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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, May/June/July 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 3 May-June-July 1996

ANNUAL WORCESTER MEMORIAL

In early March, 1943, Father Connors called us together at the western end of the Kasserine Pass. As we were coming out of the Kasserine Pass at a town called Tebesa, Father Connors called us together and his words were, "Let's say a few prayers for the men we left in the Pass."

Father is no longer with us, but his spirit and devotion to our dead still lingers with us in our hearts and in our minds.

Starting in 1945, Father called us together every year to pray for our dead. We who were privileged to know this great priest feel that his spirit is still with us. His call went to men of all faiths and beliefs. He even encouraged non-believers to join together in this expression of devotion.

We who call ourselves "Friends of Father Connors" will again join together in praying for our dead on Sunday, October 20, 1996, at the eleven o'clock Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Grove Street, Worcester, MA.

We will also remember in our prayers the men who wore the Octofoil, returned with us, and who have now gone on to their eternal reward. A service will follow the Mass at the memorial on the church grounds dedicated to all who served wearing the Octofoil.

We will also sponsor a luncheon at the Holiday Inn, Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA, at 12:30 p.m. We guarantee that you will be on your way by 3:00 p.m.

We invite all members to join us as we pray for our dead.

We have reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn, Worcester. Reservations must be made by yourselves. The phone number is 1-508-852-4000. Reservations must be made by Sept. 27, 1996. Reservations for the luncheon must be made payable to "New England Chapter, Ninth Infantry Division Association," at a cost of \$17.00, and mailed to Thomas J. Boyle, 39 Hall Avenue, Somerville, MA 02144. Should you have problems, please call 1-617-625-8127.

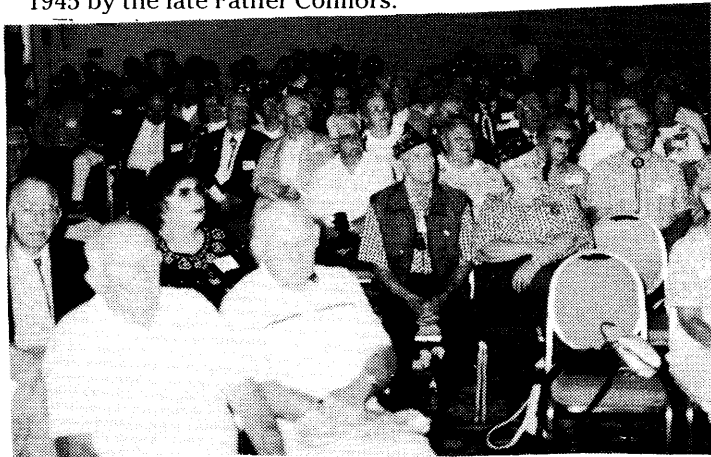
We ask you to join us as we say a few prayers for the 4,581 men we left behind.

Friends of Father Connors,
Fran Maher,
Herb Olsen
Ron Murphy
Tom Boyle

Room 102 will open about 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19, 1996.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULED

The 183rd meeting of the National Board of Governors will take place at 4:00 p.m. on October 19, 1996 at the HOLIDAY INN Motel in Worcester, Massachusetts. The following day the "Friends of Father Connors" will hold the 52nd Annual Mass and Services that began in 1945 by the late Father Connors.



Members gather at the Memorial Service at the 51st Reunion. (Photo by Victor.)



Members of the Association waiting to be called upon for their part in the Memorial Service, held in the Concord Hotel at 51st Reunion. (Photo by Victor.)

LADIES CORNER

Well, at least now I have some items for this column. Such as the recent Reunion in the Concorde, news of our members, our next year's Reunion, and our Auxiliary Meeting! First of all, The Concorde was a most beautiful place to have a Reunion; lovely rooms, good service (the elevators worked!), excellent meals, (we had to have the best waitress of all — Eva, from Hungary and more recently The Bronx, NY.) Of course, we all put on some added weight with those meals they served us. Last but not least, great entertainment.

At some small afternoon and evening concerts in the Grand Piano Lobby, "Leonardo," a blonde curly-haired young musician delighted us with his virtuosity on the piano and assorted instruments, while singing well and keeping us laughing with his patter. In the late evenings, we had full-scale entertainment in a large auditorium, with a singer, a full orchestra, and a comedy act, with a different one every night. The Cocktail Hour before the Banquet on the last night was great, with good food, and again "Leonardo" to play some great dance music! The banquet itself was shorter than usual with Dan Quinn providing most of the evening's humor. Outgoing President Henry Phillips was given a plaque and Al Perna was introduced to us as our Next President. The site for next year's Reunion will be in Louisville, Kentucky, at the Galt Hotel, and will be from May 23-26, 1997. Louisville is also the home of the Kentucky Derby earlier in May.

The Big Raffle prizes were then picked by our Auxiliary President Mary McLaughlin and Treasurer Carol Saunders, with some of the winners as follows: 1) Roberta Porch won the Card Holder, donated by Dr. and Mrs. Gross; 2) Ruth Jordan won a Doll donated by Lorraine Clark; 3) Ruth Jordan's Crocheted Heart was won by Jack Collier; 4) Pat Weddle won a Radio donated by Marline Sanchez; 5) Carol Saunder's Afghan was won by somebody whose name I did not get; 6) Mary Manness' lovely paintings were won by Bertha Carson, Mary McLaughlin, and 3 other people whose names I do not have. If anybody out there won a prize and I do not have their name, please let me know?

Our Auxiliary Meeting went well with a new Secretary elected, as Connie Koneskie (elected last year) has severe eye trouble, and had to resign. Sorry about that, Connie.

Continued Page 3

KENTUCKY

1997

EXCITING LOUISVILLE AWAITS THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

THE GALT HOUSE HOTEL INVITES THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, MAY 22-25

The spacious Galt House Hotel in downtown Louisville, Kentucky, on the banks of the Ohio River has to be one of the best hotels that has ever hosted one of our reunions so read closely ---

Just six miles from the airport, is surrounded by three interstates, I-64, I-65 and I-71.

