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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

5-1-1995

The Octofoil, May/June/July 1995

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

May-June-July 1995

Volume XLXX Number 3

WORCESTER MEMORIAL

51st Memorial Mass and Service

The 50th Memorial Mass and Service for the 4581 men of the Ninth Infantry Division who died in combat in World War II was held at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, Mass. on Sunday, October 23, 1994.

The Mass was celebrated by Father Peter Scanlon, a curate for many years under Father Connors, and until Father's death always in attendance at our gatherings. His sermon was a collection of reminiscences. He told of many funny things that happened at the rectory that gave us all a chuckle. He also told of Father Connors' kindness, generosity, humor, storytelling, and, above all, his priestliness.

For the past few years, attendance at our memorial service has been between ninety and one hundred people. There were one hundred and fifty at our 50th remembrance. I'm sure that many made a special effort to be with us, and it was great to see so many old friends.

As our luncheon at the Holiday Inn came to a close, many asked "Will there be a Memorial Mass and Service in 1995?" Of course. There will be an annual memorial service as long as there is a group of us in New England able to make the arrangements, and as long as there are men of the Ninth Division able to make the annual pilgrimage to Worcester. We will never forget our honored dead.

The 51st Memorial Mass and Service will be held on Sunday, October 22, 1995 at the 11:00 am Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, Mass. Once again, we will pay tribute to the 4581 who died in combat in World War II and to those who have since followed. We will pray, too, for the men of the Ninth Division who gave their lives in VietNam. Once again we will continue the honorable tradition of gathering to remember our dead and to pray for a just and lasting peace.

"Lord, God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, Lest we forget."

Sincerely,
Ron Murphy
Secretary, N.E. Chapter

Schedule for Weekend

Saturday, October 21, 1995: 2:00 pm - C.P. Room open
Saturday, October 22, 1995: 11:00 am - Mass and Memorial Service
1:00 pm - Dinner at Holiday Inn

Room Reservations

You must make your own room reservations. The cut-off date is September 22, 1995. The price is \$75.00 plus tax. Mention the Ninth Division when calling or writing.

HOLIDAY INN
500 Lincoln Street
Worcester MA 01605
1-508-852-4000

No matter where we are billeted, the Holiday Inn is our headquarters, and of course, the C.P. room will be well stocked. Because our mailing list is incomplete, please let others know about the Memorial Service.

Please remember that Mass begins at 11:00 am.

Dinner Reservations

Reservations for Sunday's dinner must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for reservations is October 17, 1995.

Deadline for refund of cancelled reservations is October 17, 1995.

Dinner Sunday, October 22, 1995
\$16.00 per person

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$_____

Name _____ Address _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: New England Chapter 9th Division Assoc.

MAIL TO: Thomas Boyle, 39 Hall Ave., Somerville, MA 02144

Taps Sounded



Lindsey Nelson
Mets announcer for 17 years

It is our sad duty to announce the demise of one of the great "Old Reliabilities", Lindsey Nelson, sports Commentator and member of the Ninth.

In Memoriam

"Hello everybody, I'm Lindsey Nelson". Can there be a sports fan anywhere in this land who has not heard that voice?

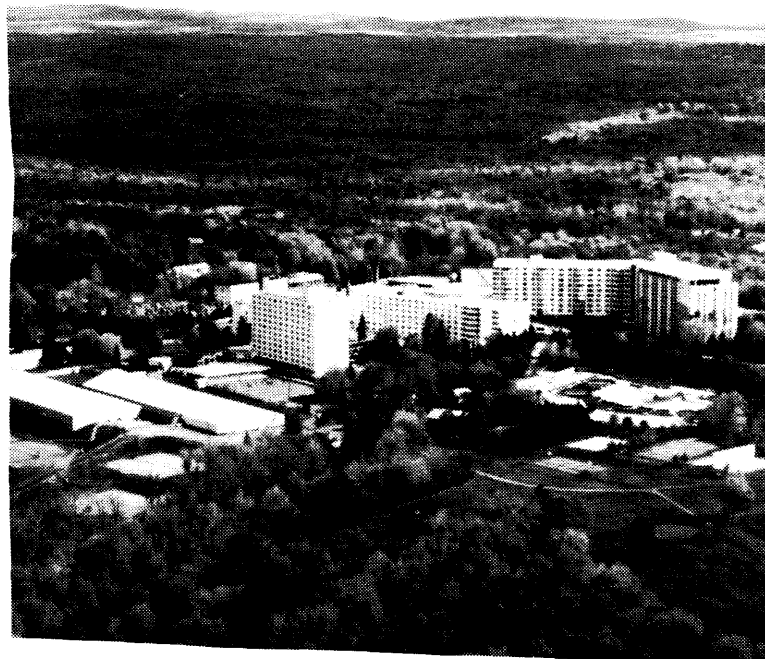
Consider: 25 years of broadcasting football for CBS and 12 for NBC, voice of Notre Dame football for 13 years, called the Cotton Bowl Classic in Dallas 25 times, 17 years broadcasting the NY Mets and 3 years the San Francisco Giants. He found time to cover heavyweight boxing, bowling championships, world's bobsled championships, pro golf tour, regular radio shows, a few movie scenes and recordings. All this with some baseball in Japan and football in Canada.

How do you measure success?

American Sportscasters Hall of Fame, Tuss Mc Laughry Award by American Football Coaches Association, College Football Hall of Fame, Ford C. Frick Award, Broadcasters Baseball Hall of Fame, a little NBA and voted top sportscaster by his contemporaries three years running. At his alma mater, U. of Tennessee, he is in both football and baseball Hall of Fame. Recently the school named the new 2.2 million dollar baseball stadium after him.

Continued on page 3

Headquarters for 1996 New York Reunion



Concord Hotel



The 9th Infantry Division Association will wake up Rip Van Winkle in his Catskill Mountains, NY in 1996!

Rip Van Winkle's 51-year-old slumber comes to an abrupt end on June 4-7, 1996 when Rip is awakened by the rousing welcome of the 9th Infantry Division Association's 51st Annual Reunion, at the Concord Resort Hotel on Kiamesha Lake in the Catskill Mountains, New York.

The convention committee of the host Greater NY Chapter and the Concord convention staff have been working for months to ensure that the 51st gathering of "Old Reliabilities," their ladies, and guests will receive the best of the world-famous Concord's outstanding accommodations, dining, activities, and entertainment.

There will be no strip ticket charges! The inclusive price covers three meals daily, with many delicious choices, and any special diets, in our own dining room. Look over the accompanying particulars and send your reservations **directly** to the Concord Resort Hotel. Over the next months the Octofoil will keep you apprised of the developing programs of interest.

If you remember the great time you had at the 1989 reunion in the Catskill Mountains, the Concord reunion promises to be even more memorable in 1996. Unlike Rip Van Winkle ... don't sleep on it ... get your reservations in early!

The Free Amenities Include:

* Different all-star variety show nightly * Never a cover or minimum * Late night lounge shows * Discotheque music * Little Club for late dancing * Health and Fitness Center * Indoor swimming pool * Shopping Arcade * Valet car parking * Handball, Paddleball * Shuttle bus to Apollo Shopping Mall * FREE Golf on Challenger Course.

In Addition:

After dinner on Tuesday, June 4, there will be a one-hour Welcome Party with beer, soda, pretzels and chips. An open cash bar will be available.

And:

We will also have a private complimentary cocktail party.

Look for more exciting details to come in the next Octofoil.

— Your host, the Greater NY Chapter



Frank Haines (far right) is shown with members of his 84th FA as they gathered in New Orleans for the 50th Reunion. Others pictured (L-R) Bob McGoldrick, John Peluso, Walter Ricker, Newton Fields, Al Lipton, George Ruitschi and Morris Rosen.

Deadline next issue — Oct. 20th

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
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Belton, TX
Phil Bermani
Daytona, FL
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Decatur, IL
Al Zenka
Bellrose, NY
Floyd Hennessey
Lambertville, MI

Taps Sounded
*Yes, a note of sadness does
filter in,
When I closely scan names
of him and him.*

*I read these names, many
new to me,
But in my mind so plain to
see*

*Are countless deeds of
bravery
With thoughts of home and
loved ones, too,
G.I.'s did what they had to
do.*

*Despite unseemng odds, no
need for fame.*

*Knowing the struggle in-
volved was not a game.
On they went to crush the
foe.*

*'Twas a fight for loved ones,
they did know.*

*Whether then or now, 'tis a
price that's paid*

*For a world full of peace, for
which they prayed.*

Joe Rappazini

*With sadden heart we
announce the passing of
these "Old Reliables" and
friends. To their loved ones
we offer our belated sympa-
thy.*

May they rest in peace.

William H. Lape
Hq. Div. Arty

Alexander Clark
34th F.A.

Clinton Geiser
H Co. 39th Inf.

Robert Johnson
Service Co.

Dr. G. Floyd
C Co. 9th Medics

Howard Gearhart, Sr.
G.S. (next of kin)

Charles A. Gerard
A.T. 47 Inf.

Albert Heath

George Waldron
376 AA

James V. Ciluffo
47th Inf. C Co.

Bill Phillips
A Co. 47th Inf.

Wilbur Hovey
39th Inf.

Ferdinand Auth
A Btry 60th FA. Bn.

Lindsey Nelson
Div. Hqs.



