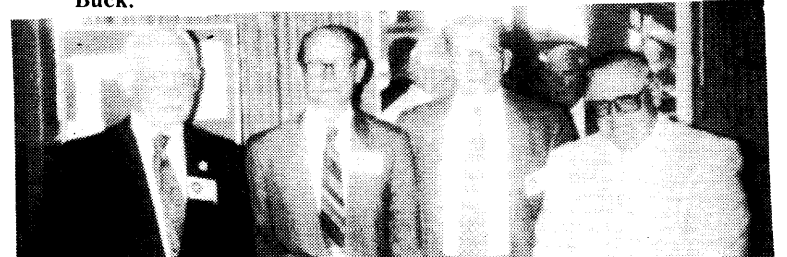
This brings the M Company roster up to 134 live ones, with some kicking better than others. Why that's getting close to the old TO&E strength of 166!

A thanks to Lou LaCivita for the photos of the Fayetteville Reunion. I'm keeping busy with my new writing project, this time of the 9th in Northern Tunisia. (See Sidebar "Taking Bizerte - II") This has put me in contact with several M-ers, like Johnny Davis, Bill Horan, Bernie Bennick and Dunc Murphy trying to get straight on who was running M in that period. Fred Falgiano's has come in with the first anecdote, and the unpleasant news that he's had a bout with "Big C." This is why Fred didn't make Fayetteville. Hopefully, an operation's knocked it and we'll have the Falgiano's welcome presence enlivening things at San Antonio. That's all for now. ... Adios, amigos!

Red Phillips  
14002 Hemlock Dr.  
Penn Valley, CA, 95946



Red Phillips supplied us with a picture of the late Colonel Peter Ward (47th Inf.) taken at the end of the War. The Regimental Commander P. Ward took over from Colonel Smyth in March of 1945 as Smyth was promoted to Brig Gen and transferred to another Division. Bottom row l-r, Col Ward, Major Bert Murphy, Lt. Col Bryant, Capt. Boland. Top row l-r, Capt. Valliere, Capt O'Keefe A-T Company, next two are not I.D. and Capt. Bob Buck.



Howard Brooks Co. C 47th send this photo taken at Bragg Reunion when a few of their old gang got together, l-r, Brooks, Lloyd Comaux, Stan Ollinger and Bill Megla. The photo was taken by John Gregory.



# GREATER NY AREA CHAPTER REPORT

After a summer hiatus, the Greater New York Area Chapter met at the Masonic Hall Building, 71 W 23rd Street, NYC, on Friday, September 18, 1992. The meeting, which began at 8:00 p.m. was presided over by President Tony DeRobertis and ably assisted by Secretary Art Schmidt. Many of the regulars showed up and related to each other on their past summer activities since our last meeting in June.

Correspondence and news received by the secretary was read to the membership by President DeRobertis: from George Bastido, Co. K 60th and Robert Waller. Also noted were the deaths of Hans Schwarzkopf, Hdq. 2nd BN 47th and William Bozell D Co. 60th. Our condolences to the families of these remembered 9th men.

The highlight of the evening was an unexpected surprise. Vincent Colangelo, the nephew and executor of deceased member, Jake Lasko's estate, presented a check for \$2000, at Jake's bequest, to the Greater NY Area Chapter of the 9th Infantry Division Association. Although we were surprised at this bequest, we weren't surprised by Jake's dedication and allegiance to his 9th Association where he was an active and well liked comrade. President Tony DeRobertis accepted the check from Mr. Colangelo on behalf of the association with gratitude for the generous bequest. During the meeting it was further decided by the membership to create a plaque in honor of Jake and present it later to Jake's family.

Other business: Art Schmidt reported receiving the first receipts of the annual Christmas 50-50 raffle books that went out with the September meeting notices. Tony Varone, "repository" for William Kreye's book, "Pawns of War," brought a few books to the meeting which some of the members purchased.

Meeting was concluded and we gathered around the hospitality table for refreshments.

Members attending, not mentioned above: Lou Almasy, William Canales, Al Gross, Vincent Guglielmino, Bill Klaus, Emil Langer, Charlie LiBretto, Marv Levy, Al Lipton, John Morris, Jim Mullen, Dan Quinn, Joe Rzesniowicki, Hermino Suarez, Adolf Wadalavage, Harry Wax, Al Zenka, and newly attending member, Charles Vandermark Cannon Co. 39th.

Since this reporter was not able to attend the October 16 meeting of the NY Area Chapter I'm filing this report based on information supplied by the secretary.

The meeting was chaired by President Tony DeRobertis. Proceedings opened on a sad note with members being notified of the passing of Emil Langer's dear, beloved wife, Molly. Remembering Molly in years past, the membership sent Emil its heartfelt condolences.

Also noted by correspondence from Mrs. Klimasz, the passing of 9th member Anthony 1st BN 60th. A note from James Haroutounian 84th Fd Art. stated that he was not well and unable to walk. Also heard from: Al Bacile Co. B 39th, Mrs. Anita (Francis) Russo, Tony San Giacomo Co. B 15th Eng., Mrs. Anthony Sargis and Walter O'Keefe.

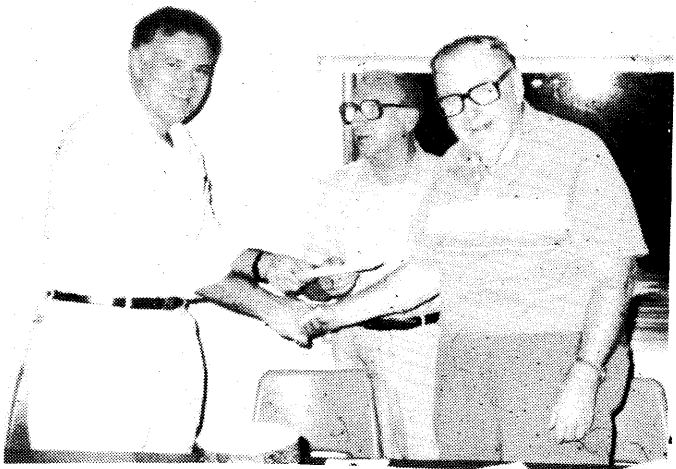
As noted elsewhere in the Octofoil, the New England Chapter is asking for donations to repair the deteriorating 9th Memorial monument on the Worcester, Mass. church grounds. The NY Area Chapter voted to donate \$500 from the recent Jack Lasko bequest towards restoration costs, which will be presented to the New England Chapter by NY representatives at the 9th Inf. Div. Worcester Memorial Services and Mass on October 25, 1992.

