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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, November/December 1995

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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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
Henry Phillips
14002 Hemlock Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946

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

Pat DeColli, 2nd V.P.
1017 Jackson St.
Phila, PA 18148

Ronald Murphy, 3rd V.P.
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, MA 02066

Dave Heller
Judge Advocate
618 Sumac Rd
Highland Pk. IL 60035

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Board of Governors

1996
Edwin Wisniewski
Columbus, MI
Al Farrante
Framington, MA
Henry Phillips
Penn Valley, CA
Adolph Wadalavage
Ozone, Pk., NY
Albert Perna
Philadelphia, PA

1997
Nicholas D'Agostine
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Holiday, Pl.
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1998
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Ken Meyer
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Phil Bermani
Daytona, FL
Owen Salle
Decatur, IL
Al Zenka
Bellrose, NY
Floyd Hennessey
Lambertville, MI

Published five times yearly. May, June, July - Aug. Sept. Oct. - Nov.
Dec. - Jan. Feb. - Mar, April by and for the members of the Ninth
Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, pho-
tographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every
effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condi-
tion.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry
Division Association read: "This Association is formed by the officers
and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the mem-
ory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the
Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively
by means of educational activities and to serve as an information
bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division.

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

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. 07087, and additional
offices.

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NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

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

Street Address.....

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 ☐ Greater New York ☐
Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐
New England ☐ Michigan ☐
Florida ☐ New Jersey ☐
Texas Gr South West ☐ California Chapter ☐

Ladies Auxiliary
Ninth Infantry Division Association
Membership Application
Carol Saunders, Treasurer, Ladies Auxiliary
P.O. Box 1584, Greenfield, Tn 37744
Enclosed please find dues for:

Name

Street Address.....

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

My spouse (Brother or relative)

Served with.....

One year.....\$2.00

Credit Chapter.....

Tip of the Hat

Remembering the Memorial
Fund and their buddies who
have answered their last roll
call we thank the following
members and friends:

Marv Levy - 60th Inf.

Edward McNamara - Co F
39th Inf

Walter F. Clark

Leo Fatlan - In memory of
Lyle Kitchen & our other
Comrades

Robert N. Mandle - In memo-
ry of Tony Madonna, B. Co.
15th Engrs

Paul Lisa - In memory of
Tony Madonna, B Co 15th
Engrs

Robert Spence - 60 F.A. Bty.

Mrs. Gerald Teachout - In
memory of her husband
Gerald, F Co. 60th Inf.

Frank B. Rankin - In memory
of Tony Madonna 15th Eng.
B Co.

Donald Williams - In memo-
ry of Glenn Rich, A Btry.
60th F.A.

Henry Santos - In memory of
Pete Zullo, Hqs. 1st Bn. 39th
Inf.

Robert E. Arnold Co G - 47th
Inf.

Frank J. Duenas - A. Co. 60th
Inf.

Robert Apel - In memory of
Tony Madonna 15th Engs.

Men of M Co. 60th Inf. in
memory of Bob Singleton

Royce Rich - Co. L. 60th
Engrs. in memory of (broth-
er) Glenn A. Rich A Btry 60th
F.A.

Paul Potts, Hq. 39th Inf.

Lou Prince - In memory of
Dom Greco 60 F.A.

Mike Belmonte - In memory
of Fred Auth, Edward Freund
and Glenn Rich, from A Btry,
60th F.A.

Owen Narosky, A Co. 60th
Inf.

John Vranesic - In memory
of John Lewis, C Co. 9th
Med. Bn.

SEEKING

ALLEN BRANDT
P.O. Box 7241
Dearborn,
Michigan 48121-7241

My name is Allen Brandt
and I am a researcher of
German and American
ground forces that fought in
the European Theater dur-
ing World War II. I spoke to
you on the phone just now
and you instructed me to
write you a letter so that you
could advertise in your vet-
eran's magazine.

As you recall, I am looking
for US Officers that fought in
MORTAIN or PERCY in
FRANCE. I have correspond-
ed with several German offi-
cers that would like to get in
touch with them to share
some letters about their
experiences. These officers
can write in English so it
should be no problem to
communicate with them.

THE 9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
51st ANNUAL CONVENTION
TUESDAY - FRIDAY • June 4 - 7, 1996



RESORT HOTEL
KIAMESHA LAKE, NEW YORK 12751

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Name.....Spouses Name.....

Unit (Reg. 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.....\$256.00
.....SUPERIOR
Super Deluxe.....\$307.00
.....TOWERS & EXECUTIVE
Ultra Deluxe.....\$360.00

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

Single occupancy ... 25% more than Double Occupancy rate.

Banquet Dinner only ... \$37.50 (includes tax)

Any other Dinner ... \$30.50 (includes tax)

Lunch ... \$23.90 (includes tax)

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

•Gratuities and taxes are included in your rate.

A deposit of \$50 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 wishing to arrive three days before or
remain three days after the Reunion, subject to availabili-
ty.

For further reservation information telephone hotel
toll-free: 1-800-431-3850. Be sure to state that you are with
the 9th Inf. Div. Reunion Group.

84th F.A. Bn. Serv. Btry.
FREDERICK TALARICO
503 Elm Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

I am enclosing my check
for 1996 dues.

Wishing you and Marie, a
blessed Christmas and
happy New Year.

Wishing all the members
of the 84th F.A. Bn. a joyous
holiday.

Cos. E & G, 47th Inf.
ROBERT ARNOLD
8207 E. 60th St. Apt. 1213
Tulsa, OK 74145-5010

My records indicate my
membership expires in Dec.
1995. Please apply enclosed
check to 3 year membership.
In addition I am interested in
obtaining a copy of Joseph
B. Mittelman's book "Eight
Stars To Victory" in the
event some member wishes
to sell.

Continued from page 1

Presidents Corner

Finally, I'm including here a letter I had from Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Julian E. Ewell, a neighbor of our Bill Lange (84th FA) in Alexandria, VA. General Ewell commanded the 9th in Vietnam, 1968-'69. He writes:

Dear Red:

"I understand that there is a move on foot to welcome Vietnam veterans of the 9th Division into the on-going Association. If so, I am all for it!

"I belong to the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment Association which has WWII-only membership. While they are a great group, they are slowly going down the drain. They don't even keep in touch with the 501st Airborne Battalion of the Active Army.

"On the other hand the 101st Airborne Division Association welcomes any and all 'screaming eagles,' even peacetime soldiers. Some old timers, lots of generals, sergeants and privates — even female soldiers! I got a real charge out of these youngsters. They are looking backwards and forward at the same time.

"As for the Vietnam-era Old Reliabs, they paid their dues in full. The war was different from the ETO, about 95% gruelling work and sweat, but 5% fighting, mostly at close quarters. In 2 1/2 years, 1,800 men paid the supreme sacrifice and 16,000 were wounded. Two of the brigades earned Presidential Unit Citations. Not bad — only one other division did as well.

"I'm in touch with two brothers, both squad leaders in the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry. They collected five Purple Hearts between them. One is a lawyer; the other a businessman and running for the Senate from Nebraska.

"Red, I think the Vietnam vets would welcome an opportunity to join your outfit. Probably not too many at first, but they would give us oldsters a shot in the arm. Of course, they aren't young anymore either.

"Best luck to you in your term as president."

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

Continued from Page 1

51st Worcester Memorial

It always surprises me that the majority of those who come to Worcester each year travel from out of state. New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are always well represented. Walter O'Keefe from California was with us as well as Eva and Henry Santos from Florida and Rose and John Bonkowski from Michigan. Plans have already been made for next year Memorial Mass and you will be notified in September '96.

'96 REUNION

Conversation in the C.P. room on Saturday and at the lunch on Sunday centered around the National Reunion in June '96 at the Concord Hotel in New York. The Concord is a beautiful full service hotel with excellent facilities, outstanding entertainment and good food. It's certainly the place to be in June of '96. Once again we will gather to renew our friendships, to reminisce and to remember our beloved dead.

DISTURBING THING

However there is one disturbing thing about our upcoming reunion for once again we are being asked to change our by-laws. This has been discussed time and time again and each time defeated by a large majority of the vote. I, like many others, have been active in the Ninth Infantry Division Association since its conception and feel strongly against any change in our by-laws. Of course, as in a democratic society, we will abide by the decision of the majority.

A happy and healthy New Year to all. See you at the Concord.

**1996 Reunion
Concord Hotel
New York**

Sincerely,
Ronald V. Murphy
Sec. N. E. Chapter
44 Strawberry Ln.
Scituate, MA. 02066-2615

39th Inf. I Co.

