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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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1-1-1993

## The Octofoil, January/February 1993

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLVIII

Number 1 Jan-Feb 1993

## Ladies Corner

I don't have to worry about how to start this column, after missing December's edition, I must start with an apology and an explanation. The Christmas Holidays of course, were one reason (and with my large family, it is quite a production!). A very necessary remodeling project was the second and most important one. Joe and I have a lovely old (77 years) home which had a small closet in its center hall, and which we learned could be converted into a much-needed and convenient Powder Room. Well, we found a creative plumber-contractor who gave us our powder room, working from November 29th to December 16th, and is it ever beautiful! Of course, the house was disastrously dirty as a result of all his efforts. And just around Christmas too! Anyway, it's done, my time and home are my own again, and you are getting this column on time.

I hope your holidays were very Merry and that 1993 so far has been good and free from the Nasty Flu that's floating around. Joe and I have been lucky on that score, except for a small bout I had with laryngitis and bronchitis over the New Year's holiday. But Joe had to get some time off, so he fell down our front ICY brick steps (to put out a small bag of garbage no less!) the night of January 11th, hurt his lower back (hairline fracture of vertebrae) and had an enforced 3-week vacation — and it still hurts him somewhat!! But enough of us, heard from many of you before and at Christmas like Daphne Grubb, with a letter that I will print later, Adolph Wadalavage, Bonnell Wakeman, Marline Sanchez, Mark Auerbach, son of Miriam Auerbach, Auxiliary member, Mary McLaughlin, Ruth Jordan, Ruth Leeds, Phyllis Perna, Mary Brasington, and Ruth Webster. Thanks to all of you. Ruth sent the last of our 1992 donations' Thank-you letters. It was for the \$300.00 we sent to the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton, New Hampshire, and whose Commandant Conway and Staff decided on special personal Christmas gifts for veterans who have no families.

### Reunion

Last, but most importantly, President Mary Brasington wrote me of the plans for our October 8th meeting. Now listen, and very carefully:

Date: Friday, October 8, 1993.

Time: 9:30 AM

Place: Sante Fe Room of the Holiday Inn, Riverwalk North, San Antonio, Texas.

Menu: Fresh Fruit Compote, Quiche Lorraine with Ham, Vegetable Medley, Assorted Muffins, Etc., Coffee, Tea, etc.

It will be a Sit-Down Brunch, and will be followed at approximately 10:30 AM, by a Fashion Show, given by TEQUILA TREE of Market Square, San Antonio, Texas, and Mazatlan, Mexico. About 10:30 AM, Election of Officers and our Business Meeting will follow until about 12:30 PM. Our Pollyanna Raffle will be in there somewhere too. Contin Page 2

## Tip of the Hat

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

Joseph Gravino - In memory of David McLaughlin and Frank Benyo, B Co. 38th Inf.

Mrs. Lillian Abramson - In memory of husband Jack, B Co. 15th Engrs.

Sam Robinson - In memory of Joe McKenzie, 26th F.A.

Robert Mathis  
Ernest J. Brown

Joseph Kearns - For all 47th M Co. men who gave their lives.

Byron Angell Jr. - In memory of Fred D'Amore and Glen Bowman, B Co. 15th Engrs.

John Wessmiller - In memory of Al Kistler, Dave Brogner and Hal Foss.

Thomas D. Smith - In memory of the men who served in the 3rd Bn., Med. Det. 60th Inf.

Mrs. Ruth Kitchen - In memory of her husband, Lyle, M Co. 47th Inf.

Elmer Roscoe - In memory of Joe Albanese and Joseph McKenzie

Edward Drabik

Alexander Balough - In memory of John Robinson, 9th Med. C. Co.

Leo Fatlan - In memory of Lyle Kitchen, M Co. 47th Inf.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1993 REUNION — 3th DIV. San Antonio, Texas

### CHAIRMAN

John W. Miller  
1511 Cochise Dr.  
Arlington, Tx 76012  
1-817-274-2773

### CO-CHAIRMAN

Pete Rice, Jr.  
2 Royal Way  
Dallas, Tx. 75229  
1-214-361-8533

### REGISTRATION and FINANCE

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571 Radiance Dr.  
San Antonio, Tx 78218  
1-512-656-7820

Richard G. Granberry  
11206 Cold Spring Dr.  
Houston, Tx 77043  
1-713-497-3730

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Gordon A. Schneider  
4001 Fort Branch Dr.  
Arlington, Tx 76016  
1-817-457-0226

Clyde M. Wilfong  
404 Boyd Lane  
Tyler, Tx 75703  
1-903-561-8249

### PUBLICITY and PROGRAM

Robert H. Rucker  
5055 W. Panther Creek Dr.  
#1103  
The Woodlands, Tx 77381  
1-713-363-4484

Robert Burky  
7433 Candler Ridge Cir.  
#401  
Fort Worth, Tx 76133  
1-817-346-2745

### TOURS and TRANSPORTATION

Herbert Stern  
12427 Old Oak Dr.  
Houston, Tx 77024  
1-713-465-8017

Willard Norris  
509 E. Kerr  
Burnet, Tx 78611  
1-512-756-4132

### MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Kenneth L. Meyer  
111 W. Green Briar St.  
Belton, Tx 76513  
1-817-939-6323

Rev. William M. Lynch  
2006 Tulane  
Richardson, Tx 75081  
1-214-231-3281  
1-214-231-3253

### GOLF

Richard G. Granberry  
11206 Cold Spring Dr.  
Houston, Tx 77043  
1-713-497-3730

### LADIES AUXILIARY-Program

Jean K. Miller  
1511 Cochise Dr.  
Arlington, Tx 76012  
1-817-274-2773

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

## San Antonio, The Best Time, Every Time



San Antonio offers a Texas size kaleidoscope of changing phases and events for the members of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

### 1. QUADRANGLE AT FORT SAM HOUSTON —

One of the oldest structures on Fort San Houston, the quadrangle was built in 1876. Limestone from quarries near the head of the San Antonio River was used to construct the buildings on a seven and one half acre square. In the center of the square is a 90 foot clock tower. Deer, peacocks and ducks run free around the grounds where legend says Apache Chief Geronimo and his warriors were prisoners in 1886.

### 2. THE ALAMO —

Shrine of Texas Liberty. The present building is the old chapel of Mission San Antonio de Valero, founded in 1718 by the Franciscan padres. In 1836, during the war for Texas independence, the Alamo was the scene of one of the most heroic events in the history of our nation. All of the 189 defending Texas soldiers were killed here while being besieged by Mexican troops under the Mexican General Santa Anna. The now renowned battle cry, "Remember the Alamo," later carried the Texans to victory.

### 3. FIESTA RIVER PARADE —

Creating one of the most exciting and beautiful nights of the year along the famed San Antonio River Walk, the Fiesta River Parade dates back to 1941. Some 100,000 people line the banks and bridges each year to watch 40 colorfully decorated barges, complete with live music, costumed dancers and dazzling lights, float up the river. As jazz, Mexican, country-western, German and contemporary music fills the air, the crowd along the river catches the Fiesta spirit and responds by singing, clapping and waving at the passing floats.

### 4. FIESTA NOCHE DEL RIO —

A 90-minute Las Vegas-style musical revue flavored with Latin American flair is staged every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evening during June, July and August at the outdoor Arneson River Theatre in downtown San Antonio. First produced in 1958, the Alamo Kiwanis Club manages the production with all profits going to local youth charities.

### 5. VIA STREETCAR —

Authentic reproductions of a rail streetcar which travelled the streets of San Antonio more than 50 years ago now takes visitors and residents alike around downtown for just a dime. Operated by VIA Metropolitan Transit, the streetcars have wooden seats, real leather hand straps and brass railings and fittings like the originals.

(Street car stop is 1/2 block from hotel entrance)

Continued on Page 3

THE OCTOFOIL

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

National Officers  
President  
John Miller  
1511 Cochise Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76012

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114 Charles Street  
Floral Park, NY 11001

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

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

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Judge Advocate  
618 Sumac Rd.  
Highland Pk, IL 60036

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer  
39 Hall Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn Secretary  
412 Gregory Avenue  
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Board of Governors  
1993

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South Pines, NC  
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Philadelphia, PA  
Trevor Jones  
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Freehold, NY  
Ed McGrath  
Green Harbor, MA

1994  
Bill Carson  
Melbourne, FL  
Howard Gaertner  
Wauwatosa, WI  
Ron Murphy  
Scituate, MA  
Len Tomassone  
Pennsauken, NJ

1995  
Lewis "Chip" Maness  
Melbourne, FL  
Marv Levy  
Merrick, NY  
Frank Haines  
Trenton, NJ  
Billie Martin  
Birmingham, MI  
Ted Preston  
Walworth, WI  
John Miller  
Arlington, TX

SEEKING

I am trying to find out any information concerning the service record of my uncle Harry S. Walter. Harry enlisted on 9/21/1940 and was placed in the Ninth Division, Ninth Signal Company and he achieved the rank of Technician 5th Grade at the time of his death. He was killed in action on 11/9/1942 in "Operation Torch" the first invasion of North Africa.

Harry's parents (my grandparents) are both deceased. They had two children; Harry and my father. Harry was never married and my father is deceased leaving me as next of kin.

I have written the National Personnel Records Center. They have responded that all of the records for Harry were burned in a fire in 1973. There is no one in my family currently living that knows anything about Harry. In fact, the only known picture of him is when he was about 5 years old. I am concerned that if I can't find out anything about my uncle Walter generations after me will know nothing about him other than there is a grave and monument in Cedarwood cemetery, in Edinburg, VA with the name Harry S. Walter on it. This is not how I would like to see someone who died for their country be remembered. If any of your readers were members of the 9th Signal Company and knew Harry or can tell me how he died I would be eternally grateful. As best I can tell, Harry may have participated in the landing at Mehdia coming ashore with the third wave of the 2d battalion, 60th infantry. This group received orders to form an outpost on high ground guarding the battalion's left flank. At dawn they found themselves out flanked by Moroccan troops and 6 men were killed and two wounded in the fighting. I believe that Harry might have been one of the six.

I know this may sound like a strange request to you, but this means something very personal to me and I feel that I owe at least this much to my dad and my uncle. Again, thank-you for your assistance.

Respectfully,  
Michael S. Walter  
10821 Monticello Dr.  
Great Falls, VA 22066  
(703) 406-0493 Home

LADIES CORNER

Continued from Page 1 Now the cost for this lovely event will be \$12.00. Please make your checks out to: Ladies Auxiliary of 9th Div. Assn. and mail to me: Ellie Taubner at the address listed below.