Anonymous - In memory of
Mary Maness and also a trib-
ute to "Chip" Maness.

Willard Blair

Hugh Slusher

John Brandi - In memory of
all our departed friends.

Rufus Blackwell.

Clemens Przybylski - In
memory of his wife, Cecelia.

Clifford Barbanell.

THE 9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 51st ANNUAL CONVENTION

TUESDAY - FRIDAY • June 4 - 7, 1996



RESORT HOTEL
KIAMESHA LAKE, NEW YORK 12751

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Name _____ Sponsor's Name _____
Unit (Regt, Co, Btry, etc) _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Will arrive on _____ Will depart on _____
Date _____ Date _____
Please check any special request: Smoking _____ Non-Smoking _____
Handicapped _____

ACCOMMODATIONS (Please indicate):
_____ ECONOMY\$258.00
_____ SUPERIOR -
Super Deluxe\$307.00
_____ TOWERS & EXECUTIVE -
Ultra Deluxe\$360.00

Rates are per person, for three nights, based on double oppupancy in each room
from after lunch on Tuesday to after lunch on Friday, and include 3 meals daily.

Daily rate for third or fourth person in same room with two adults:

Child 0-2 yrs. of age\$18.00
Child 3-12 yrs. of age\$38.00
Child 13-18 yrs. of age\$58.00

Adult over 18 is 80% of the Double Occupancy rates quoted above.

One Night Stay (subject to availability)... \$20.00 above daily rate.

Names of additional persons and ages: Total of persons _____

9th Infantry Division Association 51st Annual Convention
Tuesday - Friday June 4 - 7, 1996

• No Strip Tickets Required

• Gratuities and taxes are included in your rate.

A deposit of \$50.00 per person is required to confirm your reservation by
May 1, 1996. Refunds will be made only if the Hotel reservations department
receives, in writing, cancellation at least one week prior to arrival date given.

Deposits are applicable to given arrival night only. Late day arrivals without
notifying reservations department of revision in advance will forfeit first night's
deposit and accommodations are subject to availability.

Make checks payable to Concord Resort Hotel and mail to Convention
Reservations, Kiamesha Lake, New York 12751.

The Hotel will honor the same daily room rate to our group for anyone wish-
ing to arrive three days before or remain three days after the Reunion, subject
to availability.

TRANSPORTATION:

Public:

Shortline Bus Company (212) 736-4700.

Van Service: 800-759-5548.

Limousine Service: 800-762-6212

Private:

From New York City and Metropolitan Area: (2 hours) George Washington
Bridge to New Jersey Palisades Parkway to New York Thruway North.
Proceed on Thruway Exit 16 and proceed on Rt. 17 to Exit 105B. On Route
42, follow signs to the Concord.

From Southern New Jersey & Philadelphia: (3 hours from Phila.) New
Jersey Turnpike to Exit 11 Garden State Parkway North to New York State
Thruway North. N.Y.S. Thruway to Exit 16 (Rt. 17W). Proceed on 17 West to
Exit 105B (Rt. 42). Follow signs to the Concord.

From Scranton, Pa. Route 84 East to Rt. 17 West to Exit 105B. Follow signs
to the Concord.

From Connecticut: Route 84 West to Rt. 17 West to Exit 105B.

From Boston and New England States: Mass. Turnpike to Sturbridge Ext.
Route 86 South to Route 84 West. Proceed to New York Exit 4W to Route 17
Quickway West to Exit 105B (Kiamesha Route 42 North). Turn North on
Route 42. Follow signs to the Concord. Estimated driving time from Boston -
4 1/2 hrs; Springfield - 3 hrs.

Air: Stewart Airport located at Newburg, New York. Carriers now operating:
American, Delta, United Express and U.S. Air.

Car Rental: Major car rental agencies are located at all New York Airports
and Stewart Airport. Driving time from Stewart to the Concord is 50 minutes.

James M. Droney - In memo-
ry of Ellis T. Huffman and
Co. Comm. K Co. 60th John
C. Eisenhauer.

Marv Levy - In memory of
Matt Urban and Mike
Kauffman.

Nancy Ciluffo - In memory of
her husband, James.

Boardman Lockwood - In
memory of Lindsey Nelson,
Public Relations Officer and
former 47th Inf., Fort Bragg
to the Elbe.

Richard McGrath - In memo-
ry of Mike Kauffman, Matt
Urban and Lindsey Nelson.

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.....

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 Auxilliary Member.....\$ 2.00

Decals.....50-each

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 Gr South West		

Tip of the Hat

The association is ever
grateful to the members and
friends who remembered
the Memorial Fund.

We salute you.

Leo S. Griffin - In memory of
Chuck Constantine.

Arthur Clark - In memory of
Tony Carmeci and George
Capobianco.

Joseph Kscenaitis

Vivienne Morgan Kuhrt - In
memory of her brother
George Morgan and Eddie
Egan.

Willard Haas - In memory of
B Co. 9th Med. Bn. Buddies
Clinton Vaughn, Comer
Benton and Anthony
Cannariato.

David Sanner - In memory of
Michael Hoffman.

Metro Kowalchik

Wilbert Skinn

Taps Sounded

Continued from page 1

He attended ROTC at Tennessee and received his commission upon graduation. It wasn't long before he was called to active duty and assigned to 9th Division at Ft. Bragg, C Company, 47th. He was later transferred to Division as PRO. He was with the 9th for the duration serving in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, England, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and occupation.

He possessed a good deal of affection for the 9th and remained loyal to it throughout his life. He once said that, even at this late date, that whenever he heard mention of the 9th his chest popped out and he smiled at the feeling that comes with the memories of soldiers, living or dead, who fought for their country.

We first met in a camel pasture in the Kasserine Pass area during the winter of 1943. And for over 52 years remained the best of friends, getting together whenever our paths cross and always keeping in touch. Intelligent, quick of mind, excellent sense of humor, generous; I cannot recall his ever seriously complaining of anything. And, like all of us, he took his share of heartbreak. So it was obvious that tough times lay ahead when a letter arrived in 1986 saying that he had been diagnosed as having Parkinsons and arthritis. No complaint, just the fact.

On July 31, 1988 Ralph Kiner (a Hall of Famer) in introducing Lindsey at his induction in the National Baseball Hall of Fame said "sometimes when I'm in bed, I hear a voice that says 'Hello everybody, I'm Lindsey Nelson.'" For those of who knew him, we will always hear it ... and remember Lindsey Nelson.

John E. Eddy Jr.
8084 Poplar La.
Carmel, CA 93923

SORROWFUL

37A AA
RENEE JANICE WALDRON
P.O. Box 264
Sequel, Calif. 95073

I am writing to you to inform you of this; it's with deepest and sorrowful regrets I have to tell you that my father P.F.C. George William Waldron (a comrade) has passed on to the Great Battlefield in the sky. He left us June 26, 1994 — and I haven't had the time until now to let you all know. I still, though would like to receive the Octofoil. Please let me know how I still may receive it. Oh! by the way. I am Renee Janice Waldron — George's youngest child and daughter.

There was standing room only. People were standing out in the parking lot of the V.F.W. Post 7263 in Santa Cruz, Calif. and not only were there veterans there, but many people from all facets of life attended.

Reunion in New York
1996
Concord Hotel

The Old Reliables Has A Permanent Home

At the 50th Annual Reunion at New Orleans the membership passed a Resolution which does "... endorse and authorize the donation of all writings, books, diaries, recollections, recordings, souvenirs, photos, videos and any other appropriate material reflecting activities and accomplishments of the Division during World War II by the Association and its members."

Attempts have failed to set up a Museum collection or memorial at Ft. Bragg, our birthplace. However, the Public Affairs Office there did give me a lead to Ft. Benning and the Museum Director and Curator there was enthusiastic with the idea of a special exhibit for the 9th Infantry Division of World War II.

The National Infantry Museum was established as the home of the U.S. Infantry in 1959 and has one mission: to honor the Infantryman and his more than two centuries of proud service to the nation.

The museum offers visitors 30,000 square feet of exhibit space within an impressive historic masonry building with large, well-lighted, carpeted galleries. The building is climate-controlled, wheelchair-accessible and has elevator to four floors. Admission is free to the public on a daily basis and 110,000 visitors a year come.

They follow the footsteps of the Infantrymen from the 1607 wilderness of Virginia to the 1991 sands of the Persian Gulf, from French Charleville Flintlock muskets to the atomic Davy Crockett, from victory at Yorkville to events in Vietnam.

Visitors see edged weapons, uniforms, footwear, mess gear, firearms, helmets, and vehicles from a 1902 Studebaker utility wagon to the Jeep. It also shows the equipment of the enemy who chose to test our resolve.

A 100 seat auditorium shows a variety of films and will make available equipment for the presentation of VCR and movie material from our Division.

What does this all mean to us? Well, the Museum director gave his enthusiastic support to creating a special exhibit section for our cherished belongings of our time with the 9th Division. In a letter to me he states that the National Infantry Museum would be honored to accept the historical items of the division to include material objects as well as written material, photographs, maps et cetera. They will "... catalog and guarantee protection of this unique collection so that the history of this military organization will be preserved for the future."

He cautions that they must be furnished, a brief history of any item donated so that the staff can properly account for each item and ensure that its history is not lost.

Any questions concerning gifts to the museum can be sent to the National Infantry Museum, Building 396, Fort Benning, GA 31905-5593 or by calling (706) 545-2958/6762.