EDWARD GILL
Point Garden Apt. B 27
100 Shore Rd.
Somers Point, N.J. 08244

Checking my membership card, I see that my dues are due. Enclosed check for three years.

I am enclosing an article from the Phila., Pa. Inquirer about a sergeant from D Co. 47th, Ed Matlock passing away. Some of his old buddies might appreciate reading it.

Also, Dan, I am concerned about opening our ranks to men who served in the Ninth in Vietnam. I believe we

should maintain our founding principles and continue to honor our fallen comrades of World War II.

Tempus Fugit time flies and we must do something to set up a perpetual memorial to the Ninth, and see that any funds we have are dedicated to its maintenance.

Mildred and I are looking forward to Concord, our reservations are in. We seem to be enjoying the reunions more each year.

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.

Thumbs up-Thumbs down-proposal to change By-laws 9th Inf Div Assn**Div. MP**

KEN MEYER
111 Greenbriar St.
Belton, Texas 76513-1503
05 December, 1995

I find the outspoken attack on our president, "Red" Phillips to be an utterly reprehensible act. Throwing in a few nuances does not in the least distract from the main theme of the attack on "Red" by Henry Santos.

I am reminded of an old saying that goes, "If you can't say something nice about a person, don't say anything." How about it, Henry??

How many of you noted that just to the right of Henry's letter was a column titled "TAPS"? It contained the names of twenty-six (26) more of our comrades who have gone to their reward. That is twenty-six more to be eulogized. Our beloved 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION is growing smaller and smaller.

So, do we open up membership in our association or drift down to the last man syndrome?

**Cannon Co. 47th Inf.
C Co. 39th Inf.**

FRANK J. LORITO
R.R. 2 Box 1283
Beach Lake, Pa. 18405

As an old timer in the 9th Div. who went from Jan. 17th, 1941 to July 25th, 1944 when one of Jersey's 88's did me in, I would like to add my two cents to the subject at hand.

One of the main reasons given by those who endorse the entry of Vietnam vets into our association is so that it will live on. What will happen when these vets are gone? Sooner or later it has to end! Or are we to hope for another war so that the 9th Div. can be reactivated and more 9th Div. vets produced to carry on. I say let the association die with the men that formed it. An honorable death!

Pick a date, perhaps the year 2000. Take the funds, have one last reunion, and call it a day.

Wouldn't it be great if the day ever comes when there are no veteran organizations. No wars, no vets.

Happy Holidays and God bless you all.

Joe Gravins and Frances Cates, please accept my apology for not sending my condolences before now on the loss of your beloved mates.

Co M 47th Inf.

Conda Knee
625 Ridgefield Rd.,
Newark, OH 43055

I agree with Red Phillips on the issue to amend the by-laws to permit those who served in the 9th Division during the Vietnam War to join our ranks in the Association. If the by-laws are not amended, the Association will die. Think about it, we are growing older, fewer are attending our Reunion each year, due to poor health and to deaths. Those who served in Vietnam shed their blood and faced death as we did in WWII. Vote yes and permit the Association to grow, when we can no longer attend Reunions, it will be nice to receive the Octofoil.

15th Engrs., B Co.

FRANK RANKIN
201 Willowside Drive
Mt. Holly, NC 28120

It was good to talk to you tonight. As I told you I just got the notice of Tony Madonna's death in the last "Octofoil." Tony was an outstanding soldier and was admired by all who knew him. Please use my enclosed check to pay three years membership and the balance as a memorial for Tony.

I will have a conflict at our Reunion but I am trying to work my time out to enable me to be present for some of the time. I am going to try to get to all of the Reunion, but it will depend on my grandson's high school graduation.

I notice that the Vietnam question has been brought up by Red Phillips. As I have said in the past "Let the Vietnam Group form their own Association."

I think it may be time to make plans to dispose of any monies when **Our Association** is no longer active. There have been several suggestions made, but the suggestion that a trust fund be formed to care for the Memorial at Worcester, Massachusetts was popular.

I hope that all the members, who can, will go to the Reunion and vote to keep our Association.

ISN'T IT STRAAANGGE?, (continued)

A TREE THAT NEVER HAD TO FIGHT FOR SUN AND SKY, AIR AND LIGHT, BUT STOOD OUT IN THE OPEN PLAIN AND ALWAYS GOT ITS SHARE OF RAIN, NEVER BECAME A FORREST KING, BUT LIVED AND DIED A SCRUBBY THING.

THE MAN WHO NEVER HAD TO FIGHT TO WIN HIS SHARE OF SUN AND SKY AND AIR AND LIGHT, NEVER BECAME A MANLY MAN, BUT LIVED AND DIED AS HE BEGAN.

GOOD TIMBER DOES NOT GROW IN EASE — THE STRONGER THE WIND — THE TOUGHER THE TREES. . .

Robert O'Brien

I equate the above poem with the Vietnam vets a few, repeat, a few of our members have tried five or six times to open our doors for and at my age I might, repeat MIGHT not object to so fiercely if JUST A FEW of our Vietnam vets — **1**, had worked to keep alive the OCTOFOIL ASSOCIATION, which had a membership of "a little over 3,000" and a strong treasury in the fall of 1986 (the last issue of their newspaper available) and POOF, they went BELLY-UP.

2, If some of the thirty odd Vietnam vets who wrote to me (copies of letters in my file) accepted my offer to try to re-organize their own association or form a new one, **BUT NO, NOT ONE ACCEPTED MY OFFER!!!!**

I ask of any **LOYAL MEMBER** of our solidly bonded association, is this the kind of infusion that is needed to "perpetuate" of our great association? Can anyone honestly believe they will enhance the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION of WW-2 of which we are so proud?

As a fifty-plus year member who has championed THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION as we know it for as many years, I say NO, NO, NO, a thousand times noooooo, no, no, I don't want to go through the agony of seeing THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION suffer the fate of the Octofoil Association, they remind me of the tree that never had to fight etc., dying is part of life, let us die with dignity.

See you at the polls, GOD WILLING.

Henry R. Santos
Co. A. 15th Engrs.

47th Regiment
3rd Battalion
Company L
Richard L. Stoltz
5908 Algoma St.
Dayton OH 45415

Road 9811 N Connechusett
Tampa, FL 33617

I'm writing you on having Veterans of the 9th Division from the Vietnam war to join us. I believe any person that was fortunate to wear the Octofoil patch should be in the association, after all war is war no matter what patch of ground we fight on. We all put our life on the line for the good freedom we have in the good old U.S.

I think the Vietnam war was a mistake on our part, but our people went and fought in it doing their part for our country. They were proud enough to be in the 9th Division so why shouldn't they be in the association. We have Vietnam men in our VFW post and we talk about our different wars. If we can talk there why can't we talk in the Octofoil association of the different wars.

I was in WW II and my souvenirs are 2 Purple hearts. My buddy from the Vietnam war has one purple heart so we have a lot to talk about.

Dan, & Red you got my vote to honor the men from the Vietnam war into the Octofoil association.

Richard L. Stoltz

I read somewhere that 4581 men died in combat in WW II from the 9th Division. Was it in your paper or from the VFW-American Legion-Armvets paper DAV. It's been a while since I read it, as I'm getting very forgetful in my old age of 70 yrs.

Reunion in New York
1996
Concord Hotel



GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER

The November 17, 1995 meeting of the NY Chapter took place at Masonic Hall, 71 W 23rd St., NYC at 7:30 PM. President Charlie LiBretto opened the meeting in our new, grey and red decorated room. Following the pledge of allegiance to our flag and invocation by resident chaplain George Apar, Secretary Art Schmidt read the minutes of the previous meeting followed by the Treasurer's Report by Charlie Vandermark. Correspondence was then read to the membership by prez LiBretto from John Sequela, John Morris and Joe Defini. Report by Marty Gross and Al Zenka, reunion committee, indicated that the Concord Reunion plans in 1996 were going well.

The main order of business was the nomination of the 1996 slate of NY Chapter officers. By acclamation the current officers were moved up one chair. For president: (Formerly 1st VP) Marty Gross; 1st VP Jack Holuboff; 2nd VP Al Lipton (newly nominated from the floor); (incumbent) Secretary Art Schmidt, and (newly nominated from the floor) Treasurer Al Zenka. Current treasurer Charlie Vandermark chose to give up the post for 1996. Dan Quinn was to continue as Judge Advocate and Tony DeRobertis as Sgt of Arms. Nominated for NY Chapter Board of Governors representatives: 39th - Joe Brody, 47th - Vincent Guglielmino, 60th - Al Zenka; Divarty - Al Lipton and Special Troops - Arthur Schmidt. NY Chapter delegates to the National Board of Governors were Al Zenka and Adolph Wadalavage. Elections will be held at the December meeting.