The capacity of the room is 175 and I must give the exact number of guests to the Director of Convention Services by Wednesday, October 6th! You know what that means? All and I mean ALL money must be in to me by Monday, October 4th. No exceptions! Joe and I leave for Texas on Wednesday AM, and all the money must be deposited to the Auxiliary's account in my Bank by that time. I will use the same system as I used for the previous meetings, as soon as I receive your check (with full name on the application — your name, not your husband's, please!) I will then mail you a Post Card with a confirmation number on it, that will be your ticket to the Brunch. Don't, don't you dare lose it, leave it home, or give it to your husband! And remember Ladies, no tickets will be sold there! OK? OK?

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: \_\_\_\_\_

	#	#
	rooms	people
Rates: (Circle rate desired)		
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 word 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.

- Fill out the Pre-registration Form provided below.
- Write a check or money order to the Ninth Infantry Reunion Committee for the full amount of the tickets.
- Mail the Pre-registration Form and the check or money order to Ernest J. Botella, 571 Radiance Drive, San Antonio, Texas, 78218-2646.
- You will receive a confirmation Card Receipt.
- This Card Receipt must be presented at the Reunion Pre-registration Desk to receive the tickets, program and registration packet.
- Cancellation of Pre-registrations will be honored for a full refund if received before September 25th. Cancellations received after September 25th will receive a partial refund.
- 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.
- Pre-register now and be assured of having tickets for the Welcoming Party on Thursday night, the Friday Dance and the Saturday Banquet.

Pre-Registration Form  
Forty-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.

Mail the Pre-registration Form and the check or money order to Ernest J. Botella, 571 Radiance Drive, San Antonio, Texas, 78218-2646.

Volume XLVIII Number 1 Jan-Feb 1993

Publication # 462820

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"/>		

Banquet Table Reservations

Banquet table reservations may be made on Friday, October 8th from noon to 2 PM and on Saturday, October 9th from noon to 2 PM in the Taos Room. A. Gordon Schneider and Clyde Wilfong are the responsible gentlemen in charge of the reservations. Each table will seat ten (10) people. Reservations for groups of ten should be made by one person. The person making the reservation should have a banquet ticket for each person in their group. Individuals or couples not part of a group will be assigned a table by the persons in charge from 1:30 to 2 PM on each of the two reservation days. Assignment of tables to be "blind," the hotel will not number tables until immediately prior to the banquet. No table reservations will be made by telephone. Banquet tickets will be collected by the table servers before serving. Banquet tickets will not be sold at the time of the banquet. Only those with tickets will be served. The banquet hall will seat approximately 900, be sure to get your Strip Tickets early to be assured a seat.

Remember the Reunion Dates Oct. 7-10, 1993

## San Antonio The Best Time Every Time

Continued from Page 1



### 6. MISSION NUESTRA SENORA DE LA PURISIMA CONCEPCION DE ACUNA —

The oldest church in the state still intact and used for religious purposes. Concepcion Mission was constructed at the request of Indian converts. Founded in East Texas in 1716 and moved here in 1731, the present building was dedicated in 1755. This mission shares with the Alamo the distinction of having been used as a fort during the war for Texas' independence; the first Texas victory over Mexican troops having occurred within a few hundred feet of its cloistered walls.

(The Mission Trail tour is a delightful learning experience)

### 7. SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL —

The church of the Canary Island colonists who came to San Antonio in 1731, San Fernando Cathedral is the oldest parish church in Texas and the oldest cathedral sanctuary in the United States. Located in the heart of San Antonio, it is the mother church of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The old church reflects a blend of 18th and 19th century architectural styles. It was from the bell tower of San Fernando that the first alarm was sounded to the defenders of the Alamo that the Mexican Army was advancing toward the city.

### 8. SAN ANTONIO RIVER WALK —

Located downtown along a mile and a half section of the meandering San Antonio River, the River Walk, or Paseo del Rio, hugs the banks of the river 20 feet below street level offering visitors and local residents a picturesque collection of shops, restaurants, hotels and night clubs. One can dine indoors or at patio cafes, enjoying German, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Cajun, Tex-Mex and Texan cuisine. The towering cypress trees and semi-tropical vegetation create a beautiful oasis in the middle of America's ninth largest city.

### THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER EXTENSION —

Created in 1968, leads from the horseshoe bend of the original river into the Convention Center. The area is artistically landscaped with subtropical plantings. Also, native shrubs and trees, such as mountain laurel, sycamore, live oak, and cypress line the walks. The walls are constructed of native limestone rock. A man-made waterfall is a feature of the river extension. Another feature of the river extension is a statue of St. Anthony of Padua, the patron saint of San Antonio.

Landing for the River Taxi is ½ block from hotel entrance. The Tower of the Americas, "Pie in the Sky" restaurant, can be seen from the hotel. A beautiful dining experience. (Reservations required)

### 9. MARIACHIS AT MARKET SQUARE —

The colorful costumes and exciting Hispanic rhythms of San Antonio's mariachi musicians set the mood for a visit to this city abounding with Mexican and Spanish traditions and architecture. Many of the city's Mexican restaurants feature mariachi groups during the evening hours. (Mariachi musicians will entertain at opening session for our annual meeting)

**ATTENTION GOLFERS:** Please send a check for \$2.00 (non-refundable) to reserve tee times for the golf outing if you intend to play. It must be received by September 1, 1993. Golf clubs can be rented. All fees for cart, etc. are very reasonable. Mail to R.G. Granberry; 11206 Cold Spring Drive; Houston, Texas 77043-4601.

## Delta Airlines Selected as Airline for Reunion in Texas

The Ninth Infantry Division Association has selected Delta Air Lines and D & B Tours International as their official air carrier and travel agency for our reunion in San Antonio Texas, October 7 - 10, 1993.

Delta's nationwide toll free reservation number is staffed by fully trained meeting specialists to assist you in making your reservation for our reunion in San Antonio. To take advantage of this service and to ensure that the Ninth Infantry Division Association receives credit for the travel you must do the following:

1. Call Delta Air Lines at the following TOLL FREE number: 1-800-241-6760 (Mon. - Fri. 8 AM - 11 PM Eastern time).
2. Advise the meeting specialist that you are a member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association and your SPECIAL CODE NUMBER which is H0648.

Inform the meeting specialist of the date you want to leave for San Antonio and the date you wish to return from San Antonio. You may use your credit card and Delta Air Lines will mail your airline tickets to you at your request.

For those of you who would like to extend your stay in Texas or the surrounding area D & B Tours International has made special arrangements so that you can leave your city as early as Oct. 4th and return as late as Oct. 16th. Please take this into consideration when making your reservations. **ALL TRAVEL MUST BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 16, 1993.**

## Taps Sounded

What we call death is  
but surcease from strife  
They do not die  
whom we call dead  
They go from life  
to life.

Could we see when and where  
we are to meet again, we would  
be more tender when we bid our  
friends good-by. — Ouida

William Olcavage  
Hq. Btry. 26th FA. Bn.  
Lyle Kitchen  
M Co. 47th Inf.  
Jethro Champion  
9th Signal  
Rollen "Bud" Johnson  
I & R Platoon 39th Inf.  
Amar J. Moore  
39th Inf. G Co.  
David McLaughlin  
39th Inf. B. Co.  
Frank Benyo  
39th Inf. B Co.  
Jack Abramson  
B Co. 15th Engrs.  
Joseph McKenzie  
26th F.A.  
B.M. Phelps  
M Co. 60th Inf.  
Pat Morano  
B Co. 47th Inf.  
Jethro Champion  
9th Signal  
Clarence Plonk  
9th Signal  
John Morgan  
B Co. 47th Inf.  
Lewis Mele  
I Co. 47th Inf.  
Ruel Summers  
84th F.A. Btry C.  
Henry Dietrich  
47th Inf. Hq. 1st Bn.

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

84th A.A.  
SAM ROBINSON  
400 Paradise Road  
Swampscott, Ma 01907

Joe McKenzie, 26th FA died at his home in Waltham, Mass, on 1/15/93. Ron Murphy, Tom Boyle, Fran Maher and myself attended his wake, Joe was 85 according to his family. They all said he always talked about the 9th Div. men. The family had made a beautiful floral (9th Div.) patch at the funeral home.

39th Inf. B Co.  
JOSEPA GRAVINO  
10 Center Street  
Macedon, NY 14502

Enclosed is a check for the Memorial Fund in memory of two comrades who passed away the first of this month - David McLaughlin, Jr. (Ret.) and Frank Benyo.

David was living in California and Frank in Corning, NY.

"B" Co. will be having a mini reunion in Greensburgh, PA, June 11-13, 1993.

60th Inf  
JANE JOSEY  
12013 S. Soqinan Blvd.  
Apt. 23

Brand Blanc, MI 48439

My best wishes & the best of New Years.

I hope you will print this in the Octofoil.

To all of my 9th Div. friends & friends, I usually send Holiday Greetings to, I was in the hospital from Nov. 4th until Jan. 13th. Due to gangrene & circulation, I had to have my right leg amputated. They tried a by-pass but it didn't work, so they had to amputate. I'm getting around mostly in a wheelchair now, but am practicing on an artificial leg. Doing pretty well.

Thanks for still receiving the Octofoil. I'm still interested in the 9th as I know my husband Fred was.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,  
Jan Josey, wife of Fred

## Thoughts of War forgotten at an "Old English" Christmas Party

A-T 47th Inf.  
CHARLES A. BODNAR  
187 New York Ave.  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621-1458  
Dear Dan,

I sent this to a pen pal in Winchester, and it was published in the Hampshire Chronical. If you find it worthwhile, the Anti-Tankers of the 47th will surely enjoy the memory of Christmas 1944.

American Charles Bodnar, in an extract from his war memoirs sent to English friend Mrs. E. Ashlin Wood, of Elm Road, Winchester, recalls a Christmas party given by US troops at Northington Grange, near Alresford.

### Thoughts of war forgotten at an 'Old English' Christmas Party

On Saturday nights, the pubs would be bursting at the seams with smoke filled rooms and hardened veterans of the African campaign, singing spicy, raucous songs of the times with the local girls, drinking weak war beer and eating fish and chips.

For others there were the service clubs, the USO, Red Cross, and the Salvation Army Canteen, where you could watch entertainers, a movie or just throw the bull and write letters.

For those in love, there were the cosy shops, which let you linger over tea and scones or Hovis until closing time, when the owner would say, "Time Please," which meant "Get out, we're closing." After the pubs closed, Winchester once again became a quiet medieval town as the fading laughter of departing soldiers and the hum of their trucks headed back to their billets.

