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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, January/February 1996

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXXI Number 1

Jan-Feb 1996

President's Corner

I am asked frequently why voting on critical Association business must wait for an Annual Reunion; why can't we vote by mail which not only would be more timely, but it would be more democratic since more members could vote, not just those able to attend the meeting?

This is a good question, well worth pondering. Since surely it would involve yet another amendment of the Bylaws, it would require that due notice be given. We could do that here and call for a vote on this issue at the Concord in June. But that plate is already full. What we could do then is ask the Bylaws Committee to chew on it and give a recommendation to be voted upon by the members at the Association's 1997 Annual Meeting.

This brings up another matter. Will we have a '97 Annual Meeting and where will it be? At New Orleans last year the Board of Governors opted to have the '97 affair at Atlantic City and appointed a member to explore possible locations. Alas, he has reported that after surveying all possibilities, he is unwilling to make a recommendation. All of those facilities wanting us were either inadequate in some important respect, e.g., too far from the Boardwalk, or too costly. Back to Square One.

At the Concord the Board will have to decide what to do next. My recommendation would be contingent on how the vote goes with respect to letting Vietnam vets become members. If the membership turns down this proposal, then I think we should pick a date and place for the '97 Annual Meeting which would be, in effect, a wake. At the same time, your Board should decide what to do with the Association's remaining assets, precisely how to "turn out the light" at the '97 Annual Meeting. And, of course, if the '97 Meeting is to be the Grand Finale, that might have a bearing on where it should be.

On the other hand, if the vote on the Vietnam vets is favorable, there will still be time to settle on another routine 52nd Annual Reunion and fix responsibility for its details. Meanwhile, on the same assumption, if one of the regional chapters, including California, wants to host the affair, let's hear from these folks.

Speaking of Grand Finales, I want to call your attention to "Taps" being sounded in this issue for a most loyal member and M/47 compadre, Edward S. Little of Tamaqua, PA. Ed attended every Annual Reunion in my memory. He was a mortarman who joined M as a replacement in Schevenhutte. A good man.

Another Finale: on the final day of my rather momentous '95, I fell down the stairs at home and broke my leg. It's enabled much time for dealing with a burgeoning mailbox resulting from my two new writing projects, the Eddy biography and a piece about the 60th RCT at Maknassy to go into a single-volume reprint of the 9th's battle trilogy. There's also mail generated by those outraged by certain critics of my membership proposal. A couple of these letters, from Dr. George Nicklin, once of K/47, and Robert W. Gleason, D/47, are published in this issue of The Octofoil and I call them to your attention as they are unusually thoughtful and cool-headed appraisals of the situation.

Continued on page 3

26 FA

MICHAEL BELMONTE (26 FA)
1161 S. Lombard,
Oak Park, Illinois 60304

Dear Dave,

Because of many rumors floating around recently, I would appreciate your opinion as the Judge Advocate on the following questions:

1. Can we legally change the bylaws so that in the future we would vote by mail on important questions such as admitting the veterans of Vietnam? Do you think this is a good idea?

2. What about the suggestion that the 1997 convention be that last one we will ever hold, and that our association should then "close up the shop."

3. While we are at it, what is your own feeling about changing the bylaws so as to admit Vietnam vets?

Sincerely yours,
Mike Belmonte,

Member of the Board of Governors
Ninth Infantry Division Association

David H. Heller, Judge Advocate,
618 Sumac Road,
Highland Park, Illinois 60035
(847) 831-4534

February 16, 1996

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of February 12, in which you ask three questions about some recent proposals to change our association. My answers are as follows:

1. Provided that our current bylaws are followed, particularly Article XV, I know of no reason why the Annual Meeting could not vote to conduct future balloting by mail, assuming of course that proper advance notice has been given to all members.