George Apar and Bill Klaus will head up the Lasko plaque committee. Art Schmidt reports sale of 11 William Kreye's "Pawns of War" books so far. About 90 books are left so if you wish to purchase one send \$10.95 plus \$3 for postage payable to the Greater NY Area Chapter 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. (note Pawns of War on check) to Art Schmidt at address below. Also send in your 1992 dues if you haven't done so: \$10 per year, \$25 for three years and \$75 for a Lifetime Membership. And don't forget to send in your raffle stubs and money for the 50-50 raffle — the only fund raiser of the NY Chapter.

Those members attending not mentioned above were: Lou Almasy, William Canales, Vincent Guglielmino, Charlie LiBretto, Al Lipton, Dan Quinn, William Vandermark, Tony Varone, Adolf Wadalavage and Al Zenka.

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

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



Vincent Colangelo, nephew of the late Jacob Laskau, Co. A 47th presents a check of \$2000.00 from the estate of Jake to the New York Chapter President Tony DeRobertis and Art Schmidt, at a recent meeting held in New York City. Jake was one of the old timers from the Ninth and although he was badly wounded at El Guettar in March of 1943 he made the reunions and at this time of the year would be found at the Memorial Services conducted by the late (Chaplain) Father Ed Connors in Worcester.

Deadline next issue Dec 20th

## ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Just returned from three weeks in Italy of which two weeks were spent in Sicily. We stayed with my wife's cousin in Termini Imerse. We visited Messina, Catania, Siracuse, Agrigento, Mondello, Palermo, Caltanissetta, Enna, Cefalu and Mt. Etna. The Cathedral at Cefalu is being restored. Cefalu has changed some. The old section near the sea is the same but inland, new hotels are still being built. Mt. Etna still has clouds hovering over its head. Palermo is one huge parking lot. The railroad from Cefalu to Palermo is a whiz — Electrified — not like the choo-choo we took to Palermo and back in '43. Sicily — nice place to visit — but not like home in good old U.S.A.

We will be going to Angola this weekend for the Michigan-Illinois Outstate meeting. We will be looking forward to seeing Bill Hennemuth again. Bill finally had knee surgery in July and has recovered very well. It was a tough struggle for him but with Peggy's help and his family, he is almost back to normal, not dancing yet, but not far from it. Inasmuch as the deadline for this article is two days after our meeting, we will report on it in our next letter. We expect a good turnout.

We also received word that Lewis Gray will be undergoing by-pass surgery this week. Our prayers are with him for a speedy recovery.

Our Christmas Party is scheduled for December 12th. No further details but Gordan Anderson will be sending out more information when available.

At this time we would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Thanksgiving and though it seems too early, Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Belmonte  
1161 S. Lombard  
Oak Park, IL 60304

60th Inf.  
JOSEPH L. RAPPAZINI  
24001 Sherman  
Oak Park, Mi. 48237

Dear Dan and Marie,

As always, perhaps even more so, "The Octofoil" was warmly welcomed. Again, many, many thanks to you for the warm-hearted reactions it always generates.

*The moment was mine and so were the tears,*

*As there flowed through my mind*

*faces of buddies held dear.*

*The moment was magic - they all*

*felt so near -*

*And grandest of all they gave out*

*with a cheer:*

*"Hurrah for the Ninth*

*a unit with strength!"*

*One and all knew what this*

*war truly meant.*

*'Twas sharing with each other*

*the dismay of war*

*In a struggle unmatched by*

*any before.*

*Bur-r-r-p guns and buzz bombs*

*Tiger tanks that could roar,*

*Then there were Stukas that*

*dove with a shriek*

*That shook the hearts of the*

*stalwart as well as the weak.*

*The terror and trial were foes to*

*the end,*

*Whether o'er desert or through*

*Hurtgen*

*the G.I.'s did wend.*

*The spirit that dwells in their*

*hearts*

*was knightly and bold.*

*Because of that fact a great tale*

*can be told.*

*The men of the Ninth - gallant*

*and brave.*

*Their story will follow them*

*-yes,*

*right to the grave!*

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Medical Center  
2300 Ramsey St.  
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Mr. Lawrence J. McLaughlin  
Committee Chairman, Veterans Awards  
9th Infantry Division Assoc.  
Dear Mr. McLaughlin

In response to your letter of July 20th, rest assured that the check for \$1,095.00 the 9th Infantry Division Association donated will be used only for the wall-mounted television set and a new parallel bar unit for the Kinesiotherapy Clinic.

As you mentioned in your letter, sometimes needs change between the time a request is made and a check is presented. We were not aware of your organization's feelings toward personal items at the time we sent the acknowledgement letter. The new parallel bar for the Kinesiotherapy Clinic has been ordered.

We greatly appreciate the generosity and compassion shown the patients of the Fayetteville VA Medical Center by the members of the 9th Infantry Division. May God bless you and your members as you continue your good works.

Sincerely yours,  
Thomas B. Arnold  
A.G. Branch  
Director

## COMPANY "F" 47TH INFANTRY

It seems that the '93 reunion is ages in the future, and Lucy and I won't get to see all you good people for such a long time. We had planned to spend a long weekend in the Washington, DC, area and visit some of our good friends there before the election, but those plans have fallen through. Dianne Williams, Doris and Charley's lovely daughter had offered to be our guide while we were there, and we were looking forward to the trip, but it is not to be. We did appreciate her offer, and we sincerely regret being unable to take advantage of it.

I've been in touch with Milt Zucker, Slats, Finnigan, Gonzol, and Jack Healey on a number of occasions since Fayetteville. I hope to see them all plus Ken Yennie, Paul Giarraputo, George Gaynor, Dan Quinn, Herb Hoefner, Whitey Waskiewicz, and George King at the upcoming lunch and meeting of the New Jersey Chapter. George King called me recently to let me know that his doctors just gave him a clean bill of health for the next year, so he'll be coming to Jersey to spend a week or two with us early next month or at the end of this month. Slats, Finnigan and I will rush him to a couple or three of our local tracks, some of our better restaurants, and to Atlantic City during his stay. Hopefully, we won't wear him down so that he'll have to visit his doctor again for a revised opinion after he returns to Phelps.

Both Frank and Lyl Gonzol have been having health problems since I last saw them. We all wish them progress in beating these infirmities. I haven't heard from Paul Giarraputo recently. I hope his silence is not due to health concerns, though I am aware that his Anne has been ailing for some time now. Hopefully, he will be able to meet with us on November 5, in New Brunswick.

I understand that those on sick call include Mary Gaynor and Rud and Esther Hoffman. We are certainly saddened to learn of these difficulties that these people are encountering, and we wish them all well.

Lucy and I have been fortunate in having no more than rather severe bouts of sciatica (both of us). Lucy had her attack while we were visiting George King in August, and I am just recovering from mine. I'm certainly happy that I waited seventy-three years to get this one!