The respite from the dangers of the past year sometimes made us forget our purpose and the more serious reason for our being there. However, as the days and weeks passed, we were well aware of our immediate designation.

Christmas was approaching and the grizzled veterans looked forward to letters and packages arriving from home. Our company was given permission to have a Christmas party before the holiday in the ballroom of Northington Grange.

Great preparations were made by the company men. Truck loads of holly, bright with red berries, and boughs of fir branches were gathered, and we adorned the halls with the boughs. An eight foot Christmas tree highlighted a corner of the room, decorated with nuts, hard candies, apples, oranges, pears and other edibles. Some were wrapped in coloured paper, others dangled naturally. The room looked like an old fashioned English post card come to life as in the carol "Deck the Halls With Boughs of Holly."

Logs were placed in the massive fireplace and a four piece unit of our regimental band at one end of the hall offered the music. Our kitchen prepared a spread of cheese, roast ham, potato salad and the inevitable choice of frankfurters and beans. Each man donated some or all of his goodie package from home. There were cookies, glazed fruit, pound cakes, chocolates, hard candies and assorted nuts, all worth at least a months ration stamps. For drinks, we were limited to beer, coffee, or tea, notwithstanding the bottles smuggled in that arrived through the mail.

When our guests arrived there was a crackling fire in the eight foot hearth as the band played "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" when they entered the hall.

American and British military police accompanied the girls, and some of our company officers also were especially detailed to chaperon the affair.

Without much hesitation, dance and conversation partners were soon selected. Dancing started with a slow waltz, but soon the party warmed up as jitter-bugging and the hokey cokey took over. Songs were sung, such as "Roll Me Over In the Clover," the most popular song among Americans in England. It was also the exact opposite of "Lily Marlene."

Time has a way of shortening a good thing. To our dismay, check in time for our guests was 10 p.m. but somehow the hour was extended to 11, but no later.

The girls from the ATS (Army Territorial Service — Similar to our WACS) were thrilled with the party and decorations, but mostly the food and snacks were the big attraction.

Things like hard candy, chocolates and tropical fruits were almost non-existent in England during wartime.

The band finally struck up the tune "We'll Meet Again." All sang it with deep regrets at the evening having come to an end. Some future romances may blossom, for many dates were promised for the week after the holiday.

We helped the girls back onto their transports amid shouts, laughter, and waving as the vehicles pulled away into the darkness.

It was a worthwhile effort put into five hours of memory that will forever be remembered when we leave Britain.

Back to reality Monday, training in the field and rounding off the day with a 10-mile hike....

### 47TH INFANTRY MEMBERS - NOTE

The 3rd BN, last unit of the Regiment still on active duty, will retire its colors in early June of this year at Fort Polk, Louisiana. The Battalion will move from Fort Lewis, Washington to Fort Polk in May of this year. The Regimental Hall of Honor is commencing to be dismantled. Anyone who lent, or donated items to the Hall of Honor is requested to contact the 3rd Battalion by 1 April 1993 to inform them as to what you want done with your items, i.e.: (1) return to you or (2) store in 47th Infantry Military Archives.

Be sure to give your name and identify the items in the Hall of Honor.

The address is as follows:  
Commanding Officer  
HQ. 3rd Bn, 47th Infantry  
Fort Lewis, WA. 98433

Respectfully,  
Ken Meyer  
Honorary SGM  
47th Infantry  
111 Greenbriar St.  
Belton, TX 76513-1503





Bill Miller, 9th Signal sends a photo of members and their wives on their way to the Saturday night Banquet last June at the Bragg Reunion, held in the Holiday Inn, Fayetteville, N.C. Shown are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Connolly, Mr. and Mrs. James Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sylka, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Craig, Mrs. and Mrs. Keith Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Sailors, Mr. and Mrs. Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Dodd and, Mr. and Mrs. William Miller. Miller lives in Delaware at 507 Eskridge Dr., Wilmington, De 19809.

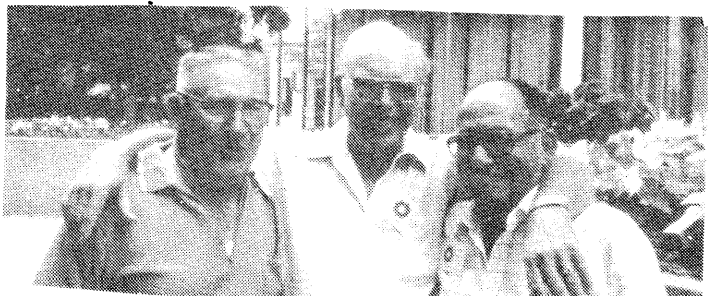
### M Company (47th) Chronicler

Dear Compadres:

Too late to make the deadline of the last Octofoil, I had word from Leo Fatlan that our buddy Lysle E. Kitchen up in Janesville, WI, had packed it in on November 19th. Our heart goes out to Ruth. Lysle was one of the best. A "Safi man" and the company mechanic who kept those quarter-tons rolling for the whole nine yards, he was one of those who produced the stuff of our cohesion as a unit. Lysle was "M," all the way, a thoroughbred. We will miss him in San Antonio for he was a regular at the Reunions.

Now that sad note is really my only news of "M" this time. I've had my nose pressed to the word processor working on the Sedjenane project so there hasn't been time to beat the bushes for items of particular M Company interest. We got in a nice Christmas holiday at Puerto Valarta, thanks to the generous loan of a condo down there by one of our artillery friends. Lee and I had a wonderful time at a place we had foolishly avoided over the years because of its Tinsel Town connections. "PV," like most of Mexico, bursts with charm and has whatever you want. We were after peace and quiet and the place we stayed at was all that.

The new book is coming right along and a draft will be complete by this reading. The response from veterans throughout the Division has been even greater than it was for the earlier effort. It's amazing what you learn about the family that you didn't know way back then. Someone wrote, for example, about setting out rounds of ammo for a pack 75mm howitzer in the sun in hopes of getting a few more yards of range after their cooking. While I recognized that old redleg myth for what it was, I wanted to use the yarn but I really didn't think we had been smart enough to bring pack 75's to that party. Then I found in an ordnance annex to the 9th's



Red Phillips supplies us with a photo of the late Lysle E. Kitchen, (left), Leo Fatlan and Ken Creighton, three old timers from M Co. 47th Infantry. Story appears in M Company (47th) Chronicler.

after-action report dug up from the National Archives that Divarty had twelve 75mm pack howitzers in its lineup at the time. Maybe we borrowed the mule guns back from the French?

Well, this is the sort of unravelling that's going on. In the meantime it's been passport renewal time and, with that done, we're about ready to head for Tunisia. I'm really looking forward to going back. When I was discharged from the hospital in Oran in late April and was sent to Canestel for shipment back. I made enough of a nuisance of myself that in a few days I was headed east with a trainful of "reinforcements." They were more than a handful in those 40&8's puffing along at about 15 MPH. When we finally arrived at Bone, which had the forward repledepple, it was dark and the Jerries were bombing the station. All I had to turnover to the local depot-keeper was a box of personnel records, I allowed that he had all the time in the world to round up his rabbits and headed for the road east to stick out my thumb.

I recall that ride along the coast so vividly. Unspoiled, technicolor stuff. I really fantasized then one day I'd bring back my Southern California bride one day. She had cut her teeth on such. A road sign flashed by- "Tabarka"

Well, Tabarka will be on the itinerary. Turns out, it's now a center for mining coral from the sea and manufacturing native jewelry. That's an added incentive just in case the place has become like Southern California in the past half century, used car lots, palm readers and Taco Bells. I have an idea, though, that nothing much has changed there.

So, I should have more to write about next month.

I hope you're staying warm and keeping fit.

Red Phillips  
14002 Hemlock Drive  
Penn Valley, CA 95946

### ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Things have been quiet since our last newsletter. Many of our snowbirds are still in Florida at this time. We have not held any meetings since our Holiday Party. Some of the members will be meeting for lunch the beginning of March, weather permitting.

Our next big function will be at the Ramada Inn in Madison, Wisconsin on May 1st and 2nd. Mike Carpenter is in charge of all the arrangements and all are welcome. Reservations should be made directly to the Ramada Inn in Madison mentioning the 9th for special rates for the rooms.

Happy Spring to all. We are looking forward to it after our low temperatures this week.

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

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

With a little update from my wife Ellie (who never got to type both columns due in December) here is essentially the same one I wrote for December's Octofoil. OK?

I still haven't had any answers to my "HELP WANTED" Ad, so I guess I will have to write this column again. First, I hope you had a very Happy Holiday and a Good New Year. Orion Shockley wrote that he is going to bring some photos taken overseas and we should have plenty of room to look at them in the CP he has rented for us. He has been busy traveling to his farms in Australia and Missouri, and building a new home in Alaska. Etzie is taking care of him in his recovery from colon cancer surgery in December, 1991, and making sure that he stays healthy.

Nettie Mastrangelo is trying to do the same with Pete, after his colon cancer surgery some time in 1991 also. We are praying for him to stay well, and if anyone would like to send him a note, his address is: Peter Mastrangelo, 2465 Tratman Avenue, #1C, The Bronx, New York 10461. I am sure that Pete would appreciate them.

I also heard from Dennis Canedy, who attended the Memorial Mass in Worcester, Mass. and was the only Company B man there. He said that about 115 people were at the luncheon and Mass, and that he would continue to go as long as he is able to do so, representing Company B. Unable to attend the Reunions (the Memorial Masses are nearer to his home in Conn.) because of the disability of his wife, Thora, and for whom he does the household chores as well as working at a part-time job, he is still in good spirits. Once he had cataract surgery, he feels he will see and feel better.

Heard from Stan and Florence Adowski, who are both in good health, but don't think that they will make it to San Antonio, as their son is getting married right after the Reunion. It would have been great to see them again; haven't seen them at the last two Reunions. How about 1994 in Lake Placid (I think) Stan?

Chuck and Joyce Munger also wrote that they would try to make it to Texas. We hope they do. Bill Klauz, Joe Metzcavage, Joe and Stella Cichocki also heard from. No mention of going to Texas from them the first two, but Stella said they would try to make it. Let's hear from the rest of you please?