Continued on page 3

LADIES CORNER

Here we go again — another column due, and nothing to write about. Ladies has nothing happened in your life since December too? Have you been like me — wanting to wrap yourself up in a warm blanket and hibernate until Spring? Especially with all the snow and ice cold weather we have had this winter. Anyway, I would love to do that but can't; my life is still too busy. I must retire one of these years! Since the last column, I have talked with Marty Gross of the New York Chapter, acting as Co-Chairman of the Reunion, about our meeting. He suggested something; I called Mary McLaughlin about it. We decided that we would just have a plain old-fashioned meeting, with our Pollyana, nominations for donations to our Veterans, and sell chances for our Big Raffle later. If you have a nomination for a Veterans' group or Hospital, please send the name and details to one of the Officers: Pres. Mary McLaughlin, Box 33, Red Oak, North Carolina 27868; Carol Saunders, Treas. P.O. Box 1584, Greeneville, Tenn. 37744; or Secretary Connie Koneski, 303 Royersford Road, Royersford, Penna. 19486. If you haven't joined our Auxiliary, please do, by sending \$2.00 for the year to our Treasurer, Carol Saunders to the address listed before, and if you haven't, or your husband hasn't sent in your reservation to the Concorde, please do so today! I could also stand getting some mail from you all, so this column will have some spice to it. Take care and I shall see you in June.

Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621
February 18, 1996

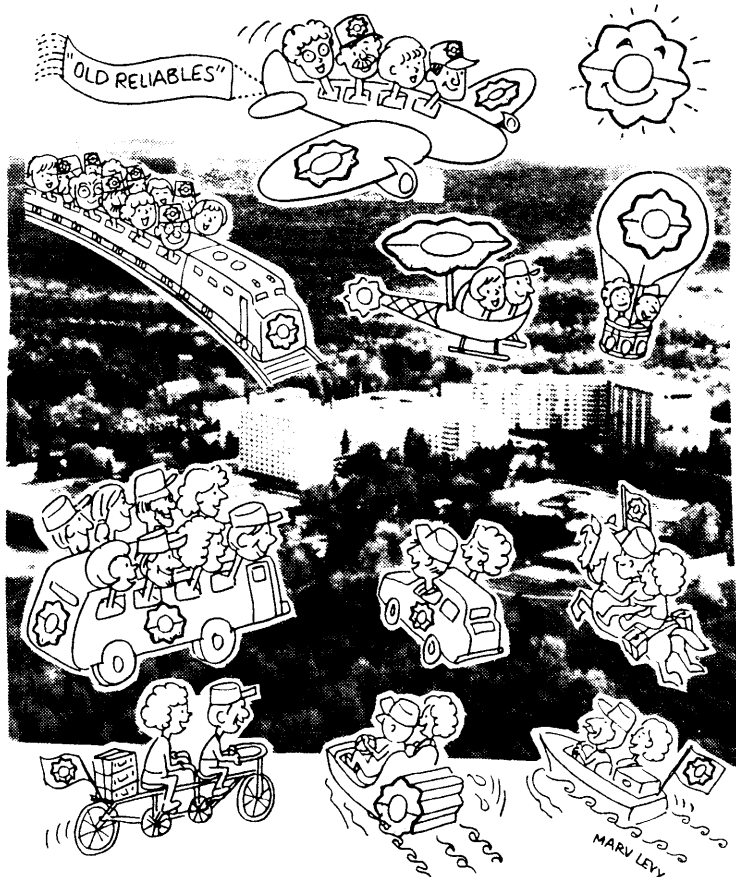
NEW 800 NUMBERS FOR VA GRAVE INFORMATION

The Department of Veterans Affairs now has a toll-free number where you can inquire about headstones for veterans or other questions concerning the grave-marker program.

This new system will greatly enhance the ability to get answers to customers who need them quickly. By calling 1-800-697-6947 you are connected to VA's National Cemetery Systems, Office of Memorial Programs in Washington, DC. This line operates from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Service representatives can now supply immediate information about the status of applications, headstones or marker delivery and general information about the Memorial programs.



"Old Reliables" are coming



Welcome Old Reliables

The Concord Resort Hotel awaits the
9th Infantry Division Association 51st Annual Reunion
Tuesday-Friday June 4-7, 1996

Although our convention is a few months away the Concord has informed us of the hundreds of reservations already coming in. As noted in the reservation form the Concord has agreed to honor some members wishes to only attend the reunion for specific meals instead of the full 4 days. The individual meal rates are: **Banquet dinner only** — \$37.50. **Any other dinner** — \$30.50. **Lunch only** — \$23.90. (All rates include tax.) This is a great opportunity for those members who might not be able to attend otherwise. So, come on 9th men, don't miss meeting your old buddies and friends at the 51st Annual Reunion. Contact the Concord Hotel at 1-800-431-3850, or call Reunion co-chairmen, Marty Gross 516-791-8870 or Al Zenka 718-479-9341 for information.