So, go to work and ship off copies of those photos you took showing life in the mud and snow. Do you have a GO-Devil or AAA-O helmet? How about a German ceremonial sword?

Some of you have shipped off material to Ft. Lewis, Washington when the division was reactivated. As you know, deactivation occurred and this material was left stranded. Why not ask Ft. Lewis to forward those items to the Ft. Benning museum?

Some chapters have precious original guidons or flags of the units. Why not provide for the ultimate disposition of those souvenirs to the Museum?

Wouldn't it be great to have your children, grandchildren, etc. as well as historians be able to trace your contribution to the bloody costly record of the U S of A protecting its precious freedoms?

Boris Raynes
Btry "C" 26th F.A. Bn.
2532 Chelsea Rd.
Palos Verdes Est., CA 90274



John O'Grady, left, retiring President of the Association is shown at the New Orleans Reunion turning over the Gavel of order to his successor — Henry "Red" Phillips.



President Clinton thanking Henry "Red" Phillips for his boxes set of Phillips' Trilogy (stories of El Guettar, Sedjenane, Remagen Bridge). When he left the New Orleans reunion "Red" traveled to the White House to present his books of the Ninth to the President, on May 29, 1995.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At New Orleans when nominated for this job of president, I reminded my fellow association governors of my position as regards opening our membership to veterans of the 9th Infantry Division who served in Vietnam. I told them that as their prexy I would be doing all in my power to get our by-laws changed to permit this. Those coming to The Concord next year can be prepared to vote once again on the issue.

My reason for this is simple and pragmatic. I think the 9th Infantry Division was supremely important to our country in World War II and it ought to be remembered for that. That is why I've written three books about its battles. At the same time, I recognize that the division's performance was just as memorable in the Vietnam War.

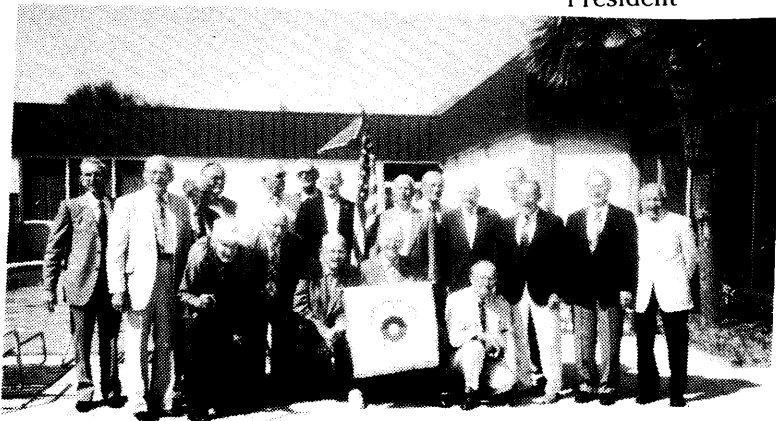
But as an association of 9th Division veterans of a certain vintage dedicated to honoring our fallen fellows and keeping the memory of their sacrifice alive, we are now dying off. We need a transfusion of the new blood that the proposed change can bring us. At New Orleans, for the first time in our Association's history I believe, there was no one ready to assume responsibility for the Reunion in '97. One officer of the Association proposed developing a plan for spending down our assets so that "the last man when he turned out the light" wouldn't end up with more than he could carry. I was glad to see the thumbs down on that idea.

As a matter of fact, the Association now operates on a budget deficit and funds are being taken from reserves in order to makeup the annual operating shortfall. Aside from raising dues again, which would surely loose us some current members, the only way to really correct this problem would be to go after the WW II vets of the 9th who are not now members, but how do we reach them? Most don't even know our Association exists. Our public information effort is as bad now as it ever was during the war and we don't have the incredible modesty of our generals to blame for it.

Friends, the only practical way out of our dilemma is to open our doors to the next generation of those who proudly wore the Octofoil in Southeast Asia. But, there will be counterarguments to this idea and alternate solutions to the problem proposed. I plan to beat the drum for a by-laws change in this space of the next few issues of the Octofoil. Let's be reading the case for the contrary here as well.

Someone at the reunion mentioned seeing a recent magazine mention of another 9th Infantry Division group which was forming. Presumably it intends to attract Vietnam War veterans. This is not the same organization that organized near Fort Lewis and went defunct when the Active Army 9th deactivated there. I need additional information so I can check out the story. Anyone recall the magazine with this information? Date of issue?

Red Phillips
President



Members of the 9th Medical Battalion are shown at their Mini-reunion held on April 20, 1995 at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

We held our 9th Annual Mini Reunion in Madison, Wisconsin on May 5th and 6th. We had a nice turnout, 22 in all. Present were the Andersons, Bauman, Vera Carpenter, Ted Curliss, Gaertners, Grays, Hellers, Helms, Paulis, Salees and Belmontes. We were pleased to see Marian Cook, widow of Lester (LV) Cook (60th Inf.) and her sister-in-law, Anna Lee Guelzow (widow of Wilbert G. (60th Inf.))

On Saturday morning, we went to the Highland Memorial Cemetery to hold our Memorial Day services in honor of Mike Carpenter and all the Members of the 9th who died in the war and since that time. Gordon Anderson opened the services followed by George Helm who lead the Pledge of Allegiance. David Heller delivered the Invocation. Howard Gaertner gave recognition to the widows present. A tribute was given to Mike Carpenter by yours truly. John Bauman, President of the Illinois Chapter presented a floral tribute. We closed with a prayer by our Chaplain, David Heller. Present at the ceremonies were Mike and Vera's children, Larry and his wife, Marge, and their two daughters Linda and Tina and a granddaughter, Alex. The weather was beautiful for a change and we are sure Mike had a hand in making it so. He will be missed.

After the services, some returned to the hotel while others went sightseeing or shopping. We were all back in time for the running of the Kentucky Derby. After free cocktails at the hotel, we all adjourned to a local restaurant for dinner.

We returned from New Orleans after attending the 50th Reunion. We want to commend Phil Berman and Emil Donato for a job well done this year as well as their wives and their committees.

MARDI GRAS NIGHT

We enjoyed the Mardi Gras night. It was great seeing some old familiar faces although many were missing. We understand the total number present this year was about 450. Representatives of the Illinois Chapter were David Heller (DV had to cancel last minute), Prestons, Clarks, McGraths, Salees, Colliers, Apels, Paulis, and Belmontes.

The ladies attending the Luncheon and Cooking School enjoyed themselves even though there was some delays in the transportation.

The shuttle bus from the hotel to the French Quarters was excellent. They ran every hour and enables us to see a lot in New Orleans. There were many tours available as well as boat trips and the Gambling casino. There was so much to see but so little time.

The Cajon Dancers on Friday night were very entertaining. They performed and then included the audience to participate. The music was very good and we even did a little line dancing.

Memorial services on Saturday morning were held in the hotel. We had a Color Guard and Gospel Singers. Fr. Rowan was present and each Chapter Representative placed a flower on the Octofoil Wreath. It was an impressive ceremony honoring our departed comrades.

VERY COLORFUL

The Saturday Banquet was very colorful. The Ladies were each furnished with a mask and the room was decorated with many balloons. The guest speaker was a gentleman from the the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce. After dinner, goodbyes were said and the group disbanded for another year hoping to meet again in New York in 1996 at the Concord.

The Andersons, Hellers and Belmontes met for lunch in June to discuss plans for the Angola Meeting. It will be held this year on October 17th and 18th. We are trying a mid-week reunion this year. Room rates are \$53.00 plus tax, single or double. Please make reservations directly to Holiday Inn, 3855 N. State Rd., Angola, Ind. 46703, Phone (219) 665-9471. Mention the Ninth. Reservations are to be in by October 6th.

Plans have been made for a cookout at the Gaertners on Tuesday, August 1st. More details will be in the mail.

SICK CALL

We are pleased to report that the Hennemuths are finally back from Florida and Peggy is doing well after her back surgery. Wanda Preston, wife of Ted (60th Inf. F. Co.) underwent surgery and we are happy to report all went well and she is recovering with no complications. We just heard from Lorraine Clark (wife of Paul 60th D Co.). After numerous test and an MRI, it was determined she is suffering from high blood pressure. She is receiving medication and improving daily. We also heard that Irma Koski (widow of Chuck 47th F. Co.) recently fell and broke her collar bone and femur. She underwent surgery to receive a pin and will require more therapy.

Looking forward to seeing a lot of our members in Angola in October.

Respectfully,
Mike Blemonte
1161 S. Lombard
Oak Park, Il. 60304

1996 Reunion
Concord Hotel
New York

LADIES CORNER

It is a funny feeling to be writing the Ladies Corner column, not as your Treasurer for eight years, but as just Ellie Taubner, Auxiliary member, and resident Chatterbox. But, funny or not it won't interfere with my writing as long as you let me know how you feel, or what you are doing in your lives. For the ladies who did not attend the 1995 Reunion in New Orleans, and our meeting there, here is what we did: Elected for 2 terms, unanimously, President, Mary McLaughlin, Vice-President, Marline Sanchez, Secretary, Connie Koneski, Treasurer, Carol Saunders, and Chaplain, Rosalie Painter. We were grateful that all those ladies accepted their nominations, and send congratulations and thanks to all of them for keeping our organizations afloat.