Now for the sad part - As most of you know by now (by the letters I mailed to you on February 8th) Pat Morano's brave fight against bone cancer was lost, and he is gone from us. Continued on next page

### Greater New York Report

The Greater NY Chapter "Installation of Officers" meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, 71 West 23rd Street, NYC, on January 15, 1993. At 8:00 p.m. the meeting began with the salute to the flag and a prayer for our departed comrades. Due to President Tony DeRobertis and his staff's absence, former prez, Marv Levy temporarily chaired the meeting until George Apar, our resident interlocutor, parliamentarian, and chaplain, could install the new officers for 1993. Outgoing prez DeRobertis was acknowledged for his able, dedicated efforts on behalf of the Chapter. Tony will personally receive his Octofoil testimonial plaque at our next meeting.

After being duly installed, (twice elected) President Tony Varone received the gavel of office from ceremony official Apar. Tony's staff of officers include 1st VP Al Zenka and 2nd VP Charlie LiBretto. Other officers are: Treasurer Charles Vandermark, Secretary Art Schmidt, Sgt-At-Arms Tony DeRobertis and Chaplain George Apar. Representatives elected to the Chapter Board of Governors are: 39th Regt Lou Almassy, 47th Regt Dan Quinn, 60th Regt Charlie LiBretto, Divarty Al Lipton and Special Troops Adolph Wadalavage.

After the reading of minutes and treasurer's report, Secretary Art Schmidt read correspondence to the assembled from: Irving Feinberg, Joe Donovan, Nicolas Colombo, Wesley Weiland, and Ron Murphy (acknowledging NY Chapter \$200 contribution to repair the 9th Memorial at Worcester). Also heard from was Mrs. Ann Morano for Pat Morano, who is gravely ill, and he wishes to hear from his buddies. Since this Jan. notice on Pat's illness, he has since died (see Feb. report.) Other letters were read from Claude Ball (with the 9th 1940-1942), and Mary Gill.

Also, we were informed by Adolph Wadalavage, that 9thman Al Seely is in the Veteran's Extended Care Center, Rm 101, in St. Albans, Queens, NY suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Our heartfelt compassion go out to Al and his family, and to all our other afflicted buddies.

The committee headed by Martin Gross, to explore the proposed Catskill Resort Get-Together Fun Week hosted by the NY Chapter in June, reported the committee was actively studying the various suggested hotels and rates. Gross would have recommendations and details at the next meeting (see Feb. report.)

After some additional business, meeting was adjourned for refreshments provided by Art Schmidt.

Also attending, not named above: William Canales, Vincent Guglielmino, Bill Klaus and Al Lubrano.

#### February Meeting

On February 19, 1993 the NY Chapter convened again at our Masonic Hall command post in NYC at 8:00 p.m. Considering the extreme cold weather (windchill factor near-zero) the turnout of members was exceptionally good.

President Tony Varone opened the meeting with the flag salute and pledge of allegiance. "Chaplain" George Apar, eloquently delivered a prayer for our departed 9th men.

Outgoing President Tony DeRobertis presented his belated Octofoil plaque from the membership in appreciation for a job well done in 1992. A man of few words, Tony humbly thanked all for the privilege of serving his 9th comrades, and stated that he would continue to be active for the Chapter.

Secretary Art Schmidt read the minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer Charles Vandermark presented his financial report. Art then read the latest

correspondence, which, sadly, reported the demise of two of our members. Mrs. Gerry Dietrich informed us of Henry Dietrich passing. Mrs. Ann Morano wrote that Pat Morano died about two weeks ago. The Chapter acknowledges sympathy to their families on the loss of these two fine 9th men. Comrades who knew these men in war and peace offer their personal condolences.

The meeting continued with Prez Tony Varone presenting the NY Chapter Board of Governors agenda for 1993. Here is the calendar as it stands at this time: April 16 - meeting; May 15 - Pinelawn Memorial March and Service and picnic; May 21 - Past Presidents Night; June 7-11 - Concord Resort Hotel Get-Together; (July, August summer hiatus); Sept. 17 - first fall meeting; Oct. 7-10 - San Antonio Reunion; Oct. 15 - meeting; Nov. 19 - Nominations for 1994 Officers; Dec. 17 - meeting/holiday dinner.

The next order of business was the progress report by committee chairman Martin Gross on the intended NY Chapter June Concord Get-Together. Marty reported that he and Marv Levy drove up on a weekday in January to the Concord to work out details with the Special Groups Manager. A Concord contract was sent to Marty a few days later and reviewed and amended by committeemen: Marty, Marv, and Prez Tony Varone. The contract was signed by Marty, and with a \$200 deposit check drawn by Secretary Art Schmidt, was returned to the Concord, which was approved and accepted - so, we're committed to a Fun-Week at the world-famous resort hotel! The report was enthusiastically received by the membership. All NY Chapter and other 9th Infantry Division Association members are invited, as well as families and friends. The Concord is so large that they will accommodate other groups as well, so it is recommend that reservations be placed immediately to guarantee a room. There will be no national business conducted since this is not a convention - only a fun week! (Details follow this report.)

Before this meeting closed, Jack Holuboff recommended we start our meetings at 7:00 p.m. instead of our regular 8:00 p.m. time, so that members would not be traveling as late at night on subways and buses at close of meetings. Because of rush hour auto traffic at the earlier time, a compromise was made to begin our meetings at 7:30 p.m. Other proposals to hold meetings in afternoons or even on Saturday was tabled for later consideration.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:30 p.m. and the 9thmen route-stepped over to the refreshment table which was provided by Art Schmidt and Tony DeRobertis. After an hour of satiation and conversation the camaraderie headed for home. NY Chapter reminder: dues for 1993 are \$10 for 1 year, \$25 for 3 years, or \$75 for Lifetime Membership... payable to the Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf Div Ass'n, Inc. Send to Secretary Art Schmidt at address below.

Members attending, besides those mentioned above: Lou Almassy, William Canales, Anton Dietrich, Vincent Guglielmino, Bill Klaus, Emil Langer, Al Lubrano, Hermine Suarez, and Adolph Wadalavage.

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

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

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

Continued from previous page

Of course, we shall all miss him very much. If you would like to write to Pat's wife, Anne here is her address: 2208 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, Pa 17201. He loved doing this column and he did it well. In his name, I hope some of you will volunteer your writing skills to continue what Art Stenzel started, and Pat Morano carried on.

In response to a letter I mailed to John W. Morgan, I received a note from John's son, that his father had passed away on January 3rd apparently from heart failure. John had been one of only eight of us from Company who attended our last Reunion in Fayetteville. He did not appear to be as sick as he must have been, but he was always painfully thin. You never know, however, that's why we always say in our good-byes at the end of a Reunion: "God Willing we'll see you next year in ...". His son's name and address if you would like to write: John R. Morgan Sr., 1534R Hubbard Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. We shall miss John in Texas.

All I can say at this time is that with this latest news, B Company's number is growing smaller, and we should all try to attend as many reunions as we can. Everyone says that San Antonio is a beautiful town, so let's all try to be there. OK? As ever.

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

Co. F. 47th Inf.  
U. HERBERT HOEPFNER  
2 Orchard Road  
Piscataway, N.J. 08854

I was pleased to see the picture of the Second Squad, F Company, 2nd Battalion, 47th Reg. in the Aug.-Sept.-Oct. issue of the Octofoil, as was one of those pictured there; namely, Ed Johnstone who is a United States District Court Judge in Kentucky. He asked if I could send him a copy. I assured him that I would. This also reminded me that you still retain the enlarged copy that I had on view at the reunion. I would be very grateful if you would be so kind as to return that picture to me.

Another matter that has come to my attention is the Reunion Memory Book for which our pictures were taken at the Milwaukee Reunion. Nothing has been received by us from the outfit doing that work. I received a card from Charles Rochelle in N.C. which he had forwarded to me in which that company stated that. "Due to a back log at publishers, there will be a delay in sending your reunion memory book." This correspondence was dated 28 May, 1992! It is becoming my conclusion that this outfit doesn't intend to deliver on its promises. They collected in advance from quite a few of our fellow men, and I'm beginning to believe that many of us will be dead before they intend to deliver, if ever. I'm writing this to you, because I believe that you, through our paper, can amass enough clout to light a fire under these people.

The address of this outfit is as follows:

ABS VISUALS, INC.  
1855 Lippincott Rd  
Huntington Valley, PA 19006

It might be a good service to publish the above address, as some of the men may have forgotten about it, or have lost it

F Company 47th Infantry

I am sorry to report that I am late in getting my annual report out to the troops. It is forthcoming! I am having a bit of trouble with my sight to the extent that I must forgo long hours at my computer. I soon will undergo the knife (laser beam, really) in an attempt to improve my sight, so that once again I can revel in the sight of a well proportioned young lady, a glorious sunset, a fruitful financial statement.

I just received a sad letter from Curtis "Tex" Hoffer, who had been doing my income taxes these past few years. Tex informs me that he has just about gone completely blind, the doctors have detected signs of more ominous medical problems, his diabetes is acting up, as are his old war wounds from Normandy days. He informed me that he would be unable to be in attendance in San Antonio in October. Tex further went on to state how much he enjoyed the reunions he had attended and the new friends he had made at those reunions. He was truly proud at having served with the Ninth Infantry Division, and he felt strongly attached to the Wearers of the Octofoil. His letter echoed a finality, a finality that I refuse to accept. We'll certainly be looking forward to seeing you at future reunions, Tex, possibly in Lake Placid.

Lou Slatnick and I had the good fortune to enjoy a long lunch with Paul Giarraputo last month. Paul had the unfortunate experience of having to place his beloved Anne in a nursing home last year. I know he did this with a heavy heart. Though he manages to visit her every day, I know he misses her sorely. They had many wonderful years together and produced a boy of whom they are justifiably proud. It was great having a long visit with these old warriors. Paul and I shared a canteen of water and a small cave for three or four hours after a Jerry mortar shell filled us both full of shrapnel at El Guettar. Now every time Paul sees me he automatically hands me a bottle of Scotch, always premium quality. I believe he does this out of a guilt feeling caused by drinking most of that canteen of water. I hope none of you guys try to assuage this feeling of guilt.

Slat informs me that he will be leaving for a fortnight in Texas to visit his son and family in Austin. Lou's son has a big job with IBM and recently transferred from Jersey. Lou's Marion has been ailing on and off these last couple years. We all hope she and her medicos will soon be able to put these physical ailments behind her.

Jack Finnigan just attended the wedding of his granddaughter last week. Just think, Jack could easily become a great grandfather before the year is out. His younger son is planning to commit matrimony in April. Jack continues to wow them in Atlantic City. Last week at the Meadowlands in one day he hit three trifectas, two exactas, and a daily double!