My next communication with you troops will be in the form of my annual letter and financial report around the first of the year. Meanwhile, stay healthy! Ed Hopkins  
110 Hollywood Ave.  
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

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

What Happened?? I have not had any answers to my "Help Wanted" Ad in the last edition of the Octofoil. Doesn't anybody care to write and keep and touch with old buddies? Plus, of all the letters I mailed out with reservation forms, only Orion Shockley and Dennis Canedy wrote back. They are unable to write the column for good reasons, but will help anyway they can. Shockley and Elsie are now in Gympie, Australia (but will return on October 22nd), from which they sent us a post card. They have a Macademia Nut Farm there, and he says that it looks like a great year for a big crop of nuts. Harvest is in February-March, and the crop is estimated at over 50 long tons. As you already read here, he will be in Texas and has reserved a suite for Company B's C.P. Again, please let us know in time if you are coming to the Reunion, for stocking the CP. Also, received a nice letter from Dennis Canedy, and he tells us that he still works a 40-hour week at a Campground which he and Thora maintain. Admits to age 75 too. Very good, Dennis! He does not mention whether he will be able to come to the Texas Reunion. Bill Klauz also wrote to me in June, after the Reunion, with some nice pictures he had taken there. Thanks Bill! He looked good and it was nice to have seen him again in Fayetteville. Not much chance of his going to Texas though. Haven't heard from Pat Morano lately, and I hope "No News is Good News". We are still praying for you Pat, and writing this column for you.

Ellie and I just returned from a 4-day visit to her sister and family in Malone, New York (a 400 mile trip), so the Memorial Service in Worcester is out for us.

I found out that with arthritis developing in my spine, too much driving is no good. We hope someone from Company B makes it as it is a beautiful service and an enjoyable get-together.

As I said the last time, writing is like Chinese Water Torture for me, so please give a hand and write a paragraph or two for Company B? You have until December 20th to do it, and get it to Dan Quinn for publication in the next edition out in January, 1993. Let's hear from you Company B men and your wives. As ever,

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

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

## Taps Sounded

CALL OUT OUR NAMES  
AS THE YEARS GO BY-  
REMEMBER US-  
AND WE WILL NEVER  
DIE

With profound regret  
and remorse we announce  
the passing of these "Old  
Reliables and friends."

A.J. Moore  
60th Inf. M Co.

Joseph Boldyga

Arthur MacDougall  
60th Inf. L Co.

Hans Schwarzkopf  
47th Inf. Hqs.

Milton Cordray  
60th Inf. 2nd BN. Hq. & Hq.  
Co.

William R. McLaughlin  
Serv. & Cannon Co. 47th Inf.

Charles "Chuck" Hilliker  
60th Inf. 3rd. BN.

Michael Yuhase  
47th A.T.

Obert Solhaug  
47th K. Co.

Frank Taddeo  
47th Inf. 2nd BN.

Albert Hamlin  
9th Signal

Benjamin Smith  
15th Engrs.

John Rowell  
39th Inf. D. Co.

Molly Langer  
Wife of Emil, 47th Inf.

Clarence W. Hood  
39th Inf. F Co.

Col. Peter Ward  
47th Inf.

John Robinson  
Co. C 9th Med. BN

May they rest in Peace.  
To their families and loved  
ones we extend our deepest  
sympathy.

FRANCES CATUS  
10220 Greentrail Dr. No.  
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

I enjoyed the May, June, July  
issue of the Octofoil, so much, it  
thrilled me to see the photo of  
my handsome husband, Bob  
Catus, with his fellow soldiers,  
in Sicily, 1943, near Cefalu,  
prior to sailing to England.

Charlie was kind to share the  
photo with other interested per-  
sons. After Bob's death, Charlie  
sent me a very touching letter  
about a combat experience with  
my husband.

The ties that Ninth veterans  
have are extensive, not  
nebulous, solid and they  
enhance the lives of all they ex-  
tend to.

It is very hard to be without  
Bob, but it gives me warm feel-  
ings to know he has not been  
forgotten by his "buddies".

Keep the "Octofoil" coming,  
we who associated with the 9th  
soldiers at Fort Bragg, and  
elsewhere, have memories too  
deep to express.



## THE BEN SMITH STORY

By Ray Inzer

In April, 1945, I served briefly  
as commander of the First Bat-  
talion, 47th Infantry while the  
assigned commander, Jim  
Allwood, was sick in quarters.  
Those who served with the 47th  
at that time will remember fast  
moving days through the Harz  
Mountains. Eight Stars to Vic-  
tory, A History of the Ninth  
Division, describes the action  
on 14 April:

"Heavier opposition met the  
attack of the 47th... as strong  
Panzerfaust (one man bazooka  
sticks) and machine gun fire,  
and determined dug in infantry  
blocked, but did not halt the  
Raider advance on Guenters-  
berge and Strassberg. Then the  
Nazis raided the 47th Regimen-  
tal sector, shot up Strassberg  
and captured American Equip-  
ment. But this nuisance was  
dealt with quickly. Guenters-  
berge and Strassberg  
were taken... It was late after-  
noon and the phase ended with  
899 prisoners, an enemy field  
hospital, an ammunition fac-  
tory (which had been making  
cores and caps for armor-  
piercing shells), and a signal  
depot, all captured in one day's  
fighting by the men of the Oc-  
tofoil."

All the officers and men of the  
First Battalion performed well,  
but there is one name that  
stands out in my memory - BEN  
SMITH. Ben, from regimental  
headquarters, was serving tem-  
porarily as battalion S-2. On 14  
April he was given a recon-  
naissance mission. He perform-  
ed so well that the battalion  
took its objective easily. But the  
cost to Ben was tremendous.

I thought Ben had been  
recommended for the Silver  
Star because of his perfor-  
mance that day, but later learn-  
ed that there was no record of a  
recommendation having been  
filed. In January 1989, we in-  
itiated action to get the records  
changed. That triggered a com-  
plicated series of letters, forms  
and endorsements. We enlisted  
support from U.S. Senator Phil  
Gramm of Texas and U.S.  
Representative Jim McCrery of  
Louisiana. A decision was  
rendered in August, 1992.

In a letter to Ben dated  
August 6, 1992, the Department  
of the Army Board for Correc-  
tion of Military Records said,  
"A favorable decision has been  
made on your application for  
correction of military records."

Ben died in Shreveport on  
August 9. The DA letter arrived  
on August 10; Ben's widow,  
Margie, opened it on August 11.  
At Ben's military funeral on  
August 12, Margie received  
Ben's Silver Star along with the  
following citation.

60th Inf. H. Co.  
MRS. PERRY LANGSTON  
Box 115  
Buies Creek, N.C. 27506

Here is a small check for the  
Memorial Fund.

This is in memory of my hus-  
band, Perry Q. Langston.