Guest Accommodations

Deluxe king or spacious standard rooms with two beds. 400 square foot rooms with abundant closet and drawer space.

Two comfortable rocking chairs (true southern hospitality).

Rates

Your military reunion rate \$67.00 (1 or 2 persons). (Regular rates \$95.00-\$105.00). Riverview Parlor suite \$200.00. Local taxes total 12.36%.

Parking

Free garage parking for overnight guests.

Free motor home parking for guests (no hook-ups).

Restaurants and Lounges

3 lounges and 3 restaurants.

Flagship rooftop dining.

Fountain Room all you can eat luncheon buffet \$6.95.

River Grill 6:00 a.m. - Midnight, full service.

LET'S HEAR FROM THE LADIES

Do you have any suggestions, something you'd like to add to the program, to enhance your R & R while the fifty second rerun of "how we won WW-2" gets center stage for the "old soldiers." After all these years, you've earned something special. Psssst, if you have a suggestion passed on to you by your man it's o.k., pass it on, we'll try to please him too. Now, who says we men are "one way"?

"EVERYTHING HAS A PRICE," remember that?

One of the most sought after attractions in Louisville is the "BELLE of LOUISVILLE" won't be available till Sunday, our normal checkout day. We are trying to negotiate a deal that would demand a commitment at least six months in advance. Watch for a further announcement.

Henry R. Santos
Road 9811 N Connechusett
Tampa, FL 33617

CHANGE OF COMMAND



Henry "Red" Phillips is shown handing over the gavel of his office to the newly elected President of the Association Al Perna. (Photo by Victor.)

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

Al Perna
2642 S. Juniper St.
Philadelphia, Pa.19148

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

Pat DeColli, 2nd V.P.
1017 Jackson St.
Philadelphia, 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

1997
Nicholas D'Agostine
Cherry Hill, NJ
Michael Belmonte
Oak Park, IL
James P. Driscoll
Holiday, FL
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

1999
Al Perna
Philadelphia, PA

Charles LiBretto
Paramus, NJ
Phil Emmons
Shreveport, LA
Thomas Hatton
Saginaw, MI
William Shea
Scarboro, ME

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 Number 3 May-June-July 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 Auxillary Member.....\$300 ☐

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 _____ \$3.00

Credit Chapter _____

Taps Sounded

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

**With deep remorse we an-
nounce the passing of these
friends and comrades.
May they rest in peace.
To their loved ones we ex-
tend our deepest sympathy.**

**Mathis Helbach
39th Medics**

**Lester Sparks
39th K Co.**

**Lowell Frederick
47th D Co.**

**Charles Leshak
Co. L 60th Inf.**

**Margarito Sanchez
47th Inf. B Co.**

**Paul Beardon
Serv. Co. 60th**

**Howard Horner #
A Co. 15th Engrs.**

**Keith McLean #
B Co. 746th T.D.**

**John O'Grady
9th Recon**

**Ralph Carci
Hsq. 2nd Bn. 39th Inf.**

**Bill Mooty
E Co. 47th Inf.**

Eugene Jess #

**Angelo Gardner #
Hqs. 39th Inf.**

**James Fite
C Co. 9th Med.**

**M.J. Jardin
L Co. 47th Inf.**

**John Grigsby
Can Co. 60 Inf.**

**Joseph J. Hennessey #
376 AAA**

**Claire Eisen
Wife of Al Eisen 60th Inf.**

**Betty Rinchivso
Widow Angelo Rinchivso
9th Med**

**Mary Murphy
Wife of Ron Murphy,
15th Engrs**

Tip of the Hat

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

Hershel Wood

George Hulka

Mrs. Mathias Helbach — In
memory of husband, Mathias.

Mrs. Walter Landis — In
memory of husband Walter,
47th Inf.

Thomas Harris — In memory
of Melvin Kearns.

Gene Magidson — In memory
of Anthony Ingrassim,
Carmine Bongermimo, Allen
Copley, Peterson, Al Poni (all
C Co. killed at El Guettar),
Peter Gatuso (killed in
Sicily), Chaplain Irving
Tepper (killed in France),
Jack Horowitz (killed in
Germany).



TAPS SOUNDED

John J. O'Grady, the Florida Chapter and the National
Association lost another dedicated member. John J.
O'Grady died at his Plantation, Florida home on July 6,
1996. Katherine, his wife, phoned Audrey and Emil De
Donato a few hours after his demise to inform them of
this sad news. John received a stroke which affected his
left side in November, 1995. Since then he was going
under therapy until recently when he suffered a second
stroke and a light heart failure. The Good Lord thought
better than to have him suffer any longer and so decided
to call him for duty with HIM on July 6th at 3:00 A.M.

John J. O'Grady entered the Army on May 25, 1942 from
Camp Upton, N.Y. He was sent to Fort Bragg in August
1942 and assigned to the 9th Reconnaissance Troop
Headquarters. The 9th Reconnaissance Troop was origi-
nally Cavalry Infantry which had to be retrained to fit the
war's needs at that time. In December 1942, they joined
the main body of the 9th Infantry Division in Casablanca.
John fought with the 9th all through Africa, Sicily, France,
Belgium and into Germany until April 3, 1945 when he
was wounded. He was treated for his wounds in England
and later in Hollaran Hospital on Staten Island, N.Y. John
O'Grady was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and
all the other medals that were associated with the activi-
ties of the famous 9th Infantry Division. Shortly after dis-
charge, John married Katherine C. Rogan. They have two
children, a daughter K. Roberta and a son Kevin. John
worked for IBM for over 25 years until his retirement in
1981.