I spoke with George King this past Saturday. George sounded good, though he was preparing to undergo hernia surgery in the very near future. George has been tripping the light fantastic and enjoying good food these past few months up there in Phelps. He has been "seeing" some mature ladies this past year, and they have apparently formed a mutual admiration society, with George as president. George will be having his forthcoming surgery in Albany. Governor Mario apparently doesn't want George too far from him.

I was saddened to learn that two old F Company stalwarts have had strokes, that both were able to successfully fight off. I am refereeing to Ray Schmader and Felton Jones, Company Commander and long time First Sergeant, respectively. These two hardened warriors were able to overcome their attacks and come out stronger than ever from the reports I get. Hang in there, men, we're all rooting for you.

Frank Gonzol hasn't been up to par lately, and since Lyl has been confined to a wheel chair, Frank has been chief cook and bottle washer and major domo at his manor in Middlesex.

Earl Wilkey reports that he is in a similar position in Rome, Georgia, since Miriam broke her hip in a fall.

We had a beautiful Christmas at our beach home on Long Beach Island. Mark joined us as did Lucy's sister and brother-in-law from Georgia, her brother and sister-in-law from Pennsylvania, and her niece from Los Angeles. I spent more time at Newark Airport than most pilots. They are all fun-loving people, so we had a great extended Christmas holiday. Fortunately, our home was spared during the violent storm that hit our island and wreaked so much havoc shortly before the holidays. Many of you have been kind enough to express concern.

I hope you all have your reservations for San Antonio. We'll see you there!

ED HOPKINS  
110 Hollywood Ave.  
Metuchen, N.J. 08840-2116

1993 Reunion in Texas  
Oct. 7-10



William Kennington, son of Eugene, Co. K 60th Inf. sends this photo taken a few days before the St. Lo Periers road bombing on July 25, 1944. Shown in this photo are, left to right, Unknown, Cullie Linkinnogger, Clemment, James Smith, Abraham Storm, Jaduaro, Sid Levine, Nick Bianculli, Robert Oakley. Kneeling, Unknown, Thurston Haggert, O.T. Smith, Unknown, Harold Juneman, Jacob Wenstein and Eugene Kennington.

1993 Reunion  
San Antonio, Texas  
October 7-10, 1993

The response to the planned tour in to Mexico for seven days following the 48th reunion in San Antonio has been wonderful. (See last issue of the Octofoil or write me for information). There is still time but reservations are going fast! For those interested in shorter trips, there are two trips of three days each. (See details elsewhere in this issue). Logistically, one day trips are not possible except for individual planning.

The final plans for the San Antonio reunion are shaping up nicely under the leadership of President John W. Miller. He has chosen his assistants well and final plans will be ratified by the chapter on April 3rd in Tyler, Texas. This will be the regular chapter meeting.

On a personal note, once again I find myself on the "cutting edge!" Both arms will be operated for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome beginning March 17 with the right one. Then as healing takes place, the left one will be done. I must have one available to get all the "spare parts" on each day. At present I am having trouble holding a fork and brother that is essential! By the end of summer I should have had all appendages worked on, save one... and I'll be damned if I let them screw around with that one. However, after having been written off as KIA fifty years ago March 23, I am still hangin' in there.

Co. K; 60th Inf.  
ROBERT H. RUCKER  
5055 W. Panther Creek Drive;  
C-1003  
The Woodlands, Texas 77381

60th Inf. K Co.  
WILLIAM E. KENNINGTON  
1040 Chiffon Street  
Lancaster, S.C. 29720

Enclosed is a picture of K Co. 60th Inf. after the capture of Cherbourg, and prior to the breakthru along the St. Lo Periers road on 25th of July 1944. Some of the names might not be correct, for I have received them from a couple of different men who was in K Co. I would also like to thank very much Bob Rucker and Keene Wilson from who the picture came from.

Standing from left to right Unknown, Cullie Linkinnogger, ? Clement, James Smith, Abraham Storm, ? Jaduaro (?), Sidney Levine, Nicholas Bianculli, Robert Oakley. First row kneeling left to right Unknown, Thurston Haggert, O.T. Smith, Unknown, Harold Juneman, Jacob Weinstein, and my father Eugene Kennington.

39th Inf. A Co. & Serv Co.  
FRANCIS J. LEO  
Box F-488, 3300 North State Road 7  
Hollywood, Florida 33021

It has been a pleasure to belong to the association, and hope to continue doing so.

I was ble to go to the reunion at Fort Bragg, last year, but was disappointed to not see any of my buddies from "A" Company or Service Company, 39th Infantry.

I am trying to locate the following:

Dominick Pontillo - "A" Co.  
Al Franzini - "A" Co.  
John Ardison - Service Co.  
Leon Smitana - Service Co.

The above fellows were with me from January 1941 to June 1945.

I was from the Buffalo, NY area and have moved to Florida when I retired.

Thank you, and God Bless You.

34th F.A.  
WILLIAM RING  
21 Moorland Rd.  
Trumbull, Ct. 06611

Just a note to wish all the gang the very best for '93 and always.

It was a real experience seeing all those former 34th FA members in Fayetteville, also in Worcester. Thanks to "Buck" Birum who rekindled the fire. I hope the flame burns forever.

I have high hopes of getting to San Antonio in October. See you then.

Enclosed find check for 3 yrs. dues.

All of the best always to all.

San Antonio in 1993

60th Inf. F. Co. & 2nd Bn. Hdqts.  
TED PRESTON  
P.O. Box 362  
Walworth, WI 53184

I finally did it, a hole in one after all these years. That's a crow's feather in my cap. One of my buddies placed it there. Anyway, It's a feather in my cap. We have an agreement in our foursome. Whoever gets a hole in one takes the other members & their wives out for dinner. I wasn't satisfied with that, I had to invite 16 people. I kissed a two hundred dollar bill away. I'm glad this only happens once in a while.

We have been in Florida since Nov. 27th and are staying at Harbor Lakes R.V. Park 3737 El Johnson Rd., Fort Charlotte Florida, 33953. Enclosed is a check for 3 years' dues. We will return back home, 1st of May.

Paul & Lorraine Clark of Waynetown, IN. paid us a visit. Paul is a member of the Illinois Chapter. We have known each other a long time.



Ted Preston (Co. F 60th Inf.) is shown when he received a trophy for the most conveted dream of all old duffers — "A hole in one." Ted said he's been playing for years — 18 holes a day for five days a week. He promises to show how he done it at the reunion in Texas next October. Congratulations Ted ole boy.



## TAKING BIZERTE-IV

(Continuing with the last of a series of articles intended to inspire readers who were there to contribute anecdotes for Red Phillips' new book, "Sedjenane: The Pay-off Battle," now in the works.)

I'm especially looking now for Eddy stories. The new book will focus on the character and leadership style of the 9th CG because I think he had the first in abundance and probably, therefore, never gave much thought to demonstrating any particular brand of leadership. He was a big man, physically (6'2") and inwardly, but he was not demonstrative. No pearly handled pistols or cowboy get-up for this guy. He was no saint. The man had big likes and powerful dislikes.

Eddy was not given to putting his private thoughts down on paper or, if he did so, those papers have never come to light. Neither was he close to others but I don't think he was a natural loner. Rather, this was probably part of the role he saw himself as assigned. He always behaved as was expected of the CG in those days. Under these circumstances, if we are to learn more of the man, we'll probably do it in examining his encounters with others.

A case in point: During one of these exhilarating pre-dawn runs through the cork forest at Port Lyautey I was at my place in the rear of the company's column and raving about those silly bastards at Division who scheduled these things when you couldn't see what people were doing or even who was dropping out of the formation. I was delayed getting to the kitchen tent and found our Captain, Jim Johnston, flipped out. It seems that the big blob jogging alongside men wasn't the first sergeant as I had thought but the big enchilada himself. "K-E-E-E-E-RIST, Phillips!" Johnston roared, "When are you going to learn?"

Well, I learned from that incident that Eddy probably wasn't going to order anything done that he wouldn't do himself, and that he probably preferred to go through channels rather than deal with miscreants directly.

So that's the sort of thing for which I'll be most grateful if you'll put it down and mail to me.

Go Devils may be interested to know that their former CO has turned up alive, but I won't say well for he was found in a Hartford, CT, convalescent home after a fall. Colonel Frederic deRohan will be 100 years old in April. My thanks to Boardman Lockwood for his fine detective work.

Help make history! Write down your war stories and sent them to:

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

60th Inf. A Co.  
JOHN WESSMILLER  
11 Wequassett Way  
Chatham, MA 02633

I am grateful for all you have done to help me keep in touch with Old Buddies of the 9th. The four best years of my life were spent as both an enlisted and officer, from Maneuvers in the Carolinas to hospitals in England. The officers and men of the 9th set standards for my lifetime and I am most grateful to have been associated with them.

Enclosed are dues for 3 years, together with a small donation in memory of my drivers, Al Kistler from Penn., died in England and Dave Brogner and Hal Foss, N.J., both of whom were killed in Normandy. We were close and I still feel that closeness.

PS - I still have book of photos of A Co., 60th Inf. 1941 & Reg. & Art.

B Co. 15th Engrs.  
TONY MADONNA  
40 Orient Street  
Worcester, MA 01604

Enclosed a check for three more years. I received many Christmas cards from members of the Association and some have made their reservations for the Texas Reunion.

It was great meeting the gang at the Fort Bragg reunion. The rain had some bad effects at the Memorial Services but we enjoyed a very nice lunch after. The banquet hall at the Holiday Inn seated almost one thousand of our party. The attendance at the Memorial Mass in Worcester was not as good. The usual members from B Co. 15th Engrs. Anthony San Giacono, Al Ferrante, Jerry Shea, James Mullin, Art Schmidt were there. We did miss two of our gang, Bill Davidson and Ernie Micka because of physical ailments. I pray for their recovery and well being and for the first time in many gatherings, Pat De Pasquale was also among the missing.

Wishing the best to all.

47th Co. "G" & Hq 2nd Bn  
ROBERT MATHIS  
Box 127 Tropical M.H.Vill.  
Clewiston, FL 33440

Enclosed find my check for three more years and a little extra for memorial fund. This can keep my Octofoil coming, enjoy every printed word, and I read every one of them, Danny Boy, Great job you are doing, keep up the good work and may God Bless You.

Hq. Co. MP's  
IVAN DEMPSEY  
1608 Idlewilde Drive  
Johnson City, TN 37601

Please find enclosed my dues for another year. Someone else sent my name & dues in to make me a member & I may be past due on my dues. I have written before in regard to anyone having any knowledge of C.H. Thurston. Provost Marshall of 9th Div. or any of the Military Police officers who worked with him. I enjoy the paper & wonder if anyone has ever heard of St. Decker.