He was Captain Langston,  
Company Commander of H  
Company in the 60th.

He was wounded in the  
African Campaign - near  
Bizerte. As a result, he was a  
paraplegic for nearly 49 years.  
He earned a doctor's degree  
and taught here at this Univer-  
sity in the Religion Department  
for 36 years. He died February  
16, 1992.

We always enjoyed the re-  
union -- I went over to Fayette-  
ville this year -- saw Mike Kauf-  
man and Bob Rucker and some  
others.

Perry received the Silver  
Star from Gen. Eddy.

In a letter to Ben dated  
August 6, 1992, the Department  
of the Army Board for Correc-  
tion of Military Records said,  
"A favorable decision has been  
made on your application for  
correction of military records."

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August 9. The DA letter arrived  
on August 10; Ben's widow,  
Margie, opened it on August 11.  
At Ben's military funeral on  
August 12, Margie received  
Ben's Silver Star along with the  
following citation.

Under the provisions of Army  
Regulations, the Silver Star is  
Awarded to:

Benjamin H. Smith, Captain,  
47th Infantry, who distinguish-  
ed himself by gallantry in ac-  
tion against the enemy on April  
14, 1945, in the vicinity of  
Strassberg, Germany. While on  
a reconnaissance mission to ex-  
pedite advance of the 1st Bat-  
talion, 47th Infantry, Captain  
Smith, in an action beyond the  
call of duty, traveled unsecured  
roads with a jeep and an arm-  
ored car to the vicinity of  
Strassberg, some three miles  
ahead of the battalion front. He  
entered the village alone and  
found it occupied by a German  
hospital unit commanded by a  
German major. Captain Smith  
negotiated with the German  
major for surrender of his unit,  
the village and all ambulatory  
patients. Captain Smith then  
learned that two armored Ger-  
man half-tracks were ap-  
proaching the village. Without  
regard for his personal safety,  
he mounted the armored car  
and set up to engage the Ger-  
mans. As he rounded a corner,  
he found himself face-to-face  
with the half-tracks. During an  
exchange of fire, Captain Smith  
was struck by German machine  
gun rounds. He suffered severe  
wounds which resulted in the  
loss of his right leg. Though  
bleeding profusely, Captain  
Smith maintained his presence  
in the village. The German  
force was turned back, and  
when advance elements of the  
battalion arrived, Captain  
Smith was still in command of  
the village. The German half-  
tracks were gone. Captain  
Smith's aggressive and  
courageous actions prepared  
the way for the battalion to  
enter the village without inci-  
dent. His performance, a credit  
to himself and his unit, was con-  
sistent with the highest tradi-  
tions of the military service. By  
his gallantry and devotion to  
duty in the dedication to his  
country, Captain Smith has  
reflected great credit upon  
himself and the United States  
Army.

47th INF  
RAY INZER  
818 Harwell  
Abilene, TX 79601

ALDEN D. HILL  
10210 Penn Ave.  
Bonita Springs, FLA 33923

I am the wife of Alden D. Hill  
of 10210 Penn. Ave., Bonita  
Springs, FL 33923. I have the in-  
fo of the 50th Ann-of the 9th In-  
fantry Division before me.

I called the Toll Free number  
and found out that I should  
write to you in regards of Mr.  
Hills death which occurred  
Mar. 22, at the Residence 1992.

He was 85 years old Dec. 25,  
1991. We were married over 53  
years, so you know it was hard  
to give him up. He never liked  
his name, Alden Daniel, so we  
all called him A.D.

He went all the way thru  
Africa, Sicily, England, and  
D-Day and on thru to Germany.  
A.D. got shot by a sniper a day  
or so after the Armistice was  
signed, they put him in a plane  
for the Paris hospital, didn't get  
home until V-J Day, Aug. 14. He  
had been promised a medal of

60th F.A. Bn Btry B  
JOHN F. MARSTON  
3 Samoset St.  
Norton, MA 02766

Just finished reading the  
Jan.-Feb. edition, and read-  
ing of Harry Hammer passing  
away, made me aware of my  
negligence in writing letters to  
the Octofoil. I find it strange  
that there are never letters from  
other former Btry B members.

I arrived at Ft. Bragg in  
March of 1941 and was assigned  
to Btry B at that time, and re-  
mained with them until I left on  
the point system in June of '44  
from Munich, Germany.

I have only made one reunion  
at Hyannis, MA and again was  
surprised at the lack of 60th  
F.A. members. I do have in my  
scrap book a complete battery  
roster of all former members.  
Perhaps I should make a copy  
of it and forward it to the paper  
for publishing.

I am enclosing one of the  
many poems I wrote during our  
campaigns from No. Africa to  
the Elbe River in Germany.

I will start with my first  
poem, that most military men  
will agree with.

I look forward to every edi-  
tion of the Octofoil and I wish to  
congratulate you for the con-  
tinuation of the Association.

God Bless You All!  
"WAITING IN LINE"

On February 14th, '41 ...  
I started looking at another sun.  
I just started soldiering at this  
time  
and that's when I started --  
"waiting in line".

They asked me questions, from  
morning till night,  
and the clothes they gave me,  
fit too tight.  
Even after the Corporal's;  
"Take your time,  
you'll get a good fit if you just --  
"wait in line".

Then over to the barracks, that  
seemed so bare,  
but later turned out, to be  
pretty fair

The sergeant, he promised:  
"You'll really sleep fine,  
but to draw your blankets go --  
"wait in the line"

The sergeant, he taught us how  
to make a bed,  
while we were wondering, will  
we ever get fed.  
Well; finally he quit, and yell-  
ed; "It's chow time,  
go down to the mess hall and --  
"fall in the line".

## Tip of the Hat

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

Mrs. Perry Langston - In  
memory of her husband, 60th  
Inf. H. Co.

Mrs. Eugene Carney - In  
Memory of her husband, 60th  
Inf. D. Co.

Mrs. William McLaughlin - In  
memory of her husband, Serv.  
& Cannon Co.

Mrs. Dorothea Trevelise - In  
memory of Frank Taddeo, 47th  
Inf. 2nd Bn.

Philip Emmons - In memory  
of Benjamin Smith - A Texan  
John De Rouville - In  
memory of his wife, Rita.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Harms  
- In memory of Molly Langer,  
Claude Ball.

Bravery and more hospitaliza-  
tion when he returned to the  
U.S. for he had his collar bone  
broken, trying to protect his  
Major on the way back to a Rest  
Camp. When he asked about  
these things, they told us that  
all of his files had been burned  
as the hospital had been  
destroyed. Thanks for listening  
to me.

Now you can do this -- but you  
can't do that,  
and when you salute, fingers tip  
your hat.  
And they talked and talked, till  
their thoughts were mine  
and even for this we -- "waited  
in line".

