

College of the Holy Cross

CrossWorks

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

3-1-1996

The Octofoil, March/April 1996

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil>



Part of the [Military and Veterans Studies Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, March/April 1996" (1996). *The Octofoil*. 315.
<https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/315>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the 9th Infantry Division Association at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Octofoil by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.

THE OCTOFOIL

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

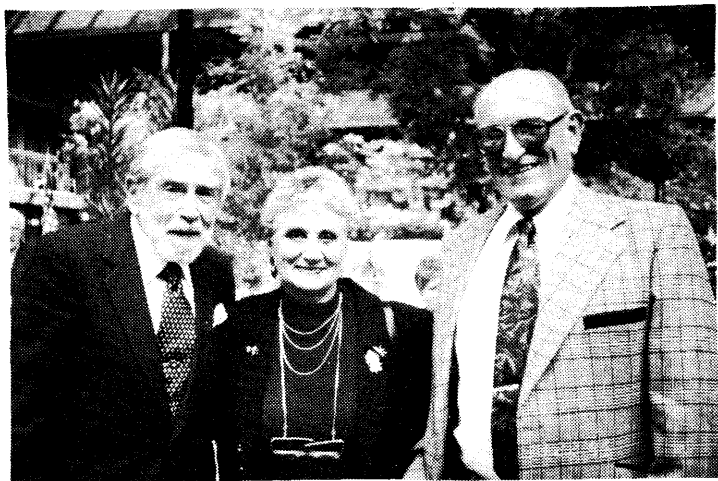
THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXXI Number 2

Mar-April 1996

Ninth Infantry Division June 4-7, 1996 Reunion Program Concord Hotel

Tuesday, June 4		
9:00 A.M.	Registration	Lobby
9:00 A.M.	Golf Outing	Lobby
4:00 P.M.	Board of Governors Meeting	Tower 5
7:00-8:00 P.M.	Dinner	Dining Room
8:30 P.M.	Welcome Party (Beer, Soda, Pretzels, Chips) - Cash Bar	Cordillion
9:30 P.M.	Dancing	Imperial Room
10:15 P.M.	Showtime	Imperial Room
Wednesday, June 5, 1996		
8:30-10:15 A.M.	Breakfast	Dining Room
9:00 A.M.	Registration	Lobby
9:30 A.M.	Women's Auxiliary Meeting	Cordillion
9:30 A.M.	General Meeting	Forum
10:00 A.M.	Committee Meetings	
	Budget and Finance	
	By-Laws	
	Miscellaneous	
	Newspaper	
	Nominating	
11:00 A.M.	General Meeting continues	
1:00-2:00 P.M.	Lunch	Dining Room
4:00 P.M.	New Board of Governors	Tower 5
7:00-8:00 P.M.	Dinner	Dining Room
8:30-10:00 P.M.	DJ Disco (Cash Bar)	Cordillion
10:15 P.M.	Showtime	Imperial Room
Thursday, June 6, 1996		
8:30-10:15 A.M.	Breakfast	Dining Room
9:00 A.M.	Registration	Lobby
10:00 A.M.	Memorial Service	Cordillion
6:30 P.M.	Cocktail Hour	Cordillion
7:30 P.M.	Banquet	Dining Room
8:30-10:00 P.M.	DJ Disco (Cash Bar)	Cordillion
10:15 P.M.	Showtime	Imperial Room
Friday, June 7, 1996		
8:30-10:15 A.M.	Breakfast	Dining Room
1:00-2:00 P.M.	Lunch	Dining Room
	Strike Tents	



George Nicklin, 47th supplies photo taken at the last Worcester Memorial Services. Shown 1-r Walter O'Keeffe, Janet and George Brown, taken before the luncheon.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

After a number of years of working hard to peddle my own books, it's nice for a change to be touting another's. This is *the* book for many members of the Association whose combat time with the Division came in the Fall of '44. It probably started after a long, bumpy ride in the back of a deuce-and-a-half and might have ended a short time thereafter in a searing flash beneath one of the ever-dripping pines of the Huertgenforst. Hail and farewell, sometimes before one even learned which part of the 9th he had joined. Edward G. Miller's **A Dark and Bloody Ground**, (Texas A&M University Press, about \$30) is guaranteed to bring back the clammy shivers of those awful days.

The Huertgenforst is a huge estate of lumber-on-the-hoof climbing up over deeply eroded remnant hills providing the headwaters of Western Germany's Roer River, a major tributary of the Rhine and a potential obstacle to the First U.S. Army's reaching its initial goal inside Germany. Over the years, as an aid to local agriculture and coal mining, the Roer's seasonal flooding had been brought under control by the construction of a series of dams. These impounded enough water so that its sudden release could flood the river greatly and rapidly, thus greatly improving its defensive possibilities. This factor was an integral part of Nazi Germany's Westwall planning. Indeed, the Siegfried Line fortifications ran through the Huertgenforst due south from the city of Aachen, one of its major bastions.

Continued on page 6

LADIES CORNER

Well, it's April, the sky is blue, the sun is shining, I saw a Robin Redbreast last Thursday, and today I actually feel like writing a column. It won't be much of one, just bits and pieces — like: Have you sent in your reservation for the Concorde in June yet? Do you have your Pollyanna gift bought yet? Do you have a nomination for a donation to a Veterans' home/hospital? Are you a member of our Auxiliary yet? Do not mail me your answers, just do it please! As for myself — all is fine here at the Taubners, Joe and I are set for the Reunion and hope that we have a good showing of Company B, 47th people, at least more than the 6 from last year. I also mailed in a nomination for the Veterans Administration Medical Center on Kingsbridge Rd in The Bronx, New York, which has a Spinal Cord Injury Patient Computer Laboratory. It bridges the gap between physical disability and the outside world. Doesn't that sound worthwhile? Think about it and we will vote on it in June. Well, that's the end of my bits and pieces. Take care and we'll see you in June!

Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

Florida Chapter Ladies Auxiliary News

Kevin Billon was our chef at the New Orleans school of cooking. He demonstrated the creole cooking techniques as he went along, and kept us laughing with his humorous stories.

It was a most unusual event and all present really enjoyed it. We were served lunch that Kevin cooked. It was wonderful and different from our every day meals.

The ladies of the Florida Chapter wishes to thank each and everyone from the other chapters that helped to make the cooking school a big success with your presence. We had fun and hope you did also. Thank you for being there.

Lila Stansell
President of Ladies
Auxiliary
Florida Chapter
217 River Beach Dr.
Ormond Beach, Florida
32176

EDWIN H. LUSK
131 Auburn Rd.,
Indian Springs, AL 35124

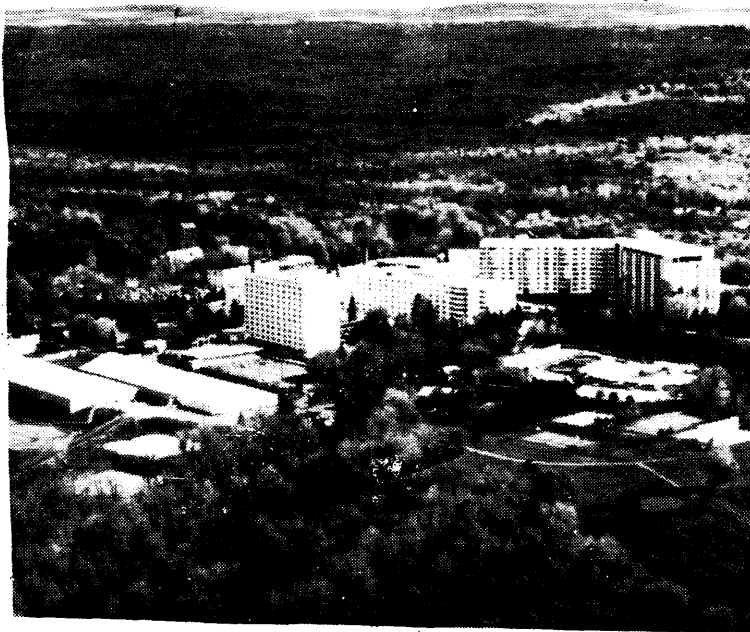
I need a pair of 60th Inf. crossed rifle insignia. Please let me know where I can order a set. A used set would be fine.

Thanks.

Edwin Lusk

P.S. The above insignia will go on my old uniform which I am donating to the National Infirmary Museum at Fort Benning, Ga. Also three other items.

New York Site for Reunion



THE CONCORD RESORT HOTEL WELCOMES THE OLD RELIABLES to the 9th Infantry Division Association 51st Annual Reunion, June 4-7, 1996

As one of the snowiest winters on record in the Northeast melts away to the coming of spring, the lush green hills and woodlands of the Catskill Mountains beckons 9th Infantry Division Association comrades to the world-famous Concord Resort Hotel. Located on beautiful Kiamasha Lake in New York State the 1996 reunion headquarters is ready to receive Ninthmen, ladies, and guests with outstanding accommodations, gourmet meals, varied activities and star entertainment.

The Greater New York Area Chapter, your host for the 51st Annual Reunion, and the Concord, have worked diligently to make your stay pleasurable and memorable. Besides fun and camaraderie this reunion promises to have one of the most debated renewed issues placed before World War II members — the acceptance or non-acceptance of 9th Infantry Division Vietnam Veterans for membership.

The Memorial Service for our 4,581 buddies lost in WWII and those who have since left us will be honored in a special and moving ceremony.

If you haven't made reservations to attend yet, call the Concord immediately at 1-800-431-3850, and hopefully, you will be accommodated. Rip Van Winkle's long sleep is about to end. On June 4, 1996, Rip will fully awaken to the tumultuous arrival of the Old Reliables to the 51st Annual Reunion in his Catskill Mountain abode — greeted by your host — the Greater New York Area Chapter. Come one, come all!