Any info. will be appreciated.

47th Inf. L Co.  
WILLIAM GREEN  
P.O. Box 1794  
Trenton, N.J. 08607

You write a terrific "Octofoil," I enjoy reading same every time I get it. I'm from the ole gang, Company L, 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. Hoping to come to the 47th Annual Reunion in Texas. The Reunion in Fort Bragg was terrific because that is where I left the United States in World War II to go to Africa and help the boys fight a great fight against the Italians and Germans. I didn't last too long because I got wounded in the Hills of El Guterra and that was the end of my fighting. I was in an Army Hospital in Pennsylvania for a while and then re-assigned to an office job in Fort Bragg, N.C. because I could no longer be a foot soldier. Enjoyed both times in Fort Bragg until discharged out of the service.

Co. A, 15th Engineers  
ANTHONY J. SOPRANO  
713 Delaware Ave.  
Norwood, Pa. 19074

Enclosed is my check for three years dues. Would've paid them in Fayetteville, but not being in the same hotel, by the time I got there — it was too late. Had a good time in Fayetteville and hope to be in Texas and see a lot of the Texas Engineers there. I know the Phila. Chapter will have a good showing.

When we arrived home from Fayetteville, I met a 9th Div. member who lives in my backyard and attended the Fayetteville Reunion — Frank Corvino and his wife from Holmes, Pa. They invited us over for lunch and had a nice time reminiscing our Army days.

Hope everyone is in good health and GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

9th Med. Bn. Co. C  
ALEX BALOUGH  
4138 Delavan Dr.,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

I don't know if I am a real procrastinator or not but enclosed is a check for three years and something for the Memorial Fund in memory of our buddy, John Robinson, 9th Med. Bn., Co. C.

God Bless.

I am looking forward to seeing my buddies from the 9th Med. Bn. Hope that you all make it.

60th Inf. E Co.  
GLEN GATES  
809 Emma  
Trenton, MO 64683

Enclosed is a check for 1993 dues. Hope you enjoy good health for 1993 and can keep the Octofoil coming my way here in Northwest Missouri.

Thank you for all the good work that you do.

39th Inf. E Co.  
KEN HILL  
3210 Maxwell  
Midland, TX 79705

Enclosed is check to cover 3 years membership. I hardly ever see where an "E" Co. 39th member has written to Mail Call. However, I know many do read it. I hope to see all the "E" Co. Buddies in San Antonio in October. Alfred Knight, Okla. City, has indicated he will try to make it. He is the one who "took care" of Col Weiglin of the Weiglin combat team in the Huertgen Forest near Germeter. (See first paragraph, p. 258 of "Eight Stars to Victory.") See you in San Antonio.

39th Inf.  
CARLOS ESTEVA  
P.O. Box 968  
Arecibo, P.R. 00612

We have been traveling as usual, we took a 28 day cruise on the Pacific Princess from San Juan to Buenos Aires which included stops at Devils Island, Manauss, Recife, San Pablo, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, we returned by air and stayed at Caracas for a few days and from there to Puerto Rico.

Last November my statehood party here in Puerto Rico won by a land slide, we got the Senate House and the Governorship, also we elected the Resident Commissioner to Washington, we will now plug for statehood, "Puerto Rico the 51st State," but I was for Bush, you can not win them all, that's what it is all about, freedom of choice, the people's choice, but 1996 is not far away.

We trust you and Marie are fine and we look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio. Warmest regards.

47th Inf. A.T. & Hq. Co's  
FRANK VENEZIA  
17 Kingsbridge Drive  
Burlington Twp., N.J. 08016

The picture in the last edition of the Octofoil showing Father De Laura with six GI's was taken in the town of Vicht, Germany approximately in the middle of November 1944 in front of a cafe across from the school where the 47th was headquartered. I can identify all of them, it seems like yesterday. From left to right: James Schultze, Father De Laura and Guy Buccari. Back row sitting on window sills: Earl Von Schondorf (Earl was killed shortly after the picture was taken) myself and Raymond Osborne. We were occupying the bar area of the cafe while Father De Laura set-up his operation in the kitchen. Our stay in Vicht lasted better than two months. During our stay in the cafe some of the guys got restless and started exploring the contents of the attic and basement when one guy emerged with a green leprechaun uniform. Father De Laura took a fancy to it, dressed in it, went outside and put on a performance for us and the German civilians, he was a born clown. Even during mass he would inject humor in his services. He convinced the German priest to allow him to exclusively use the church for us one hour every morning, however, the word spread fast about his antics on the Altar that the civilians would pack the church solid standing elbow to elbow while we occupied the pews. He had drawing appeal, he possibly missed his real vocation and should have pursued comedy and might have become another Bob Hope in the field of entertainment.

Dan, I hope that my memory has served me well but wondering who submitted the photograph? Keep up the good work. A friend always, Frank Venezia

39th Inf. L Co.  
ROBERT F. GORDON  
36505 West Florida Ave.  
Hemet, CA 92545

I see by my membership card that it is dues paying time again, so enclosed is a check for \$25.00 to cover three years dues. The years are rolling by faster and faster as you are probably aware and each issue of The Octofoil I see a longer list in "Taps Sounded" column.

I hope everyone had a good time at the reunion in Fayetteville. It was not possible for me to be there but I am trying to plan for San Antonio if everything goes all right.

As a result of a letter and some pictures I sent to you and were published in The Octofoil, I have heard from a few old buddies who were with me in the machine gun section of L Company, I had not heard or seen them since 1945. Their names are A. O. Kilgo from Decatur, AL and Tony P. Ponter from Vinemont, AL. Sure was surprised and delighted to hear from them. Kilgo informed me that two others from our squad that lived in the area had passed away. Their names are August Leonard and Sgt. Carlos Trapp, our squad leader.

Also had a letter from Buck Miller who lives in Oil City, PA. He was platoon sergeant of the second platoon in L Company. He refreshed my memory of some details that had faded with time.

Well I hope to see a lot of friends from L Company at San Antonio next year. That is if I can make it.

Best wishes to all.

2nd Bn. Hq. Co. 47th Inf.  
HOWARD FITZPATRICK  
170 Overdale Drive  
Louisville, KY 40229

I am sending my dues for three more years. I really enjoy reading the Octofoil, especially Mail Call. Every once in a while I find someone I know. I am 77 years old, and my wife is 72. We have both been awfully sick for the last few months, so we don't get out and go very much. We both have arthritis pretty bad. But hope to get better when all this bad weather clears up. So Dan, keep up the good work you are doing, the Association couldn't do without you.

60th Inf. H. Co., 2nd Bn.  
EARNEST J. BROWN  
312, Rd. 22  
Smith, AL 36877

I am sending my dues for 3 more years. I am terminally ill and would like to hear from some Old Buddies. We had planned on going to Reunion several times, but my wife was sick and now it is me.

I was a P.O.W. in Stalag 7-A at Mooseburg. Because of starvation diet, I am legally blind. I have enjoyed the "Mail Call" that my wife reads to me. The rest of the money goes to Memorial Fund.

39th Inf. 3rd Bn. Hq.  
MAXWELL KATZ  
2571 Aragon Blvd.  
Sunrise, FL 33322

I know I don't write often enough; but a series of illnesses have kept me occupied. A belated happy and healthy New Year to all 9th men and their families. Enclosed, is my dues for the next three years. Best Regards.

47th Inf. M. Co.  
JOSEPH KEARNS  
2000 N. Congress, Lot 174  
W. Palm Beach, FL 33409

Enclosed find a check for the Memorial Fund for all the "M" Co. 47th Inf. men who gave their lives for their country.

I also made a donation for the friends of Father Connors who was a great Chaplain who always had a smile and a great handshake whenever you had the opportunity to speak to him.

I have already received my room confirmation from the Holiday Inn in San Antonio and also my strip ticket from Ernest J. Botella.

I was invited to a Wedding of a niece in NY last week and had a great time seeing my daughter, Cathy, her husband and her 3 boys, Tim, Mike and Joe who are all in college. My son, Jack, lives in Maryland and is retired from the NY Fire Department with his family.

I paid a visit to Long Island Cemetery in Farmingdale, Long Island to visit my son, Joe, who has been there since Nov. 1967 from the Vietnam War and also the love of my life, Helen, who was buried there last year. I was told that a headstone would replace the old one and was very happy to see the new one with Joe's name on the front and on the back, my love Helen. My name is also on the back and the dates probably filled in later.

The NY Chapter always went to the cemetery. Every year picked out a different section and said a prayer for each man. They then had a picnic in Bethpage State Park.

I am a member of the Fla. Chapter now, as I've lived in West Palm Beach, Florida for the last 14 years. All the best to you and Maire and also another great Editor, Walter O'Keefe.

## MINI REUNION

The mini reunion of the 9th Medical Bn. will be May 7 and 8 at the Quality Inn in Pigeon Forge, TN.

Contact: John Lewis  
211 Midland Street  
Shelbyville, TN  
37160

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE APRIL 20th

San Antonio for Annual Reunion

SAN ANTONIO. THE BEST TIME. EVERY TIME.

Sea World of Texas, the world's largest marine life park, offers visitors a full day of spectacular shows, exhibits and attractions. Located on 250 scenic acres in northwest San Antonio, the stars of Sea World are killer whales who perform in a spectacular pool filled with seven million gallons of man-made seawater.

Fiesta Texas, a new family-oriented theme park, focuses on the history, culture and music of San Antonio, Texas and the Southwest. Live entertainment is the highlight of the park, but there is also a full complement of rides, attractions, restaurants and shops. Like Sea World of Texas, this park is located in the northwest quadrant of the city.

The city's hotels and motels reflect the various cultures and lifestyles represented in San Antonio. Almost every major hotel chain is represented, and visitors have a wide choice of housing facilities to fit almost any budget requirement. Architectural styles even vary, ranging from the very large and modern to the quaint and historic Spanish mode. And bellmen, taxi drivers and all service personnel alike are exemplary of the city's southwestern graciousness and warmth, eager to tell about the city of which they are so proud.

For the sports-minded, the city boasts beautiful golf courses and tennis facilities which are easily accessible to hotels, jogging trails along the River Walk and horseback riding in Brackenridge Park. And one can join in the contagious merriment and not-too-gentle whooping and hollering at one of the NBA Spurs basketball games.

San Antonio has the advantages of a major city, the diversity of many cities and the friendliness of a small town. It is a truly charming place of history and tradition, carefully blended with cosmopolitan progress. San Antonio. The best time. Every time.