John presently was serving as the Florida Chapter
President. He also served as President of the National
Association for the 1994-1995 term. John was a hard
working, devoted and an eager human being who tackled
his job as an officer of our organization with zeal and a
feeling of strong attachment. Our heartfelt sympathy goes
out to his entire family. We, of the Florida Chapter, will
miss him greatly. May his soul rest in peace.

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

Mrs. Rose Richey — In memo-
ry of husband Tom, 60th Inf.
H. Co.

Leroy Floriano

Dave Heller — In memory of
Chaplain Tepper.

Chas. McLhinney — In memo-
ry of his brother, Walter,
Frank Petty and John
Trevelise, 47th Inf.

Edward Rickert — In memory
of Howard Horner, A Co. 15th
Eng.

Paul Lisa — In memory of B
Co. 15th Engrs.

John Veraja — In memory of
Jos. Gallagher of B Co. 47th,
Chester Weborg, Shorty
Laterza, all of C Co. 47th and
Alex Thomas, (a Canadian)
also C. Co. 47th.

Martin Gross — In memory of
Claire Eisen, wife of Al Eisen,
60th Inf.

Bill Rybka — To Joe Leski,
the best of luck in the Ninth,
84th FA. Hq. Btry.

Mrs. Pat Morano — In memo-
ry of Robert Edie, B Co. 47th
Inf.

Bill Bongiorno — In memory
of Johnny Murray, Jos.
McKenzie and Fr. Connors.

Louis Prince — In memory of
Tom Clark and Elmer
Anstine, 60th F.A. Bn.

Richard McGrath — In memo-
ry of Bill Davidson, B Co.
15th Engrs.

Lawrence Gannone — In
memory of Tony Madonna, B
Co. 15th Engrs.

Charles McLhinney — In
memory of Bill Mooty, E Co.
47th Inf.

Edward Drabik

Mary Gardner — In memory
of husband Angelo, 38th Inf.
and his brother Arthur, killed
at Pearl Harbor.

G. George Dalessandro — In
memory of Capt. Richard
Witner (comdr) and the rest
of Co. I. 47th men.

Sam Robinson — In memory
of Mary Murphy.

Aldor Cook — In memory of
James Fite, C Co. 9th Med.
Bn.

Sal Trapani — In memory of
Ralph Carci, 2nd Bn. Hqs.
39th Inf.

Ralph Palermo — In memory
of Betty Richivso.

Jerome Sypnieski.

Frank Kowalik — In memory
of James Fite, C Co. 9th Med.
Bn.



Continued from page 1

LADIES CORNER

Yours truly read the minutes from last year's meeting and took them for this meeting, as our new Secretary, Jean Miller was not elected until later in the meeting. We voted not to donate any money to the two Veterans' Hospitals which were nominated. No donations — two years in a row! We had just better do it next year, Ladies, or we will find ourselves not keeping our promise to help Veterans in need! That is, of course my opinion only. We voted also to raise the dues to \$3.00 per year, with no membership list, nor cards.

We had sad news about the death of Idola Keller, Marline's 'Sanchez' husband, and Ruth Lee's husband, Earl. Our sincere sympathy goes out to them and their families.

Gotta go now — Take care and have a good summer. Joe and I are leaving on Monday, July 15th (tomorrow) for a 7 nights Steamboat (The American Queen) Cruise up the Mississippi River from St. Louis to St. Paul, Minnesota. Joe wants to leave the driving to someone else this vacation! (Joe Co. B 47th Inf.)

Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Co. F 47th Inf.
RODGER E. ALSGAARD, SECT'Y
Mich. Chapter 9th Infantry
Div. Assoc.
2834 Wynes Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48602-3730

At our Memorial Service held Sunday, May 19 the following action was taken.

Thomas (Tom) Hatton has been appointed to fill Ed Wisniewski's place on the Board of Governors.

Board member Floyd Hennessey has cancelled his trip to New York because of eye problems.

Bill Martin and Elmer Wagner have been appointed alternates.

The following members have been appointed to represent the Chapter on the committees:

By Laws - Bob DeSandy;
Nominating - Tom Hatton;
Newspaper - Billie Martin;
Finance - Elmer Wagner;
Miscellaneous - Bill DeBrugne.

HELP NEEDED

Office of Veterans Services
of the County of Somerset
New Jersey
P.O. Box 3000
County Administration
Building, Somerville
08876-1262

Veteran Oogie Razzano has asked us to help him locate someone in Co. B 60th REG-9th Inf. Div., who might have known that Oogie was a Prisoner of War for less than 30 days.

He has applied for benefits from the Veterans Administration but he has no records as a Prisoner of War, nor it is entered on his DD-214.

We have enclosed a copy of a newspaper article reporting him as a prisoner of the German government. Also enclosed is a copy of his Honorable Discharge.

Any help you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely
John Havay

GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER

For the last meeting before the summer hiatus, the NY Chapter assembled on Friday, 7:30 PM, June 21, 1996, at the Masonic Hall, 71 W 23rd St., NYC. The meeting was chaired by VP Al Lipton in the absence of Prez Marty Gross who was in the hospital, awaiting a prostate operation after returning from the 9th Inf Div Annual Reunion. (Marty has since had the surgery and, at this writing, is home recuperating. We wish Marty a quick recovery.) The meeting was opened with the traditional pledge of allegiance to the flag and the convocation by resident chaplain George Apar. (George, who also participated in the memorial service at the reunion, had to leave immediately after the service to enter the hospital for a hernia operation. We were surprised and delighted to see our chaplain back at his meeting post so soon.) Minutes and Financial Reports were read, followed by the members applauding 1996 reunion co-chairmen Al Zenka and Marty Gross.