Now after duty, you can go to  
the show,  
or go to the canteen, for ice-  
cream like snow.  
So go do what you want, the  
night is your time,  
but all if it's spent -- "waiting  
in line" ..

When we were being shipped off  
to war,  
I thought certain they'd stop  
having this law.  
But before boarding the boats,  
they checked us real fine,  
and for hours and hours we --  
"waited in line".

With the inspections we have,  
all things must be pat,  
for the eyes of some Army  
brassy "brass hat".  
And when ever they come, they  
don't give us time,  
for to shave and to wash, we  
must -- "wait in line".

All day we work hard, and the  
weeks are so long.  
And the Army's one pay day,  
we think is all wrong.  
But when it arrives, we all feel  
just fine,  
still, to draw our "mazooma"  
we must -- "wait in line".

There's no place in the Army,  
that this isn't so,  
be it Army Headquarters or  
camp movie show.  
Whether your sleeping or work-  
ing or starting to dine,  
everyone at the same time is --  
"waiting in line" ..

And when this is over, and  
homeward we come.  
I'll still make a wager, that  
some silly bum;  
will tell all the papers; "Oh,  
we're treated just fine".  
No mention at all of the --  
"waiting in line".

But the day will be here, I'm  
certain of that,  
when I can take off my green  
soldier's hat.  
And then with my "papers", all  
tied up with twine  
It's goodbye to the Army, and  
the -- "waiting in line".

## Appreciative

15th Eng's.  
FRAN MAHER  
14 Dovenfart St.  
Worcester, MA 01610  
Hi Dan,

The recent sickness that I had  
just before the banquet (at the  
Reunion) was something that I  
didn't expect. I was taken to the  
hospital where I stayed nine  
days and they did through  
surgery have a pacemaker put  
in and it is working well.

When I returned home the  
doctor took away all the pills  
that the hospital gave me and I  
felt that is good news. The feel-  
ing is back to normal and I feel  
real good. I wish to thank all  
concerned and especially to  
those that have lent their sup-  
port and the visits that I had.

My nephew flew down and he  
drove us home and I was happy  
to see him, and he did the driv-  
ing.

I believe that I am back in  
good spirits and feeling good.

Once again, many thanks to  
all concerned and the support  
that I received.

Reunion in Texas  
Oct. 7-10 1993

## THE OCTOFOIL

47th Inf. L Co.  
WM. L. BAUER  
1004 N. Cody Ave.  
Hardin, Mt. 59034

Greetings from Montana.  
Feel somewhat consoled that I am not alone with late dues — time slips away.

Anyone out there know the whereabouts of an Eddie Cooper? He was with Headquarters Co., drove a jeep most of the time. He hailed from Dayton, Ohio, but rumor has taken him to Texas. Would appreciate any information.

Enclosed 3 years dues. Best regards.

60th Inf. F Co.  
CLIFFORD PAINTER  
240 Hawthorne Road  
Washington, PA 15301

I had a note from John Miller asking me to send you the names of the F Co. 60th men who attended the recent reunion at Fayetteville. He didn't indicate if you wanted anything other than the names which I have listed below.

John Allen\*, Herb Brasington, Phil Berman, Richard Beaumont, Donald Crass, Reid Bennett, Frank Dennis, Jim Driscoll, Lorenzo Filetti, Elton Harrell, Harold Jordon, Alan Johnson\*, Robert Kriz\*, Earl Lees, John Miller, Art MacDougall, Joseph Nehr, Clifford Painter\*, Ted Preston, Tom Saunders, Bert Skinn, Joe Skirtich, Matt Urban\*, Bernie Wilder.

\* Former Company Commanders.

Rosalie and I enjoyed the reunion as always. Just wish more former F Co. men would attend. We're looking forward to '93 in San Antonio.

I think I have dues that are or soon will be due. I am enclosing a check for \$25.00 to cover dues for the next three years.

Hope that any former F Co. 60th men who read the Octofoil will try and make it to the reunion next year in San Antonio.

47th Inf. Co. E  
CHARLES MARALDO  
171 Bryson Ave.  
Staten Island, NY 10302

Seeing the old barracks at the reunion in Fort Bragg really brought back some old memories. The reunion will be one to remember.

I'm sorry I could not get around to see everyone but I hope if all goes well I'll make it up in San Antonio next year.

Dues is due, so check is in the mail.

Worcester, Mass. is next stop.

Like to hear from some of the old original Co. E. members. I know some of you are out there, (c. Tricoli, Bates) etc. Take care on to Texas.

60th Inf. M Co.  
ROBERT BOVANIZER  
14 Sabre Park  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Please put our notice in the Octofoil. We attended the funeral of AJ Moore in Detroit on August the 3rd. He was one of the original M Co. 60th Inf. men at Ft. Bragg. Will Thornton and I were able to go for the company. AJ and Evelyn had recently moved back to Michigan from Nashville. Evelyn's address now is 4645 E. Cranberry Lake Rd., Harrison, Michigan 48625. I am sure she would like to hear from the men. Thank you.

47th Inf.  
GEORGE REMALEY  
Box 437-H, R.D. 1  
Natrona Hgts., PA 15065

I want to say hello to all my buddies in the 9th. I am trying to find a man who was in one of the line companies in the 47th.

His name was Bob Merviso

AT & Hq. Co. 47th Inf.  
FRANK VENEZIA  
17 Kingsbridge Dr.  
Burlington, N.J. 08016

At the reunion I had the pleasure of seeing Houston Meade (first time since 1945), Col. Edel Clark, Ed Orr, Howard Waldman, Charles Woolrich, Jake Holubuff, also since 1945, Emil De Donato and Leon Robins. Good memories, good fellowship, and camaraderie. Thanks again Dan for the fine work. Good luck.

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

Well, Fayetteville and the 'Big Show' are all history! I came home on the next day and the following morning I awoke with a heart attack beginning. I called a friend, he called the local ambulance, and medical team, and in a few minutes I was on the way to the hospital. I entered the IC section, and after 13 days, returned home. I've been recovering well...so my Dr. says!...and, I guess, I agree.

There were five 'C' Co. men there at the reunion at Fayetteville, that I met, and one of them, John Gregory, took the photo of four of us. When Red Phillips wrote and asked me afterwards if I had made the reunion...I didn't see him, you Dan, or Bill Klauz!...I sent him this photo. He had a halftone made and was going to send it to you to put in the OCTOFOIL. Then, he realized he didn't have all the info, so he sent it to me to complete and I'm sending it on to you.

From left to right there is myself, next to me Lloyd Comeaux, and on his left is Stan Pollinger, and on his left Bill Megla. Stan and I left Ft. Bragg together so it really was a 50th anniversary of our departure. The others, including Gregory, who took the photo, joined the company in France/Germany. Megla was captured by the Germans at the Meuse River crossing.