Meeting was adjourned and we ate some snacks before heading home, looking forward to the Thanksgiving feast to come.

Members attending, not mentioned above: Anton Dietrich, Bill Klauz, Al Lubrano, and Joe Rzesniowicki.

Christmas Dinner and Raffle

On December 15, the NY Chapter met at its same command post in Masonic Hall for its annual Christmas dinner meeting and election of officers for the new year. The catered festive dinner preceded the business meeting beginning at 7:30 PM. At close of the delicious choice fare of steak, chicken or fish the Raffle drawing was officiated by Treasurer Charlie Vandermark. Lucky raffle winners were: 1st prize \$150 to Jack Holuboff; 2nd prize \$75 to Albert J. Bacille; 3rd prize \$50 to Mrs. H. E. Dietrich and 3rd prize \$25 to Ralph Witzkin. The ten next prizes of \$5 each went to: John Sequella, Mike Procovic, Joe Benzoni, Frank Fazio (twice), Leonard Kupkowski, Victor Payne, Frank A. Cancelino, Melanie Sordil, and Mr. and Mrs. S. Agnostili. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone else who took part in our once-a-year fund raiser.

Election of NY Chapter 1996 Officers

Following the dinner and 50-50 raffle final nominations for the election of NY Chapter 1996 officers was held. With no further nominations made from the floor nominations were closed. Election of the slate of officers (noted in the November report) was unanimously voted into office. Installation of officers will be made at our next meeting in January.

Final business reports were made by the Reunion Committee who stated that they had met with the Concord staff to finalize details.

We were introduced to a new first-time member, Jerry Levinson who was with the 39th Service Company at Fort Bragg. He was delighted to meet fellow Ninthmen after all these years. We're happy that Jerry has become a member of our association and hope there are other Ninthmen out there that would join us.

On a sick call note we wish Joe Brody quick recovery from recent hospitalization.

An uplifting presentation to the members was a plaque that the NY Chapter received from the VA National Cemetery at Farmingdale, Long Island, NY for our donation of \$500 for fifty ceremonial flag poles erected in honor of our war dead. On behalf of our chapter Tony Varone was given the plaque by the cemetery director. Tony and Adolph Wadalavage are to be commended for their efforts in accommodating the VA cemetery's proposal and needs.

At the close of evening we wished each other Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and departed until we meet again in 1996. The same good wishes go out to all Ninthmen and their families everywhere.

Members attending not mentioned above at the December meeting: Tony DeRobertis, Anton Dietrich, Marty Gross, Jack Holuboff, Bill Klauz, Emil Langer, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, Al Lipton, Al Lubrano, Gene Magidson, George Nicklin, Harry Polche, Dan Quinn, Joe Rzesniowicki, Art Schmidt, Herminio Suarez, and Al Zenka.

NY Chapter members: don't forget your 1996 dues — \$10 for 1 year; \$25 for 3 years, and \$75 for Lifetime Membership. Make checks payable to the Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf Div Assn and send to Arthur R. Schmidt, Secretary, 89-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385. And remember NY Chapter Ninthmen — your chapter meets every third Friday of the month — so come on down and meet with the "Old Reliables!"

Michigan News Notes

December, 12th Month. First day of Winter. It can only mean another year has passed and leaves us with memories of good and bad times.

Also, shortly we look forward to a new start with the coming of the New Year.

As this year ends the Michigan Chapter gathered for the installation of new officers for 1996.

We held our meeting for this purpose at Fischers Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Mi. Those installed were: Floyd Hennessey, President. Billie Martin 1st V. P., Percy Hough 2nd V.P., Rodger E. Alsgaard Secretary, Elmer Wagner Treasurer, Barney Tobacco Chaplain and Billie Martin Historian. Tom Hatton designated to the Board of Governors replacing Ed Wisniewski whose term on the board expires this year.

The pleasure part of our December Party/Meeting was the good food, spirits and companionship. The exchange of Christmas gifts brought our last gathering of the year to a close sending us all home at an early hour with many hours of day light for safe driving.

Rodger E. Alsgaard, Sec'y
2834 Wynes St.
Saginaw, Mi. 486023730
Michigan Chapter.

39th Mini Reunion
Co. F

Fox Co. 39th. AAA-O
ED J. McNAMARA
Box 219
Brookfield, N.Y. 13314

Just a note to let everyone know the reunion of the 39th Co. F was a huge success.

Our thanks to the Richard Todds of Nashville, our hosts, who went overboard making sure we had a wonderful time.

We were saddened by loss of two of our regulars. Paul Brown and (Red) Crail both passed away this last summer. Our condolences to their families.

Friday night John and Mary Hunt's daughter, Beth Mellon, surprised us bringing relish and fruit trays for the gang. John passed away in 1988 and Mary Sept. this year. What a wonderful thought, joining us in memory of Mom and Dad.

Next Year Ray and Laverne Hanks will host the Reunion in Searcy, Ark. We had a great time there in 1989.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all.

You are doing a superb job.

Co. K 39th Inf
R.J. BRUGGER, D.V.M.
2501 West 49th Terrace
Shawnee Mission, KS 66205

Enclosed is my check for ten bucks for the privilege of reading the Octofoil for another year, and also another chance to see and hear Dan Quinn at the podium.

How you have managed to be the mainspring of the association for half a century and still remain at large and in good humor is remarkable, therefore you have earned the title of WIZARD.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

NEW FL CHAPT MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

The last Florida Chapter Membership Roster was prepared and distributed in February 1994. All known changes since 1994 appeared in the OCTOFOIL. By making these changes, you should have an up-dated Membership Roster. However, there is talk to prepare and print an up-dated roster in 1996. This will be on the agenda in a meeting of the Chapter Officers scheduled for January 20, 1996 in Daytona Beach. There have been no Roster changes since the last OCTOFOIL issue. Again we urge you to send in any changes to Emil J. De Donato ... also any newsworthy stories to be included in the Florida Chapter Newsletter.

THE VIETNAM ISSUE

In the Aug/Sept/Oct 1995 issue of the OCTOFOIL, the pros and cons of whether to admit or deny membership to the veterans of the 9th Infantry Division who fought in Vietnam have surfaced again. One of the main reasons why our great Association was formed was to perpetuate the memory of the 4581 fallen comrades and all those 9th veterans who have passed away since the end of WWII.

A definition of the word "PERPETUAL" means "continuing" ... "lasting" ... and other synonyms with an "everlasting connotation". Those responsible for the original formation and writing of the 9th Infantry Division By-Laws did not have a crystal ball to predict that there would be other wars in which the famous 9th would be committed to fight again. This writer feels certain that had those forefathers who wrote our By-Laws would have included a clause stating that "Any veteran who wore the OCTOFOIL emblem on his left shoulder, who fought overseas and was honorably discharged would be eligible to join the 9th Infantry Division Association".

We must allow the Vietnam 9th Infantry veterans to join our organization if it is to survive and to honor those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

There are many other valid reasons why the Vietnam boys should enter our membership that overwhelms the negative voices within our ranks. Perhaps our National President "Red" Phillips could set up a debating team consisting of 3 or 4 members on each side to debate this issue prior to the voting at our next National Reunion to be held at the CONCORD HOTEL.

Florida Chapter members are urged to write to the OCTOFOIL expressing your views regarding this issue ... remember, we need them more than they need us.

FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY

This beautiful 400 acre Florida National Cemetery was dedicated by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. It is part of the Withlacoochie State Forest 1300 acres donated to the Veterans Administration for this purpose. Burial in the Florida National Cemetery is an honor reserved for Armed Forces veterans discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs maintains this tradition on behalf of a grateful nation. Also entitled to burial in the National Cemetery are the veteran's spouse and eligible dependent children. Gravesites may not be reserved in advance.

There have been over 3,000 interments since May, 1988. Memorial Markers of many veterans who passed away many years prior to 1988 are placed in a special plot ... some dating back to the Civil War.

The Florida National Cemetery is located in Bushnell, Florida. Directions by car are as follows: Make your way to I-75. Get off at Exit 62. Go west on Country Road 476 B for about one mile and pick up signs leading to the entrance of the cemetery. We, Emil & Audrey De Donato, drove there from our home in Dunnellon in approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. It is about 40 miles from Ocala. We were greatly impressed by the serenity and the well kept grounds. A 25 men crew maintain the grounds. A short distance from the entrance is the Administration Building. Here, you will be greeted by a courteous staff who will answer any questions concerning this cemetery. Maps and information literature are available. We drove around the Florida Circle and made numerous stops along the walking paths. There are four committal shelters, three Memorial sections and over a dozen burial areas including an area used for remains. The literature explains the most common questions asked and the many benefits that the United States Government furnishes at no cost.