The NY Chapter, your host for the 51st Annual Reunion at the Concord Hotel on Kiamesha Lake, NY, was gratified to receive the many compliments from attending Ninthmen and ladies. The reunion owes much of its success to the two years of effort and dedication of our Reunion co-chairmen Al Zenka and Marty Gross. Al's wife Genevieve did a yeoman's job, both at home and at the reunion, setting up the member-kits and registering arriving members. Also helping were Barbara Levy and Marie Quinn. On publicity, this scribe enjoyed rendering the cartoons and writing the promos for the Octofoil. Special thanks goes to our editor of the Octofoil, Dan Quinn, for publishing timely and pertinent information and being an advisor to the committee. And, of course, much credit goes to the Concord Resort Hotel convention staff for their cooperation and professional follow-thru, and the hotel service personnel who made our stay comfortable and memorable, and the great nightly entertainment — the hallmark of the Concord.

We can now look forward to attending the 52nd Annual Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1997.

After some closing business, meeting was adjourned. We partook of the hospitality table and then headed home after wishing each other a happy summer, until we meet again on September 20, 1996.

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 present at the meeting, not mentioned above Anton Dietrich, Mike Gatto, Vincent Guglielmino, Joe Killen, Emil Langer, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, Gene Magidson, Joe Rzesniowicki, and Art Schmidt.

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



Pictured after the Memorial Service at the Reunion are New Yorkers: l-r: Tony Varvone, Charles Libretto, Mike Gatto, Esta Libretto, Marie Quinn, Phyllis Gatto, "himself" Dan Quinn and Co-Chairman of the reunion Marty Gross. (Photos by Victor.)



Bill Muldoon (top row left) supplies us with picture taken at the Concord Reunion. Shown with Bill are front row: l-r, V. Riddell, T. DeRobertis, R. Stoltz; Center row l-r: F. Gerry, Muldoon, C. Ray, all members of Company L 47th Inf.

Deadline next issue — Oct. 20th

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE N.Y. CHAPTER. The entire 51st Annual Reunion Committee, their wives, friends and members are to be commended for a fine job in putting together a fine Reunion. The Concord Resort facilities were outstanding. The food was plentiful and delicious and the entertainment was superb.

32 members of the Florida Chapter attended this affair. Everyone enjoyed the music of LEONARDO together with his antics at the keyboard. The orchestra directed by Frank Petrocelli played tunes from the 40's and 50's which lured many couples to the dance floor. Every evening at 10:15 the members were treated to a different show in the Imperial Room featuring top-notch entertainers. From opening day on Tuesday until departing on Saturday morning, there was something going on at all times. The Florida Chapter salutes and congratulated the Greater New York Chapter for the hard work in bringing about another enjoyable Reunion.

FLORIDA CHAPTER FALL MEETING. Chairman Philip Berman and his wife Barbara are busy making final food and entertainment plans for the November 21 to November 24 Chapter meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Daytona Beach, FL. The Italian Sophie Tucker has signed a contract to entertain the members attending the Saturday night banquet on November 23rd. Complete details will be mailed out to the entire membership approximately 6 weeks prior to opening day. **PLAN TO BE THERE.** Any National Association member wishing to attend, please contact Phil Berman, 322 Bucknell Drive, Daytona Beach, FL 32118 or phone: (904) 677-7292.

ROSTER CHANGES: Please note the following changes on your new Membership Roster dated April, 1996.

Ret. Gen. Lewis E. Maness — change address to read "2116 Durban Ct., Viera, FL 32955"

Mathias C. Helbach — Deceased (see separate write-up).

MATHIAS C. HELBACH: The Florida Chapter Officers, its members and the Ladies Auxiliary mourn the death of another dear comrade. Matt Helbach, 82 years old, died April 13, 1996. A native of Billings, Minn., he moved to Port St. Lucie in 1972. Matt served as a Tech Sgt with the 39th Infantry Regimental Medics all through Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium and was wounded in Germany. He was decorated with a Bronze Star, the Purple Heart for wounds received in action and other medals. He is survived by his wife Theresa (Terry), 3 sons, 2 daughters, 9 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Our condolences go out to his entire family. Matt and Terry attended several FL Chapter meetings. He will be sorely missed.

POTPPOURRI NEWS: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Vivolo are typical "snowbirds". They spend their winters in Orlando, Florida and when the snows melt up North, they return to their East Boston, Massachusetts home. Lou and his wife are going to make every effort to attend our Florida Chapter Meeting in November. We hope to see you there.

Emil De Donato lost his golf match to Lonnie Maffucci at the Concord golf course during the 51st Annual Reunion. Lonnie has been taking professional golf lessons for the past ten years. He beat De Donato by 13 strokes ... a no-contest match. Emil blamed his defeat because he didn't have his golf shoes on and had to play in his bare feet. A re-match is scheduled for next year.

Norris Gray, an important employee of the NASA Program, has numerous full color reproductions, Payload Manuals, etc. regarding different space missions that anyone can have ... free for the asking. Norris usually brings this material to the Florida Chapter Meetings and also to the National Reunions. This information can be an inspirational and educational opportunity to us adults but more so to our grandchildren. Anyone interested in receiving Space Program material, please contact Norris Gray, 808 Thomas Barbour Dr., Melbourne, FL 32935 or see Norris at our next Meeting.

Manfredi/Maffucci/De Donato Meet. After 51 years after being discharged, Manfredi flew in from California, De Donato drove from Florida and Maffucci came from Darien, Conn. where they met at the 51st Annual Reunion. This came about through the efforts of De Donato who has been trying for years to arrange this get-together. Richard Manfredi and Lonnie Maffucci joined the 47th Infantry as 18 year old replacements in Sicily. They were assigned to De Donato's Regimental Message Center Section. Upon meeting at the Concord, they recognized each other immediately. For the four days during the 51st Annual Reunion, the three veterans and their wives spent most of their time re-living part of the past, showing pictures of their families but mainly enjoying the food and festivities that the Concord had to offer. Upon departing, De Donato, Manfredi and Maffucci promised to make every effort to meet again soon.