TRANSPORTATION

Public:

Shortline Bus Company (212) 736-4700.

Van Service: 800-759-5548.

Limousine Service: 800-762-6212.

Private:

From New York City and Metropolitan Area: (2 hours) George Washington Bridge to New Jersey Palisades Parkway to New York Thruway North.

Proceed on Thruway Exit 16 and proceed on Rt. 17 to Exit 105B. On Route 42, follow signs to the Concord.

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

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

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

From Boston and New England States: Mass. Turnpike to Sturbridge Exit. Route 86 South to Route 84 West. Proceed to New York Exit 4W to Route 17 Quickway West to Exit 105B (Kiamasha 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.

Deadline for next issue July 20th

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
Cherry Hill, NJ
Michael Belmonte
Oak Park, IL
James P. Driscoll
Holiday, Pl.
Herb Olsen
Marson Mills, MA
1998
Ed Hopkins
Metuchen, NJ
Ken Meyer
Belton, TX
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 exclusiv-
ely 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 2 Mar-April 1996

Publication #402820

**NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

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

Street Address.....

I was a member of:

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

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year.....\$10.00 ☐

Sustaining Member.....

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund..... ☐

THREE-YEAR MEMBER.....\$25.00 ☐

Life Membership.....\$75.00 ☐

Ladies Auxilliary Member.....\$ 2.00 ☐

Decals.....50-each

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Greater New York	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington, D.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>
New England	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas Gr South West	<input type="checkbox"/> California Chapter	<input type="checkbox"/>

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:

Mrs. Anna Hatrak - In memo-
ry of husband, George, 47th
Inf. I Co.

Herbert Stern - In memory
of John Lewis and Jimmie
Richards, 9th Med. Bn.

Thomas Delli-Priscoli, Jr. - In
memory of Frank Lovell, A
Btry. 60th F.A. Bn.

Victor Larson - In memory
of Sgt. Grill and Pvt. Rollow
K.I.A. Feb. 27, 1945.

Mrs. Catherine Palley - In
memory of husband, Albert,
47th Inf.

Glenn Smith - In memory of
James A. Johnson, 47th Inf.

Ray Schmader

Mrs. Hugh Capella - In memo-
ry of husband, Hugh, K Co.
60th Inf.

Chester Jordan

John Bonkowski - In memo-
ry of Matt Urban, 60th Inf.

Ernest Micka - In memory of
Bill Davidson.

Joseph Killen - In memory of
his cousin, George Johnston,
G Co. 39th Inf.

Eugene Terry

Robert Miller

Albert Hasson

Chalmus Cochran - In mem-
ory of Walter Sommons, C
Co. 9th Med. Bn.

Henry Santos - In memory of
Art Schneider, Hdqtrs. 39th
Inf.

James Burke - In memory of
Edward Pictroski, Hq. & Hq.
2nd Bn. 39th Inf.

Marv Levy - In memory of
Norbert R. Gorny, Willie L.
Bobbitt, Robert Dickey,
Humphrey Rini and Walter
Slover.

47th Inf. I Co.

MRS. ANNA HATRAK
64 Holt Ave.
Trenton, N.J. 08619

The enclosed check is a
donation in memory of my
husband George M. Hatrak,
Co. I 47th Inf.

I enjoy your magazine
every time I read it.

I miss George a great deal.
Thank you.

47th Inf.

MRS. CATHERINE M. PALLEY
519 South Main Street
Zelienople, PA 16063

Enclosed is a small dona-
tion in memory of my hus-
band, Albert Palley.

Thank you for sending me
this publication. I read it
carefully (especially the let-
ters) to see if I can recognize
a name or two my husband
may have mentioned. He
was in the 47th Infantry
when he sailed to North
Africa.

Your paper is excellent.

**THE 9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
51st ANNUAL CONVENTION**

TUESDAY - FRIDAY • June 4 - 7, 1996

It's Everything, And Then Some



The
CONCORD

**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 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.

Attention All Duffers

The annual get together of the duffers will gather on
Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Lobby of the
Concord Hotel where Marty Gross co-chairman of the
reunion will lead the hackers into battle. At our age the
Concord Hotel has a sporty Nine hole course (for free) at
the main entrance to the hotel. The other two 18 holers
"The Monster" charges \$80.00 weekdays (includes cart

which is a must) and the International has a charge
also. Reservations are required. As an old hacker myself I
would suggest that we use the "Freebee" and not wear
ourselves out before the reunion begins? Our members
can make "Tee Off Time" at arrival at the Hotel, or see the
Chairman Marty Gross, for Tee off times.

Company F 47th Infantry

Last month we lost another of our gallant warriors to the ravages of old age. Doris Williams called me from Arizona to inform me that her beloved Charlie passed away. It seems that it was but a few years ago that Charlie and Doris sold their Michigan home along with their vacation cabin to move to Arizona for what they hoped would be many care-free retirement years. Unfortunately the end came sooner than they had expected. Charlie had the good fortune to have those who loved him most nearby during his last years. Doris and their two lovely daughters brought much happiness these last few years. It will seem strange not to see him in our CP anymore. He certainly was a faithful member of our CP group, and he'll be sadly missed.

Speaking of our CP, Danny assures me that everything is in order for us at the Concord. We should have a good turnout. I'll be picking up Earl Wilkey in Newark the day before. Lucy and I will be driving Paul Giarriaputo to the Catskills. Lou and Marion Slatnick have made their reservations as has Jack Finnigan and Herb Hoepfner and Charley Rochelle. I know the DeSandys will be driving up from their retirement home in Southern Pines. Hopefully the Schmaders, the Chuck Jones's and the Felton Jones's will all be in attendance. George King will be sharing a room with his grandson. Jan and George Brown are ready to make the trek from their Virginia love nest. Lucy and I are looking forward to seeing all you good people in June.

I hope you all weathered the dreadful winter we had all over the country (except in Southern California) and are renewed in health and spirit. Except for a two week spell when I suspected that I had pneumonia and was headed for the Happy Hunting Grounds, I find myself reasonably healthy and able to dodder about.

Drive carefully on your way to the Concord. I'm sure that you'll find the facilities and the food first rate.

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

B Co 15th Engrs

ERNEST MICKA
114 Spring Garden Dr
Louisville, KY 40218

Please accept the enclosed gift in memory of Bill Davidson.

It was shocking to hear of his passing away since it was a short time after his letter to you appeared in the Octofoil. He seemed to be in pretty good spirits at the time.

The Concord reunion is fast creeping up on us and we're looking forward to another great time with our friends.

It sure would be nice to see a few new faces show up — to sort of fill up the ranks vacated by Bill D and Tony M.

So come on you guys — surprise us — we'll have a helluva good time.

GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER

Well, folks, the Greater New York Chapter finally had a meeting after a 2-month hiatus, due to a heavy snow blitz in January and February! This scribe is happy to report that sixteen Old Reliabilities attended our regular 3rd Friday-of-the-month meeting on March 15 at the Masonic Hall, 71 W 23rd St, NYC. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m., chaired by our 1995 prez Charlie LiBretto. After the usual opening pledge to the flag, Charlie, who had been holding the weighty gavel for 3 months beyond his office tenure, was relieved to finally present the mighty hammer to his 1996 successor Prez Marty Gross during the 1996 Installation of Officers ceremony — which had been postponed since January.

Change of Guard

Officiating at the transfer of office was our resident chaplain George Apar, who eloquently discharge the former president and his board of officers with his inimitable praise from an infinite vocabulary. Former Treasurer Charlie Vandermark, who, also had taken over, temporarily, the secretarial duties of Art Schmidt for the last few years, during Art's bout with his leg injury, was lauded for his double duty. Apar then installed President Gross and his board of officers in the Greater New York Chapter. Members applauded former prez LiBretto's efforts on behalf of the chapter (considering Charlie had successfully avoided the presidency for 50 years).

Besides President Marty Gross, the other 1996 officers installed are: 1st VP Jack Holuboff, 2nd VP Al Lipton, Secretary Arthur R. Schmidt, and Treasurer Al Zenka. Dan Quinn would continue as Judge Advocate and Tony DeRobertis as Sgt. of Arms. 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 are Al Zenka and Adolph Wadalavage. George Apar continues as resident chaplain.

Other business included reports by reunion committee co-chairmen Marty Gross and Al Zenka that all was going well with plans for the 1996 51st Annual Reunion at the Concord Hotel.

Past Presidents Nite

On Friday, May 17, we will have our Past Presidents Night to honor those dedicated Ninthmen who have served the chapter.

Memorial Service

On Saturday, May 18 (Armed Forces Day) we urge members to attend the annual Memorial Service for our 4,581 fallen comrades of WWII and those who have since left us. Services will be held at the Long Island National Cemetery on Wellwood Avenue, Farmingdale. We will assemble in the parking lot at 10:00 a.m. and march to the main ceremonial area where the service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Following services we will meet at Bethpage State Park for a picnic barbecue lunch provided by the NY Chapter.

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.

Members also attending the March 15 meeting not mentioned above: Al Eisen, Marv Levy, Al Lubrano, Joe Rzesniowicki and Hermnio Suarez.

Your host, the Greater New York Chapter, looks forward to meeting all Ninthmen at the 51st Annual Reunion of the 9th Infantry Division Association at the Concord Resort Hotel, June 4-7, 1996!

TEXAS & GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

At the regular meeting of the Great Southwest Rotary Club on November 8, 1995, John W. Miller, Rotarian and former President of the 9th Infantry Division Association, chaired a salute to veterans.