There were no nominations for Veterans Homes or Groups, so we voted to save money and send our donations next year. Therefore, please send in your names and ideas to: Mary McLaughlin, Connie Koneski or Carol Saunders. Our Pollyanna was, as usual a rousing success, and the Cajun cooking demonstration by Chef Kevin Belton was most enlightening and funny. He could make his living as a Stand-Up comedian if he was not such a terrific Chef! Now, if he could only come to my house and cook! After 50 years, my enthusiasm for cooking is rapidly waning. New Orleans is a beautiful and different city, fascinating in its architecture and laid back pace, but a little too hot for me in the long run.

Our Raffle held on the evening of May 26th, was as usual a big hit with the donors and winners as follows: Vase (Helen Holmes) won by Dorothy Gray — 60th Field Artillery; Football Quarterback (Lorraine Clark) won by Paul Clark of the 60th Regt. Company D; Coasters (Lorraine Clark) won by Elsie Linville, Ruth Jordan's sister; Red and Blue Afghan (Carol Saunders) won by Bill Martin of the 26th F A Battery A; Blue Afghan (Carol Saunders) won by Anne-Marie Lencovich, sister of Betty Roberts, husband is Charles of the 15th Engineers; Double Axe Quilt (Ruth Jordan) won by Katherine O'Grady, husband is John of the 9th Recon. Well, I think I have chattered enough so I will say take care and please keep in touch, and remember please send your membership dues to: Carol Saunders, P.O. Box 1584, Greenville, Tenn. 37744, as I am no longer your Treasurer.

Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

From time to time we have to put articles sent in by our members on the back burner because of lack of space. As we get older more members are writing stories that are longer (always interesting) but space in our 8 page publication is kind of limited. Please try to understand, if your letter does not appear in this issue we will make sure it does in the following Octofoils.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

50TH ANNUAL REUNION IN REVIEW: To those Florida Chapter Members, who for whatever reason could not attend the May 25-28 Reunion in New Orleans, we are proud to report that this Golden Anniversary Reunion was a successful and enjoyable event. This was attested by the complimentary letters we received and the many verbal compliments received during the 4 days of the reunion. Everything ran smoothly. The workers behind the Welcome Desk were very efficient. They explained the contents inside the colorful 9" x 12" envelopes that were personalized with the name of every registered attendee. Our thanks and credit for a job well done go to Florida Chapter members Lila and H.F. Stansell; Tom and Carol Saunders; Louise and Arnold Tomanek; Ruth and Peter Zimmer; Bertha and Bill Carson; Dorothy and Norris Gray; Katherine and John O'Grady; Rosalie and Cliff Painter who were of tremendous help to Chairman Phil Berman and his wife Barbara and also to Audrey and Emil De Donato.

Michael Deresh with the aid of Roger Gartland did a fantastic job in handling the table reservations for the Saturday Night Banquet. Michael is a real "pro" at this function as he has handled table reservations for the PBA and other fine organizations. Thanks and congratulations to Mike and Roger for a job well done.

Much credit for the entertainment go to Barbara Berman. Thursday Mardi Gras Night was a lot of fun. The Cajun Dancers performance on Friday Night was a treat to something different. The orchestras for both nights played well. (Audrey De Donato took some video footage which we hope to play for our membership during our next Chapter Meeting). Barbara Berman worked hard getting the floral piece made, contracting for the choir singers, getting the color guard from the Jackson Barracks for our Memorial Services; handling the details for the women to attend the Cooking School Demonstration/lunch ... plus decorating chores etc. She was assisted by her husband Phil, Audrey De Donato and other Chapter members. The Memorial Services were very impressive. Appropriate hymns were sung by the 1st Baptist Church Choir of Chalmette, Louisiana.

The choir was directed by Mr. Hugh Boswell ... his wife Debra is the Church Organist. Their renditions added greatly to this solemn occasion. The Jackson Barracks Color Guard were precise in their role of posting and retreating the colors. Emil De Donato was the Master of Ceremony with Father Rowan and Dave Heller offering the prayers for our comrades who passed on. Many members took advantage of the free time to see the French Quarters, a stroll on the Riverwalk, or to try their luck at the gambling casinos ... or tour the Superdome and literally hundreds of interesting sights throughout this exciting city. Good food ... served in many fine restaurants with music being played practically 24 hours a day. New Orleans is truly one of America's oldest and interesting cities.

FLORIDA CHAPTER TO MEET IN ORLANDO: Remember the dates — Sept. 28 to Oct. 1, 1995. The Place — Marriott Hotel on International Drive, Orlando, Florida. The Chairman — John O'Grady, 7912 N.W. 10th St., Plantation, FL 33322. Phone 1/305/474-2791. Complete details and order information to be sent out approximately 6 weeks prior. John promises a good program so plan to attend. There will be an election of new officers at the Saturday Meeting.

SOUVENIR PACKAGES FOR SALE: Any national, chapter member including those who had to cancel their reservations may purchase a souvenir packet of the 50th Annual Reunion consisting of the colorful 9" x 12" envelope with your name printed on it; the 4 page program; the Memorial Service Program; your name badge, the 50th Annual Reunion hang-on; a map of New Orleans and other material, by sending a \$3.75 donation to Emil J. De Donato, 3650 S.W. Mosswood Street, Dunnellon, FL 34431.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES AT REUNION: The Florida Chapter can be proud of the role played by some of the women during this 50th Annual Reunion. They sold chances for the raffling off of a HARLEQUIN DOLL, two Head Table Center Pieces, and a Beautiful Porcelain American Eagle. The decorating of the Banquet Tables was a tremendous feat accomplished in less than 4 hours. Much credit goes to Carol Saunders who handled the filling of hundreds of balloons with helium gas while Barbara Berman, Audrey De Donato, Lila Stansell and Rosalie Painter worked like beavers setting up the tables. A handsome feathered mask was placed on each table as a 'take-home souvenir' for every woman at the banquet. Audrey De Donato and Barbara Berman did an exceptional job organizing and transporting 100 women who attended the Cooking School Demonstration/Luncheon on Friday morning. The men of the Florida Chapter are proud of you for your hard work and we salute you for making the New Orleans Reunion an enjoyable one for our membership of The Ninth Infantry Division Assn.

Emil J. De Donato
FL Chapt. Pub. Rel. Officer

Business Conducted at Reunion

The Ninth Infantry Division Association Minutes of the 178th Meeting National Board Governors

The 178th meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place in New Orleans, the Hotel Radisson, on May 25, 1995. The meeting was called to order 4:10 p.m. by President John O'Grady who asked them to stand for moment of silent prayer for our departed members. Attending the meeting were Board members, Frank Haines, Bill Martin, Marv Levy, Mike Belmonte, Nick Dogostino, Henry Phillips, and Ted Preston. Also present were treasurer Tom Boyle, past presidents, Len Tomassone, Walter O'Keeffe, Al Perna, Bob DeSandy. Members Trevor Jones, Pat DeColi, Phil Berman and Co-Chairman of the 1996 NY Reunion Martin Gross.

Tom Boyle reported on the 1994 Lake Placid reunion and gave a detailed outline of the expenses and income of the Reunion. A profit of \$1484.67 was realized and had been turned over to the Secretary's office for deposit in the General Fund. President John O'Grady thanked Boyle and his committee members for their efforts and a good reunion.

Upon a motion made by Ted Preston and seconded by Nick Dogostino it was voted to: Accept the report of the 1994 Lake Placid reunion.

President John O'Grady asked the following members to serve as Chairpersons of these Committees: Newspaper - Emil DiDonato, By-laws - Dave Heller, Miscellaneous - Mike Belmonte, Nomination - Bill Martin, Finance - Frank Haines.

Phil Berman reported on the 1995 New Orleans reunion. Berman stated that an extra load of cancellation has been received (60 or more) because of the flooding conditions that had existed prior to the meeting. Around 500 people were expected to attend and Berman outlined the events that were taking place.

A round table discussion was held on the Funds of the association in the event of a "Last Man Club." The discussion was tabled to the next financial committee meeting.

Bob DeSandy submitted a bid for the 1997 reunion to be held in Ft. Bragg area. Bids are usually submitted at the last Board meeting to be held on Friday (after the General meeting) so no action was taken.

Red Phillips spoke on the possibility of a Division Museum being placed at Fort Benning, Georgia where the Infantry's Museum are in place. A member from California Boris Rayees of the 26th FA is expected to make a presentation on the subject at the regular meeting being held on May 26th.

Marty Gross Co-Chairman of the 1996 Reunion being held in New York spoke of the facilities at the Concord Hotel in the Catskills

Mountains, the site chosen for the meeting. A first class hotel that will accommodate 3000 people with three meals a day being supplied along with nightly entertainment. Three golf courses, indoor and outdoor swimming, tennis, free valet car parking. The dates Tues-Fri - June 4-7, 1996. Rates and details will appear in the Octofoil.

President John O'Grady read a letter received from a friend of Orion Shockly-Co B 47th Inf - regarding a Belgium decoration. Details will appear in the Octofoil.