Spring is just around the corner — and cars, busses, trains, planes, and whatnot, will be heading to the Catskill Mountains, NY carrying 9th men, ladies, friends and guests to their long awaited rousing get-together. Snooze while you can Rip Van Winkle, you're about to have a rude awakening on June 4, 1996!

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
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

Continued next page

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

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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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Michael Belmonte

Oak Park, IL
James P. Driscoll
Holiday, FL

Herb Olsen
Marson Mills, MA
1998

Ed Hopkins
Metchuen, NJ
Ken Meyer

Belton, TX
Phil Bermani
Daytona, FL

Owen Salle
Decatur, IL
Al Zenka

Bellrose, NY
Floyd Hennessey
Lambertville, MI

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:

George Pedrick — In memory of Edward "Red" Pictroski, Hqs. 39th Inf.

Francis M. Bozarth.

Laura Ward — In memory of husband, James Carl Ward, B Btry, 34th F.A.

Ward Payne — In memory of Sgt. Paul Brown, Co. F. 39th Inf.

Walter Labaj.

Joseph Kash — In memory of John Lewis 9th Med Bn.

Aldor Cook — In memory of Walter Sammons C Co. 9th Med. Bn.

Fred Lincoln of 88th Div. — In memory of John L. Babbitt, 26th F.A. Btry. A.

Richard McGrath — In memory of Matt Urban, Mike Kauffman and Lindsey Nelson.

James Dudderar.

Albert Ferrante — In memory of Bill Davidson, B Co. 15th Engrs.

William Nichols.

Frank Kowalik — In memory of Walter Sammons C Co. 9th Med Bn.

John O'Grady — In memory of Art Schneider.

Dr. Olaf Langland.

James S. Moore.

Andrew Kopach — In memory of Walter Sammons, C Co. 9th Med Bn.

Donald Williams — In memory of Frank Lovell, 60th F.A. A Btry.

39th Inf

ANITA DANIELS RUSSO
1037 Sun Valley, Bldg.
Greenville, Tn. 37745

A great big thank you for the Octofoil. I really enjoy keeping in touch with all the activities. Perhaps some day I will be able to attend one of the reunions.

I've enclosed a donation as I know my Frank would want to do, and as he always said — please use it where needed most.

Best of health and happiness to all at 9th Division.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR VA BURIAL BENEFITS

All veterans with discharges other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children are eligible for burial in a VA National Cemetery. The National Cemetery System operates 114 cemeteries within the United States and Puerto Rico. Those eligible for burial are also eligible for a Government provided headstone or marker and Presidential Memorial Certificate. Veterans and their dependents may apply for all VA benefits by dialing 1-800-827-1000.

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



R E S O R T H O T E L
KIAMESHA LAKE, NEW YORK 12751

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Name _____ Spouse 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 occupancy 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 availability.

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.

Continued from Page 1 TRANSPORTATION:

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 Exit. 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 hours; Springfield — 3 hours.

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.

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, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association read: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of 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.

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

Volume XLXXI Number 1

Jan-Feb 1996

Publication No. 462829

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 Auxillary 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 _____

K Company 47th Inf.

Since the last issue I have heard from four K-MEN, which is a new international record in K-COMMUNICATION.

GEORGE BASTEDO sent a clipping from a NY newspaper telling about K getting a unit citation for the 2nd Btn (Elsewhere in this issue you will see another contribution K made to the 2nd Btn.) George is getting restless and would like to return to the heady power of TOP KICK to a lean, mean fighting machine.

GEORGE NICKLIN called and said I could have left INGRAM lost as far as he is concerned.

JOE KILLACKY called and wrote. He sent a tour guide of the First Division Museum in the home of Col. Robert R. McCormick. He says it is first class and out of sight. Just goes to prove we needed a Ninth Man whose grand-pa invented a reaper rather than being one. Oh well, Ft. Benning is OK as long as you don't eat the food.

JOE says his golf is improving but cites heat as an excuse for not coming to Baton Rouge for a demonstration.

"RED" THOMPSON says he's going to make 85 without a strain. He has visited the College Football Hall of Fame on the ND campus and says there is an item or two from other schools. He likes the BULL SESSIONS he bought better than the one I gave him and recommends it to all literate 9'ers.

I am not sure that anyone else even receives the K NEWS. Maybe a carrier is making a collection.

SHOOTING GALLERY

Wouldn't you love to be in the army now and have your CinC, WILLIE, volunteer you for shooting gallery duty in the Balkans — the only thing better would be AFGHANISTAN.