Assisting from the 9th Chapter were Kenneth Meyer, Reverend William "Dub" Lynch, Robert Burky and Gordon Schneider. The invocation was delivered by Reverend Lynch and the Pledge of Allegiance by Ken Meyer.

The walls of the meeting room were decorated with five by nine foot American flags and over forty posters from the National Archives and the Department of Defense. On each of the luncheon tables were reproductions from the December 8, 1941 edition of the NEW YORK TIMES announcing the start of World War II with Japan, and the May 8, 1945 edition declaring the end of the war in Europe.

On tables around the room were World War II uniforms, helmets, and medals. Ten infantry rifles, carbines, pistols, a sub-machine gun, and a 30 cal. light machine gun were displayed.

Narrations were given by John Miller for the Army and by Rotary Club members who had served in the Air Corps, Marines, and Navy during World War II.

Ken Meyer and Willard Norris, President of the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter, attended the Annual Infantryman's Ball February 24, 1996, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. They were the house guests of Col. Ed Thurman, the CO of the 3rd Bn 47th Inf at Fort Lewis, Washington, from December 1988 to December 1990. Warrant Officer Willard Norris (Ret) and Command Sergeant Major Ken Meyer (Ret) should be proud they can still fit into their dress blues.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTERS

NEW MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: The new Florida Chapter Membership Roster dated April 1, 1996 was prepared and sent to all members by William Fleming. Sec. Bill did a fine job in up-dating and compiling names for this project. However, there are always some changes whenever a new roster is printed and this one is no exception. Please note the following on your copy:

Coleman, James C. Deceased. (Note from his son to Bill Fleming).

Phillips, Lester - Change address to read: 245 Wildwood Dr. Box 21 St Augustine, FL 32086.

Richards, Jean - Add "West" to 1662 Pierson Rd West.

Varco, William - Add an "e" to Varcoe.

Please send any corrections, deletions, or additions to William Fleming, 7861 Prayer Rd West, Jacksonville, FL 32217 or phone: 904/733-1877. We need your input to keep our records current and to up-date future rosters.

Anyone wishing an extra copy of the roster, please send \$1.00 and a 32¢ postage self addressed #10 (large) envelope to Bill Fleming.

THE ITALIAN SOPHIE TUCKER RETURNS: Those members who attended the November 1994 Florida Chapter mini-reunion at the Ramada Resorts Hotel in Daytona Beach were delightfully entertained by Angie Tereigino who bills herself as the ITALIAN SOPHIE TUCKER. . . . and she is truly a wonderful entertainer. She is coming back at our November Meeting to be held at the Holiday Sunspree Resort in Daytona Beach and will perform on Saturday night, November 23, 1996. If you enjoy laughing and a good time, you should make every effort to attend this function. Any National Association member who may be in Florida during our meeting time and would like to attend, please contact Emil De Donato, 3650 S.W. Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431 for the Fact Sheet which will be mailed out approximately 6 weeks prior to the Fall Meeting. More information regarding our Fall Meeting will appear in other issues of the OCTOFOIL.

THE VIETNAM ISSUE: During the January 20, 1996 Florida Chapter Officer's Meeting in Daytona Beach, all the officers agreed to allow the veterans who served with the 9th Division in Vietnam to join the National Assn. We urge all members who plan to attend the National Reunion this coming June to consider this issue seriously. We firmly believe that our Association will profit by the addition of the Vietnam veterans who fought and died for the same cause as we did.

NORRIS GRAY COMMENDED: One of our very own Florida Chapter members, Norris Gray of Melbourne, Florida has played a key role in bringing about the remarkable performance of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space Program. Norris Gray has been intimately involved with everything leaving the ground since the earliest days at the Kennedy Space Center. His job involves fire, crash and rescue responsibilities for the Space Shuttle. Norris Gray has completed a round-the-world trip to inspect bases pinpointed as possible emergency landings sites should the mission had to abort. He is likely to be found in Rota, Spain, Hawaii, Okinawa or Japan as he is in his office at Kennedy Space Center. He has instructed fire departments all over the world in the techniques of saving lives of the space crews, minimizing damages, applying safety conditions in the event of a shuttle accident.

As Norris stated in answer to the question: "What does this mean to local fire departments?" . . . he answered "Some day they could find themselves covering an emergency landing of a Space Shuttle at their local airport. Because of this, we are now exploring methods of disseminating information on extricating astronauts dealing with exotic fuels involved and 'safeing' the Orbiter." The Florida Chapter is proud to have such a loyal and devoted member within our ranks.

FL CHAPT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS: Sec/Treas Audrey De Donato reports that Ruth King wrote her stating that her husband Irving has been ailing since last August. He has been to the V.A. Clinic in Tallahassee several times for diagnostic tests. Irving was sent to the V A in Gainesville where he was diagnosed as having hip and spinal arthritis. Since taking his medication and doing his exercise therapy, Irving is feeling much better. His wife Ruth went on to write that Irving does most of the shopping again, goes into Tallahassee and Monticello and starting to do some yard work. We hope and pray that both Ruth and Irving King are okay to attend our November Florida Chapter Meeting.

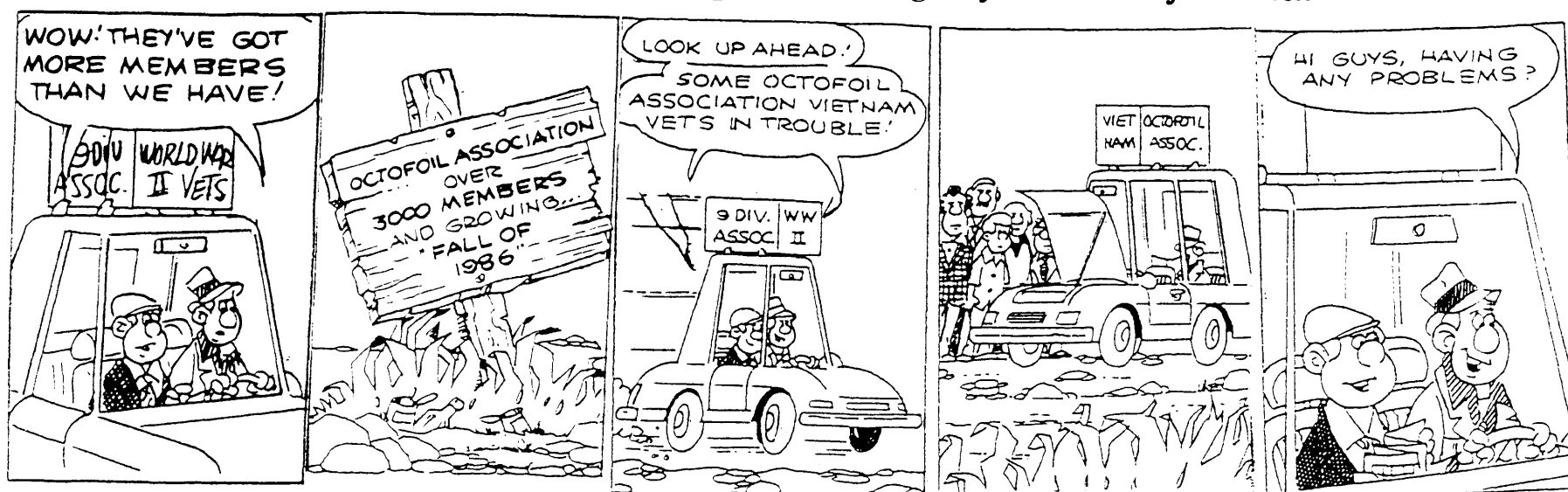
Helen Mizell sent a post card to Audrey stating that her husband Willie developed a blood clot in his leg. Although Willie is not a member of the Florida Chapter, he showed great interest in our chapter. He also soldiered with Emil and usually attends the National Reunions. They will not attend the coming June Reunion but might make our Chapter Meeting in November. (Writer's note: Get well soon Willie. . . we miss your funny jokes).

Emil J. De Donato
3650 S. W. Mosswood St.
Dunnellon, FL 34431
352/489-4070

The next Texas & Greater Southwest Chapter meeting is tentatively scheduled for October, 1996, in Shreveport Louisiana. This date was selected so as not to conflict with the forthcoming national meeting in New York.

Gordon Schneider

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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Moving right ahead 51 years, we're coming down to the moment of truth on the Vietnam membership issue. This is the final **Octofoil** before we meet at the Concord for a vote on it. I believe that both sides have had full opportunity to express their views on the matter and I only seek to add one thought. The last time we went into the question, at Fayetteville in '92, I was shocked at the final tally because there were more eligible voters present and sitting on their hands than the total number of those voting either way!

Since that time, when I've run into those who admitted to their Fayetteville fence-sitting, the most frequent alibi offered went like this: "I wanted to support you, Red, but my old buddy so-&-so was violently opposed and when I thought back about so-&-so's many years of faithful service to our Association, I couldn't go against him so I didn't vote."

I guess that was supposed to make me feel better, but it didn't. Also, I realize "the more things change, the more they remain the same." The weepers and wailers are still out there and I'm determined not to deprecate their past deeds and contributions. I would only ask what they'll be able to do for us tomorrow. This is not a contest of personalities but whether our Association is to have a future. I hope you will vote "Yes" on the question of allowing our younger brothers in arms to join our organization. They can make us sing again!

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

Co. E & G 47th Inf.
JAMES E. LEOPOLD
Dear Dan,

I don't know that "Red" Phillips needs anyone to speak for him, but it seems to me that SOMEONE should respond to Henry Santos' scathing (and Mike Belmonti's far less critical) remarks about Red's efforts to open the association to Ninth Division soldiers who did not serve between 1941 and 1945.

I, myself, have "waffled" back and forth on this issue because I can see merit to both positions. After all, most of us lucky enough to have gotten this far in life are getting towards the final date and some would like to see the memories of our actions carried on after we leave. Maybe younger members would do this for us.