Anyone wishing further information regarding the Florida National Cemetery may do so by writing to: The Florida National Cemetery, 6502 S.W. 102nd Ave., Bushnell, FL. 33513 or Phone (904) 793-7740.

For pre-arrangements of your final wishes and cost plan sheets, please contact the local Funeral Director in your area. In the Ocala/Dunnellon/Beverly Hills area, you may contact David Ramsey of Fero Funeral Home at (904) 746-4646.

Emil J. De Donato
3650 S.W. Mosswood St.
Dunnellon, FL 34431

34th F.A.
SHELDON STODDARD
122 Meadow Rd.
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Enlisting for 3 more years.
I keep in contact with old
34th FA Bn buddies mostly
by phone.

Leon Birum keeps me
informed with his yearly
newsletter.

Robert Baldridge has a
published book Victory
Road. Guys from the 34th F
A. Check it out.

Deadline for next issue of the Octofoil-Feb 20th

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER ORGANIZES

Fourteen members of the Association met at the Carlton Hotel in San Francisco, November 9, 1995, to organize as the California Chapter of the 9th Infantry Division Association. Elected officers were President Cliff Barbinell and Vice-president Walter J. O'Keefe, both of San Francisco, and Secretary-treasurer Barney Ingebretsen of El Macero.

Others attending were Association Prexy Red Phillips of Penn Valley, CA; Frank Volpa, Morro Bay; Ward Payne, Laguna Hills; Dick O'Connor, Whittier; Al Kongslie, Tule Lake; Willie Goldsmith, West Hills; Joe Black, El Cajon; Dick Yates, Rancho Cordova; Bill Clarke, Portola Valley; Bill Anderson, San Juan Capistrano and Jim Benane of Navato.

The Chapter voted unanimously to request the Association Board to redesignate it as the "West Coast Chapter" and permit its recruitment in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii. The Chapter's next meeting will be in the Fall of 1996 at Morro Bay, California as arranged by Frank Volpa.

If desired by the Association Board for the purpose of having a quorum at the 1996 Reunion, Willie Goldsmith (alternately Dick O'Connor) will represent the Chapter.

Red Phillips will arrange for preparing Chapter Bylaws and their circulation prior to the next meeting at Morro Bay.

Respectfully submitted,
Barney Ingebretsen
Secretary-treasurer
44559 El Macero Dr.
El Macero, CA, 95618

F COMPANY-47TH INFANTRY

I bring you the Seasons Greetings from my family to yours. Our wishes are for a carefree, healthy 1996 and the hopes of seeing as many of you as possible at the Concord in June. Lucy and I had the sad task of attending memorial services for Ken Yennie last month. You all remember Ken as a courageous platoon leader. Lucy and I became good friends with Ken and Olive back in the seventies. We'll certainly miss him.

Paul Giarruputo spent a few days with us last month. Paul looks great and he is planning to be at the Concord in June as are Jack Finnigan, Lou and Marion Slatnick, Earl and Miriam Wilkey, George King and grandson Dan, and of course Lucy and I. The reunion committee assures me that all is in order so far as our CP is concerned. The package at the Concord is a great bargain, and remember, that price covers everything: room, all meals including banquet, parties, entertainment, golf.

I will be getting my end-of-the-year letter out to you with a full accounting of the financial condition of our CP fund — this letter should reach you shortly after the holidays. In the meantime, stay healthy and happy.

Edward Hopkins
110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-2116

DOWN MEMORY LANE

CO A - 15th ENGRS

JOHN M. MAULE
124 Bear Lake Road
Muskegon, MI 49445

Someone said it was my turn to write to the *OCTOFOIL*. Red Phillips has written some nice books that are well worth reading. I read every article in the *OCTOFOIL*. The World War II men are really starting to get up there in age. I would like to ask this question of *OCTOFOIL* readers, how many days, weeks or months during the war did you go without bathing? I read of a person that went 151 days. I kept a wartime diary and enjoy reading it yet. I live about 60 miles North of where Matt Urban lived in Holland. Our local newspaper printed his picture and a very nice article about him.

I'll start with the Carolina Maneuvers, I hope you haven't forgotten! We had a green board, about 3'x5' with a 3 inch diameter stick through it, and "37MM" painted on it. We sawed a log 8 to 10 inches in diameter, 4 inches thick for mines. Empty beer cans for mortars, square wood blocks for TNT. No wonder the Japs thought they could conquer the U.S.

Before we left Ft. Bragg, we sold our day room furniture and money coming from the PX. Sgt. Confer and I took the money and went to a wholesale place in Fayetteville. We bought cold meat, cheese, crackers, and shrimp by the case. We had the beer delivered. All of the other things we brought back in my car. I had to go all the way to the top to get my Ft. Bragg license plate... The General. He said I was the only Private on the post with a license plate of Ft. Bragg, and I still have it!

KP in the Army made for a good day of eating and whatever else you could sneak out and put in the foot locker for later. Canvas leggings were a pain to wear, but they kept snakes from going up your pant legs. Most of us that got in before Pearl Harbor wore W.W. I helmets - the flat ones. In W.W. II they changed them so you could sit on them or turn them upside down to use as a wash bowl, if you had water.

We captured a group of Germans, one of which spoke very good English. He told us we had nice uniforms. Leather collars and cuffs. Well, if you haven't washed yourself or your clothing for as long as we had, the collar and cuffs get brown and greasy looking. It certainly wasn't leather.

Continued Next Issue

SICK CALL

Reporting for Sick Call and marked "In Quarters"



John O'Grady

60th Inf. D Co.
EDWARD KNIGHT
15109 Hartford Trail
Strongsville, Oh. 44136

Enclosed is my application for membership in the 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. Also, check enclosed.

My application is a result of a series of events which I would like to relate.

I went to Indianapolis to visit one of my daughters and her family on this past Easter (4/16). She mentioned that on Tuesday (4/18) there was going to be a memorial held for Ernie Pyle (the WWII war correspondent) in Dana, Indiana his home town. This memorial was exactly 50 years after Ernie Pyle was killed by a Japanese sniper on 4/18/45. Dana, Indiana is 70 miles west of Indianapolis with a population of 650. My daughter knew I had always admired Ernie Pyle, as all combat GI's did, because he lived in the fox holes with them. So we went.

The townspeople expected between 200 and 300 visitors. There were several thousand people!

While listening to the speeches, I was viewing the crowd to see if anyone had the Octofoil emblem on their hat (some of those attending wore their American Legion or VFW caps).

I spotted a distinguished looking gentleman in the crowd (perhaps an ambassador or statesman of some kind). As he turned his head I saw the Octofoil emblem in his cap. This proves, of course, that all former veterans of the Ninth Infantry Division are always distinguished looking and outstanding in a crowd.

I introduced myself and he informed me that he was Lester Schwear of Windfall, Indiana. He was a member of I Co.-47th Reg. and served in North Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium and Germany until he was wounded in Germany in the chest. That ended the war for him. He then told me that the 9th still had an association! I thought it had folded after the 3rd reunion in Philadelphia in 1948.

My wife and I attended that reunion and I never heard from anyone after that. It was held at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel.

Mr. Schwear was kind enough to send me his copy of The Octofoil with the membership form in it.

I joined the 9th in September, 1944 and became a member of D Company, 60th Reg. Siegfried Line, Hurtgen Forest, Noer Dam, Bucks, Buzz Bomb Alley, Bridge, Nemagen Bridge, etc., etc., — memories.

Florida Chapter Newsletter

John O'Grady, who served as the 1994/1995 National President suffered a stroke at his home in Plantation, Florida on November 4, 1995. John worked very hard as an officer of both the National Organization and the Florida Chapter. Since he was elected President of the Florida Chapter in 1992, he brought new life into the Chapter's activities. Soon after taking office, he instituted periodic meetings of the Chapter's officers. Through his efforts, guidance and hard work, the Florida Chapter was able to successfully host the 1995 National Reunion in New Orleans. John made all the arrangements for the golf tournament which was enjoyed by 16 member golf players. He also cooperated in the Memorial Services.

John was also chairman of the recent Florida Chapter Mini-Reunion held at the Marriott Hotel in Orlando this past September 28 to October 1st.

John and his wife Katherine make their home in Plantation, Florida. They have a son Kevin who lives with his wife Dianne not too far away from his parents home in Plantation, Florida.

Anyone wishing to send a get-well card or just a note to John, please return your mail to him at his home address: 7912 N. W. 10th St., Plantation, FL 33322.