By comparison, we only had to fight the German army and the American air force, these guys will be getting it from Christians, Moslems, atheists, and agnostics. Even the ducks in the Gallery have only one side to worry about. These people have been killing each other for centuries, just for the hell of it, providing them with non-lethal targets won't be any fun at all.

I can see it now. Unending TV shots, as in the Gulf War days, of wives, mothers, fathers, children, girl friends, crying and saying, "Joe was only in the army to make a living, not to get shot."

I believe it is a tacky proposition to train a person for combat and then turn around and make him a target. Well, they won't have any 9th people to kick around.

SEEKING

Company K. 60th Infantry, 9th Division. Service June 1942 to Sept. 1945. The grandson of Henry E. Moderacki would like to find individuals with whom he served.

Please respond to Michael H. Lamanna, 1119 Farnsworth Ave., North Tonawanda, New York 14120 (716) 692-7873.

Dear Daniel,

A few weeks ago, a letter I sent to you appeared in your newsletter. Since then I have heard from two individuals who knew my grandfather, Henry E. Moderacki. You may not recall my letter, but you might remember that I received your name and address from Bernie Bell.

I met with Bill Dobbins of Lockport, NY after he responded to my paragraph in your newsletter. To be brief, Bill explained to me that my grandfather was discharged from Company C and served the majority of the war with Company K. It was suggested that I resubmit my earlier paragraph with the necessary change to the company in which my grandfather served.

If it is not too much to ask, I would like the paragraph I've written on the following page to be included in your next newsletter.

Thank you for your cooperation and your efforts in composing the newsletter. Bill mentioned that you and your wife handle the production of the newsletter.

Sincerely,
Michael H. Lamanna

**1996 Reunion
Concord Hotel
New York**

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

Someone wrote to you about Bob Singleton's death in October and it appeared in the most recent Octofoil. However we are enclosing a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of Bob from the men of M Co of the 60th Inf.

In August when I wrote I enclosed a poem written by John Armitage. Were you unable to use it? We realize it was very long. We are trying to plan on the Concord. Bob's health is up and down. Hard to make plans. We are no longer planning Mini Reunions for M Co of the 60th. Too hard to get the men together. We are all getting old.

That article in the VFW caused a problem locally too. We heard from a man in Lockport who knew Bob was in the 9th, he was too, in Vietnam, and we called him back when we got the Octofoil to try to explain. Also heard from an M Co Man in California that thought Red Phillips had a lot of nerve to see the President of the United States and give him a set of his books, called him a draft dodger. Everyone has an opinion these days.

Hope your Holidays are great.

Seeking

After reading The American Legion issue last month I noticed an article on the 39th Infantry, Company F and wrote to them asking about obtaining information on my husband now deceased Michael Giordano. Enclosed is a zerox copy of his discharged papers. We had a fire back then and lost many important papers and now that time has passed and we're all older, my children and grandchildren are asking questions and would like some pictures if possible. I know this is a needle in the hay stack but I'm willing to search. Is there anything I can purchase like a division book, dog tags, any medals due as Michael was a prisoner of war for twenty-six or twenty months? He was captured by Rommel and his men from what I recall hearing.

Perhaps there might be some place other to write and seek anything regarding his army stay. Any names of men who might be living and could happen to have a picture or two.

I thank you for your time.

AnnaJean Zito
20 Glover Avenue
Haddon Heights, N.J.
08035-1244

P.S. Do you know anything about the Wall of Liberty National Campaign? I have written and sent a check total \$45.00 to have Michael Giordano's name registered but have never heard from Patrick Brady, Major General USA.

CALL OR WRITE A FRIEND - ENCOURAGE HIM TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION

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.

MP's
ADOLPH WADALAVAGE
94-30 96th Street
Ozone Park,
New York 11416-1604

I hope you can help on this one, a former M.P. by the name of, Casey Petratis, former M.P. was an Association member, passed away a few years ago (in Florida). She has contacted me a few weeks ago, for some reason; she must contact, Edward (Edwin) Trybala also a former M.P. He used to live in Philadelphia but is not at the address I had. The neighborhood has changed that is as far as I got — I'm going to write a few Philadelphia lads — by chance have you got his address.

Another M.P. that should have his address, Julius Polakoff, 8018 Ellen Lane, Cheltenham, Penn. also has taken off — have you his address — I'd appreciate having them if you do.

All the best.