There being no other business to come before this meeting and upon a motion made by Nick Dogostino and seconded by Red Phillips it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

Minutes of the 50th Meeting of the General Membership

The 50th meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division took place on May 26, 1995 at the Hotel Radisson, New Orleans, Louisiana. President of the Association John O'Grady called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and asked the 187 members present to rise for a moment of silent prayer for the departed men of the Ninth. President O'Grady asked for recess till 11 AM in order for the committee groups to meet. They were the following: Emil DeDonato Newspaper, Miscellaneous Mike Belmonte, Nominating Committee Bill Martin, Finance Committee Frank Haines and Dave Heller By-laws Committee. President asked these Chairmembers to rise so they could be recognized and after designating a place to hold their meetings asked the members who were to serve on these committees from various chapters and those who would like to serve on a committee to adjoin and meet.

At 11:20 AM President John O'Grady reopened the meeting and again asked the members to rise for a moment of silent prayers for our departed comrades.

The secretary Dan Quinn read the minutes of the last meeting held in Lake Placid in 1994. Upon a motion made by Bob DeSandy and seconded by Ed Hopkins it was voted to: Accept the secretary reading of the minutes and instruct the secretary to place a copy of same on file.

The treasurer Tom Boyle was called upon for his report and he gave a detailed report of the Financial Conditions of the association. Boyle concluded by stating "once again it is my considered opinion that our fine Association is in good financial condition. A large part of this is due to the attention given by our officer and Board of Governors." Upon a motion made by Anthony Varone and seconded by Milton Hyman it was voted to: Accept the Treasurer's report. President O'Grady thanked Boyle for his report.

Newspaper Committee

President O'Grady then asked for the Committees report and Emil DeDonato of the Newspaper Committee reported that the following members served with him on this committee: Herb Stern Gr. South West and Texas Chapter, Henry Red Phillips - At Large, Marv Levy, NY Chapter, Nick Dogostino, Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter. The committee recommends the following: Providing there is adequate funds, that the number of Octofoil issues be increased to six issues a year and to be printed on a better grade of paper. Because our membership have been experiencing dimming of their eyes, it is recommended that the type size be upgraded to a larger size. That the Chapter hosting the National Reunion be given more consideration on the front page.

Upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Joe Kilacky it was voted to accept the report. President O'Grady thanked DeDonato and his committee for their report.

Miscellaneous Committee

Mike Belmonte Chairman of the Miscellaneous Committee reported the following members served on this committee with him: Don Lavender, Boris Raynes, Art Schmidt, Al Lipton, Aaron Lubin, Sewell Carson, and Bill Coen. Belmonte reported that the Miscellaneous Committee recommends that in the future that reunions not be held on Holiday weekends. Upon the recommendation of Boris Raynes the committee strongly recommends that the Ninth Infantry Division association become part of the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia. Through the years the organization has been sending items to the Museum at Ft. Lewis, Washington, etc. and with the cutbacks these Museums have folded. The Museum at Fort Benning will continue with the traditions of the US Army. Upon a motion made by Phil Berman and seconded by Marty Gross it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendation of the Miscellaneous Committee. President O'Grady thanked Mike Belmonte and his committee for their report.

Finance Committee

Frank Haines of the Finance Committee when called upon named these members who served with him on this Committee: Walter O'Keeffe, Vincent Guglielmino, Ed Gill, Willard Norris, Michael Wengryn, and Norris Gray. Tom Boyle sat in on the meeting for advice. The committee recommends the following budget be approved:

Anticipated Income
Dues\$8,120.00
Investments
SSG & CGM2,000.00
Sales200.00
Reunion1,000.00
Total.....\$11,320.00
Use of
existing funds7,600.00
Total.....\$18,920.00

Disbursements

Secretary Salary\$1,000.00
Clerical Help1,000.00
Utilities1,300.00
Postage3,700.00
Misc. Expense480.00
Supplies750.00
Secretary Expense1,000.00
Editors Expense500.00
Treasurer Expense360.00
Octofoil8,500.00
Accountant300.00
Total.....\$18,920.00

Chairman Frank Haines expressed appreciation to the six men who served on the committee and also to Tom Boyle, Treasurer for the assistance in interpreting the association's finances for the committee's understanding. Haines commented that an earlier proposal regarding the Octofoil had cost implications which should be considered by the Finance Committee as to the cost impact and the method financing it.

In addition to proposing the 1996 Budget the Committee reviewed the various Funds covered by the earlier Treasurer's report and the financial experiences of the most recent two years.

The budget recommended to the members was for disbursements of \$18,920 current income of \$11,320 and \$7,600 from available funds.

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

President O'Grady thanked Frank Haines and his committee for their report.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

President O'Grady called upon the By-laws Committee Chairman Dave Heller and Heller named these members who served with him on this committee: Marty Gross, Pat DeColi, Dick Granberry, Jack Collier, and W.C. Scott. A discussion was held on the Proposal to amend the by-laws regarding the addition of two more members to the Board of Governors (from 15 to 17). President O'Grady called for a vote on the proposal (that had been duly printed in the Octofoil). Upon a motion made by Ted Preston and seconded by Ed Hopkins it was voted to: Accept the report of the By-laws committee and to vote on same. The recommendation was voted in favor of the change. President O'Grady thanked Heller and his committee for their efforts.

Nominating Committee

Bill Martin of the Nominating Committee was called upon for his report and he named these men who served with him: Jack Blann Texas Gr SW chapter, Phillip Emmons Texas Gr SW Chapter, Paul Clark Illinois Chapter, Len Tomassone Philly Cel Valley Chapter and Everett Tapp Michigan Chapter. There are six members leaving the Board of Governors and the committee recommends the following replaced them. Ken Meyers Texas Chapter, Owens Salle Illinois Chapter, Floyd Hennesey Michigan Chapter, Phil Berman

Florida Chapter, Ed Hopkins N.J. Chapter and Al Zanks NY Chapter. President O'Grady called for nomination from the floor and upon a motion made by Bob DeSandy and seconded by Len Tomsonne it was voted to close the Nominations. Phil Berman made a motion that was seconded by Bill Mooty to: instruct the secretary to cast one ballot for a unanimous vote of the slate of men nominated by the Committee. President O'Grady thanked Bill Martin and his committee for their efforts.

Veterans Awards Committee

Larry McLaughlin of the Veterans Awards Committee when called upon for his report mentioned that he was the only member of the committee present. The other two members, Adolph Wadalavage and Henry Santos could not attend the meeting or reunion. McLaughlin speaking as the spokesperson for this committee recommends that two awards of \$300.00 apiece be granted, one to the VA Hospital in Tampa, Florida and the other to the National Cemetery in Pinelawn, New York for flag poles that they had requested.

Upon a motion made by Bill Coen and seconded by Pat DeColi it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Veterans Awards Committee. So moved. President O'Grady thanked Larry McLaughlin for his report.

There being no other business to come before this meeting and upon a motion made by Ed Hopkins and seconded by Bill Monty it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

Minutes of the 179 Meeting National Board of Governors

The 179th meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place on May 26, 1995 at the Hotel Radisson, New Orleans, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 P.M. by President John O'Grady who asked the members to stand for a silent prayer for our departed comrades. Present for the meeting were Ed Hopkins, Bill Martin, Nick Dogostino, Al Farrane, Owen Salle, Al Zanka, Henry Phillips, Phil Berman, Judge Advocate Dave Heller, and Treasurer Tom Boyle. Also in attendance were John Miller, Bob DeSandy, Ted Preston, Len Tomassone, Pat DeColi, Marty Gross, Marv Levy.

Upon a motion made by Ed Hopkins and seconded by Al Zanka it was voted to: dispense with the reading of the previous Board meeting and the Treasurers report.

President John O'Grady then called for the elections of Officer for the coming year, and with the election of Henry Phillips he turned over the gavel of authority to his successor.

Continued on next page

Taps Sounded

Continued from page 1

He attended ROTC at Tennessee and received his commission upon graduation. It wasn't long before he was called to active duty and assigned to 9th Division at Ft. Bragg, C Company, 47th. He was later transferred to Division as PRO. He was with the 9th for the duration serving in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, England, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and occupation.

He possessed a good deal of affection for the 9th and remained loyal to it throughout his life. He once said that, even at this late date, that whenever he heard mention of the 9th his chest popped out and he smiled at the feeling that comes with the memories of soldiers, living or dead, who fought for their country.

We first met in a camel pasture in the Kasserine Pass area during the winter of 1943. And for over 52 years remained the best of friends, getting together whenever our paths cross and always keeping in touch. Intelligent, quick of mind, excellent sense of humor, generous; I cannot recall his ever seriously complaining of anything. And, like all of us, he took his share of heartbreak. So it was obvious that tough times lay ahead when a letter arrived in 1986 saying that he had been diagnosed as having Parkinsons and arthritis. No complaint, just the fact.

On July 31, 1988 Ralph Kiner (a Hall of Famer) in introducing Lindsey at his induction in the National Baseball Hall of Fame said "sometimes when I'm in bed, I hear a voice that says 'Hello everybody, I'm Lindsey Nelson.' " For those of who knew him, we will always hear it ... and remember Lindsey Nelson.

John E. Eddy Jr.
8084 Poplar La.
Carmel, CA 93923

SORROWFUL

37A AA
RENEE JANICE WALDRON
P.O. Box 264
Sequel, Calif. 95073

I am writing to you to inform you of this; it's with deepest and sorrowful regrets I have to tell you that my father P.F.C. George William Waldron (a comrade) has passed on to the Great Battlefield in the sky. He left us June 26, 1994 — and I haven't had the time until now to let you all know. I still, though would like to receive the Octofoil. Please let me know how I still may receive it. Oh! by the way. I am Renee Janice Waldron — George's youngest child and daughter.