This was to be my last reunion, and with the events that followed my return, I'm sure it will be. It was great to have the chance to gab about, and rehash, what happened from UTAH beach to the meeting of our troops and the Russians. A lot of history was written before and after that day, I guess we'll all agree to that!

Thanks again for all the work by so many to make the reunion successful. It was fitting to have it at Fayetteville, and Fort Bragg, on the 50th anniversary of our departure. To anyone, who hadn't been back to Fayetteville in 50 years, though, like myself, it certainly has changed, and I would not have recognized it after remembering what it was like in THOSE days.

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

This will have to be short because I am still cleaning and fixing up. Even though Hurricane Andrew was mean, so was the German Machine. I am alive and well. I wish I could hear from my buddies in Co. D., 47th Infantry. I was so proud of that unit. Let me close.

and he came from Pittsburgh. I don't know if he made it through the war. If he is around I would like to have him call me. My telephone number is (412) 224-1309. I would like to know how he is doing.



Some of the 39th members are pictured at the Bragg reunion, l-r, Al Baccile, supply Sgt., Captain Edwin A. Perry Company Commander, Josep Gravino, 1st Sgt., Lt. Jack Dunlap, Adjutant and Al "Hawk" DiRisio, mess sgt. Story appears in other section of this issue.

39th Inf.  
LAWRENCE D. MARTIN  
1418 Blair Loop Rd.  
Danville, VA 24541

I'm writing to let you know that Clarence William Hood — 74 died Oct. 5 after a 10 year bout with Cancer. He was in F. Co., 39 Regt. He served in the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.

I folded the flag at his Military rites by our Chapter 19 Disabled Vets. He leaves a wife, Myrtle, a daughter Elizabeth and one son, Stanley.

Clarence never joined the Assoc. but I passed along the Octofoil which he liked to read, but never did see anyone he knew in Mail Call.

Wish you could send his wife a copy of Octofoil with Clarence's name in Taps Sounded. Maybe someone will remember him in F. Co. He saved the life of a buddy on the Remagen Bridge, which got him the Bronze Star. The address of wife:

Mrs. Myrtle Hood  
2824 Westover Drive  
Danville, VA 24541

Dan, my wife and I plus our son and wife had a wonderful time at the reunion at Bragg.

I met Pete Smalley's wife, Dottie for the first time. Never will forget the wonderful people I met and talked to. If only Spencer Norwood and Bob Kinkoph had been there it would have been perfect.

Dan, I have been fighting Cancer 2 1/2 years now. Was able to get to Bragg feeling good but have more problems now. God willing, with Doctors' care, maybe I'll make another some day.

If Kenneth Meyers should see this. Please get in touch, as my letter to him was sent back from Belton, TX address. He must have moved. God Bless all men of the Ninth.

9th Signal  
WILLIAM MILLER  
507 Eskridge Dr.  
Wilmington, De. 19809

I just received a letter from the wife of a former member of the 9th Signal Co. who passed away in August, 1992. His name is Albert Hamlin, I don't know if he was a member of the 9th Division Association.

Also a short note telling you how much we enjoyed the reunion in Fayetteville, NC. It was too bad about the rain falling during the memorial service at Fort Bragg but all the memories were with us at that time.

39th Inf. G Co.  
JAMES LEMMA  
1213 E. Windemere  
Royal Oak, Mi. 48073

You do a very good job with the Octofoil. I really look forward to every copy.

To those guys talking about wearing artificial legs, my brother-in-law has been wearing them for 63 years. he is 76 and still goes to work 5 days a week.

I would still like to hear from anyone who was with G. Co. 39th from Remagen to the end.

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

Commanders We Knew  
Volume One of Commanders We Knew is going well and there are still some copies left at ten bucks each. Write me or call at (619) 487-3260.

Have started on Volume Two. If you want to be a part of this volume, send me a unique story about someone (the 9th or any other unit closely associated) who had a wartime experience, or a peacetime success. Pick anyone from any unit of the Ninth Division that you think has an interesting story. But, don't let this detract from your sending letters to the Octofoil. Please give the Octofoil priority!

I will have a section in Volume Two about each unit of the 9th and will cover particularly some Special Troops outfits (709th Ordnance, Division HQS, 9th Recon, etc) that we haven't heard much about in other prior publications. Of course, the three regiments and the artillery, will be well represented.

So, come on out and enjoy the fun! Send me what you have and you will be included.

39th Inf. I Co.  
DON LAVENDER  
2913 49th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50310

I suppose this has been brought up before, but it is of concern to me and I would like to inquire about it.

We just visited the Remagen Bridge site for the second time in recent years. Plaques are mounted there for several of the divisions that took part in the crossing including the 9th Armored, the 78th Division and the 99th Division.

If my information is correct, our Division Commander was the overall Commander on the bridgehead. We all know that our division was among those in the early crossing and that it played an important part in expanding that bridgehead.

Why is there not a plaque at Remagen honoring the 9th Infantry Division? Assuming that there is no limitation on the number of plaques mounted there, shouldn't our Association undertake a special fund raising campaign to purchase an appropriate plaque and see that it is duly mounted there with appropriate ceremony.

Memorials of that kind last far into the future and will be there long after most of us are gone. The remaining towers on the West Bank of the Rhine are a regular tour visit seen by thousands every year.

E Co. 47th Inf.  
CAAS MCLHINNEY  
212 N. Washington St.  
Havre DeGrace, Md. 21078

Seeking Edward Truelone, James Hindman, Sgt. Frank Averso, Stephan Johnson, James McGriffin and Tony Prentza.

39th Inf. B Co.  
AL DIRISIO  
13 N. Main St.

Fairport, N.Y. 14450

B Co. 39th's command staff of World War II posed for the enclosed snapshot at Fort Bragg in June after forty seven years from leaving the ETO. What other company can boast the same.

Elwin A. Perry and Jack Dunlap stayed in the service and retired as Colonels.

We have been enjoying B. Co. annual reunions since 1952 and altho many have passed on we still have good turnouts. For information on the reunions call "Hawk" 1-716-388-0994.

It was nice seeing you again.

47th Inf. Serv. Co.  
DUANE OLSON  
131 North Bay Lane #5  
Port Ludlow, WA 98365

Robert H. J. Dunn (the only GI in the 47th Infantry with two middle initials) writes in the May-June-July 1992 issue of the Octofoil, of the delayed embarkation of 47th troops from the harbour of Palermo, and the plea of many of us, during the bombing, for the "safety and comfort of the front lines."