39th Inf. I Co.
RALPH E. BURRIS
167 Christy Drive
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

In checking my membership card I find it is time to renew my dues for another 3 years, also send me 2 decals.

During the last two years I have met and renewed friendships with members of Company I-39th Regiment and attended 2 reunions with them and their wives. We have a great time visiting and remembering some experiences of fifty years ago. We are looking forward to our next reunion sometime next summer.

Many Thanks

EVELYN F. GANNON
5106 Indiana St.
Charleston, WV 25309-1122

On this Nov. 8, 1945 Charles E. Gannon was back from Europe, and was discharged from the Army. He died October 22 at 7:25 a.m. 1995. I want everyone to know he was proud to have been a part of the Service. He had cancer of the colon and was gone in 2-1/2 weeks. There was VFW grave side service and I want to thank everyone for the re-union that we attended at Fort Bragg where he left from to go overseas to war and was gone from Jan. 15, 1942 to Nov. 8, 1945. I am his wife since 1942 to 1995. Life won't ever be the same with him gone. Thank you. I always read the Octofoil and enjoy the articles.

Can Co. 47th Inf.
TOM MCGINLEY
P.O. Box 583
Port St. Joe, FLA 32456

Hi Dan and Marie,

Hope you both are feeling well these days and are looking forward to the June Reunion as we are. We are spending our 4th winter down here in the Florida panhandle. Fortunately we got here a couple of months late to experience hurricane Opal which tore up part of the great beach area nearby, but things are almost back to normal and we are enjoying the warm water of the Gulf and the summer like weather.

A couple of weeks ago we took a trip to Mississippi to visit our daughter Molly and her new baby and while there we took the opportunity to visit the nearby Vicksburg Battlefield site. To my amazement I ran across a memorial to the 47th Infantry Regt. and of course I took a picture of it and I am sending you a copy. Apparently our favorite Regiment was then part of the 2nd Division — 3rd Brigade — 15th Corps.

Still hear very often from my old buddy Bill Muldoon out in Bethpage and he assures me he will be at Concord in June with many of the old 47th.

See you in June God willing

Tom and Marge McGinley

Co. F. 47th

BOB DeSANDY
109 Canterbury Rd.
Southern Pines, NC 28387

Thought I would drop you a line to let you know now we are coming with 9th Div St. at Ft. Bragg.

As I mentioned before the Post is undergoing a multi-million dollar expansion and face lift. Included in this project is the new Womack Medical Center. There are also new roads being built.

The Post Council has considered and approved our request and will name one of these roads 9th Div. or 9th Inf. Div. Rd/St. They felt and I agree this will be much better than renaming 9th St.

This is now in the hands of the Post Engineers.

When the road is completed they have requested that we have some 9th Vets in attendance for picture taking etc.

Well old friend the best to you and Marie — Stay well talk to you soon.



Sam Pollick sends this photo taken in Germany 1945

H CO. MORTARS 47TH REGIMENT — Pictured First Row seated: Webster, Hayes, Podlagar, Guyette, and Becmer. Second row on tire: Pollick, Mercer, Schroeder, Pinto, Garcia and Byers. Back row: Maranara, Shaw, Johnson and Mitchell.

MAIL CALL

CHRISTMAS 1995

There will be a change this year. Not only will Roger (Scotty's brother) and Kathleen and their four sons and a daughter celebrate Christmas together as will Helga (Inge's sister) and David with their two sons but ALSO Scotty and Inge will be blessed with the presence of their son, Ronald Paul, who is flying in from Santa Barbara, California. It will be a blessed Christmas in the WIESBADEN Hirst household. We'll do our level best to present Ron a Christmas in all of the German tradition.

And, the days since our last Christmas letter. Top of the news is that we were both able to come through with the minimal aches and pains one must become accustomed to at our years. Thanks to INGE's 'green fingers,' the garden bloomed like never before. Eight years in residence, INGE has established a garden, a rosebed, a yard worthy of presentation. And next year, with the Weatherman's cooperation, you'll have to come and see it. It will exceed anything we've accomplished in our homes over the past forty-eight years.

Our travels (and yours) have lessened over the years. Thus is the requirement that you write more often or make a visit. In all frankness, for the few, your images are becoming very vague. It might even pass from memory shortly - a picture at least (as we do) would refresh our memory of long-standing friends. We are saddened to let you know that 1995 saw the departure of three 'aged' friends.