John is presently going under therapy at a rehab center. Katherine visits her husband on a daily basis and will be happy to read your messages to him.

John served with the 9th Recon as a non-commissioned officer.

Emil J. De Donato

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

We held our Outstate Reunion with the Michigan Chapter on October 17th and 18th. This year it was held during the week and we had 60 people in attendance. We had some newcomers including Tom and Lorna Mickelson, Minnesota; Bill and Vi Nelsen, Ohio; Burleigh and Lois Brewer, Ohio; Bill and Alice Doty, Pennsylvania; George and Lola Boottl, Iowa; Richard and Fran McGrath, Illinois and Robert and Eleanor Griffith, Illinois. We were also happy to see Only Rishel from Pennsylvania and Vera Carpenter, with her sister, came from Wisconsin. The turnout was so successful, another mid-week reunion is planned for next October. More information will be in future issues of the Octofoil. The ladies enjoyed the timing as stores were not crowded for shopping as in previous years.

A meeting was held in Angola and election of officers was held. Since no volunteers came forth, yours truly was elected President and retained the Treasurer's position. Jack Collier is Vice President, Gordan Anderson remains as Secretary and David Heller Chaplain. The Treasurer's Report was given and approved and a discussion followed regarding the article in the VFW Magazine. Following the meeting, the Michigan Chapter joined the Illinois group for further discussions. Michigan Chapter will host next year's Reunion in Angola.

Our Holiday Party this year was held at the Belmonte Home on December 9th. We had a severe storm and cold, icy weather on the 8th which forced many to stay home. The Clousers have been iced in in Upper Michigan for weeks and dared not travel. The Clarks were going to come but icy roads in Indiana made travelling impossible. Vera Carpenter's plans were cancelled when her daughter became ill and could not drive her mother in. We had a small but enjoyable group — The Andersons, Baumans, Grays, Hellers, Pauls and Belmontes. We had the usual snacks and liquid libations. After tearing the men away from their many discussions, a few party games were played, one of which was the White Elephant Game. Needless to say, even though many gifts were received by all — we will still have to go Christmas shopping and recycle the gifts next year. Afterwards food was served and everyone enjoyed the sweets furnished by the ladies. We held an afternoon party and a good time was had by all to begin the Holiday Season.

We were happy to see Delores Bauman looking so well after having undergone major surgery a few months ago. We heard from Irma Koskie who wanted to attend the party but with the icy weather, it was not advisable to venture out. She is improving a little each day and has round-the-clock assistance.

Our next function will be the Outstate Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin on May 8th and 9th at the Ramada Inn. Rates for the rooms will be \$50.00. Anyone interested can contact the Ramada Inn, 3841 East Washington Ave., Madison, Wisconsin 53704. The phone number is 608-244-2481. When making reservations, mention the Ninth.

It looks like it's going to be a long cold winter and we envy our Snowbirds in Florida enjoying much, much milder weather. We can get through this by looking forward to our Reunion at the Concord in June. We should have quite a few members of the Illinois Chapter in attendance this year.

Until next time — stay healthy.

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

Springtime in the Catskills
Awaits the New York 1996 Reunion
at the Fabulous Concord Resort Hotel
Tuesday - Friday June 4 - 7, 1996

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE Feb. 20th.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

The New Jersey Chapter held a luncheon meeting at the Rutgers Club in New Brunswick on November 8. Frank Haines was unanimously elected our new president, Herb Hoepfner vice president, Lou Slatnick Secretary, and Ed Hopkins Treasurer. Present at the meeting in addition to the above were Jack Finnigan, Paul Giarruputo, Bill Green, Harold Pfeleiderer, Michael and Olga Wengryn, Philip Cancellate, Dolores Rosener, Marion Slatnick, and Doris Yourshin. Though the size of the turnout was disappointing, it certainly was a quality group.

Sadly missing was Ken Yennie, a gallant officer of F Company-47th Infantry, who had passed away shortly before the meeting. Ken will be missed by all. Our condolences go to his bereaved widow Olive.

Also among the missing was Art van Blarcum, our Chapter's official photographer. Those of you who served with K Company-60th Infantry will remember Art. Drop him a note at: Art van Blarcum, 217 G Street, Route #1 Box 13A, Burwell, NE 68823-9220. Art will appreciate hearing from his old buddies.

I want to take a moment to thank you all who have supported my presidency for that support and for your many contributions to the success of our chapter. I know you'll continue with Frank Haines as our new and able leader.

Edward Hopkins
110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-2116

From The Millers

Dear Friends,

We started off the New Year planning a trip to Europe with our friends, the LaPostas. Jean spent weeks studying routes, making hotel, train and other reservations. We departed on April 23 landing in Frankfurt, rented a car and spent first night in Belgium. There, we toured the Battle of the Bulge where I fought during WWII.

Our next destination was Berlin which we had never visited due to restrictions when we lived in Europe. There are still many signs of the East Zone that will take years to change. Driving through East Germany was indeed interesting and our visit with German friends in Augsburg was a highlight. Next, we travelled through Bavarian Alps to Switzerland and took the Glacier Express, a special train to Zermatt, Switzerland at the foot of the Matterhorn. It was hard to leave the beautiful country of Switzerland but travelled on to Burgundy section of France and on to Fontainebleau, a quaint village south of Paris. We enjoyed a short visit with old friends, the Gonins, before departing for Loire Valley and the Normandy Coast.

Seeing the memorable beaches of Omaha, Utah and many other historic WWII was indeed touching. All is peaceful now and are great tourist attractions. The last four days we were in Paris and it was delightful to be back in the "City of Lights."

Returning about May 11 we left for New Orleans to attend the 9th Division Reunion. We had to fly back early to prepare my speech for the Arlington Memorial Day Service.

In early June we flew to New York to close out the estate of my brother, who had passed away in April. It was a major task to get that done.

The summer was extremely hot and dry. Jean spent most of her time assisting Rhonda with the grandchildren. Of course, she keeps involved in Gourmet Cooking and was in charge of food for 125 at Arlington Woman's Club. Keith completed his degree as Computer Engineer and now is working on his Masters.

In late October we flew to the West Coast to visit old friends and relatives. It was a great trip renewing old friendships and driving the length of California on Route 1 along its coastline.

It is hard to believe that Christmas is so near. We always do our shopping early. Our Christmas is our granddaughters, Jessica, 6, and Jeanette, 3 and we count our blessings being so near to Keith and Rhonda.

We have so much to be thankful for this Holiday Season and hope this finds you all in good health. May God Bless you all.

John W. Miller
1511 Cochise Dr.
Arlington, TX 76012

THE NICKLINS
6 Butler Place
Garden City, N.Y. 11530-4603

Dear Marie and Dan,
It is great connecting again on the world wide web of love. We have had a busy and eventful year. A family reunion in March at Punta Caña, Dominican Republic (Club Med). Seventeen of us! Sarah and Jim were unable to be there for a happy reason — the arrival of Graham's sister Clara Katherine on 8th day second month 1995.

Love and best wishes to all for the new 1996 year. — We enjoyed you very much! at Worcester.

George and Kate

47th Inf. C Co.
DANIEL DOYLE
7921 Brou Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19152

Enclosed please find check for three years dues.

I have visited Remagen and noted plaques installed by other units who crossed the Bridge. Rarely do you see the 9th Division get mentioned. We of Co. "C" 47th Inf. crossed early the first morning. What would it take to get a plaque crediting the Ninth Infantry Division installed at the Bridge. I am sure other members who visited feel the same as I. I would be happy to help in any way I can.

Taps Sounded

With sadden heart we announce the passing of these "Old Reliabels" and friends. To their loved ones we offer our belated sympathy.

May they rest in peace.

Mrs. Martin Gross —
Wife of Martin Gross, SP.
Tr. 15th Engrs.

Edward Wenzloff
MP's

James Haroutunian
Div. Arty

Edward Matlock
47 Inf. D Co.

J. Carl Ward
B. Bty. 34 F.A.

William Pound

Milton "Whitey" Munson
34th F.A.

Alfonso Lopez
34th F.A. A Btry

Horace Devault
34th F.A. Serv. Btry

John (Jack) Laubauch
9th Mea. Bn. B Co.

Richard Netzel
Co B. 60th Inf.

Loren L. Doyle
26th F.A.



Div. Arty.
MRS. JAS K. HAROUTUNIAN
260 S. Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10705

At the suggestion of Charles Le Bretto I am writing you about my husband James Haroutunian. He passed away August 15, 1995.

Jimmy served in the Ninth Infantry Division for over three years. We always attended the 9th Infantry functions until his illness.

Co L 60th Inf.