Leo Feinstein of Brooklyn, N.Y. also a member of the National Association, wrote asking to receive information regarding the Florida Chapter Fall Meeting to be held in November in Daytona Beach. Chairman Phil Berman has been notified and will be sending complete information about 6 weeks prior to opening day. Anyone from other Chapters wishing to receive this information please contact Philip Berman, 322 Bucknell Drive, Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

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

Illinois Chapter Newsletter

Our meeting in Madison on May 8 and 9 was pleasant but disappointing in the low turnout. We were happy to see Paul and Lorraine Clark who travelled from Indiana. Both are doing fairly well. George and Carol Helm travelled in from Minnesota. We are grateful to Vera Carpenter and her daughter, Tina, who supplied the hospitality room. Also present were Ted Curliss, Howard and Grace Gaertner, John and Delores Bauman, David and DV Heller, Gordon and Marian Anderson and yours truly and Ann. Lew and Murial Gray and Ted and Wanda Preston came out for the day Thursday when we held Memorial Services.

Due to inclement weather, our Memorial Services were held in the Chapel of Highland Memorial Cemetery. (Arrangements were made by Vera Carpenter) Gordon Anderson was Master of Ceremonies. Presentation of the colors was by Ted Curliss and John Bauman. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by George Helm. Gordon delivered the Welcome. David Heller gave the Invocation followed by the recognition of the widows by Lew Gray. Mike Belmonte read a letter from Gen. Omar Bradley dated May 9, 1945 remembering the 4581 men lost in WWII and recalled the men from the Illinois Chapter who have since left our ranks. Paul Clark presented the flowers which were later placed at the gravesite of Mike Carpenter. The closing prayer was given by our Chaplain, David Heller.

After services, all returned to the hotel where we split up — some for shopping, lunch for some and rest for others. We were to meet at 5:00 P.M. to hold our raffle which was won by Wanda Preston. She is now the owner of an indoor electric grill. After cocktails furnished by the hotel, we went to dinner at a local restaurant. A grand time was had by all present and we hope to return again next year. The accommodations at the hotel are excellent for the price paid — complimentary breakfasts and cocktails daily.

CONCORD REUNION

We had a pleasant drive to New York over two days to attend the National Reunion. When we arrived at the Concord, our room was ready and all accommodations were satisfactory as compared with our last trip to the Pines a few years ago. We had a pretty good turnout this year from the Illinois Chapter — The Andersons (Unfortunately Mirian became ill while traveling and they were delayed in arriving. Then Gordon became ill and their trip was cut short.) Baumans, Clarks, Colliers, Griffiths, Dave Heller, Paulis, Sagers and Sallees. We were pleased to see so many of our friends present and all feeling fit and hearty.

ENTERTAINMENT — OUTSTANDING

The entertainment at the Concord was excellent. We were fortunate to witness the talents of Leonardo, the one-man band, daily and at the Welcome Party. There were signers and comedians nightly which were outstanding. Amazing how many people stayed up so late each night.

The Memorial Services were excellent but lengthy and the Winged Victory Singers were a pleasure to hear as in the past.

Our congratulations to the New York Chapter for a successful reunion and the New National President, Al Perna. We are looking forward to the Reunion next year in Louisville, Kentucky at the Galt House Hotel May 23-26, 1997. That will be a six hour drive for the Illinois members.

Our next get together will be a cookout at the Gaertners in Wisconsin on August 12th. All are invited to enjoy Howard and Grace's hospitality. They will furnish the meat for the grill and everyone will be bringing side dishes. Our secretary, Gordon Anderson, will be sending out notices.

At this writing, the Hellers are awaiting the arrival of a new grandchild. The baby is to be born in Atlanta, GA. and will be greeting the Olympians. The Belmonte's youngest daughter presented us with our fifth grandchild in May. Luke Robert Shafer weighed in at 9 lbs. and both mother and son are doing great.

OUTSTATE — MEETING

The Angola Indiana Outstate Reunion will be held on October 15th and 16th. Michigan Chapter will host this year. All are invited to attend. We will be at the Holiday Inn again. Reservations should be made directly to the hotel, mentioning the 9th. Rates will be the same as last year.

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

Vet Awards

The awards committee is ready and eager to consider any VA Hospital or nursing home, or old soldier's home needs for needed items the government does not supply them regularly. See or call the chief of volunteers and ask for their wish list and mail a copy to us.

Lawrence McLaughlin, Chairman, 82 Gould St., Wakefield, MA 01880; Adolph Wadalavage, 9430 96th St., Ozone Park, NY 11416-1609 or to me, Henry Santos, 9811 N. Connechuset Rd., Tampa, FL 33617-4517.

"Let there be **PEACE** on **EARTH** and let it begin with me."

TEXAS AND GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

The Fall meeting has been scheduled to meet in Shreveport, LA at the Best Western Richmond Suites Hotel. The arrival date is October 16, 1996 and departure is October 18, 1996, though the hotel will grant the same room rates for early arrivals or later departures.

Double and King rooms are \$65 per night. Queen suites are \$72.00 per night. These rates are based on double occupancy. An additional \$10 per night will be added for each additional adult after two people. The tax rate is presently 11.25%. Up to two children under 18 years of age are free of charge.

To make a reservation call 1 (800) 447-2582 before September 16, 1996. Identify yourself with the Texas Chapter 9th Infantry Division and ask for Nancy or Lori. Provide your name, address, credit card number and its expiration date. You will be given a confirmation number. Please specify smoking or non-smoking rooms. Handicapped rooms are available.

Included in the room rate is a full hot buffet breakfast served each morning and cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres each evening Monday through Saturday.

The Best Western Richmond Suites Hotel is on the west side of Shreveport. Take Interstate 20 to Exit 13 onto Monkhouse Drive. Hotel is on immediate left, turn off in front of the Waffle House.