On a personal side: INGE has again with success chaired her 10th WIESBADEN regional (ACBL) contract bridge tournament. The enthusiasm does not diminish but the numbers do - still in November we had players from as distant as the U.S. of A and Syria. Our reliable "TOP" director, William (KOJAK) SCHODER made it to his 10th appearance. And, might we add, INGE too retrieved a bit of 'gold.' If you've never chaired such an undertaking, try it one time.

The bonds with Normandy are firm. We did miss gathering of RAF's 604 Squadron and British Airlifters. Scotty's latest historical effort is nearing completion.

We've strong reservations about the U.S. presence in BOSNIA-HERZEGOVNIA. What is the 'birthdate' of our presence? When will OUR 'national interests' be defined? Is George JOULWAN another EISENHOWER? No, our entrance into that area is NOT a Christmas present. Since when do you need armed men to "enforce" a peace!

But, we'll try to maintain the Christmas spirit. We will well remember our men and women this Christmas and in the coming months in Bosnia-Herzegovnia. It is difficult to draw a collary between that Balkan situation and our recent completion of celebrating the end of WW II! Yes, it is a European-problem which they did not nor do they have the means to end - NATO, bunch of humbug!

Co D 47th Inf.
ALFRED J. KONGSLIE
P.O. Box 463
Tulelake, CA 96134

The last two years I attended 9th reunions for the first time, prior to this Ronald Frank and Frank Brusic kept me abreast with happenings of members of the motor platoon. Irvin Depuc also corresponded with me several times. I would like to hear from members of my section some of whom were Leroy Frank, John Steinmitz, Frank Ouczary, William Steen, Wilmer Cole, Lawrence Flannery, Nick Forconi, other 3rd Squad members Lloyd Owens, Lowell Fredricks, Marco Cimini, Joe Potosek and Edward Reggens. I am also concerned with Ray or Leonard Golden, possibly Bob Faux would know his whereabouts.

Any D members who plan to attend the '96" Convention please contact me as I would sincerely like to make contact. I have numerous pictures of members of D Co. and if I attend the next Convention I will bring pictures of the old gang.

Yours very truly,

**1996 Reunion
Concord Hotel
New York**

**Deadline for copy of the next issue of the Octofoil will
be APRIL 20th**

60th Inf
RONALD M. A. Hirst
Mathildenstrasse 4
D - 65189 Wiesbaden
Tel. (0611) 561856

39th Inf. E Co.
EMIL MEROLLA
2307 Oak Park Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44109

Here is a story for the paper. I was a replacement. After training I joined the 9th Div. They put me in with a young lad named Avriel Jester. A B.A.R. man, I was his ammo bearer. On Dec. 10, 1944, we were on our way to take the city of Colonol. Unfortunately we didn't make it. We both were wounded. After 6 mos in Richmond, Va., as I was getting physical treatment, I heard a voice that sounded like Jester. And sure enough it was him. What a reunion! If Jester reads this I hope he writes.

Keep up the Octofoil.
A proud member.

9th Q.M.
ANGELO SINARE
716 E. 162 St.
Cleveland, OH 44110

Enclosed a check for 1996. Not many Q.M. members write to the Octofoil. I did receive 14 cards for Xmas. Excuse my bad writing after 82 years my hand is a little shaky. Say "Hi" to all of the Q.M. members and the rest of the famous 9th Inf. Div. Stay healthy.

Have you sent
in your Dues?

DUES REMINDER

This issue of the Octofoil has been used for years to remind our members that "dues are due." The caption "Is your Octofoil addressed with tell-tale red ink?" was used for years but now with our new computer mailing arrangements this is not possible. Instead we ask the members to check their Octofoil especially where their name is printed and above their first name you will find numbers and they will indicate what year your dues are paid up until. The letter L will indicate Life member — H will indicate Honorary member and 1994 will let you know that your dues are payable now.

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

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

60th Inf. Co. F. & Hdq. Co.
THEODORE PRESTON
P.O. Box 362
Walworth, WI 53184

We are down in Florida with the snow birds. Got a late start this year, arrived the 1st of December and will stay till the end of April. Can't take the Wisconsin winters any more, must be getting old. So we leave the cold weather to hearty souls like you and Charlie Libretto. You certainly had your share of cold and snow this year.

After 100,000 miles of traveling in our motor home we finally settled for a travel trailer which stays in one spot at Harbor Lakes R.V. Park Lot 53, 3737 El Jobean Rd., Port Charlotte, FL. 33953. The Octofoil is above the front window can't be missed. Always have a can of beer or a cup of coffee on hand for visitors.