FRANK DENNIS
RR 2, Box 387
Dallas, PA 18612

Enclosed you will find my payment for another subscription of the Octofoil.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of the 9th Infantry friends who expressed their sympathy in the passing of my wife, Dolores. Dolores and I always enjoyed attending the reunions and visiting with good friends. I have many fond memories of those times together.

Domer and Norma Miller and I have been visiting Adam Drust at the V.A. Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre. We all enjoy the visits.

Have been trying to stay busy and doing what the doctor tells me. If we're able Domer and I are thinking about attending the next reunion.

Hope to see many of you again soon.

K Company 47th Inf.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

It may not be as exciting as chasing KRAUT PILOTS through the snow, as we did 51 years ago, but try to accept a peaceful, well fed day, in the comfort of your home, surrounded by your loved ones, in good spirit. If this is not exciting enough, we can try and get CinC WILLIE to send you to Bosnia for a hot time in deep snow, etc.

Surely no one is nostalgic about drinking rusty anti-freeze out of C Ration cans with a grapefruit chaser, so sip your CHEVAS REGAL or WILD TURKEY and welcome GOD's great grinding wheel, the NEW YEAR. Your mortality becomes more and more evident.

PURPLE HEART

I have not given the PURPLE HEART much thought in modern times, since I had no need for a sudden change of scenery, as I once did, but several months ago a fellow called about joining the PURPLE HEART Society, or some such organization, and gave me some good news. It seems Louisiana gives bloody veterans a free license plate in perpetuity.

To show the fellow my heart was in the right place, I sent in a membership application, but I haven't been accepted. Like the comedian said, "Who wants to be in a club that would have me."

Nam Again

Judging by what I read in the OCTOFOIL, the Viet Nam issue is going to live longer than the members of the Ninth Div. Assn.

Since I didn't even know the organization existed until 1990, I have never felt entitled to have a vote in any decision made by the people who founded it and nurtured it over the years. I still do not feel entitled, but I have a few thoughts on the matter:

1. As far as I can ascertain, K was founded by men of the Ninth, at the end of WWII, as a vehicle to maintain contact with combat comrades with which they shared a particular slice of history. I have never heard of it being a 9th. Div. lobby nor of it receiving federal funds to carry out governmental mandates.

2. It is obvious to all, that with a membership that averages 75 years of age, that it will be a very small organization in a very short time.

3. WHO CARES? If that is what the membership wants, let the last man drink the treasury dry, or give it to whatever charity they fancy.

4. There seems to be some members who have sons or acquaintances who served with the 9th. in NAM and wish them admitted. I see nothing wrong in sharing DAN and the association NAME with these young people, but their reunions and communications would be separate. People who share only an arm patch, have very little in common. With the abbreviated tours plus the many years the war went on must have produced thousands of potential members that I share nothing with. We could also share RED PHILLIPS, or make him an out right gift.

5. If the Dept. of Defense wishes to fund and staff a 9th. Div. Assn. and pay for reunions every month or so, well, that's another matter entirely.

K MEN

To my certain knowledge, there are only four of us left — KILLACKEY, THOMPSON, BASTEDO, and ME. They are the only ones I ever hear from.

C.H. Jordan
1058 West Lakeview Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA, 70810

BULL SESSIONS

K Company, 47th. Inf., 9th. Division
from Normandy to Remagen

Chester H. Jordan

Contributions by:

George Bastedo, David Gillespie, Joe Killacky,
Dr. George Nicklin

A series of short articles and vignettes of infantry life, well told. Includes a definitive article on the battle for Frenzerburg Castle.

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C.H. Jordan
1058 West Lakeview Dr.
Baton Rouge, La., 70810

The obscene price is occasioned by short run photo duplication and Avery 1st. Impression Binders.

MRS. G.S. TEACHOUT
1600 W Strick Apt. 165
Orange, CA 92667-3427

Please accept this donation to the Memorial Fund in my late husband's name: Gerald S. Teachout, F Co. 60 Inf.

I do enjoy the Octofoil.

MRS. EDWARD F. WENZLOFF
Alamo Rec. Veh. Pk.
1320 W. Frontage Rd.
Alamo, Tx 78516

I am sorry to have to tell you that Edward F. Wenzloff passed away November 6, 1995.

39th Inf. E & F Co.
DONALD S. MacKERER
2716 Allee de Papillon
Knoxville, TN 37922

Thanks for your efforts in locating Ed Wall of F Co., 39th Inf. I passed the information on to Joe Barnett in the faint hope it can help. You also asked I write a few lines on my twin brother and me.

This past October I attended a reunion in Nashville of Fox Co., 39th Inf. They have been held for many years on a regular basis, but this was the first one I had made; so I was seeing the men I'd known for the first time in over fifty years. It was a delightful interlude, and one I shall always treasure. To rejoin Joe Barnett, Howard Brewer, Larry Faulkner, Ray Hanks and Ward Payne brought back a rush of fond and poignant memories. Time fortunately erodes the bad ones, so we laughed a lot at the many zany events that made the horror of the times bearable.

I was taken by surprise by the repeated amazement the guys expressed over the fact my twin brother Bill and I were in the same outfit, and that I had taken over his platoon after he was killed on December 21st 1944. During World War II it was army policy to allow twins to stay together if they so requested, even if they were officers, which we did. When we were assigned to the 39th, Bill was sent to E Company, and I went to F. The night after he was killed E Co. took the brunt of the German's attempt to penetrate our lines, and lost another platoon leader. Col. Gunn called F Co. Commander, Captain Holladay, and told him to send one of his platoon leaders over to E Co. Holladay called the platoon leaders back to his CP, and asked if one of us would volunteer to go over to E Co. At the time, I knew Bill had been wounded, but not that he'd died on the way back through the medical evacuation system. Because Bill and I had visited back and forth between the two companys, I was more familiar with the E Co. personnel, so I volunteered to go. I also had great respect for Captain Ken Hill's ability as a company commander, plus they served better chow! When I got over to E Co., Ken Hill asked me what platoon I wanted to take. Since I knew a lot of the men in Bill's platoon, I told him I'd take the third platoon. In retrospect it may have been a bit awkward and confusing for the men, but in my youthful judgment, seemed logical at the time. I spent the rest of my time with the Ninth in E Co., but carry fond memories of the wonderful men in both outfits. Those who did not make it back will live forever in my heart. Those of us who did are lucky beyond belief.

Best regards.

Into every life some rain must fall, but nobody told us about all the drips.

**1996 Reunion
Concord Hotel
New York**

B. Co. Q Hqs. 15th Engrs.
RICHARD C. MCGRATH
2856 West 85th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60652

First, thanks to Florida Chapter for making the 50th annual reunion the great success that it was.

People like Emile De Donato, John O'Grady, Phil Berman, Barbara Berman and all the helpers on their reunion committees did a lot of hard work to see that the "Old Reliabilities" had a good time.

We had much to do in the port city with its boat rides, historic places, and its French Quarter, always filled with music.

We came on Monday May 22nd and stayed a week and even that was not enough time. B Company 15th Engineers had 11 men at the reunion, which I was glad to see; Enlisted men on the line were Bob Apel, Paul Liza, Art Schmidt, Pat DiColli, Allie Ferrante, Jerry Shea, Ernie Micha, and Dick McGrath. Officers that attended were Captain Otts, Phil Emmons, and Frank Rankin. It was good to see them all and we sure missed those unable to come and look forward to next reunion in '96 at the Catskills. Glad to see Major Forrest of H.Q.'s.

Always some bad news - first it was the loss of Mike Kauffman, then Matt Urban, and now Lindsey Nelson. Good men and outstanding leaders. Enclosed is donation to honor all three.

Remember Lindsey Nelson from past reunions. He had a great sense of humor as he talked about the Ninth divisions Campaigns and different battles. He said the toughest battles were in Fayetteville with the 82nd AirBorne, at the Town Pump.

The heat in New Orleans and the heat in Chicago since we came home reminds me of North Africa. Coming back from the BIZERTE, TUNISIAN campaign we bivouacked near Sidi Bel Abbas, down the road from Oran. Order of the day was to find shade and take a siesta during the hottest part of the day. Good idea except the only shade, as I recalled, was in the pup tents that were like an oven. A friend asked me how we stood that heat and I answered, when you're young, you don't know any better. When you get older you have different problems, like, what did I come in here for or I don't remember you telling me. Three things you lose as you age - First is your memory and the other two you can't remember.

To all the gang that made the 50th reunion and all that did not I sure hope we can all be together for the 51st at the Concord.

As our dear departed buddy Fred D'Amore always used to say - lets get together boys its later than you think.