Earl (Moe) Mosel and Duane (Ole) Olson recently had their Service Co. — Regimental Headquarters Company reunion in Port Ludlow, WA, after 50 years. Other members of these groups couldn't quite make it.

Bob's article brought to mind a couple of incidents that occurred at the time of our departure from Palermo, Sicily.

The regimental Command Post pyramidal tent was pitched in the harbour area. General Eddy and staff had all retired for the night, prior to embarkation the next morning. A violent rain storm created havoc with the tent, and it collapsed, right flat down. Then, one by one (as we assume by rank) the rest of the staff crawled thru the hole in the maelstrom. Oh, for a video-cassette recorder for such historical minutiae!!

Shortly thereafter, General Eddy drove to the bivouac area to see how the troops were doing in the storm. On his inspection walk he came across an infuriated GI trying to restake his pup tent, flapping wildly in the forty mile an hour winds. The rich jargon of the typical infantryman was much in use. The GI thrust a couple of stakes in the hands of that person standing nearby, with the admonition, "Hold on to these effers while I get the rest tied down." He did the job, and when he reached for the rest of the stakes, he suddenly recognized his benefactor, and with a "Holy S---!" he dropped his trenching tool and started a very rapid salute, at full attention."

These are some of the remembered stories of our experience during eight campaigns with the forty-seventh. Most of the bad stuff we've forgotten.

15th Engr. B Co.  
PAT DeCOLLI  
1017 Jackson St.  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Hope you and Marie are in the best of health.

I am writing to let you know that Arthur (Red) MacDougall passed away on July 24, 1992.

I was present at his funeral along with some other chapter members.

Arthur (Red) MacDougall was with the 60th Infantry and I believe he was in Company "L".

I am glad Red was able to attend the reunion in North Carolina.

Hope to see you in Worcester, Mass. in October.

Take care of yourself and give Marie my regards and tell her to stay well.



# MAIL CALL

84th F.A. Hqs. Bty.  
703 T.D. Bn - 3rd Armd. Div.  
CLAUDE BALL  
611 Willow Oak  
California, MD 20619

As a former member of the Ninth Infantry Division at the time it was activated in Aug. '40, I would like to make a donation in memory of 2 young soldiers who served with me during 1940, '41 and '42.

KIA - 1. PFC Chapman W. Clements

2. S/SGT Wilson Strong  
Address: P.O. Box 563,  
Augusta, GA 30903  
HQS BTRY 84th F.A. Bn.

I was a Sgt. in Hqs. Btry. 84th F.A. Bn. In Aug. 1942 I went off to O.C.S. at HA Hood, Tx.

I made your last reunion at Fayetteville, N.C. in June, my 1st. I very quickly joined #1226. I will make any others, from here on.

I could not hold back the tears when I learned that P.F.C. Clements was KIA. He could not have been over 16 years old when he took his first training as a recruit in my Platoon or wire section in Hdqrs. Co. He volunteered as regular in the Army for 3 years. I recall holding an arms inspection, one day, and I asked him a few questions - one of which - do you realize what you may be getting into? - and what did your mama think about it? He said he wanted to help, and that his mother didn't know. Anyone could see - he slipped through the examining station. He couldn't hide the youthful features. I was 25 at the time and had 6 years in the regular army.

As for Sgt. Strong - he was 15 and entered the army the same way. He was truly a hero (and still is) as he saw action in all the divisions campaigns in Africa, Sicily, Normandy - Central Europe until the War's end. He is married and is a temporary gate guard at Ft. Gordon, GA today.

They were both excellent soldiers and gave their best at all times, taking all training seriously.

I took a replacement package made up of 495 ENL men and 4 2nd Lts. into Normandy beach - head on D + G and spent weeks in a find replacement Bn. waiting for an assignment.

When elements of the Division was clearing out the city of Cherbourg, France - I took it on myself to hitch-hike to Cherbourg and visited with the 84th F.A.B.N. and asked the C.O. for an assignment there as a communication officer and/or for any other assignment that may come up. He didn't feel that he needed me at that time - or didn't care to consider future casualties, so I returned to the replacement Bn. - very disappointed. I felt that knowing the men would be an advantage. We could have done it with a phone call.

Several weeks later, after the St. Lo breakthrough, I was assigned to the 3rd Armored Division and the 703 T.D.B.N. I had the honor of serving under the command of Lt. Col. Lovelady with CCR. He is 86 years old and lives in Florida.

I tried to make it with the 9th Inf. Div. but not succeeding with that, I landed with an equally fine bunch of men and machines. See you at our next reunion in San Antonio, TX - my own hometown. Best wishes and thanks.

## Texas in October 1993

F Co. 39th Inf.  
JOHN CRAIL  
321 Frazier Dr.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235

By the time you get to read this you will have concluded the 47th annual reunion, another successful one, I'm sure.

Dan I have a little note for a future publication of the Octofoil. You may edit as you see fit.

### All Co's 39th Regt.

I have obtained from the National Archives Records, copies of General Orders, issued by command of the 39 Regt. 9th Inf. Div. These Gen. Ord's have listings by company, of all men who were issued the Good Conduct Medal and also the Combat Infantryman Badge. The list shows name, rank, and serial numbers.

Anyone interested in obtaining copies of their company's listings, just send me a S.A.S.E. along with the company you served with and I will be glad to return your company's listings to you. Any questions, drop me a line.

Hdgrs. Company  
3 Bn Co. Reg.  
MICHAEL J. FAZIO  
8304 Parsons Blvd.  
Jamaica, NY  
11432-1636

On Thursday June 4, 1992 at 2100 hours on CBS Television I watched a TV program called "The Year of the Generals." It featured all of our great generals, also British generals and field marshals including German FM Rommel. In one part of this terrifically interesting program it showed Gen. George S. Patton pinning the Silver Cross Medal (2nd highest award) on the chest of our own 3 BN, 60 Reg. Sgt. Major Charles Willsher for gallantry in action, above and beyond the call of duty for knocking out a German pill box in N. Africa.

Needless to say, we his buddies in the 9th Div. are proud of our comrade Charlie for what he did at that perilous time to accomplish his designated mission.

So, Charlie, ol' buddy, if you are reading this article (and we know you are) congratulations on your extra-ordinary feat of heroism. All your buddies are proud of you. You never realized you'd be on TV 50 years later.

Co. E 47th Inf.  
JOE HASENFUS  
3570 Union Ave. Area #A  
Pennsauken, N.J. 08109

Thank you for your comments on Capt. Frank Petty, CO Co. E 47th. I met him and Bill Mooty of Birmingham, Alabama at the reunion last year in Milwaukee.

It was one of the first reunions I had attended. I was a machine gunner in the 4th Plt., damn near shot Capt Perry, he always was out front. He should have gotten the Congressional Medal of Honor. One hell of a man.