There was standing room only. People were standing out in the parking lot of the V.F.W. Post 7263 in Santa Cruz, Calif. and not only were there veterans there, but many people from all facets of life attended.

Reunion in New York
1996
Concord Hotel

The Old Reliables Has A Permanent Home

At the 50th Annual Reunion at New Orleans the membership passed a Resolution which does "... endorse and authorize the donation of all writings, books, diaries, recollections, recordings, souvenirs, photos, videos and any other appropriate material reflecting activities and accomplishments of the Division during World War II by the Association and its members."

Attempts have failed to set up a Museum collection or memorial at Ft. Bragg, our birthplace. However, the Public Affairs Office there did give me a lead to Ft. Benning and the Museum Director and Curator there was enthusiastic with the idea of a special exhibit for the 9th Infantry Division of World War II.

The National Infantry Museum was established as the home of the U.S. Infantry in 1959 and has one mission: to honor the Infantryman and his more than two centuries of proud service to the nation.

The museum offers visitors 30,000 square feet of exhibit space within an impressive historic masonry building with large, well-lighted, carpeted galleries. The building is climate-controlled, wheelchair-accessible and has elevator to four floors. Admission is free to the public on a daily basis and 110,000 visitors a year come.

They follow the footsteps of the Infantrymen from the 1607 wilderness of Virginia to the 1991 sands of the Persian Gulf, from French Charleville Flintlock muskets to the atomic Davy Crockett, from victory at Yorkville to events in Vietnam.

Visitors see edged weapons, uniforms, footwear, mess gear, firearms, helmets, and vehicles from a 1902 Studebaker utility wagon to the Jeep. It also shows the equipment of the enemy who chose to test our resolve.

A 100 seat auditorium shows a variety of films and will make available equipment for the presentation of VCR and movie material from our Division.

What does this all mean to us? Well, the Museum director gave his enthusiastic support to creating a special exhibit section for our cherished belongings of our time with the 9th Division. In a letter to me he states that the National Infantry Museum would be honored to accept the historical items of the division to include material objects as well as written material, photographs, maps et cetera. They will "... catalog and guarantee protection of this unique collection so that the history of this military organization will be preserved for the future."

He cautions that they must be furnished, a brief history of any item donated so that the staff can properly account for each item and ensure that its history is not lost.

Any questions concerning gifts to the museum can be sent to the National Infantry Museum, Building 396, Fort Benning, GA 31905-5593 or by calling (706) 545-2958/6762.

So, go to work and ship off copies of those photos you took showing life in the mud and snow. Do you have a GO-Devil or AAA-O helmet? How about a German ceremonial sword?

Some of you have shipped off material to Ft. Lewis, Washington when the division was reactivated. As you know, deactivation occurred and this material was left stranded. Why not ask Ft. Lewis to forward those items to the Ft. Benning museum?

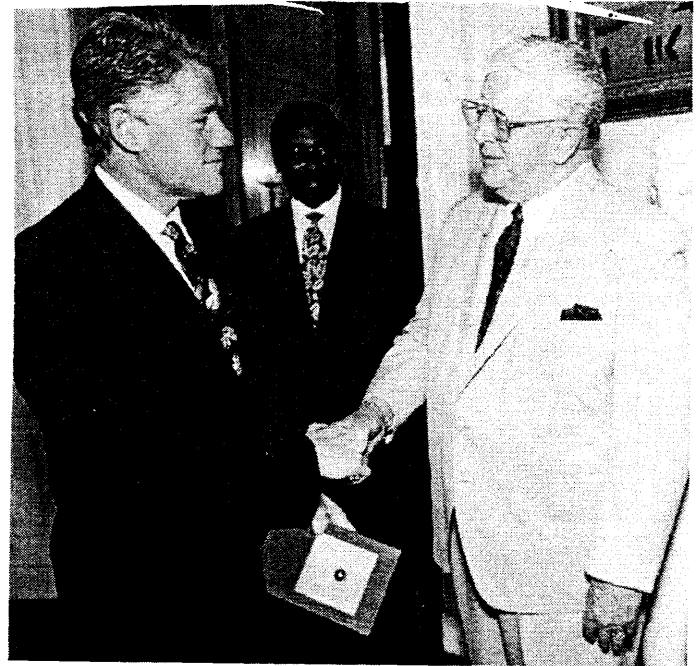
Some chapters have precious original guidons or flags of the units. Why not provide for the ultimate disposition of those souvenirs to the Museum?

Wouldn't it be great to have your children, grandchildren, etc. as well as historians be able to trace your contribution to the bloody costly record of the U S of A protecting its precious freedoms?

Boris Raynes
Btry "C" 26th F.A. Bn.
2532 Chelsea Rd.
Palos Verdes Est., CA 90274



John O'Grady, left, retiring President of the Association is shown at the New Orleans Reunion turning over the Gavel of order to his successor — Henry "Red" Phillips.



President Clinton thanking Henry "Red" Phillips for his boxes set of Phillips' Trilogy (stories of El Guettar, Sedjenane, Remagen Bridge). When he left the New Orleans reunion "Red" traveled to the White House to present his books of the Ninth to the President, on May 29, 1995.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At New Orleans when nominated for this job of president, I reminded my fellow association governors of my position as regards opening our membership to veterans of the 9th Infantry Division who served in Vietnam. I told them that as their prexy I would be doing all in my power to get our by-laws changed to permit this. Those coming to The Concord next year can be prepared to vote once again on the issue.

My reason for this is simple and pragmatic. I think the 9th Infantry Division was supremely important to our country in World War II and it ought to be remembered for that. That is why I've written three books about its battles. At the same time, I recognize that the division's performance was just as memorable in the Vietnam War.

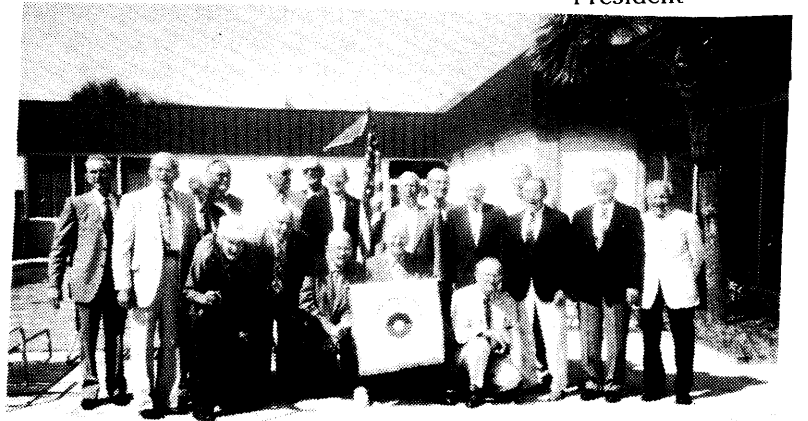
But as an association of 9th Division veterans of a certain vintage dedicated to honoring our fallen fellows and keeping the memory of their sacrifice alive, we are now dying off. We need a transfusion of the new blood that the proposed change can bring us. At New Orleans, for the first time in our Association's history I believe, there was no one ready to assume responsibility for the Reunion in '97. One officer of the Association proposed developing a plan for spending down our assets so that "the last man when he turned out the light" wouldn't end up with more than he could carry. I was glad to see the thumbs down on that idea.

As a matter of fact, the Association now operates on a budget deficit and funds are being taken from reserves in order to makeup the annual operating shortfall. Aside from raising dues again, which would surely loose us some current members, the only way to really correct this problem would be to go after the WW II vets of the 9th who are not now members, but how do we reach them? Most don't even know our Association exists. Our public information effort is as bad now as it ever was during the war and we don't have the incredible modesty of our generals to blame for it.

Friends, the only practical way out of our dilemma is to open our doors to the next generation of those who proudly wore the Octofoil in Southeast Asia. But, there will be counterarguments to this idea and alternate solutions to the problem proposed. I plan to beat the drum for a by-laws change in this space of the next few issues of the Octofoil. Let's be reading the case for the contrary here as well.

Someone at the reunion mentioned seeing a recent magazine mention of another 9th Infantry Division group which was forming. Presumably it intends to attract Vietnam War veterans. This is not the same organization that organized near Fort Lewis and went defunct when the Active Army 9th deactivated there. I need additional information so I can check out the story. Anyone recall the magazine with this information? Date of issue?

Red Phillips
President



Members of the 9th Medical Battalion are shown at their Mini-reunion held on April 20, 1995 at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

MICHIGAN NEWS

TO "B" 47TH OR
NOT TO "B"

Just because Joe gave up on writing a column for you, it doesn't mean that I can't sneak a word in now and then about Company B so if you don't mind a non-Veteran writing this column for Veterans, I will continue to do so. Anyway he always refers to me as his Secretary, without pay.