But why in the world would Henry blast "Red" the way he did?

Although we both ("Red" and I) served in the 47th for most of the war, I didn't meet him until the association started having reunions after the war. In the years since then I have learned that "Red" served in the third battalion of 47th as a platoon leader and served well. He must have served well because, at the war's end he was asked to remain in the army and only officers with fine records were so honored. In later years of service he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, which isn't an easy thing to do!

As far as our association is concerned, in my opinion NOBODY has done more for the life of the group than "Red" Phillips. Henry's remarks about "Red's" motives in researching history for his three books are way out of line. You can't write and publish books like those for profit, unless your motive is to make about a dime an hour for the time spent!

By the way, I've bought and read all three books and, although I don't agree with everything he writes, I strongly applaud the huge effort he made to put in print more about the "NINTH" than anyone else. I wonder if Henry has read these fine books.

How can anyone in our age bracket get so upset? After all, we all want to be happy with each other over these last few years.

I THINK "RED" DESERVES AN APOLOGY FROM HENRY!

As always I send my best regards to you and our wonderful friends of the Ninth. Marge and I look forward to seeing you at the Concord in June.

All the Best,
Jim Leopold

In case you forget, I served in the 2nd Bn, 47th Inf. for 32 months!!

If you are going to attend the business meeting on Wednesday (at the reunion) don't forget to carry your membership card for the vote that will be taken. The committee wants to be assured only card carrying members will be permitted to vote.

Mr. Henry R. Santos
Rd. 9811 N. Connechusett
Tampa, Florida 33617
Dear Henry:

I have read, and re-read your vitriolic letter in the recent Octofoil.

Henry, Red Phillips needs no defense from me but I feel compelled to remind you of a few things. I hope your mind, which seems so clouded by anger and hatred, will settle down and consider what I am writing.

What do you mean by "Johnny come lately?"

I first met Red Phillips in Schevenhutte, Germany in the autumn of 1944. He was a first lieutenant at that time and was a seasoned warrior veteran of all the 9th Inf. campaigns since the landings in North Africa! How can someone who served with the Ninth Inf. Div. throughout the war be deemed a "Johnny Come Lately?" Red went on to serve more than twenty additional years as an officer in the J.S. Army! "Johnny Come Lately?"

I was present when the issue of admitting 9th Inf. Div. Vietnam vets to the Association was voted on at the Fayetteville, N.C. reunion. I was very surprised that many members at that meeting did not vote! This statement by you that a majority of the members are against letting Vietnam vets join the Association may not be accurate now, if it ever was. If they don't vote we will never know, will we?

If you have done more than Red Phillips for your country and the Association I am certainly not aware of it.

One thing I am certain of however: I have never heard Red Phillips speak evil of a brother-in-arms and that, in my opinion, sets him above you and your tirade.

I pray that your heart may be cleansed of its bitterness and that we can all consider this proposal to admit Vietnam vets as rational adults.

Sincerely,
Willard Norris
CW 4 Usa Ret
504 E. Kerr St.
Burnet, TX 78611-2608
Pres. Texas Chapter
9th Inf. Div. Assn.

Co I 39th Inf
DONALD E. LAVENDER
2913 49th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Gentlemen:

It troubles me, as a veteran of the 9th, that there are some among our Association who resort to innuendo and name calling because of a disagreement. I refer to one of the articles in the Aug-Sept-Oct issue.

All of us fought side by side with a pride that has endured for well over 50 years. All who know the Ninth and its enviable combat record respect it and those who made that record. At a time when all organizations are struggling for membership, we certainly don't need personal animosity to add to the problems.

Not long ago, I was some 1500 miles from home when a man I had never met recognized the Ninth patch on my cap and called out - "old Reliables". I enjoyed a brief and pleasant visit with him and learned that he had been a Lieutenant in the Ninth in Vietnam.

We may have some die-hards that feel we should keep the Ninth Association to ourselves (WWII vets). That attitude completely overlooks the possibility that our 9th comrades who wore the OCTOFOIL in Vietnam may be just as proud as we. They suffered just as hard and they maintained the good name of the Ninth.

To eliminate them is just as foolish as to say that only those who fought with the Ninth in Africa can belong. Longevity of our Association is only one reason to consider Vietnam Ninth Veterans for our organization. Recognition of their performance in a situation that most of us WW II vets were glad to have avoided is sufficient in itself. They have earned it every bit as much as we.

It's time to cool down

As we enter the home stretch and election day draws near, let us all take a deep breath, calm down and remember that just as in any "blood family", we don't always see eye to eye on issues that conflict with our own but after the dispute is resolved we take a page out of the hockey player, boxer, trial lawyer's etc.'s book. They play/fight, call each other names, insult etc. but after the bell, trial etc. they walk away friends with a handshake and maybe a drink while breaking bread together after the bloodshed. That is the democratic way, the American way. Let's start our nuclear plant cooling down period now and pray that we will not be put through this traumatic pain again.

Henry Santos
9811 N Connechusett Rd.
Tampa, FL 33617-4517
A-Co. 15th Engrs.

Co K 47th Inf.
CHESTER H. JORDAN
1058 West Lakeview Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70810-4641
(504) 769-5407
FAX (504) 769-5407
23 March 1996

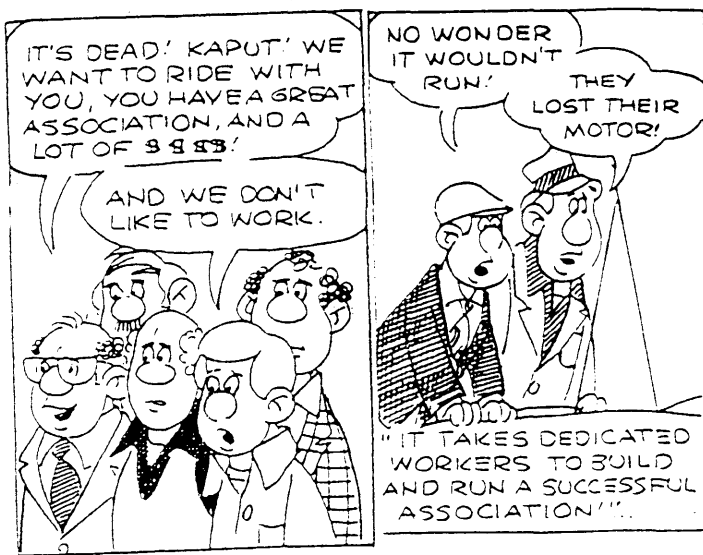
In perusing the Jan-Feb issue of the OCTOFOIL, I was struck by the fact that the preponderance of those supporting RED PHILLIPS position of INUNDATION OR ELIMINATION OF N.I.D.A., are old army men, or married to them. Red was a Light col., Waller was a Col. or a Major, GLEASON was a Major, MEYER was a Sergeant Major, and Mrs. STUMPH was married to a Col. That is a pretty impressive BRASS SECTION to buck. Of course, it was also supported by our old ranking K CO. SHRINK, GEORGE NICKLIN. NICKLIN'S "thoughtful" position seems to be that we owe the Viet Vets a debt of honor for proving that we couldn't whip the Russians. Besides he doesn't believe they would join anyhow.

I must confess that I have never laid eyes on the by-laws of the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN., but I would bet that your army rank does not carry special privileges in the fraternal organization. Perhaps these commissioned stalwarts have a more compelling sense of history, but who ordained them as KEEPER OF THE FLAME? Certainly not the army, it has effectively erased the 9th.

It would seem to me, an outsider of both of these groups, that the men who formed and nurtured this organization over 50 years, know what they wanted and seem to be pleased with what they have. IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT. If you want something else, it's a free country, go and establish one in your own image. Perhaps, only FIELD GRADE at the start.

Deadline for next issue July 20th

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



"ONE
PICTURE
IS WORTH
A THOUSAND
WORDS"
- AMEN

Forry
Talamo
15th Engrs.

Co. B 47th Inf.
Orion C. Shockley
#1 River Bend Drive
P.O. Box 340
Gustavus, AK 99826
Dan Quinn, Editor
Dear Danny:

Perhaps you can find room for this letter if any space is left after the domination of space by our President in the last few issues, which I understand is at the cost of denying some members a chance to have their letters published.

I have been told that I have served in more different companies than anyone else in the 90th Division and therefore might be at least somewhat qualified to express an opinion.

The companies that I served with, in order of service were: 9th Signal, Cannon Company 47th, C. Co. 47th, Regimental Hdqs 47th (where I was Regimental S2), Service Co. 47th, B Co. 47th, and 9th Division Hdqs Co.

Many of the men I served with attend the reunions and it is my opinion that the major reason for attending is to renew old friendships with buddies who shared common experiences and to relive WWII happenings. Not for any other reason — except for a few who seem to have other objectives.

I am a life member and have attended many reunions. As I live in Alaska in the summer — it is a long, expensive trip.

I wonder if I would feel like making the trip if the character of the association was changed. Do others feel that way? If so, it could lead to the breakup of one of the finest organizations I have ever had the privilege of being a member of.

How many times must we reject changing our by-laws to admit others? What is the objective of those who want changes?

I recall Gen. Westmoreland's speech at Washington, D. C. urging us to admit veterans of other wars, and his resigning from our association when we refused to do as he recommended. I thought his action was childish.

Perhaps his action would be a good choice for those who do not like us as we are and have been for over 50 years.

In case you have any doubt — I will vote against any change in our status at the next reunion.

9th Recon
JOHN BONKOWSKI
19241 Angela Crt.
Roseville, MI 48066

We've gone through this "By-Law Proposal Change" in the past and I thought that I would stay "out of it" and express my opinion at the ballot box, at the coming Reunion. Then it happened. The "Jan-Feb." issue of The Octofoil arrived and I could hardly believe the President's attitude about the future of our Association.