The Horseshoe Casino furnishes a van to their boat on the Red River and return trip to the hotel.

For those interested in watching the horses run at Louisiana Downs, post time is 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 1996. Exit 26 off of Interstate 20 leads to the Downs.

Chapter President, Willard Norris, is arranging the program for the meeting. We are indebted to Phil Emmons in Shreveport for the numerous contacts he has made on the Chapter's behalf.

Chapter members attending the annual national meeting of the 9th Infantry Division Association in New York were: Jack Blann, Phil Emmons, Ken Meyer, John Miller, Charles Scheffel, Roscoe Shields, Richard Solar, and Ray White. Phil Emmons was elected to the Board of Governors.

On a sad note, we wish to report the passing of Pat Rice, wife of Peter Rice, who died just before the annual meeting. Leola Shields, wife of Roscoe Shields, succumbed while Roscoe and his two grand-daughters were attending the annual meeting. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Pete and Roscoe.

Gordon A. Schneider
4001 Fort Branch Drive
Arlington, Texas 76016-3212

F COMPANY 47TH INFANTRY

Our joint CP with E Company was well attended at the Concord Resort Hotel early in June. The Chuck Jones's and Ray Schmaders represented our old company commanders contingent, a group that used to be represented by four and five men at every reunion. Sadly, Frank Smith and Jack Armstrong have gone to their rest, and Otto Geyer has health concerns that prevent him and Gerry from travelling. We miss them all, and their names are on our lips and their spirits are with us whenever we meet. In addition to the Jones's and Schmaders, we saw the Slatnicks, Memolis, Hoepfners, Rochelles, Bergins, Ayles's, Browns, Earl Wilkey, Jack Finnigan, and Paul Giarraputo. We also had two of our popular widows gracing our table, Marie Tokarchek and Only Rishel. George King had reservations to attend with his grandson, but early that morning had an ulcer attack causing him to end up in the emergency room rather than our CP room. The Bob DeSandys also were also planning to be with us, but Florence's sister passed away, forcing them to change their plans. Our condolences go to Florence and Bob for their loss. Bob Landis called me from California to enquire about the festivities. They had wanted to join us, but though Bette's condition is much improved from last year, they considered it wise to defer till next year.

Lucy and I had the good fortune to have Paul Giarraputo accompany us to the Catskills and back home again. The Earl Wilkeys spent a night with us at our shore place before we put him on a flight back to Atlanta the Sunday after the reunion. It was great that we could enjoy these prolonged visits.

It was particularly gratifying to see Joe Bergin and his lovely wife, both looking hale and hearty. It was the first time I had seen Joe since 1992, when the DeSandys and I visited them as they were enjoying a golf vacation in Pinehurst.

I must congratulate those Concord people for a job well done. The treatment we received left little to be desired, and everything was first rate: the facilities, food, entertainment, service. We must do it again sometime.

Lucy and I enjoyed seeing all you good people, and we were sadly disappointed at not seeing too many of you. Hopefully next year will be a better one for those of you who were unable to attend this reunion. All our best to some of the best!

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



THE FORTY SEVENTH INFANTRY IS ALIVE AND WELL!

Former members of the Raider Regiment will be glad to know that on April 15, the Second Battalion, 47th Infantry, was reactivated at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

During a two day visit, I was greatly impressed by the quality of the officers and enlisted personnel of the battalion. Their mission is to provide basic training for newly enlisted men and women. And they are performing in a way that makes me proud to say that I served with the 47th during WWII.

I would like to arrange for the battalion commander to receive the Octofoil on a regular basis. During our visit he asked about the Octofoil. He had heard it mentioned often, but didn't know what it is. The mailing address is below.

Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry, Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473-6300.

P.S. The current commander is Lt. Col. Mark Zodda.

RAY L. INZER
633 E. N. 19th, Apt. 321
Abilene, TX 79601

B Co. 15th Engrs.

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

It hurt not to be able to make the reunion because of medical problems, but I won't bore you with the details. I do want to thank all my buddies from B Company that were so good to remember me with all the good news.

First, thanks to Jim Mullen, he phoned me as soon as he got home to tell me that it was a first rate place, the Concord, and like the other Catskill reunion in 1989, left nothing to be desired. A letter from Ernie Micka went into detail about who was there from the 15th Engineers, B Company. A good turnout which made me glad. Art Schmidt brought a gift and Ernie was good enough to send it to me. It was a Bulls jacket from Charlie Hoffman who wasn't able to attend, but thought I was and sent the very thoughtful present. How do I thank such thoughtful people? The guys who were there will write the Octofoil (I hope) and give a rundown on the percent of people who was there.

I heard from Bob Apel and Ron Murphy that they wouldn't be able to make the 51st reunion. Ron's wife Mary hasn't been too well and we pray she is on the mend. I don't believe Ron has missed many of the 51 reunions or Worcester Memorials, because he was always on the committees that worked to put them on or support them.

In closing I want to honor Bill Davidson with a donation to the Memorial Fund.

As Allie Ferrante wrote, Bill was another of the veterans from B Company who joined the Ninth at Fort Bragg in Feb. 1941 — one of those that made the Division one of the best.

Deadline next issue — Oct. 20th

Business Conducted at Reunion

Minutes of the 180th Meeting of the Board of Governors The Ninth Infantry Division Association

The meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place in Kiamasha Lake, New York in the Concord Hotel at the 51st Reunion. President Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and asked the members to stand for moment of silent prayer for our departed comrades. Attending the meeting were Ken Meyer, Herb Olson, Al Perna, Al Ferranti, Phil Berman, Owen Salle, Nick D'Agostino, Mike Belmonte, Ed Hopkins, Jim Driscoll, Al Zenka, Treasurer Tom Boyle, Judge Advocate Dave Heller. Also present were Charles LiBretto, Ted Preston, John Bonkowski, Elmer Wagner, Henry Santos, Len Tomassone, Henry Shimkowski, Emil DeDonato, Emil Langer, Jim Leon, and Pat DeColi, Ted Preston, Marv Levy, Marty Gross. The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting held in New Orleans and upon a motion made by Al Zenka and seconded by Al Perna it was voted to accept the reading of the secretary's report of the Minutes, and to instruct the secretary to place copy of same on file.