Our table at the New Orleans Reunion welcomed William Crain, 101 Chestnut St., Ashland, Ohio 44805 to his first Reunion. Anybody from "B" remember him? Al Kongsli of the 47th, Company D and his friend Cheryl Galeoto, made it for the 2nd Reunion. He came to Lake Placid in '94 with his son, Lon all the way from California, and sat with us at the Banquet then, and hung around with us at this Reunion. He is a very nice addition to "B" Company, joining Orion and Etsie Shockley, Chuck and Joyce Munger and Ellie and Joe Taubner on our trips to the French Quarter and on the steam boat "Natchez." You will meet him in '96 if you come to the Concord in the Catskills. We missed Bob and Moira Moore, who absolutely promise to be with us next year! Chick and Julie Cecchini have been slowed up by Chick's hospitalization, and we hope that '96 won't be a "No" as was '95. Do you have some spare time? Then how about sending him a note at: 13529 Isabel Avenue SW, Port Charlotte, Florida 33981. As for the rest of you, surprise Joe and show up in '96, to show how Company B can party! Not as late as 30-40 years ago (even 20!) but within reason. After all, at the Banquet this year, one of our members — 85 years old — attended and got an award!!

Bob Moore, do you have anymore of those directories, Al Kongsli and Bill Crain would like to have one? We had a pleasant time going over the large Scrapbook/Photo Album Mrs. Dorothy Browne, widow of B Company's cook, sent to Joe for the Reunion. It was full of old clippings, letters from General Eddy, Ernie Pyle's columns, and just so interesting. Thank you so much, Dorothy for sharing it with us. Well, it is getting very late, I am tired, and got to get to bed. Please keep in touch with each other and with Joe; he really missed all you guys who were absent this year and last year, and the year before that! Get the idea?

Joseph Taubner's Wife,
Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621
(201) 385-5280

34th F.A. B. Btry
C.A. PARCH
43 Massey Rd.
Brownsville, Tenn. 38012

Always look forward to getting the Octofoil, enjoy reading and hearing from the 9th division.

Everything here in Tennessee is fine. Have not heard from any of the men in the division for awhile.

God's blessing to all 9th Inf. Div.

M COMPANY (47th) CHRONICLER

Dear Compadres:

This will be the last chronicle for a while, unless one of our M-ers volunteers to keep things rolling. In light of my election at New Orleans as president of our association's board of governors and certain self-appointed tasks that this will entail, I will hereafter be communicating in this journal to the entire membership. This will take up the forthcoming year; then, we'll see what happens as I quit buying green bananas a long time ago.

It was a great reunion in the "Big Easy" and, as far as I know, notwithstanding the city's reputation for crime and violence, everyone got out of there with no bruises. After listening to Mike Wallace on 60 Minutes last Sunday, I'm not sure the old 9th isn't entitled to another campaign ribbon. Anyway, the Florida Chapter gets my kudos for doing a fine job.

Ten M-ers appeared including Dick Boudouy and his wife from Altamonte FL; Lou LaCivita of McKee's Rock PA; Leo and Cookie Fatlan from Braidwood IL; Joe Kearns of West Palm Beach FL; Don Kothe with Karen Wasik from Bethesda MD; Joe Kscenaitis of Yorktown Heights NY; Willard and Mabel Norris from Burnet TX; Ed and Mary Wills from Florence KY; Dick Yates of Rancho Cordova CA and yours truly with Lee from Penn Valley CA.

Special note is taken of Dick Boudouy (rhymes with "roadway," who very creditably kept things rolling as banquet emcee. It was a masterful performance and he even managed to keep our Association Secretary Dan Quinn under a semblance of control at the mike.

After the reunion Lee and I went to Washington where at the White House on Memorial Day I presented President Clinton with a boxed set of the Phillips books on the 9th's battles. Bill Yarbrough, General Craig's ADC at Remagen and an Arkansas native, set this up and, who knows, it might gain us some long overdue publicity that would help attract new members to the association and keep us going?

Stay in the shade, fellows, and wish me well with the new job.

Red Phillips
14002 Hemlock Dr.
Penn Valley CA 1956

**Battle of Normandy
Video Reviews are in...**

...never seen such a video that captures what I went through...

- O.E. Langland, TX 39th Inf

...moving and authentic...

- R. Gilmore, Curator, Ft Hamilton Museum, NY

...I give it 5 STARS... Very well done...

- C.H. Harms, NJ 47th Inf

...nothing for me brought back the immediate experience of war...

- D. Heller, IL 60th Inf

...an excellent job...

- H. Phillips, CA 47th Inf

...what makes this film so unique...

Marv Levy, a cartoonist

...combines his drawings and live action footage to tell his story as a 9th Infantry Division replacement...

- E.J. De Donato, FL 47th Inf

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No I didn't die. It's just a case of having no news fit to print. I am prompted now because of the July 20 news deadline. Just two days after that date I roll over the calendar to July 22nd and the big 80 birthday.

All I can do is ask "Where did the time go?" I can't say that it seems just like yesterday. There has been births, deaths, marriages and grandchildren.

My health has been good. Three surgeries and a quadruple by-pass. The old heart is still pumping good and I am still employed five days a week as a baker in a steak house.

So I keep plugging on hoping that the Good Lord will continue to hold my hand.

For the Michigan Members who may have wondered why we didn't have our memorial service: National Reunion was taking time and attention. Our chairman, Ed Wisniewski was having medical and surgical problems and on top of that couldn't contact his widow to get her input.

It may be that next year will be different. That is if that old bug-a-boo, sickness, doesn't enter the picture again. Age will take its toll.

So if I allow myself to look back, there were some good things to remember. Some fifty odd years have passed but still those that stood beside me are fondly remembered. Among them Bill Buemi with whom I took Basic Training. Then into the picture comes: George King, Charlie Koski, Paul Giarraputo, Stanley Putt and Stanley Roth who died in my arms. Space does not allow me to mention the many more but they are no less remembered.

So, though it seems impossible, let us continue to pray for peace.

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

TEXAS & THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Twenty husbands and wives, representing the Texas & The Greater Southwest Chapter, attended the fiftieth annual reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division in New Orleans. Representing the Chapter were M/M Jack Blann, M/M Raymond Borthwick, Phillip Emmons, M/M Richard Granberry, M/M Carl Hill, M/M Lyle Leaver, M/M John Miller, M/M Willard Norris, M/M William Scott, M/M Herbert Stern, and Ray White.

Representing the Chapter on the Board of Governors will be Kenneth L. Meyer. Alternates will be Phillip Emmons and Herbert Stern.

Retired Command Sergeant Major Ken Meyer recently returned from the Military Academy at West Point where Ken was the guest of Colonel Michael Anderson. Col Anderson, who teaches sociology to the Cadets, had met Ken when Ken was visiting the 9th Inf Div. when the Division was stationed at Fort Lewis, WA. Ken attended the pre and graduation functions of the class of 1995. This years class graduated some 1000 men and women. As Ken remarked, in his years of service he had seen a number of second lieutenants, but never 1000 in one formation. While Ken had visited the Academy before on an informal basis, this was his first formal visit. Quite a deserved recognition for someone who served with the 9th Inf. Div in World War II and in Vietnam. But also served as the 1st Sgt. of a rifle company with another unit in the Korean War.

John W. Miller, Past President of the 9th Infantry Division Association, was the guest speaker at the City of Arlington annual Memorial Day ceremony. In addition to the some 200 local citizens, two 9th men in attendance: Herb Brasington from Richmond, Virginia and Gordon Schneider from Arlington, TX.

Arlington Texas is now returning to normal after hosting the 1995 Baseball All Stars game at the new Ballpark in Arlington. It was a hot time in the old town — with the temperature over 100°F. on the field.

Robert Burky & Gordon Schneider

Many Thanks

Al Bravin sends the following notification to our members. Bravin may not be able to get around much any more but thinks of his buddies of the Ninth.

**Discovery of Missing Army Hospital Files
Reopens World War II and Korean Claims**

The Veterans Administration announced in late June the discovery of duplicated 10,000,000 US Army hospital files for 1942-1945 and 1950-1954 destroyed in a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Veterans whose disability claims were rejected because there were no records to back them up may now be able to make their case.

The discovery promises to reverse many cases. "A surprising number of veterans put off filing disability claims for years, only to find when they **did** apply that the military had no record of their injury. Now chances of helping World War II and Korean War veterans are much stronger."

Not all of the missing records, spanning the years 1912-1959 for Army veterans and 1947-1964 for Air Force veterans, have been replaced. Still, State Veterans Counselors have an excellent record of finding other ways to document claims for veterans whose records were lost.

MAIL CALL

Co. B 15th Combat Engrs.

CHARLIE HOFFMANN
91-43 81st Street
Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421

Dear Danny,

The true facts never seem to come out about our 9th Div. whether it's in books or newspaper articles so I wrote to Andy Rooney with a suggestion about the "Ludendorf Bridge." I told him I had photos of the bridge and if he wished they could be shown on C.B.S. "60 Minutes" TV stating our 9th Div. was the first Division to cross the Rhine.

He wrote me back in five days with praise and knowledge for our Division as you will see when you read the letter he wrote to me below.

Dear Mr. Hoffman

Thanks for the pictures of the Ludendorf Bridge. I have the Signal Corp originals and Random House is going to use the one with the captured German soldiers in a book I've written due out in April, called My War.

The 9th was one of the two or three best divisions and certainly saw more than its share of action. I recall reading that it had a 200% replacement rate going back to Algeria.

I was in Cologne when I heard the 9th Armored had reached the bridge and I got down there and across it that day.