If anyone had any doubt as to how "Red" Phillips feels about perpetuating our Association, the answer was all there on the first page in the "President's Corner." These are his own words. "If the Membership turns down his proposal (letting the Vietnam vets in) then I think we should pick a date and place for the '97 Annual Meeting which would be in effect, a wake." What he's really saying here, if he can't have it his way, the 9th Inf. Div. Ass'n. should fold up and cease to exist. Is this what we want to happen just because the President can't have it his way?

The truth is that our Association can go on whether or not the Bylaws are changed. However don't put too much faith in the Vietnam vets' willingness to join and support any organization. Remember what happened to their own Association. Most Veteran Organizations are open to them but there is not much effort on their part to join. For this reason I feel that we should leave our By-Laws as they are. There is no reason for all this aggravation.

Another matter, we never had a problem finding a Reunion site in the past and we'll always manage as long as there's any of us left. I trust that the Good Lord will allow us a few more years. When the time comes that we will no longer be able to carry on, He'll let us know.

One final observation, seems strange that on the first page of our Octofoil, the President advocates the end of our Association if the ByLaws aren't changed and on the last page our dedicated Secretary making his earnest plea for paid up dues so that we can carry on.

Best wishes to you and Marie and keep up the good work. God willing we'll all be together again at The Concord.

P.S. Rose is doing OK and she sends her best regards.

9th M.P.s
WALTER WOLFSON
7115 Summer Tree Drive
Boynton Beach, FL 33437

I was there when the 9th Infantry Division was conceived, and have been a member since 1945, except for a few middle years. Adolph Wadalavage and Kenny Meyer served with me on the 60th Combat Team in the No. Africa landing. I personally earned 8 battle stars, a few spearheads, and some stripes — so much for credentials — Now for some common-sense rationale.

This Association was created because WE shared our common experiences, shared the fears and the tears, shared our laughs and exultations. WE were thrown TOGETHER from all points, went through all the above emotions, and became known as "The Ninth Infantry Division Ass'n" — that's OUR name because WE were the ones who associated WITH EACH OTHER.

Now that we are thinning out, acknowledging that we won't be around for much longer, is it our aim to leave our name to another group of men? That honored name then becomes a mere label for those who fought a different war, with different experiences, with different buddies, with a "label" that doesn't begin to fire up their feelings for that same name.

No, I believe that OUR Association is entitled, as we are, to a dignified ending. It accomplished our aims and purpose while WE were able to fuel it.

At whatever point deemed appropriate (by a general membership vote; not a micro-representation of those attending a convention) then should the Association be dismantled, and not turned over to an alien group, who in another time, in another war, were named the 9th Division by chance.

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.

84th Field
Morrie Rosen
617 Racquet Club Lane
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
Dear Dan,

The rancor stirred up by our family feud on admitting the Vietnam Ninth vets has spilled beyond our association. After Sicily, many of us were transferred to the Third Division that was en route to Salerno, Italy. As a result, we are now members of both societies. When the Santos problem was printed in the Third Division "Watch," we asked what did the Ninth do in Vietnam that was so shameful? Did they desert in the face of the enemy? Was it cowardice? What joins us with the draft dodgers, the slackers and the spitters on our boys that causes us to back away from our comrades? I, for one, think they were magnificent in the face of overwhelming pressure.

In the Third Division Society we do not worry about the lights being turned off in 1997. We still carry nine World War I vets on our roster. The Korean War vets are now assuming leadership roles and the young Gulf War vets can't get enough of our war stories. I do not want the lights turned off for the Ninth because too much of my youth is tied up in its valor. Let us welcome the battle-torn men who fought in Vietnam.

47th Inf D Co.
IRWIN DUPUY
12233 N. Yorkdale Dr.
Baton Rouge, La. 70811-1240

I have been looking for years for members of "D" Co. 47th, to appear in the paper, but maybe it's a good thing I get no more. I am snakebite, I seem to put the English language in such a way as to lose them. I am sorry if that is the case. Anyway I want to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! I have never written, nor spoken to the detriment, nor lied intentionally to anyone.

I am sorry I can't make your wonderful meetings, but I am physically disabled.

ANTICIPATION

Thoughts so often arise; memories don't fade; faces and places the mind readily replays; the Ninth steadily maintains its place — in mind and memory, thus.

Heads a-turnin', eyes alight - Seeking a buddy coming into sight -

Hopefully there is one I know Who fought o'er desert sand and snow!

We'd marched and fought and made our stand!

We sailed the ocean; tread desert sand;

Battled and forced the enemies hand.

Together each shared the trials and woes,

As continued the struggle 'gainst a desperate foe.

Through endless conflict and sometimes seeming despair

'Twas proven that each for the other did care.

'Twas all these things that brought victory home

At a price that was weighed by each heart alone.

Considered now is the price men paid

And the valiant effort each G.I. made

That conflict and discord we'll forever cease

Is the hope of all along with endless peace.

Thus it is that this reunion of minds and hearts

Is what sets the "Old Reliabilities" apart.

For the comradeship that all displayed

Can but have been Heaven-made.

Joseph Rappazini
24001 Sherman St.
Oak Park, MI 48237-1822
Co. K, 60th Inf.

Co. A, 15th Engrs
Robert Hughes
7900 Gayway Drive
Louisville, KY 40219

Dear Dan:

I'm no letter writer but I feel obligated to express my anger at those who for the umpteenth time are trying to ruin our fine association by trying once more to open the gate valve that would break up the Ninth Infantry Division Association of World War Two that you and so many other fine, dedicated members have worked so hard for for so many years. We all owe you and the other dedicated members who have given so much of yourselves more than we can ever repay.

I'm a gambling man and respect the law of averages so if by some miracle the vote goes the wrong way it will be the fuse that sets off yet one more bomb and serve as notice that a move to repeal Red's victory at next year's reunion. Forgive me comrades for presenting this threat though I don't think I'm alone with this idea.

When the time comes that we must turn off the light I opt for Henry Santos' idea for perpetuation but let's not be too hasty and heed Judge Advocate Dan Heller's statement, "we're not dead yet."



Deadline for next issue July 20th

President's Report

Continued from page 1

First U.S. Army (Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges commanding) had the opportunity, but not the foresight, in early September 1944 to bypass both Aachen and the Huertgenforst to seize the Roer River dams from the rear and finesse the flooding problem. After the Normandy breakout, Hodges' First Army had roared across France, covering more ground more quickly than his colorful rival, George S. Patton with his Third Army. Reaching the German-Belgian frontier, however, Hodges grew cautious, careful of his flanks. Looking at that big blob of green of his map, he might have thought back to 1918 and another damp and dreary forest full of German machine guns. In Hodges' view it was no longer time to be by-passing.

Miller notes that the tactical significance of the Roer River dams seems to have been lost on all of the U.S. intelligence moguls except one. On 2 October '44, Lt. Col. Jack A. Houston, the 9th Infantry Division's G2, reported that the Schwammenauel dam and powerhouse were "targets of great importance." Miller states that Houston alone understood the consequences of the dams to future operations and he maintains it was tragic that Houston's comment was all but ignored for weeks.

In the meantime, the 9th's 47th Infantry, by slipping through the forest just inside its edge with the more open Stolberg corridor, managed to pass completely through the Siegfried Line's belt of obstacles, for the most part, unopposed. The Germans had not yet scraped together enough manpower to occupy every pillbox. For their part, once on the far side of the German's prepared defenses, the 47th literally "ran out of gas." The regiment dug in on good defensive positions about the town of Schevenhutte, only six miles from the Roer River.

Once the Americans stopped and dug in, enemy counterattacks of steadily increasing size and ferocity started. Soon, all three battalions of the 47th were committed to the defense of the Schevenhutte "finger." Defense of the "homeland" brought forth a very different German soldier than met earlier. He might be younger or older, lame or crippled, poorly trained but generally dedicated to stopping us right there.

Back southeast of Zweifall, the 9th's 39th and 60th Regiments had plunged into the dark and dripping woods, headed directly for the dams of which Houston had warned. While the 47th had pierced the Siegfried Line with relative ease, men of the other two regiments found themselves in a "green hell," often confounded by the gloom and careful camouflaging of the enemy defenses. One veteran complained to Miller that it was "worse than anything ever experienced before." In ten days, 6-16 October '44, in the vicinity of Germeter, the 39th and 60th gained 3,000 yards at a cost of about 4,500 men to all causes, better than one casualty per yard. Finally wrung out, the 9th Division, less its 47th Regiment, was relieved by the 28th Infantry Division and sent to Camp Elsenborn for restoration.

The 47th stayed in its holes in and around Schevenhutte until 16 November when it was attached as reinforcement of the 1st Infantry Division for its part in the VII Corps offensive which opened that date. The regiment, in its turn, was used and abused on this detail. Names like Bovenburg Farm and Frenzerburg Castle are mileposts of the story. Finally, what was left rejoined the 9th when the Huertgenforst debacle was interrupted by the Battle of the Bulge.

By 1 February '45, First Army was back in its woods, again crunching head on against formidable German defenses protecting the western approaches to the Roer River dams. By now, however, with the catastrophe of the Bulge sinking in, the defenders were about ready to toss in the towel. But there was still time to involve the 9th once again. On 9 February, General Craig was called upon to take over a lagging effort by the 78th Infantry Division to seize the Schwammenauel facility. This job was finally done by units of the 78th, but operating under the 9th's direction and control.