The treasurer when called upon for his report, a motion was made by Ed Hopkins and seconded by Al Ferranti to: Dispense with reading of the Treasurers report. So voted.

President of the Association then appointed the following members to serve as chairman of the various committees:

Chairman of the Finance Committee Ed Hopkins, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee Owen Salle, Newspaper Al Perna, Nominating Committee Phil Berman, Miscellaneous Committee Mike Belmonte.

Discussions were held on several subjects especially the 1997 reunion site and future reunions. The discussion then took up the matter of voting at the General Meeting on the changing of the By-Laws as published in the Octofoil regarding the opening of the membership requirements. Paper ballots had been prepared but they were ruled out of order and the General Membership shall rule on way of conducting the election.

There being no other business to come before this Board and upon a motion duly made by Phil Berman and seconded by Mike Belmonte it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

51st Meeting of the General Membership

The 51st meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place on June 5th, 1996 at the Concord Hotel, Catskills, New York. President of the Association called the meeting to order after a recess from the previous opening in order to have the various committees meet. Those meetings took place at 10:00 A.M. and meeting was reopened at 11:05 A.M. with 267 members present. The President requested that the membership stand for a moment of silent prayer for the departed members of the Ninth followed by the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.

Secretary Quinn then read the minutes of the last meeting held in New Orleans in 1995 and upon a motion duly made by Anthony Varone and seconded by Henry Santos it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and instruct the secretary to place copy of same on file.

Then Treasurer Thomas Boyle was called upon for his report and he gave a detailed report of the Financial Conditions of the Association. Boyle concluded his report by stating "To the best of my knowledge all demands that have been made on this association have been paid or settlement made thereof. I have no knowledge of outstanding receipts or expenses." Upon a motion made by Emil Langer and seconded by AL Zenka it was voted to: Accept the Treasurer's report. President Phillips thanked Boyle for his report.

Miscellaneous

Mike Belmonte of the Miscellaneous Committee when called upon him for his report named the following members who served with him on this committee: Al Lipton, Evertt Tapp, Phillip Emmons, William DeBruyne, Jack Lannon, Ed Gray. The committee recommends that a change be made in the dates of the Golf outing for the members. Instead of the first day to schedule this event perhaps make it the last day after the Memorial Service when there is a whole afternoon opened before the banquet on the last night.

Future Reunion committees select a site within easy travel to air or motor routes.

President Phillip thanked Belmonte and the members who served with him on this committee. Upon a motion made by Emil Wagner and seconded by Phil Berman it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Miscellaneous Committee.

Newspaper

Al Perna Chairman of the Newspaper Committee named the following members who served with him in this committee: Steve Walsh, Paul Clark, John Vranes, William Shea, Elmer Wagner, Marv Levy, Ernie Micka and Al Ferranti, also John BaDura, Nick D'Agostino and Emil DiDonato. Perna stated that the committee recommends that letters sent to the Octofoil for publishing should be restricted to 335 words. President Phillips thanked Al Perna and members of this committee and upon a motion made by Bill Coen and seconded by Nick D'Agostino it was voted to: Accept the Newspaper Committee's report.

Finance

Chairman of the Finance Committee Ed Hopkins was called upon for his report and he named the following members who served with him on this committee: Frank Haines, Ed Gill, Tony Sopran, Tom Saunders, Jim Driscoll, Joe Ayles, Gordon Anderson, Al Bruchac, Walter O'Keefee and Tom Boyle.

The committee reviewed fiscal information prepared from the Annual Report of the Treasurer and discussed the financial situation items with the Treasurer Tom Boyle.

The Financial Committee approved submission of the following budget for the Fiscal year 1996-97.

Estimated Income	\$12,000.00
Projected Disbursements	19,945.00
Projected Difference	7,145
to be financed as follows:	
General Fund	\$3,515
Memorial Fund	3,630
Total	7,145

Disbursements

Secretary Salary	\$1,000
Clerical Help	1,000
Utilities	1,330
Postage	3,420
Misc.	480
Supplies	720
Secretary Expense	1,000
Editors Expense	500
Treasurers Expense	400
Octofoil	8,500
Accountant	300
Reunion	100
Other-Memorial Wreath	125
Bank Charges	70
Donations	1,000
Total	19,945

President Phillips thanked Hopkins and his committee for their efforts and upon a motion made by Lou Slatnick and seconded by Jack Finnigan it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Nominating

Phil Berman Chairman of the Nominating Committee named the following members who served with him on this committee: Herb Olson, Louis Slatnick, Len Tomassone, Bill Martin, Emil Langer, Jack Blann and Al Zenka. He recommends that the five members going off the Board be replaced by the following: Charles LiBretto - New York, Al Perna - Philly, Phil Emmons at large, Phil Shea - New England and Tom Hatton - Michigan. President Phillips called for nominations from the floor-there being none and upon a motion made by John Bonkowski and seconded by Pat DeColi it was voted to: Close the nominations and elect the entire slate proposed by the Committee. So moved. President Phillips thanked Phil Berman and his committee for their report.

By-Laws

Owen Salle Chairman of the By-laws Committee then named the following members who served with him on this committee: Larry Kaufman, Dick O'Connor, Pat DeColi, Henry Santos, Martin Gross, Michael Wengryn, Jack Collier, Tom Hatton, George Nicklin, Henry Shimkoski, John Bonkowski, Ted Preston, and Dave Heller. Owen Salle reports that his committee had discussed the matter of voting by mail and the committee voted against this method. On the question of amending the By-laws to admit Vets of Viet Nam a vote of 13 to 0 with one member abstaining-the recommendation of the committee was a No vote on this question. President Phillips thanked Salle and his committee for their report and upon a motion made by George Brown and seconded by Chester Mikus it was voted to: Accept the report of this committee.