Congratulations, to Red Phillips, our new president. Its a given that the division is in good hands. He'll guide with the same good work he did for M Company 47th Reg't for the many past years.

CONCENTRATION CAMP IN BELGIUM?

I had some combat experience in a cavalry squadron, but couldn't get along with the squadron commander. We had a few disagreements and he pulled me out of the assault gun troop and put me in limbo. I think he was relieved back to the states later. Anyway, even though Capt. Vaughn, the "D" (recon) troop commander, wanted me in his unit real bad, Corp. HQ decided that the best division it had, needed a recon platoon leader. So the 9th Division got another 2nd Lt. and I got the best cavalry platoon in the ETO. I was handed this very experienced and very professional platoon in the hedgerows of Normandy and I think someone should tell their remarkable story.

I am looking for information on this one incident. At the time it happened I was too surprised and too busy to learn or remember much about it.

The 1st platoon of the 9th Recon, screening the 9th Division's advance in Belgium, came upon an installation that was not on our map. A concentration camp. It was on the left side of the road as we came to the crest of a long gentle slope. It was hard to believe our eyes as we had never seen anything like the walking skeletons that were in front of it and even out onto the road.

We stopped and although the platoon food supply would not go very far in this crows, we started to hand out to those poor wretches. One of them spotted a bottle (I hadn't cleaned the platoon of bottles recently). Would you believe that some of them began grabbing drink before food. There were many in the camp who couldn't walk and after all the bottles were handed out, I suppose there were a few more. In this milling around one of them told me of the NCOs that the "SS" guards had left shortly before we arrived and pointed to a group of farm buildings about a quarter mile down the slope on the right side of the road. It looked sort of like a fort.

Continued next issue

9th Recon Troop
James M. Egan
Box 16433
Duluth, Minnesota 55816



NY Chapter Marv Levy in front of his WW II display of drawings with Marty Gross (l.), wife Barbara and curator of the Harbor Defense Museum Phil Melfi. Marv showed his video and gave a talk on the Infantry Replacement Systems at the Ft. Hamilton Historical Society, Brooklyn, NY on September 27, 1995.

MINI REUNION Co. "M" 60th Inf.

A few of us "M" Co. fellows got together for a small reunion in Florence/Sheffield Al. on 14-15 & 16 September. Curtis (Buck) Buchanan and his wife Carolyn planned and hosted the affair and did an excellent job.

Those in attendance were Buck and Carolyn Buchanan, Ed and Ginny Lush, Tip and Margaret Gilbert, Bob and Reva Singleton, Ray and Karen Smith, Walter Frasure and friend Mary Ann, and W.C. and Nell Hornady.

We had dinner on Thursday night (14th) at the Tower Restaurant overlooking the Tennessee Valley. On Friday night we had dinner at the Princeton Restaurant (Florence's finest). On Saturday night Buck and Carolyn hosted a wonderful dinner at their home. Everyone really had a great time. Thanks to Buck and Carolyn for their hard work and a great reunion.

I hate to end this on such a sad note. Bob Singleton passed away on the 8th of October. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He will be missed by all his "M" Co. buddies.

W.C. Hornady Jr
3432 Dresden Dr. Montgomery, Al 36111



Leon Birum who keeps us posted on the happenings of the 34th FA sends this photo taken at Barton Stacey, England (1944) when Leon coached the 34th's basketball team. Shown 1st row: Carol Bjorkland, Ray King, John Balavender, 2nd row George Wild, Robert Schott, LeRoy Perry. 3rd row: Lionel Beaudet, Dale Eibeck, John Parsons. Birum's letter appears in Mail Call.

34th F.A. Btry
LEON R. BIRUM
R.R. #1, Box 59
Union City, In 47390

Fifty four years ago, today, I joined the Military Service ... four days after Pearl Harbor. Can't believe that many years have gone by. Sure has brought back memories. Going through my files of VCR tapes, I found one that Bert Waller sent me of the 1988 Division Association Reunion and his visit to George Connolly's home at Marblehead, Mass. After watching it I dug out back issues of the Octofoil and spent the remainder of the day scanning through them.

Last week I mailed ninety copies of my 1995 Newsbooklet, to former members of the Thirty Fourth Field Artillery Battalion. This made my fifth consecutive Newsbooklet after what I had originally intended as a "onetime only" publication in 1991. The expressions of gratitude from all the men after the 1991 issue, convinced me to continue the Newsbooklet. The letters and phone calls of appreciation for all my efforts, was adequate reward for my time and expense involved.

In response to my written request for information to include in the publication, the number of celebrations of "Fiftieth Wedding Anniversaries" in 1995 was very noticeable, as was the severe health problems amongst many of the veterans of the 34th. At one time during the year, I wasn't sure I would be around to publish my newsbooklet in '95. I had surgery to repair three abdominal aneurysms and consequently lost all five toes on my left foot. But luckily, I survived and am doing okay.

I would like to report three deaths of former 34th Veterans. Milton "Whitey" Munson, who served with the 34th in 1940, and '41, and transferred to the 88th Division with cadre, in 1942, died July 15th, 1994. Alfonso Lopez was in "A" Battery through all the overseas campaigns, died September 26th, this year. Horace Devault, former 1st Sergeant of Service Battery, died December 1st.

Since 1982, I attended two Division Reunions at Fayetteville and made several trips to Worcester for the Memorial Mass. The highlight of the get-togethers was the first and only reunion of the 34th Battalion at Fayetteville, in 1993, which I organized. This reunion was made more noticeable by the presence of our former Battalion Commander, William C. Westmoreland.

As do all the Ninth Veterans, the first thing I do when the Octofoil arrives, is to look for letters from members of our unit, and must say that generally I'm disappointed. I want to thank those that are responsible for maintaining and printing the newspaper. I know it's a big job and takes considerable time.

**Reunion in New York
1996
Concord Hotel**

MAIL CALL

SEEKING

The grandson of Henry E. Moderacki; Company C, 60th Infantry, 9th Division, service June 1942 to September 1945, would like to find individuals with whom he served.

Please respond to Michael LaManna, 421 Bennett Street, N. Tonawanda, NY 14120.

60th Inf. D Co.
JAMES CANADA
Box 434

Shannon, Ga. 30172

It is time to pay my dues again for 1996. I am doing very well for an old man. Thanks for doing a fine job. I have heard from some of the Ninth men but they weren't from my Division. They were from the 47th Division, someone put my address in the wrong Division.

My Division was the 9th Division 60th Inf. I would like for it to be corrected please. I had a telephone call from Carl Sleen a while back. He is the only 60th D. Co. man I have heard from since my address has been changed from the 9th Div. D Co. 60th Inf. Here's hoping you get my address corrected. Hope you and your wife had a happy Christmas and happy New Year.

Co. B 15th Engr. Bn.
ROBERT MANDLE
184 Danbury Rd.
New Milford, Ct. 06776

I recently returned from a trip out of the country only to learn that in my absence Tony Madonna had passed away.

I had spoken with Tony just a week before leaving the States trying to lift his spirits, which because of his illness, were pretty low.

Tony was my staff sergeant all through North Africa, Sicily and Normandy, up until the time I was wounded at the St. Lo breakthrough and I have never known a finer person nor a better soldier.

He shall be greatly missed by all his friends of which there are many including myself.

Please accept the enclosed contribution.

B Co. 15th Engrs.
ERNE MICKA
114 Spring Garden Dr.
Louisville, Ky. 40218

Just a quick, short note and hope it's in time to make the next issue of the Octofoil — our buddy and good friend, Tony Madonna, passed away on Oct. 7 or 8th after a serious operation and recuperative period.

Tony was one of us "original" arrivals at Ft. Bragg in early Feb. 1941.

He was St. Sgt. of the 2nd Platoon of "B" Co., 15th Engrs. and was no doubt, its most respected and liked non-comm in the outfit.

We will all miss him.

Please accept the enclosed gift in memory of Tony Madonna, plus all our "B" Co. buddies that have previously passed away.

Am looking forward to and making plans to make the next reunion at "The Concord."

60th Inf. Hdqtrs. Co.
T. L. "BUCK" HARRIS
P.O. Box 69
Elm City, N.C. 27822

Each October I always think of 1944 when we went into the Nurtgen Forest, on our way to capture the Roer River dams. We had more casualties in those six weeks or so, than we had in double or triple that time anywhere else that we fought. I remember reading that it was around 3,500 for just that six weeks. If you didn't cover your fox hole with logs you were a dead duck.

After spending 46 years selling life insurance I've sold my Agency and retired. So, I've plenty of time to write letters and I'd like to hear from anybody out there from the 60th. I promise to give an answer.