Edward G. Miller has done a wonderful job with his book. His research, (including interviews of a number of 9th vets like Billy Allsgood of F/39, Bob Pettee, Hq 47th, Chip Maness 2/47, Bill Cowan G/60, and Bill McWaters and Chester Jordan of K/47), was meticulous. Miller calls the shots accurately; there was a way around to the Roer River dams. Maneuver had a chance in early September when the 47th led the way. The moment called for the tactical wit to recognize the opportunity authority sufficient to back the play and then dash. It was time for a Patton/Eddy combo, not that of the pedestrian Hodges and Collins.

B Co 15th Engrs
AL FERRANTE
35 Cove Ave.
Framingham, MA 01701

I am writing to inform the Octofoil and friends that Bill Davidson passed away on Dec. 23, 1995 in Florida. Bill was formerly from Cambridge, MA and served in the 15th Engr B Co. from Feb. 1941 to the end of the war.

Until his failings a few years ago he attended and

enjoyed the reunions.

Enclosed is a donation to the Memorial Fund in his memory.

60th Inf. E Co.
JAMES GENTILE
Box 273
Oak Creek, Co. 80467

I'm sending three years membership payment. Received the Nov.-Dec. Octofoil but have not seen any names in it that I recognize so far.

Taps Sounded

Call out or names
as the years go by-
Remember us-
and we will never die

With deep remorse we announce the passing of these friends and comrades.
May they rest in peace.
To their loved ones we extend our deepest sympathy.

Ed Machowski
Med. 47th

Daniel Mazeika
26 F.A. B Bty

Bert Osterhout #
M Co. 60th Inf.

Charles Williams
F Co. 47th Inf.

Joseph Koeppel
Serv. Co. 39th Inf.

Arthur Vollkommer
39th Inf.

Boyd Allen
E Co. 39th Inf.

Richard Kress #
Co K 39th Inf.

Sal Luzzo
Meds. 47th Inf.

William Deme

Arnold Branch #
A Co. 60th Inf.

Victor Sobek #
60th Inf.

Florence Macindol
Wife of John Macindol
A-Co. 60th Inf.

Earl Lees
F Co. 60th Inf.

Howard Waldman
A.T. 47th

Denotes non member of Association

Serv. Co. 39th Inf.
H. H. NISSEN
401 Wallingford Ter.
Union, NJ 07083
Tel. 1-908-686-9497

Taps have sounded for another of our comrades Joseph Koeppel of Service Co. 39th Infantry on April 3, 1996, at age 78. Joe had been in a nursing home for the past 5 1/2 yrs.

Joe was a native of North Bergen, N.J. He served in the 39th Inf. from Jan. 1941 thru to the end of the war with eight battle stars. He was a T/4, in charge of maintenance mechanics.

Joe was my "Buddy" and my best man when I got married in 1946.

Joe's family and I would appreciate if you would list his passing on in the next issue of the Octofoil.

The enclosed check to memorial fund in memory of Arthur Schneider. I purposely waited to see if anyone from the Fla. Chapter would memorialize Art, a really nice guy, Hqrs. 39th.

I had a letter from Ed. Boyle, A Co. 15th Engrs. who responded to a "looking for survivors of the Leedstown," in the DAV magazine. (I missed that one).

Louis Martschinske,
5426 Zealand Ave.
Minn., MN 554--
Henry Santos
9811 N. Connechusett Rd
Tampa, FL 33617-4517

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Continued from last issue

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.

GERMANY

One time when we crossed the Seegfried line into Germany, I went up behind a U.S. tank carrying a full wooden case of TNT with the case just opened on the corners and a pull igniter in opposite corners. There was a steel-domed pillbox about 7'x3' sticking out of the ground. It had about six square port holes. Our tank fired and knocked a big machine gun out of one port hole. The tank fired about 8 armor piercing shells at the steel bunker and all they did was pierce it about one inch. The tank was about 25 yards from the steel pillbox. The tank quit firing, then I went up to the pillbox with the whole case of TNT. I pulled two igniters and ran and got behind the tank. A big blast, but all it did was blow the camouflage off the pillbox. The dust sure did fly. I often think how lucky I was not to get blown up myself.

They also thought I must be an expert with the Bazooka. In England, I had one shot with the Bazooka at a dead tank from ancient history. In Africa, with about 16 of us, they sent us up a mountain of rocks at night. I carried the Bazooka with four shells. When we got on top of that rock pile, the only way a German tank could get to us was if it had wings.

On July 11, 1944, our platoon in France set up a line behind a hedge row. We had all our vehicles with us. About 3:00 a.m. the Germans counter-attacked with tanks and foot soldiers yelling "Hey, Yanks, surrender!" The Germans were also shooting flares up ahead of them so they could see, and it really lit up the area. It started to get light, and we moved another couple hundred yards East. We ran into one of our mortar Plts.

COLONEL GUNN

The Lt. of the mortars showed our Lt. on the map where we were and how he got in there. Our Lt. left the Plt in charge of a Sgt. and he called me over. He said just the two of us were going back and find the 39th 2nd Battalion CP. Why me? I was in the guard house when we left England for missing a bad check, and I have AWOL on my discharge papers. We walked a few hundred yards and came across one of our tanks, it was either knocked out or stuck in the ditch, because it was empty. We walked about another quarter mile and came to the 39th 2nd Battalion and talked to Colonel Gunn.

Col. Gunn told my Lt. to go get our Plt and bring them to the CP. I said, "Who is going with me?" He said, "Go by yourself." Back I went, past the dead tank and got the men. One of our observation cub planes was over head, and the Germans were shooting at it. The tracers looked like they were going right through it. The cub plane dove and picked up speed and got out of there.

I got our men back to the CP. Our Lt. then gave me a bazooka and four shells, and one man to go with me down to the ditch next to the road. I knew I must be an expert shot with the bazooka, because I had fired that one round back in England, before we went to Africa and Sicily. The two of us got in the ditch and we could see the German tanks in the woods across the road. The fellow I was with put his gun down and told me that we don't have a chance if those tanks and German soldiers come across the road. Just then our P47 planes came in low, right over our heads. Each plane had two bombs underneath, and when they dropped those bombs, we got covered with dirt. As the planes were machine gunning the Germans, I thought we were going to get hit. The tracers were just a few yards over our heads. One bomb hit at the bottom of a tank and it rolled the tank several times.

A Sgt. told me that Fran Hartzell and I had been wounded so many times that it would be hard to keep track of them. When a Medic or first aid station puts a patch on you, nobody keeps record. I did get the purple heart when I got wounded on the ship going to Normandy. I also got the purple heart when I had four of our men and twenty mines on a Cannon Co. half track with about a dozen men. It was raining and dark, about midnight. A big shell hit the half track, killed two, and wounded all but two. I wrote to the Veteran's Administration several years ago to see if I had anything else to add on my discharge. A year or so later I got an answer back that told me no. I still have two small pieces of shrapnel in me, but they do not bother me.

Continued next issue

Co. I 39th Inf.

J. C. DAWSON
P.O. Box 622
Decatur, Tx. 76234

I just wanted to let you know that another great heart has stopped beating.

My husband J.C. Dawson Co. I 39th Inf. passed away on March 1, 1996.

He loved his fellow comrades of Co. I like a brother.

And enjoyed getting to meet with them at 3 of their reunions. This after 48 years or more.

B-Co 15th Engrs.

BOB APEL
9424 Harding Blvd.
Wauwatosa, Wi. 53226

Enclosed check for another 3 years and a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Tony Madonna of B Co. 15th Engrs. Hoping you and yours and all 9th Div. members had a blessed Christmas and healthy New Year — hoping to make the 1996 reunion in New York.

K Company 47th Inf.

DARK AND BLOODY

There is a new book out about the BATTLE OF THE HURTGEN FOREST, written by ED MILLER and titled, "A DARK AND BLOODY GROUND." I have corresponded with and had several phone conversations with ED, and I suspect that "BULL SESSIONS" had a good bit to do with getting "K" mentioned. I have not read the book, but my oldest son has read the Jordan excerpts, and RED PHILLIPS wrote to say the Ed had put SHERIDAN back in "K."

Ed is a Major in ORDINANCE, currently stationed at the Pentagon, who seems to be a hell of a nice fellow. I believe that WILLIE and the fall of COMMUNISM are causing him to reassess his chosen profession. The first time I talked with him, I asked if he had found one good reason for sending anyone into the Hurtgen Forest. At that time he hadn't, perhaps he unraveled the mystery before he went to press.

One thing, that both the Americans and Germans found out, and "K" proved time and again at SCHEVENHUTTE, is that the forest loves DEFENSE and hates OFFENSE.

Although I haven't read it, the best book title by far, is one written by a paratrooper from the 82nd. The title: "ITS MY WAR AND I'LL REMEMBER IT ANYWAY I WANT."

K-9 MEN

RED THOMPSON seems to be feeling better as he prepares for his JILLIONTH trip to Las Vegas. You can always use a few more dollars and he could probably use a few more pounds.

I recently assisted him in putting his memoirs in order. They were surprisingly short for an eighty-five year old man, but who's counting. As a matter of fact, he could probably make more money, than in Las Vegas, by suing the US government for putting him in a rifle company OVER AGE. I had several Lieutenants, in their late twenties and early thirties, who came to me and said they were just too old to continue. Evidently the AID STATION agreed with them, because they never returned to "K."

JOE KILLACKEY is still hitting the links every time the snow melts down to a foot. He keeps his summer trim by flying off to Arizona every week or so to play. He keeps saying he's coming to visit me and try his luck at LSU, but so far, all it's been is talk.

He said that CORVINO was having some lung problems. Seems impossible for a fellow who only smokes ten packs a day.

BATTLE STATS

My German historian has a direct pipeline to all American Army records of WW II. Recently he sent me two documents of more than passing interest.