Sincerely,
Andrew A. Rooney
CBS Studios

524 W. 57th Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

84th F.A. Btye

PETE RICE, JR.
No. 2, Royal Way
Dallas, Texas 75229-5537

Have had a couple of notes from Joe Black 60th Infantry (E Co., I think). He had asked to borrow my Roster & then thanked me when returning it. This note is enclosed. I know he would like to hear from some of his buddies. His address:

Joseph L. Black, 175 S. Anza #513, El Cajon, CA 92020.

Patricia & I hate to miss the New Orleans Reunion - I know it will be a great one. But, 2 years ago we committed this same weekend to another reunion & of course "A Promise made is a Debt unpaid." Wish our 9th reunion could be in September every year.

Pat & I have been exercising more & eating a little bit less & we have lost some weight! I feel better than I have in years.

Hope you & Marie are doing great. Say hello to the guys at New Orleans with a special salute to the 84th F.A. guys & gals.

60th Inf 1st Bn Hqs

WILLIAM HENNEMUTH
505 N. Wille St.
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

Enclosed are my dues for 95. I had expected to pay you in New Orleans, but unfortunately we had to cancel our reservation. Peggy has had back problems for sometime. An MRI indicated disc problems, so after a lot of thought decided to have the operation here in Florida. But the Dr. said no long drive for 8 weeks, so we don't expect to be home till middle of June.

We had a get together here with the Clouser's, Winkelman's and the Clark's, lots of talk. (We won) Best of everything to you and Marie. 47th Inf. C Co.

ROBERT W. GLEASON
3001 Stony Lake Drive #2B
Richmond, VA 23235-681301

I hope you're well — you haven't heard very much from me in recent years. My wife and I returned to the States in May '93, after living and working overseas since early 1984, mostly in Germany. As you can appreciate, getting resettled has been quite a job, and I don't know if I'll ever completely finish it.

GRATEFUL

MRS. ROBERT PAGE CATUS
3107 Walters Lane
Forestville, MD 20747

It is so wonderful to keep up on 9th Division news. The Octofoil is a means of fine communication.

Talked to the Superintendent of Arlington Cemetery, the man who arranged a spectacular funeral for Matt Urban. I mentioned Matt had requested the President to send Bob Catus, Parker, Indiana, but Bob could not do this, too ill, terminal cancer.

He died May 6, 1991, and finally I am well enough to have him interred at Arlington. A bugler will play taps, seven soldiers will march, then fire their guns 3 times. A Chaplain will speak, and his remains will be placed in a column, above ground. Bob will rest among his comrades in arms at last.

VE Day will be very much in the news, but North Africa, Sicily, and the full panorama of Remagen, Normandy, Aachen, etc. Hurgen Forest, and Russians on the Elbe River should not be forgotten. I wanted to write you before, but I have been too ill to keep up. Am doing better now. Looking forward to Arlington in April.

39th Inf M Co.

ARTHUR CLARK
5115 Europa Dr.
Boynton Beach, FL 33437

Fifty years ago today I was on a ship in Southampton England. I left the co. (Co M-39th) on April 27th to go home on rotation.

While sailing home we were told to total up our points and if we had 85 we would be discharged. I had 148. We reached Ft. Dix on May 20 and was discharged May 30.

My wife, Helen, and I watched the movie Forrest Gump. I was surprised and pleased to see the Ninth Div. patch so nicely displayed. Nuff said, Dan, find check for the memorial fund, in memory of Tony Carmic & George Copofianio.

THANKS TO YOU, THE 9TH DIVISION

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." From my personal account, the four days at Lake Placid were precious moments, ones I will always treasure and pass the many told stories on to my own children. Recounting this event will help them learn that love, freedom and the history of the past generations all intertwine and that the lives given by these courageous men of the 9th, and those that served in WWII, did so so we can live!

First Reunion

This was my father's Al Kongsle first reunion and I'm so glad to have been able to accompany him. I didn't realize how much the trip meant to him until we walked into the convention center and were greeted by so many warm friends of the 9th — many of whom said little, only to stand remembering the past with moist, reddened eyes. As we looked into a room of many faces, a man walked up to my father, touched his sleeve and identified himself as an American Veteran. He wrapped his arms around my father's shoulders in a silent embrace, and then they looked each other in the eyes with sheer gratitude and respect.

Meant To Him

What I didn't know was how much my father's friends of the Co. D - 47th meant to him and I didn't make that discovery until I had the opportunity to attend this reunion. Some of the video footage played on the television network during that time, showing generations of European families standing along city shops and through small farming communities, applauding fervently as the many Americans passed by; applauds that acknowledged the Americans and allies for helping liberate their country. Their eyes filled with tears, communicating admiration and respect.

Imagine The Landings

Entering the foyer of the convention center there stood boards with numerous photographs. One could only begin to imagine the landings at various beaches and the dreaded anticipation of that day, and premonitions for the events that followed. As I glanced at my father and those honorable veterans around the room, I began to sense their inner most feelings as they relived that day of the troop carriers appearing on the horizon. As if reading my mind, a man standing near me broke the silence. He began to recount wading waist deep in the water, struggling to get to shore but only to see the cemetery of dead that lay ahead of him. Then another told of seeing the numerous American dog tags nailed to make-shift crosses along the roads, only then realizing that so many lives had been lost. And others stood in silence, reflecting back upon their individual experiences and memories. At just that moment, I sensed that in each of these warriors' breast plates beat a tender center. All these men longed for connection, touch and the genuine expression of stored feelings. I was deeply touched. I will never forget our last evening meal together as two veterans acknowledged not seeing one another since the end of the war — but only to discover that both were POW's in the same camp!

Grateful

I have the utmost respect for all the men and wives who attended and I would like to thank them for giving me their time, friendship and conversation. This rare opportunity allowed me a peek into yet another portion of my father's life, one he has so closely safeguarded. My only wish was that my mother, who passed away the previous Christmas, could have accompanied my father and I. She, however, was blessed with the opportunity to have met many of my father's life-long friends who served in his mortar platoons. Her memory will always live on with both of us and I am sure, in their eternal love together, she shared this experience with my father.

Vivid Memories

Approaching my mid-40's, I have vivid memories of the tragedy and lives that were given by those of the Vietnam War. Each morning as I drive to work and cross a bridge over the Columbia River, I see off to one side a memorial for veterans of foreign wars. Surrounding this memorial blossoms a flower garden, the color very much like the memorial wreath presented to the veterans of the 9th who gave their life for this country. It serves as a reminder that I, at times, take freedom for granted and the human sacrifice made for my children and my security. Because of my experiences at this conference, I can assure you that I will never forget what each of you did.

In Memory

Next Veterans Day I plan to lay a bouquet of flowers between the flags at the memorial in memory of the 9th. I plan to take my 13 year old daughter with me and share what I have learned about an important part of American history, of the American soldiers and their individual sacrifices. History can be taught out of textbooks, but my first hand experience in getting to know those who actually experienced the war better enlightened me to truly understand the word "freedom" and its costs!

I would like to leave each of you with this thought. The 9th had an impact on the outcome of American History, and stories have yet to be told. Like a harbor, even if it is a small one, is significant. Adventures come into it as well as out, and life grows strong, because it takes something from the world and gives in return. I thank you for my individual freedom; the costs are never repayable.

(Son)

39th Inf. Cannon Co.
GEORGE BOOTH

621 S. Olive
Jefferson, IA 50129

Lon B. Kongsle
2965 S. Myrtle
Kennewick, Wash.
99337

Probably won't make the '95 in New Orleans, as it's early in the year and wife Lola is having knee replacement surgery the 15th of Nov. Would appreciate cards from her friends in the Ladies Auxiliary.

9th Recon Trp

BOB LYNCH
2103 11th St.
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Believe it's time to waken the boys from the old Recon troop as I haven't seen any letters in the Octofoil lately.

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S
JOHN CLOUSER
HCR #1 BOX 449
WETHMORE, MI 49895

MRS. MATT URBAN
352 W. Wildwood Dr.
Holland, MI 49423

Dear Dan & Members of the Ninth Division Association & Families,

The family of Lt. Col. Matt Urban sincerely want to thank all members of the Ninth Division Association for their kind expression of sympathy and for the cards, letters, prayers and the beautiful wreath in the form of the Octofoil emblem, that was with Matt at the funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.

Bn Co. 47th Inf

LEWIS "CHIP" MANESS
2640 Lowell Circle
Melbourne, FL 32935

It is with sadness and sorrow that I report to you that my dear and beloved wife Mary passed away on 25 March 1995. She suffered from throat cancer for eight years, but she was a courageous trooper and she fought a gallant battle up to the very end. Her passing was, however, very peaceful and for that we are most grateful.

Mary loved the 9th Div. Association and its people and when she was well looked forward to attending the reunions. As you will recall she donated several of her paintings to the association so they could be auctioned off to raise money for the associations charitable efforts. Before she died Mary asked that I take another of her paintings to the next reunion that I attend, give it to the Ladies Auxiliary, and ask that they auction it off to raise funds for what ever charity they choose.

Don, I won't see you in New Orleans but I'll see you probably at the one in '96 and I'll have the painting.

Mary wrote a poem about the men of the 9th Div. which was read at her Memorial Service, which was attended by a large number of the 9th Div. Association Members, and was sent to John O'Grady at his request. I gave him a copy of the one you published in the Octofoil several years ago.

I wish you and all members of the 9th Inf. Division Association a happy and memorable 5th Reunion in New Orleans.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am