See you in Texas next year. "God Willing".



Red Phillips wants to identify these mortarmen (Co M 47th) who posed for this photo in the Spring of 45. Joe Ventura who provided this photo is 2nd from right, front row. His pal Harry Nadeau is holding the MI.

15th Engrs  
PHILLIP EMMONS  
125 Southfield Rd.  
Shreveport, LA 71105

Enclosing the photo of you and my friend John Hoyt, 15th Engrs. from N. Hollywood, CA. The picture was taken 6-13-92 in the 47th Inf. reception room following the banquet in Fayetteville, N.C. was nice to visit with you that night and good to see you looking so important and prosperous.

Looks like John has acquired a shot of corn squeezings in the glass he's holding - while you were practicing (on the wagon) shaking hands with John and having your left hand in your pocket.

At the 1991 Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter meeting in Arlington, TX, I met Ray Inzer. Ray asked me to look up Benjamin Smith here in Shreveport, LA. Met and became friends to Ben and his wife, Margie. Know that you have been informed of his death by receiving the write up of Ben obtaining the Silver Star as appears in the Shreveport Times dated 8-12-92.

84th FA  
WALTER TONDETTAR  
11 North Chestnut Ave.  
Whiting, N.J. 08759

By now I'm sure many of the Ninth Division Association members have received information from Galaxy Tours, Wayne, PA concerning 50th anniversary commemoration tours in 1993 and 1994.

Walter and I have a few questions and concerns relative to these tours. Namely, are they a reliable tour agency and are these trips authorized (or approved) by the Association? We were wondering whether there are other trips in the offing - perhaps that question may be answered in the next Octofoil. Walter was with the 47th Inf. (84th combat team) and was with the Division both in Africa and Europe - we are leaning toward the England/France tour in 1994.

However, we don't want to commit as yet until we can find out more about it. Any information you can provide either in the next Octofoil or by letter would be greatly appreciated.

### F Co's 39th Mini-Reunion

ED McNAMARA  
Box 219  
Brookfield, N.Y. 13314

Company F 39th members held a mini-reunion this past September 24th. Received notice too late for last issue.

Fox Co. 39th Reunion, Sept. 24, 25, 26, Days Inn Airport, 5860 Fortune Circle West Drive, Indianapolis, Ind. 46241.

Questions: Lyal Hendren, 513-793-9726; Red Crail, 412-823-0486; Ray Hanks, Pres., 501-726-3388.

Busiest summer I've ever had. Trailer and mobil home, electric hook-up still free. 04 West of Bridgewater, Rt. 20, yellow pole barn on north side, div insig. on barn.

## Remember the Reunion Dates Oct. 7-10, 1993

Hq. 84th F.A. 9th M.P.  
JAMES BRUNER  
1027 Lakeshire Dr.  
Fairfield Glade, TN 38555

My daughter called last night to let me know that a very good friend had passed away. Charles (Chuck) Hilliker. Chuck was a former 60th infantry man.

He was never a member of the Association. I asked him about joining, but he said that he had enough to remember about the time he was in service. For he was hit quite bad during his short stay in the Ninth. But he was a very good friend. We went to the same church, our daughters grew up together, went to school together, and still go to the same church together, so I feel that he should be remembered as a good soldier in the Ninth Infantry Division.

I would appreciate it if his name was listed in the Taps Sounded Column in the Octofoil. Charles (Chuck) Hilliker 3rd Bn. 60th. Inf. died of a massive stroke on Sept. 12, 1992.

I know it has been a long time since I have been in contact with you, but I have not forgotten. I am always glad when the Octofoil arrives, for my wife Audrey and I enjoy reading about all of our friends. We still receive the Michigan Chapter News Letter.

Since moving to Tennessee, we were over in North Carolina last March to visit the Desandys, and they will be visiting us in October. We all enjoy playing golf very much so we moved into golfing communities; they went to Southern Pines and we came to Fairfield Glade where we have, in my opinion, 18 holes of best year round golf in the country. Last year there were 198,000 rounds played here at Fairfield Glade. There are just over 5,000 permanent residents, approximately 300 time share units, and several condos; so it is a busy place, especially during the summer season, April to November.

For a person who is a little hesitant to buy green bananas at the market, I have already sent in our reservations for the next reunion in Texas, and we both are looking forward to going.

Audrey and I extend an invitation to all to stop by and visit us. We are just 5 miles north of Interstate 40 at exit no. 322, at Crossville, Tennessee. Our phone no. is 615-484-1013. We are only 70 miles west of Knoxville and 105 miles east of Nashville in some of the most beautiful hill country to be found anywhere.

Y'all come see us, heah.

A.T. Co. 47th Inf  
CHARLES BANAS

The photo of the 47th A.T. Co. men taken in Cefalu, Sicily prior to sailing for England. Hope the five more names not mentioned will contribute to the picture.

Top Row, (L to R) Ditchus, Johnson, McKay, Catus,

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15th Eng. "A" Co.  
CHARLES "HAAS" JOHNSON  
100 Rambler Road  
Cambridge, MD 21613

It was just wonderful to be able to attend the reunion at Fayetteville, N.C.

My wife Kathryn and I enjoyed seeing many of the fellows and their wives again.

One of my highpoints was on Saturday when Carol Devold, Tony Soprano and myself, along with our wives visited the old Barracks at Ft. Bragg. I am sure our minds were doing double time as we went inside the old Building we stayed and reflected on the time and experiences we shared there. Also, to be near and see McFadden Pond, brought back many memories. It was wonderful to see Harry James, and his lovely wife, whom I haven't seen since leaving the service. He lives in California.

All in all, it was a few days well spent with a great group. I wish you all God's very best in the year's ahead!

47th Inf. E & F Co's.  
TOM JONES  
133 Maplebrook Ct.  
Columbus, Ga. 31904

I know now, in my old age that I should have maintained my membership in the association but really had no contact except with Clayton Waggoner.

Did look up my old CO James Leopold and had dinner with his family way back in the early '60s.

Stopped off to visit Felton Jones (1st Sgt. F Co. 47th) last week and after this visit knew that I needed to send this application off to you.

Regards to all.

Mueller, Blood, Unknown, Busby. Center Row: (L-R) Lewis, Morey, Banas, Unknown, Brewer, Bodnar. Bottom Row, (L to R) Milka, Tauger, Speicher, Mangini. Please bear with me on the spelling. Keep up the good work, Thanks again.



Thirteen members of Co I 39th held a Mini-reunion in Indiana on Aug. 11 and 12. Pictured are front row, l-r, Lavender, Koneski, Chipura, Dawson, Overton and Radabaugh. Top row, l-r, Palmer, Chavat, Elkins, Jenkins, Callahan, DeWitt and Holsapple. Story appears in Octofoil.