The first was a breakdown of casualties for the 47th Inf. Rgt, from its landing in France to the 30th of Sept. To give you K Men perspective, on the 30th we had been in Schevenhutte for about two weeks.

The list is for the 21 outfits that made-up the 47th and had a breakdown of officers and enlisted men wounded in action, killed in action, died of wounds, and missing in action. To simplify, I have tabulated all as casualties, at least they were not available for duty for awhile. Looking at the bottom line of 163 officers and 2,760 EM, it doesn't seem all that bad for 21 outfits over a period of 113 days. That figures out as 25.8 people per day or 1.2 people per outfit per day. Piece of cake. But, narrow the focus, it looks almost as bad as it was.

The table of organization of an infantry regiment at that time called for 139 officers, 5 warrant officers, and 2,974 Enlisted men. That means the 163 officers we lost was 117% of our allocation. There is no mention of warrant officer loss, but the 2,760 EM we lost in 113 days was 93% of our quota.

To get down to where the rubber hits the road, we'll take the three battalions separately. Each battalion to allow 35 officers and 836 EM.

1st Battalion — 37 of or 106%, 731 EM or 87%.

2nd Battalion — 61 of or 174%, 873 EM or 104%.

3rd Battalion — 49 of or 140%, 954 EM or 114%.

Obviously, all of the specialized companies had fewer casualties than the rifle companies. Even the weapons companies in each battalion ran a third to a half of most rifle companies. The loser of losers was E Company with a total of 337 O&M, second was K Company with 280, and third was F with 228.

One of the strange, and unexplained things was the few MIA's, except for C Company which had 10 and 72EM. The Medical Detachment was second in this field with 10 and 21EM.

I had a disagreement with a couple of guys at the reunion about the top losers in the war. They said the VFW Magazine or some such rag had the 9th, fourth or fifth. My stats are from "Order of Battle-US Army WW II" by Shelby L. Stanton. His list of losers goes like this:

1. 3rd Inf. 24,324; 2. 4th Inf. 22,225; 3. 9th. Inf. 21,922; 4. 29th. Inf. 20,327; 5. 1st. Inf. 19,488; 6. 45th. Inf. 18,521; 7. 36th. Inf. 16,828; 8. 2nd Inf. 16,273.

As I pointed out in BS, I am not sure whether this is a measure of exposure or incompetence.

15th Engrs. B Co.

RICHARD C. McGRATH
2856 West 85th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60652

The Octofoil came today and it was a "Bonanza". I had to blink a couple of times to make sure that what I hoped I saw was really what I had seen.

After all these years of receiving the paper B Co. 15th Engineers had seven comrades sending in contributions, it was hard to believe, but glad it was true. Especially good to hear from Bill Davidson and Frank Rankin after they being A.W.O.L. for such a long time. Also on board is Bob Mandle, Ernie Minka, Bob Apel, and even a picture of Art Schmidt in a group on the front page — mustn't forget Paul Lisa who like Bob sent donations to the Memorial Fund to honor Tony Madonna. Tony will always be remembered as a leader that took care of his men first.

Also, noticed that there were 3 Engineers from A company, represented with writings in this issue. Ron Murphy another class guy who was with C Company of the 15th Engrs. had his usual great write up about the Worcester Memorial which is coming up in September.

I hope all these Engineer comrades is a preview that upcoming Octofoils will be covered with their interesting letters, I sure hope so.

It was a sad note that I forgot to enclose a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Matt Urban, Mike Kauffman, and Lindsey Nelson. Will correct that right now. It's getting harder for me to remember what I forgot!! Ha!!

Thanks for all your good hard work in putting out the Octofoil. A banner year in 96. The Nov., Dec. 1995 issue gets 4 Stars & Thumbs Up.

Co. M. 60. Inf.

EDWIN LUSK
131 Auburn Rd.
Indian Springs, AL 35124

Enclosed are my dues for 1996. I enjoy reading the Octofoil very much and hearing about some of the men I served with.

The ranks are thinning fellows. Keep well.

Div. Hqs.

ANTHONY JAKUBIAK
1324 Sumner Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12309

Enclosed find dues for 96, 97, and 98. I'd like to say hello to my buddies Dave Goodman and Vic Daumit. I have moved from Amsterdam, N.Y. and my new address is above.

9th Recon. Troop

GORDON H. ANDERSON
1302 Jeannette St.
Des Plaines, IL 60018-1509

I wish to renew my membership which is about to run out at the end of this year.

Sorry we did not get to see you at the last two reunions however we expect to be at the Concord in '96.

Was proud of the fact that John O'Grady, a former 9th Recon. Troop member, has served in the post of President of the Assoc.

I'm sure he did a good job and I respect him in taking on this position.

We in the Illinois Chapters are subject to thinning ranks and welcome any new comers who care to partake in our get togethers.

We have had members attend our gathering as far away as Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and would like more to attend.

Med. Det. 1st Bn. 60th Inf. 9th Med Bn.

DR. R.M. HUMMEL
2411 Lommel Lane
Marion, IN 46952

It is now 1996 and I can't think of a better way to start it off than by paying my 9th Div. Association dues.

In spite of the many hard and difficult days and the occasional changes by General Patton, highlighted by his polished helmet, pistols and own style of profane language, some of my greatest experiences, during my 3 years with the division, have proved to be the greatest in my life.

I retired in 1991 after 50 years of medical practice but not everything has been pleasant because of the loss of my beloved wife 3 years ago, but many of my friends have done much to support me in my slow adjustment to a somewhat lonesome day by day living with my good memories.

Best wishes and good luck to everyone.

39th Inf. D Co.

ANDREW BALASCHAK
330 Boyer St.
Johnstown, PA 15906

My records indicate my membership expires in Dec. 1995. Please apply enclosed check to 3-year membership.

My wife 'Ethel' and me had a great time in New Orleans with all the old buddies.

We have made reservations for the 51st Reunion in New York at the Concord Hotel.

Hoping to see you all in June.

K Co. 47th Inf.

JOSEPH J. KILLACKY
1039 Warner Ave. #2
Lemont, IL 60439

I note its time to re-up — so sign me on for three more years — the good Lord willing.

Hope you and Marie enjoyed a nice holiday season.

Had a nice visit with Dick McGrath and Fran just prior to Christmas. They are doing fine.

Last week I visited with Bill Stokan for a couple of hours in Pittsburgh. He looks fine and is doing well. I was in Pittsburgh for the burial of my sister.

Best of luck in 96.

47th Inf. B Co.

ED SARNOCINSKI
246 Estate Dr.
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Another buddy out of B Co. 47th has passed on. Robert Edie, was a great soldier to his country.

Anna his wife, a great one at that, brought Robert to a couple of our conventions, wheelchair and all. What a great pair of troopers. He will be missed by many!

Robert passed away Dec. 16, 95 at age 81. He was an extraordinary person to know and showed exemplary strength throughout his many years of physical suffering.

God Bless him!

9th Signal

EVERETT SPINK
4280 Monte Vista Way
Cosby, TN 37722

Enclosed is check for my '96 dues. As a member of the 9th Signal Co. and the 9th Division Association, I wish to make the following comment about changing By Laws to admit the New Reliables.

It would seem that for lack of something better to do at the convention business session they have to rehash the old resolution adding the new 9th to the Old Reliables.

I do not think much of the way they are solving the problem. I think all dues paying members should be included in the vote.

I would suggest that those who cannot attend reunions because of financial, health or personal reasons be franchised by ballot in Octofoil. This way they could end the vote once and for all and stop the discrimination.

I hope this note starts a new train of thought and remember some survive and others don't.

K Co. 60th Inf.

JAMES F. HART
7 Nenagh Dr.
Wilmington, DE 19803

Well it's that time of year again to wish you and your family the best in 1996 and many more. It is also the time to again thank you and Marie for your dedication to our great Association. Without you and several others I am sure we would have been past history a long time ago.

Happy to read that Cliff Barbanel is heading the California Chapter. He was my CO in K Co. when I was a Platoon Leader Exec. Off. Good man.

All the best to all the gang.



Pat Maisto send this pic of the 15th Engrs (Co A) taken at closing days of the War in Europe. He did not ID any of the men.

1996 Reunion
Concord Hotel
New York

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

MAIL CALL

Co. F., 60th Inf.

John W. Miller
1511 Cochise Dr.
Arlington, Tx. 76012
9th Division Comrades,

If you were inducted in the service 55 years ago from the northeast, I'm sure you'll remember January 7, 1941, Fort Dix, N.J. It was cold, about 15 degrees on the lonely, windy flats of Fort Dix, N.J. My brother and I reported to the Walton, N.Y. Draft Board at 08:00. There, we met Bill Nichols. After processing we boarded a train for Albany, N.Y. and sworn in there and on to Fort Dix.

During processing at Fort Dix I met my cousin, Lyman Emrich who volunteered, as we had. After tests and processing we were assigned quarters, tents (6 men per tent), wood floors, small metal stove in center, folding cots with several blankets, pillow, etc. In order to keep warm someone had to fire stove all night. In our tent there was my brother, Henry, J.P. Nehr, Bill Nichols, Gus Pappas and I believe George Pedrick. We all got acquainted real quick. The next day we were issued G-I clothing (WWI), wrap leggings, shoes and most clothing didn't fit. We looked like misfits for sure.

On the third day we learned where we were assigned. My brother, Henry, Fort Benning, Armored Division. Lyman Emrich and I were assigned to Fort Bragg, 9th Inf. Division. All members of my tent were assigned to Fort Bragg and we all ended up assigned to Co F., 60th Infantry.

During processing we were ordered around by some grumpy old sergeants and 1st Sgts. Little did we realize that two years later we would all be wearing stripes on our sleeves or bars on our shoulders.