C.T. Earles sends this photo of members of the 9th Signal taken in England 1944 — shown left to right front row: Griffin, Earles, Mumu — back row: Catis, Blum and Kenny. Story in other section of the Octofoil.

9th Signal Co.  
C.T. EARLES  
6007 Silver Road  
Greensboro, NC 27406

First, I would like to thank each one of you that has to do with getting out the Octofoil. I sure do enjoy it. I would like to hear from any of the boys in the 9th Signal Co. that I knew.

I am enclosing a picture of boys in my section from left to right. Front row, last name: Griffin, Earles, Mumu, back row, Cates, Blum, Kenny. Picture was taken in England, 1944.

I wrote Red Phillips a letter thanking him for his articles in the Octofoil about taking Bizerte Part 3. I think he has got it just about right.

60th Inf. E. Co. & Serv. Co.  
TED TUFFORD  
13301 NE Betts Rd.  
Vancouver, Wa. 98686

I belonged to the 9th Div. Assoc. for many years, prior to retirement 12 years ago.

At that time, something sort of fell through the cracks, including my membership.

I'd like to make amends by paying dues (3 years) and not let it happen again!

I served in the 60th Inf. E Co. and Serv. Co. from 8/1/42 through 9/45.

My wife and I attended the Orlando and Fort Bragg Reunions and enjoyed them very much. We are looking forward to Texas in October 1993.

Marriage is a 3 ring circus  
Engagement Ring  
Wedding ring, - suffering.

Co. E, 39th Inf.  
GILBERT GRICOSKIE  
939 W. Holly Street  
Shamokin, PA 17872

Enclosed are my dues for one year and thought I would drop a line to let the Boys from Co. E of the 39th to let them know I am feeling fine after my operation, ready to re-enlist.

It is around zero degrees outside, so there is plenty of time for writing. Just like to say "hello" to the gang, like Snuffy, Sabato, Donovan, Hill and Nichols to name a few. Also, a friend, John D. Gregory I picked up through Mail Call.

9th Inf. Div.  
HAROLD R. HOKANSON  
40 Foxtail Drive  
Kingston, Mass 02364

There was a Register of names and addresses of the members of the 9th Division compiled by Mr. Heller. I did not send for it at the time of publication as I understood each man that sent his name in at the time of computation would receive one. Apparently they did not have enough copies and I did not receive one.

We borrowed a copy from another member and unfortunately we misplaced it and I would like to replace his copy and would greatly appreciate it if you could make me a copy for him.

I would be glad to reimburse you for this cost.



BILL FURR  
1125 Park Circle  
Columbus, Mississippi  
39701

Please consider my poem for the families of those who died while in service to our great country. I hope that through my words I might be able to lift the hopes and spirits of some grieving mother or father — those who lost their precious loved ones in some tragic war. I trust that God give them peace and comfort and that their sacrifice is not forgotten, but forever cherished in the hearts and minds of all Americans throughout our God-Blessed land. May freedom live and endure forever and ever.

Sincerely  
Bill Furr

**SALUTE TO THE HEROES**  
The air is cool; the fiery dawn of a new day starts to break the far horizon. The wild chirp of the fowls echoes.  
Through a green carpet laid out to border long rows of white marble crosses.  
All at once the blare of a lone bugler drowns out the cries of the wilds.  
The flag is being raised; the blood spilt upon the grass of the free t'was sacrificed not in vain, not in boastful circles, but in glory and honor!

Silence!!!  
There comes upon the land  
A new dawn day;  
A freshness that cannot be marred

By idol, careless say—  
A day of honor and glory,  
A day of sharing and give,  
A day to be remembered

For what your young boys did!  
The women of America began to lay wreaths and flowers upon the marble tombstones. The results of hard work and sacrifices have made many a mother weep uncontrollably upon their young son's grave. It was just too much for them to bare upon seeing their precious boys lying so still in that cold silent state of not answering back.  
Do not forget us, oh, God,  
Thou faithful servants passed;  
We died not in shame  
But in thy holy tasks  
The eagle still flies high  
Over the land that you set free,  
With all our strength and courage  
We died to honor thee!

Do not forget us, oh, God,  
Thou faithful servants passed;  
We died not in shame  
But in thy holy tasks  
The eagle still flies high  
Over the land that you set free,  
With all our strength and courage  
We died to honor thee!

PIEL VAN ES  
Sluysstraat 10  
3237 AT

Vierpolders, Netherland  
**SEEKING**

I just spoke to you on phone. The soldiers name: Walter Gagnon (Pfc.), 182½ Blackstreet, Lewiston, Maine. In Europe 9th Div. Overseas Theater. Place he stay in Holland was Dordrecht. The trucks were marked 6893 QM-GR. Between 1945 and begin of 1946 they bring the killed soldiers from Holland to Reims at France.

Many times I was driving with him to Reims, I am wondering if he is still alive? He must be now over 70 I think (age). There was a motorpool at Dordrecht where he was working also some sub offices at Rotterdam and Roosendaal, maybe that helps you. His sergeant's name I remember was Cohen.

They were based at the Ponsen Hotel in Dordrecht, next to the Railway Station. Maybe this helps you.

Thanks in advance.

Against the assault of laughter  
nothing can stand.

From small, humble villages  
To large dwelling towns  
You are but our Lord;  
You'll never let us down  
If we hold your truths  
And Christlike righteous ways,  
The countries of thine Earth  
Shall respect us in our days,  
Listen,—  
On you distant hill  
A staunch bugler blares;  
Sounding out a warning  
To every foreign dare—  
For nations rise and nations fall  
T'was reflected in thy script;  
What lies ahead of soaring storms

America will come to grip!  
Oh,—the brave and the free  
Must come to you and say,  
Lord, thou faithful Father  
Please guard us in our "play"—  
For we as small young children  
Laid our souls to rest  
Upon thy golden throne  
With every sin confessed.  
The country tis much stronger  
Than ever she was before;  
Oh, keep her with thou will  
Throughout our struggling chores!

How much time we've spent  
in emphazing the true qualities  
in life; always stressing the  
positive values of living in a  
free nation where the worth of a  
single individual is paramount.  
God, make us mindful of what a  
tremendous price our founding  
Fathers paid in establishing a  
great nation like America!!!  
Amen!! And Amen!!  
The service has now ended  
The people go their way  
For America t'was made for  
working

And not for weeping say—  
The columns now have  
marched  
Upon eternity's sky  
Guarding us by day  
In God's watchful eyes—  
The flag colors glow so brightly  
Blowing in the breeze,  
For many a heavenly angel  
Got down on their knees—  
In that white-marked  
landscape

Where many a young man lies  
To wait for Christ to come  
And go where HE RESIDES!!!  
End

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

The piece written by Joseph Mohnacs about Bob Dunn (the only soldier in Service Company of the 47th with two middle initials!) was a real accolade for a very nice guy and a very good citizen. It was my privilege to have been associated with Bob in Headquarters Co, 47th Infantry thru all the campaigns after the famous Cork Forest HQ near Port Luyateay (sp) Morocco in 1943.

Joe was right on about Bob's tightly written stories, and that brought to mind one of the most terse and concise headlines conceived by Bob during our stay in Cefalu, Sicily, after the combat days.

It was during the time of the Pope's serious health problems, significantly caused by an intestinal blockage. There was quite a bit of coverage being given His Holiness' condition, by the BBC; the condition was extremely critical.

Bob headed up his story for the 47th Newsletter at the time the Pope was considered out of danger with the classic headline, "POPE POOPS!"

You may not be able to use this as being tasteless. Needless to say, it was original by Bob; he did not pirate it from the BBC broadcast.

Octofoil gets smaller. We all better hurry to San Antonio before we all disappear!

Best regards,

FOR ALL THOSE BORN  
BEFORE 1945

WE ARE SURVIVORS!!

Consider the changes we have witnessed: We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, contact lenses, plastic, frisbees, and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, and ball point pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? Most children had a mother and a father who were married to each other. In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the back of the Riviera Theatre. We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages. We were before day care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us, time sharing meant togetherness-not computers or condominiums; a 'chip' meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word! In 1940 "made in Japan" meant junk, and the term 'making out' referred to how you did on an exam. Pizza, McDonalds, and instant coffee were unheard of. We hit the scene when there were five & ten-cent stores where you bought things for 5 & 10 cents. Sanders or Wilson's sold ice cream cones for a nickel or a dime. For one nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail a letter or two post cards. You could buy a Chevy Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one; a pity too, because gas was 11¢ a gallon! In our day, cigarette smoke was fashionable, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a drink & POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office. And we were the last generation that was so dumb to think you needed a husband to have a baby! No wonder we were so confused and there is a generation gap today? BUT WE SURVIVED! What better reason to celebrate!

Co 47th Inf  
Paul Pryjmak  
40677 Newport Dr.  
Plymouth, Me. 48170

BOOKS FOR SALE  
The Pawns Of War  
by: William Kreye

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

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



# MAIL CALL

60th Inf. M Co.  
HAROLD L. BILLINGTON  
307 N. Maple St.  
P.O. Box 130  
Armington, IL 61721  
(MILDRED A. BILLINGTON)

This is a letter long overdue to the Octofoil. Am sending dues for Harold as a member and also my dues for the Ladies Auxiliary.

I enjoyed my trip to Fayetteville and Fort Bragg last June — along with two of our granddaughters, Jennifer and Erin Griffin. All through the years Harold would mention different names of the fellows and of the time he spent at Fort Bragg (along with other details from the time of his enlisting and through being discharged).

I had met a few of the fellows and their wives at a reunion — Wilfred and Ruth Thorntons in South Bend, Indiana in 1954.

Those wondering about Donald Semple of Fort Plains, N.Y. — Donald passed away several years ago. We had a letter from his wife, Ruth, shortly after the reunion in June. Mrs. Semple's address is Division St., Fort Plains, N.Y. 13339.

Jennifer and Erin were happy to meet buddies of their grandfather. Jennifer has enlisted in the Marines, is finishing her high school and will be in Basic Training sometime next summer. We have a granddaughter and two grandsons in the Air Force.

I am looking forward to the M Co Mini Reunion in South Bend, Indiana in June. Harold is thinking of making the trip, but we will have to wait to see how he is feeling at the time.

26th F.A. Serv & Hqrs Btry  
ELMER ROSCOE  
1192 Storrs Rd.  
Storrs, CT. 06268

As I'm sure you know Joseph McKenzie died on January 15th 1993. There were a number of ninth men that attended the wake on the 18th. The ones that I noticed there were: Ron Murphy, Fran. Maher, Tom Boyle, Connie Matulis — also there were Louise & Pergie Pergiovanni and my wife and me. Pergie & I drove up — he is from East Hartford and I'm from Storrs — we met in a parking lot and drove up together.