Dan here is a check for another 3 years of dues. See you at the Concord in June.

Co K 39th Inf.
WILLIAM H. NELSON
371 Scenic Dr.
Steubenville, OH 43952

Hope you and the whole gang had a great holiday season. You have done a great job on the Octofoil and we all appreciate it.

All of us from K Co who knew Vincent Marsh were saddened to hear of his passing. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Dorothy. We want her to know she is still in the family.

Now all of us who attended the meeting in Angola, Ind. on Oct 17 & 18th want to thank the Illinois and Michigan Chapters for inviting us, especially Gordon Anderson for keeping us informed; Tom and Lorna Mickelson from Minneapolis; George and Leola Booth from Jefferson, Iowa; Burleigh Brewer and Lois from Dayton; Bill and Alice Doty from Baden, PA., and myself and wife Vi from Steubenville. These people really know how to set up a Hospitality Room. It was really great and we all look forward to doing it again.

We all have our plans made for the reunion in the Catskill Mountains and are looking forward to it. I still don't have a commitment from Slick Leidendeck to attend the reunion, but will try again.

So all stay well and keep your sight on the Concord.

9th Recon
JOHN BONKOWSKI
19241 Angela Ct
Roseville, MI 48066

Rose had a very close call the Sunday after Thanksgiving. We went to see our grandson play in the Championship game during the Thanksgiving Hockey Tournament. She missed a step and fell head first down the stairway, 7 steps. Ended up in the Emergency Room with stitches in the back of the head, badly bruised back, but thank God no broken bones. It could have been a lot worse. She's recovering but it'll take a little more time.

Our very best wishes to you and all our friends. We're hoping to see you all at the Concord.

Co. K. L. 60th Inf.
JOE KAPPAZINI
24001 Sherman St.
Oak Park, Mich. 48237

"In the Mood" — I'm not going to sing the song, so you can relax. However, my wife and I are situated on the Gulf of Mexico — here to visit our oldest son and his family — and, water of this "size" always stirs memories of "days of yore" — which are always warmly cherished.

Today I was thinking about buddies of mine, Who fought together to insure peace of mind.

For those scattered throughout the world; Who were being driven together to join the Nazi fold!

But, 'twas a fold enjoining tyranny and hate and 'Twas why conflict began; 'fore it got too late!

The despotism of the foe was to be banished,

The well-trained, well-armed foe had to be vanquished!

'Twas a struggle to free man's mind; protect his rights.

Thus it was friendly nations joined hands —

With men, weapons and force nations took a stand.

War was declared! many battles ensued.

Then, allies joined hands and the enemy they pursued.

Destructive battles ensued; cities were shattered, many lives were shorn —

For the tremendous price, 'twas hoped a free world was reborn!

THE OCTOFOIL
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SEEKING

My brother, 1st Sgt. Steven C. Blyshak, was the 1st Sgt. of Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. He was with the unit from 1940 until he was killed in action on July 24, 1994. (St. Lo)

I am writing in hope of learning about the history of the 9th Infantry Division. It has been impossible to locate any veterans of the 9th Division from WW II in recent years. Your name was given to me from correspondence with the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, DC.

I am attempting to learn what medals, unit citation, battle stars, etc., Steve would have been entitled to as well as any information of this company and division combat record to have as a family keepsake. All local library information has been too general. Inquiries in recent years to the Army Records Section in St. Louis indicates no records for Steve due to fire damage, but they did send about 4 medals.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter taken out of Steve's diary of the North Africa and Sicily campaign.

Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

William Blyshak
809 Oxford Drive
Clearwater, FL 34624
813-447-2187

P.S. Editors note. I wrote to Bill Blyshak as I knew his brother well. Also sent him the names of several members among them Gen. Maness and Capt. Jim Leopold who were at one time members of Company G 47th and also knew Steve. The following letter is the reply I received from Bill Blyshak. Just hope that he makes contact with the others.

Dear Dan,

After searching for over 5 years to find someone who served with my brother Steve in the 9th Infantry Division, I can't tell you how much your letter meant to me.

I am most grateful for your kind words about Steve. Steve was a good person — much loved and greatly missed by his family.

And now in 1996 we received your letter! Thank you again for your kindness and your help.

Sincerely,
Bill Blyshak