9th Med. Bn. Co B.
DONALD HYDE
120 Wiley Ave.
DeLand, Fl. 32724

I have just received word that John (Jack) Labach, Bloomsburg, Pa., was killed in an automobile accident December 3, 1995.

Jack was a member of the 9th Medical Battalion, Company B. His wife, Josephine, died in November 1944.

Condolences may be sent to his son, Robert Laubach, P.O. Box 63, Barnes Street, Mifflinville, Pa. 18631.

C Batt. 60th F.A. Bn
LOUIS PANDOLFI
388 Walnut St.
Nutley, N.J. 07110

Enclosed please find a M.O. for another 3 year enlistment, that should take me close to the end of the century, after that who knows?

To the men of the 60th FA. Bn. I'm looking for anyone who may have a lapel shield/pin or two that they are willing to part with. I would be more than glad to pay for any cost they may run into. I lost the only one I had and cannot locate any. I am trying to make a plaque of 9th Div. units.

Thanks to Mike Belmonte for passing my address on to Dick O'Connor of the 84th F.A. Bn. Dicks' family and mine go back long before W.W. II.

Hope you and yours and all the people of the 9th and their families have happy and prosperous holidays.

60th Inf. B. Co.
RAYMOND A. KONKOL
24119 Lake Shore Drive
Kansasville, Wis. 53139

Enclosed are my dues for the next three years. I guess I'm a little late, but better late than never. I enjoy reading the Octofoil news, but I don't recall seeing anybody from B. Co. I do keep in touch with a couple of fellows from B. Co. I wish I could get to know a few others.

I was one of the first to join Co. B. Oct. 1st, 1940 at Tent City, Fort Bragg.

God bless you all.

1996 Reunion
Concord Hotel
New York

Co K 60th Inf
ROBERT H. RUCKER
5055 W Panther Creek Dr.
Apt. 1103
The Woodlands, TX 77381-3544

Greetings:

From "two tough old birds" who are flying low on occasion! Freda and Bob continue to live in a retirement community and let someone else do the menial chores. Although there has been a change in ownership since June 1 things are about as usual. If one does not expect a lot, one cannot be disappointed. There are many planned activities that give residents a varied choice of keeping busy and we participate in some of these. I still use the hot tub and do water therapy quite regularly ... even though my rudder is broken! I now have an electric cart that has "set me free." The VA has advised that I cannot use crutches as much as I have been due to degenerative disc disease in every vertebrae. (friendly fire from WWII), along with my six "spare parts" that have all had a retread this year.

Healthwise, we are not too bad considering the alternate. Freda's heart condition remains stable following an angioplasty in March. 90% blockage of right coronary. The usual aches and pains, that come with turning 40 for the 2nd time! However, every morning that I find my feet on TOP of the grass, I feel very fortunate and thank the Lord for help and patience to face the day.

Bob feels that it is better to "wear out" than to "rust out", so he finds things to keep busy as follows: (1) Program chairman for the Rotary Club; (2) Being an adopted Grandpa for one of the first grades near us; (3) a presenter for CHOICES, a program to encourage 9th grader to stay in school and graduate for a better life.

The BIG project: Mrs. John M. Michie, Jr., a family friend of many years is president of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. and has asked Bob to be the chairman of a major project for her: MILLIONS OF TREES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT challenges each of 51 federations to pursue planting ONE million trees each year for the next two years. White flowering trees and trees for bird food, protection and habitat as a tribute to the 19 innocent children that were killed in the Oklahoma City blast are to be planted nationwide to honor these children on April 19, 1996. The response has been overwhelming. As I cannot travel very easy, it is done as I sit at the typewriter and by telephone.

Best wishes.

47th Inf M Co
LEO FATLAN
380 S. Center
Braidwood, IL 60408

Enclosed find my check for 3 more years and a little extra for the memorial fund in memory of Lyle Kitchen and our other comrades.

Enjoyed seeing you and all the other guys and gals at New Orleans. We stopped in Georgia on the way back and saw Bill and Norma Horan. Had a nice visit with them.

Hope to see you all at New York in '96.

Best Wishes.

Hq. Btry. 84th F.A. Bn.
JOHN BOISKY
5003 Kendrick St.
Panama City, Fl. 32404

Enclosed please find dues and a request to identify in the May-June-July 1995 issue of the Octofoil front page picture, in the white shirt is John Boisky with veteran members of the Best 105M.M. HOW. Bn. in the U.S. Army bar none! I was lucky enough to be selected to be named D.I. for about 300 selectees who came (by troop train) down to Bragg from Ft. Devens, Mass. In early 1941, we lived in tents across the road from the Old F.A. Replacement Center. My membership with the 9th Div. began in late 1940 until Elbe River 1945.

Ref. Reunion New Orleans May 1995, the best most memorable in my 74 years, to see Frank Haines, Al Lubin, Fields, Rosen, Lipton and many others. We talked about our first day of combat Feb. 22, 1943, when the co. of "C" Btry fired his 105 HOW. direct and hit a Jerry Tiger tank, received the Victoria cross from the British. ("C" Btry C.O. Lt. McGonagle).

Dan, it would not be fair, honest or respectful if we did not pause and remember men who paid with their lives, Lt. Scott, Forward Observer Howard Mulrane, Forward Observer Roth, Officers Mess Attendant Phelps, Radio Operator and others. Lt. Milhans died after WW II, he and I slept together in fox holes or pup tents for 30 months. Milhans was an out-standing soldier and one outstanding human being, plus an American Gentleman!

Dan, to you and your staff for many years of loyal service, a big thank you and happy safe holidays, and good health.

A - 15th Engrs.
PAT MAISTO
5218 Shady Bluff St.
Durham, N.C. 27704

Sorry I can't come to the 50th reunion. I have never been notified about reunions until an article was put in the paper about the Normandy Invasion and some of the boys in the 9th Division got in touch with me. I was in Co. A, 15th Eng. Batt. and was a driver for Capt. Emmons and Lt. Forest. We landed in Algiers and went to Tunisia and Sicily. I'm sorry I missed the reunion in Fayetteville as I was stationed in Ft. Bragg and now live in Durham, N.C. I would like to meet those who are lucky to still be here. Maybe next year. I have been in touch with Capt. Emmons, but not in person. Also with Henry Santos. I'm sending in my dues for the year.

P.S. Couple of pictures taken in Germany. Can't recall some of the names, maybe some one else can.

47th H & Hq Co/1 Bn
VIRGIL G. DINGMAN
6 Clark Ave.
Fort Plain, NY 13339

Time flies by. Saw by the last Octofoil I'm due for membership renewal.

Enclosed find check for three years. There isn't many of my group left, only 4 of them.

THE OCTOFOIL Publication No. 402820
412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087
Send One Payment per year to Union City, N. J. Anticipation of October 1, 1997

B Co. 15b Engrs.
WILLIAM DAVIDSON
1125 Paradise Dr.
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Sorry I'm a little late with my dues, but anyone who really knows me I'm always late for everything all but one thing. That was for my court martial in England for going over the Hill. I forgot to report back with the rest of my buddies. Instead of a weekend I stayed in London for 5 days. Thinking back she was worth it.

Dan I'm a very bad correspondent so will you please send my apologies to Ronnie Murphy, Gip Shea, Tony Madonna (who I hope is recovering from his illness) and of course Allie Ferrante.

I wish I could have made New Orleans and Worcester but my all knowing doctor degree otherwise. I'm selling my home in Mass. and becoming a permanent resident in Florida.

The memorial contribution is in memory of Henry Garguolo and Tom G. Beneivenad.

CARLOS WARD
39th Inf. C. Co.
10280 Eaton Pike
New Lebanon, Oh 45345

Thought it was time for me to send in some dues and let the men of the 9th Div. Assn. know I'm still with the living and doing very well at the present time.

I have been having some medical trouble for a couple of years. I guess the worst one was 5 bypasses but went in Monday and was told all is OK for now and maybe will be able to join you again for the reunions and see my buddies again. The past 50 years have been a lot of memory work and thoughts of the many ones that have been forgotten and the meaning of a free country and what we went through to have what we have today.

I'm sending you a copy of what our flag means to me and if you want to run in the Octofoil for others to see.

Tell all hello and I wish every one the best and hope to see them soon. God bless and stay well.

60th F.A. Serv. Btry.
LEE FLIER
1809 Karo St.
Pekin, IL. 61554

I read the Octofoil all the time; I served with Serv. BAT. 60th Field Artillery all thru the war. I hope I will get to go to the party in New York next year.

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CLOUSER
1088 N CIRCLE DR
CRYSTAL RIVER FL 34429-5347