We remember Joe as the person who took good care of his "Boys" — even putting them to bed when they were "under the weather." He was a great guy and he wrote many an article which was placed in The Octofoil. He will be missed by those of us who were special friends.

Enclosed please find a check for my dues for 3 yrs and also a check for the Memorial Fund in the name of Joseph B. Albanese who died in April of 1987 and also for Joseph A. McKenzie who died January 15, 1993. These were special friends and we used to meet and have dinner together along with the Pergiovanni's, many times in the years past.

I was a former member of Service Battery, 26F.A. Bn — Then got transferred to Hq Btry 26th F.A.Bn.

We will miss "Father Joe" as we used to call him and the ones that are left. Hope to meet with those of us who are left: Jeanette Albanese, Alice McKenzie, the Pergiovannis and the Roscoes.

Keep up the good work, Dan

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.

34th F.A.  
JAMES C. WARD  
2085 N.C. 87  
Reidsville, N.C. 27320

We really enjoyed the Reunion at Fort Bragg this summer. Had more of men from the 34th. We are trying to get more of the 34th boys together. Fran has worked hard, trying to get us together.

I believe it's about time I paid my dues. My card says I'm paid thru 1993. So I want to pay for three more years. If I live longer, then I'll pay again. Ha! I had better close for now. Regards to all.

15th Engrs.  
EDWARD RICKERT  
4912 W. 156th Street  
Oak Forest, IL 60452

Another year gone by again, the years just roll by.

I was thinking back 50 years ago. We were sleeping in Wine Vats in North Africa near the town of Kouba.

It was sure nice to spend Christmas 1992 at home with family and friends.

I heard from a few of the Old 15 Engrs. buddies this year. The list gets smaller each year.

Best of health and God Blessings to all in 1993.

F Co. 60th Inf.  
JOE SKERTICH  
415 E. 7th Street  
Staunton, Illinois, 62088

Just to let you know F Co. Buddies, when I returned from Fort Bragg Reunion in June, a few weeks later on July 17th I sure had bad luck.

I had a very bad bleeding ulcer in my stomach and was in bad shape. They had to give me five (5) units of blood.

When I was ready to go home, I had a heart attack at the hospital. I had to stay there 14 days. Then the platelets in my blood dropped very low and my blood was so thin. To build my blood up they put me on Steroids. From our hospital in town, they sent me to St. Louis Hospital. They took a dye test and my arteries were all blocked. They rushed me to the operating room. They told me they had to operate right away. I had a 7-By-Pass heart surgery on Oct. 5th. Stayed in St. Louis for 10 days. Was so glad to get to come home. My wife stayed with me all the time.

Three months have gone by and I am doing real good. Getting my strength back, little at a time. My trouble now is the cold weather. Can't walk outside, but I am going to our hospital in Staunton everyday to walk. I do hope this letter finds F Co. fellows in good health.

About going to the next reunion, will depend on how my blood count is going to stay. I'm taking blood test right along. If it doesn't stay up, they will have to take my spleen out. This is what causes blood platelets to go low. I hope everything goes right for me because I feel like I had plenty of trouble since July.

I'm really glad I heard from a lot of you guys at Christmas time. Calls from Tom Saunders, Elton Harrell and John Miller. I really appreciated all of this and the cards I received.

My P.O.W. War Reunion will be in Knoxville, Tenn. If I go thru I'll give you and Tom Saunders a call.

My writing is getting bad, so I will close. Good Luck, Good Health and God Bless all of you.

60th Inf.  
RONALD M. A. HIRST  
Mathildenstrasse 4  
D-6200 Wiesbaden  
Tel. (06121) 56 18 56

I've not the foggiest who Robert W. Gleason is but either way you might enjoy his 'Letter to the Editor' which appeared in Sunday, 24 January edition, "Haunted by Dachau." Maybe someone in the membership remembers this 47 Regiment-man.

Now that I've wrapped up over 25 years of research and 50,000 letters by finishing my 2471 page manuscript, "THREE SCENES FROM BARBAROSSA." I can turn to new ventures. My manuscript was published by me, in 10 copies, all of which will be donated to libraries of my choosing, like Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the Hoover Institute at Stanford, McGill University in Montreal, etc. No, it will NOT be farmed out for possible publication. I do not wish my manuscript of history butchered-down to a 4-500 page book! It is my work on the 76 days battle at STALINGRAD following the Red Army encirclement of German 6 Army.

My new ventures are all centered in Normandy. First, a GUIDE TO THE NINTH AIR FORCE NORMANDY AIR PATCHES, which were 26 in number and all constructed in the bridgehead following the invasion. I am certain a number of our wounded men flew out several of them.

Then, secondly, a venture with Norman history buffs in the recovery of downed Allied and German military aircraft. We guesstimate there are near 3000 of them in the Norman turf. We've to date come up with over 30. The Normans turn the remains (of Allied aircraft) into memorials. They did them up and identify from which unit the aircraft came. It is my task to locate the crew or the family of the crew. To date I have ONE. That man, a P-47 pilot, is invited to attend the dedication of the memorial 6 June 1994. Cooperation from US aircrew veterans is tremendous.

And, thirdly, I'd like to cement NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION relations with the Normans. You've seen one result in the recently published letter from the Mayor of AUDERVILLE, to whom I sent that copy of THE OCTOFOIL. Several more ventures are underway. And then too, comes the ceremony 6 June 1994 in BARNEVILLE. You'll hear more on this as events develop.

Then too, I'd wish that any of our men who read this and who are planning a visit to Normandy would let me know. I'd like to 'marry-them-up' with the Normans in NINTH DIVISION areas, who have expressed a request to me that these men stop by. The Norman villages would like to thank them - PERSONALLY. I'll not get involved here, Dan, but if those men write me — we'll work out the rendezvous in Normandy.

And in between time, Dan, I find time to tend my rose gardens, my lawn, my mini-garden, play social host, liase between visiting US veterans (USA or USAAF) and installations or towns they plan to visit in Germany or France, and TOP PRIORITY, keep my bride of 45 years content (she does hold the key to my constitution!).

Take care of one another, Dan.

1993 Reunion in Texas  
Oct. 7-10

Deadline for next  
issue - April 20th

47th M. Co.  
J.L. ROWE  
Lindenwald  
Downers Grove, IL. 60515

Somehow, my subscription to the Octofoil has lapsed. Please renew it as soon as possible. Check enclosed.

Talked to Leo Fathan (M. Co. 47th) recently and he advised me that Sgt. Lyle Kitchen (M. Co. 47th Motor Pool) passed away, I don't know the exact date. Lyle was an excellent mechanic and a tough soldier, once leading a surprise "unauthorized" attack on a group of Germans who were sparring artillery thrown at us from a hotel near Schevenkutte. After their attack, life was much quieter in the little town.

## DUES REMINDER

This issue of the Octofoil has been used for years to remind our members that "dues are due." The caption "Is your Octofoil addressed with tell-tale red ink?" was used for years but now with our new computer mailing arrangements this is not possible. Instead we ask the members to check their Octofoil especially where their name is printed and above their first name you will find numbers and they will indicate what year your dues are paid up until. The letter L will indicate Life member - H will indicate Honorary member and 1991 will let you know that your dues are payable now.

If for some reason you find it difficult in paying the dues drop us a line and we will keep you on our membership roll, send you the paper and keep the matter confidential.

We remind our members that a limited budget keeps us from mailing the Octofoil to those who fall in the delinquent class. Send your dues to the secretary's office, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

47th Inf. E. Co.  
JOE W. HASENFUS  
3570 Union Ave., #A  
Pennsauken, NJ 07109-3008

Trust you & your's had a great Christmas & New Year Holidays. May 1993 be a good year for members of the 9th — ergo — good health & happiness — as much as possible at our advanced age. We got no place to go but up.

## QUESTIONS TO READERS:

A) Where did my 47th Regt get the name "Raiders"??

B) The Division's logo — ergo — "The Avenging Ghost Div." If I did know, forgot it; guess getting "senile."

"God Bless"  
Joe W. Hasenfus

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

I guess I am overdue to write a few lines to the Octofoil and let you know I am still around. My wife, daughter and myself had a wonderful trip to Fort Bragg and the Div. Reunion last June. I made two trips out to the old Barracks, to look around. I saw the Water Tank that I guarded on Christmas day, 1940 in a pouring rain and the old mess hall where I peeled a 100# bag of potatoes. The day after Christmas, also visited the P.X. where we used to get our beer and ice-cream. When I told the girl cashiers at the P.X. that I used to go there 50 years ago, they could hardly believe it. Needless to say, the P.X. had changed in those years.

I would like to mention that Co. M will have their Annual Reunion, in South Bend, Ind. in June 1993 at the Jamison Inn, dates 24, 25 and 26. This will be our 12th Reunion in as many years.

Anyone who needs more information about it can write me. My wife and I will be co-host. We have a bus trip planned, that will include a tour of Notre Dame, the home of the "Fighting Irish."

Thanks Dan, for all your years of service to the 9th Div. Assoc.

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## Have you sent in your Dues?

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

Happy New Year to all.

I wrote you a short letter sometime in Dec. 1992, stating that I had lost some pictures in Fayetteville at our last reunion. Well, Sir, if that letter hasn't been printed yet, I would like very much if you would look it up and throw it away. To everyone that knows about it, I want to apologize for my mistake. It seems that my wife placed those pictures in the camera case, where we never kept them before, and when we finally went to take a picture of the family for the New Year get-together, low and behold, there were the pictures. "Sorry fellows." I guess I'm just getting past the young stage.

Sure was good to see all of you at Fayetteville, but will be unable to get to San Antonio this year. The better half isn't up to that kind of trip.

I hear from Condu Knee once in awhile and Johnny Knight and I get together now and then for a B. session and enjoy it very much. His wife even made the best home-made biscuits in the world. They melt in your mouth. I always bring a couple home with me.

Also hear from John Davis. His wife is having much trouble since we honored him with the citation. He says "hi" to all and we hope the doctors are done cutting her to pieces. Slim Labur is back in Texas for the winter and bragging about the golfing and fishing down there in 84 degree weather. He says that if he was back home in Michigan, he could name everyone of those fellows in the last Octofoil. That was our mortar gang in the Ninth.

Hope to see all of you next year, I will get out of here. Best wishes to all.

"Big Ed"