By January 1943 I was 1st Sgt., Co. F., 60th, later a 1st Lt. George Pedrick went to OCS and later was assigned to 39th Infantry as a Captain. Gus Pappas transferred to 82nd Airborne, was 1st Sgt. and jumped on D-Day at St. Mere Eglise. J.P. Nehr went to OCS and as 1st Lt. fought in France. Bill Nichols stayed with Co. F., 60th for 8 campaigns. Lyman Emrich transferred to Air Force and was a tail gunner on a B-17.

Fortunately, even though we went where the army sent us, we served our country with honor, were discharged at the end of WW II and pursued careers in civilian or military whatever we felt we were most suited for.

During my service with Co. F., 60th Infantry I made great friends which I still correspond with to this date.

During my 25 years service I've made great friends and served with great officers and men, but none as great as those I served with in the 9th Infantry Division.

**1996 Reunion
Concord Hotel
New York**

Co. E 39 Infantry

BRAYTON P. WILLIS, SR.
17278 105th Avenue
Sun City, AZ 85373

I have enclosed an obituary for John L. Babbitt who was in Battery A, 26th FA Battalion who died on Wednesday, January 10.

John and I went to school together and after graduation my next meeting with John was on a hill overlooking the City of Troina, Sicily. My platoon was on the hill replacing another platoon who had suffered severe casualties. There were three machine gun nests and a German tank with an 88 that had us pinned down as close to the ground as we could get.

A Forward Observer from the 26th Field was only a few yards from my CP. I yelled over, Lieutenant, can't you hit anything? And he in return yelled back, if you think you can do any better, you come over here and give it a try. I crawled to his position and lo and behold, his radio operator was the same John Babbitt.

We had a brief chat and resumed our duties. Two days later, during the final attack, I was hit in the helmet with a tumbling machine gun bullet and managed somehow to survive.

On my yearly trips to my hometown, I heard that John was in very poor health so I made my yearly trip to New England to his home in Berkly, Mass. I was deeply saddened by his death.

Your records will show that he loved the 9th Division and was a subscriber to the OCTOFOIL.

K Co. 60th Inf.

ROBERT H. RUCKER
5055 W. Panther Creek Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77381

Thanks for the special mailing of the last two issues of THE OCTOFOIL. I appreciate your restoring my name to the mailing list as I have been a Life Member since the first time that I learned of the organization. If I need to send more money, let me know as I will only be able to keep up by THE OCTOFOIL.

If any member of K Co. 60th was on Carolina maneuvers with a Pvt., later Corporal Gregory A. Mueller and I believe OCS in August of 1942, please write to his son, Mark G. Mueller, 2820 So. Williams Street, Denver, Colorado 80210-6335. He has some pictures of a Thomas Schwartz and Smith. I have about nailed Smith down as O.T. Smith of the kitchen force. Thomas could have been with the 9th for the entire war.

Another one of our sons desperately seeking someone who might have known his father. It's been a long time and none of us are as sharp as we once thought we were. But, if you can help this young man, he would be grateful. He has some pictures.

Regt Hdq Co. 39th Inf 9 Div

PAUL POTTS
2100 Norton Lane
Bedford In 47421

I am sending \$10 extra for whatever.

80th Inf. H Co.

RICHARD IRWIN
2155 E. Hammond Lk. Dr.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

I had a pleasant surprise last week, in the mail was the November-December copy of The Octofoil, the first time I have received an issue since way last summer when I asked why The Ninth Infantry Division did not have a permanent memorial in Europe and also suggested that before all of us old guys check out, we ought to invite the members of The Ninth Division who served in Vietnam to join the Association.

In regards to the Vietnam veteran's issue, I still see no reason why these fellows who were drafted into this hellish police action should not be accepted into The Ninth Infantry Division Association. At least in our War, we fought it to win it. In Vietnam, nobody knew what they were doing over there.

I didn't realize Red Phillips was President of the Association because I hadn't gotten issues of The Octofoil, so my congratulations to him, I am sure he is doing a good job as he certainly wrote a good book about the Bridge at Remagen.

I had a little health problem last summer (prostate), and couldn't get away, but, will certainly try to plan my activities better this year than last, hopefully, to include the convention in New York State.

A Co. 60th Div. Hdqs.

COL. JOHN WESSMILLER
11 Wequasset Way
Chatham, MA 02683

Enclosed is a check for Dues. Thank you for your devotion to the 9th Division family. Your perseverance has made it possible that we are all still close to our fellow Octofoils.

As I progress with the aging procedure, more and more I realize that the highlight of my life, ages 20-24 was spent with the men in A Co the 60th and in Div. Hdqs. These were years when I experienced the joys, excitement, and tragedies of life. All incidents that could never be attained, but in the 9th. Never can I forget my drivers Hall Foss, Dave Brogner and Ole Kistler. Their deaths are still a part of me, and night seldom passes without my thoughts turning to them and my deep sadness at their loss.

How many men of the 9th share this feeling!! Keep up the good work

16" of snow on the ground and still snowing.

60th Inf

LEONARD A. MANICCA
110 Erie St.
Oswego, N.Y. 13126

Enclosed your will find a check for \$10.00 to get reinstalled to the 9th Division Infantry Association. I was a member up until Dec. 31, 1954, card #552. Also enclosed you will find a copy discharge records and service time.

Thanks very much.

MRS. J. C. DAWSON
P.O. Box 622
Decatur, Tx. 76274

Thank you for the card.

And I'm so glad you are continuing the Octofoil. We both had enjoyed it in the past.

SEEKING

DR. HENRY GOODALL,
M.B.B.S., A.F.O.M.
9 Chetwynd Road,
Bassett, Southampton,
S02 3JA, U.K.
Dear Mr. Quinn,

I enclose a copy of my letter dated 11th April 1991 requesting assistance and information regarding from The 9th Infantry Division Association Secretary at Fort Lewis, Washington, regarding the best way in which I might pursue my enquires to locate former Fellow Officers of my late father, Capt. Henry N. Blanchard Jr., 9th Signal Company, 9th Infantry Division, who was killed in action in Normandy, France on 17th June 1944.

I wrote to them four years ago but was disappointed not to have received a reply. I am now writing to you in the hope that you will be able to help me in my quest.

My father graduated from West Point in 1941. After he was killed, my mother, who was from Winchester, England, married again four years later, to an English farmer. I was brought up in England and studied medicine.

I am in regular touch with my father's former classmates and by their kind invitation attend their four-yearly reunions, the next being due in May 1996. Some of his letters home which were written to my Great Uncle in Indianapolis, have recently been passed on to me. My enquires among the 'Class of '41' from West Point have not revealed any leads to or details of the people mentioned in his letters home from North Africa, Sicily and France, namely a Lt. Arnold, 'Doc' Hackradt and Lt. Hancock. Unfortunately their first names or initials are not mentioned in the letters.

If you are able to help in any way, or are able to pass on to these former Officers (assuming they are still alive and can be traced) copies of this correspondence, I should be most grateful. I would very much welcome correspondence from them.

Also, if the Division has a written record or history covering the period 1943-1944 available to someone such as myself, the son of a Former Officer, I would be grateful if you could advise me of details of how I may obtain a copy.

Thanking you in anticipation of a helpful reply.

Yours Faithfully,
Henry Goodall

C Co. 9th Med. 60th
CHALMUS L. COCHRAN
Post Office Box 6
Cherry Log, GA 30522

Enclosed check is to cover 3-year membership dues and some for Memorial Fund.

How we have let dues lapse is a mystery — sure hope not to miss further issues of The Octofoil.

The Memorial is in honor of good friend John H. Lewis — Co. "C" 9th Med. Bn.

We have enjoyed our Battalion reunions each year but haven't made National the last few years.



THE OCTOFOIL
412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N.J. 07087
Publication No. 402820
Second Class postage paid at Union City, N.J. and at additional mailing offices.
Postmaster: Send address changes to THE OCTOFOIL, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

S

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

60th Inf. F Co.

CLIFFORD PAINTER
140 Hawthorne Rd.
Washington, Pa. 15301

Thanks for keeping the Octofoil alive and giving us all the opportunity to communicate with our 9th Div. comrades. Realize that it is time to get my dues for the next three years sent in before I get the telltail notice. I've enclosed my check.

For F Co. men and wives there is some rather sad news. I had a note from Bernie Wilder's daughter-in-law informing me that Bernie's widow, Laura, passed away Oct. 27, 1995. Bernie and Laura last attended a reunion at Lake Placid in 1994. Then a few days later I had a note from Bill McLean. His dad, Lt. Keith McLean, 746th Tank Bn had died Oct. 11, 1995 and was buried in Arlington Cemetery Oct. 26.

It is always sad to learn of the death of friends who are part of our wartime memories. I hope it will encourage all of you who can to attend the Reunion this summer. Old father time will catch up with all of us in time, even those of us who seemingly have been blessed with good health.

Had cards and notes from most of the F Co. people who have been attending reunions over the past few years. My card to Joe Schidel was returned twice, once from Fla. and once from Ohio, so don't know where or how he is.

Rosalie and I have been enjoying our winter in Fla. and send our sympathy to all of you who have had to suffer through the snow, rain, floods, and cold up north. Hope it will be warm and dry when we get to The Concord in June.

Again I would urge all F Co. me. who can attend the 1996 Reunion — See you at the Concord.

60th Inf. Serv Co.

FRED GOLUB
21 Lenore Ave.
Monsey, N.Y. 10952

Enclosed is my check for dues for 1996.

We hope you are both well and "enjoying" this winter weather.

I am happy to say Selma and I are getting along without too many complaints.

I enjoy receiving the "Octofoil" and look forward to seeing everyone at the Concord in June.