Veterans Awards

Henry Santos a member of the Veterans Awards Committee. This committee consists of Adolph Wadalavage and Larry McLaughlin Chairman of the committee recommends the sum of \$102 be awarded to three VA Hospitals and named the Hospitals and amount they will receive. Florida-Bay Pines VA Hospital \$400, (TV replacement fund), VA Medical Center Cincinnati \$300 (TV replacement fund) and VA Pittsburgh Medical Center \$325 (Eye Glasses). President Phillips thanked Santos for his report and upon a motion made by George Brown and seconded Art Schmidt it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Veterans Committee.

Proposal Defeated

President Phillips who proposed the Amendment to the By-laws of admitting to the association those who served in Combat in Viet Nam relinquished the Chair to 2nd Vice President Pat DeColli in order for him to speak from the floor on the subject. After speaking on the subject then assumed his post as Chairman of the Meeting and it was decided by the membership to have a standing vote of yes or no on the matter. The proposal was defeated.

There being no other business to come before this body and upon a motion duly made by Tony Varone and seconded by George Brown it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Continued on next page

B Co 15th Engrs Bn

ERNEST MICKA
114 Spring Garden Dr.
Louisville, KY 40218

I've been asked by Dick McGrath (our "B" Co. 15th Engr. Correspondent) to get a letter to the Octofoil so that our comrades that couldn't make it get to know what went on at the Concord reunion.

Dick had to cancel his reservation due to his gall-bladder operation, followed closely by a few check-up tests on his heart, but he assures me that he's getting stronger every day.

Well to begin with, the Concord is a very large establishment and was able to handle the 9th Div. along with a contingent of over 2000 N.Y. State "Sons of Italy" that arrived a day or two after us. The grounds were terrific — 3 golf courses, tennis courts and swimming — and although we had beautiful days I don't believe too many took advantage of the facilities, but chose instead to stay indoors, chat with friends and visit the CPs.

The keyboard player (from Chile) with all the attachments made enough music for our enjoyment and little dancing each evening after which there was dancing to a 9 pc band. They also supported the nightly entertainers. The singers were very good and the Italian comedian had us laughing with tears in our eyes.

The food was great — ordered from menus — and our waitress was a fun-loving, jovial person and that's a combination hard to beat. She took care of your every whim.

As usual, "B" Co. 15th Engrs. was well represented, with the following in attendance:

Al Ferrante and Marge
Jerry Shea and Pat
Frank Rankin and
Margaret
"Commodore" Sam
Giacomo and Lee
Ernie Micka and Dot
Jim Muller, Art Schmidt,
Bob Mandle, Phil Emmons,
and Pat DeColli.

Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to meeting again in Louisville, Ky. next May and it sure would be nice to see more "B" Co. 15th Engrs. so that we can have another great reunion.

Good health to all.

60th Inf F Co

RALPH WINSTON
4475 Sherwood Forest Dr.
Delray Beach, FL 33445

Enclosed please find check for 2 more years of membership in our 9th Div. Assn.

It seems so strange that as I see the lists of names published of those who pass away, I can't recognize any of them.

For those who were wounded in the Huertgen Forest, as I was, there is an excellent book out which was just recently published; "A DARK AND BLOODY GROUND" by Edward G. Miller.

I recommend it for all 9th Division Assn. members. Best regards.

**The Ninth Infantry Division Association
Minutes of the 181st Meeting Board of Governors**

The 181st meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place on June 5, 1996 at the Concord Hotel, Catskills, N.Y. President Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and asked the members to rise for a moment of silent prayer for the departed men of the Ninth. Members attending the meeting were Al Perna, Ken Meyer, Phil Berman, Nick D'Agostino, Tom Hatton, Mike Belmonte, Owen Sallen, Charles LiBretto, Al Zenka, Phil Emmons, Jim Driscoll, Ed Hopkins, and Judge Advocate Dave Heller, and Treasurer Tom Boyle. Also in attendance were members Henry Santos, Billie Martin, Ted Preston, Frank Haines, Jim Leon, H. Shimkowski, John Bonkowski, Roy Anderson, Elmer Wagner, and Len Tomassone, Al Ferranti, Emil Langer, Marty Gross, Orion Shockly.

Upon a motion by Ken Meyer and seconded by Phil Berman it was voted to: Dispense with the reading of the last Board meeting.

Upon a motion made by Phil Berman and seconded by Nick D'Agostino it was voted: to dispense with reading of the Treasurer's report.

Election of Officers for the coming year was held with the following men elected to serve for 1996-97. President Al Perna; 1st VP Vince Guglielmino; 2nd VP Pat DeColi; 3rd VP Ron Murphy; Judge Advocate Dave Heller; Treasurer Thomas Boyle; Secretary Daniel Quinn.

Phillips turned over the gavel of authority to the Newly elected President Al Perna and thanked the Board members for their cooperation for the past year. Perna in turn thanked the members for the high honor bestowed upon him when they elected him President of the Association. He concluded by stating "he will do his best to maintain the traditions of this fine Association."

There being no Chapters interested in holding the 1997 Reunion Henry Santos and several members of the 15th Engineers submitted a bid for the reunion to be held in Louisville, Kentucky. The Galt House Hotel had submitted proposals. President Perna called for a vote on the motion made by Ed Hopkins and seconded by Ken Meyer to: Accept the recommendations of Henry Santos to hold the 1997 Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky at the Galt House Hotel. So moved. President Perna appointed Santos as Chairman of the Reunion and Mike Belmonte as Co-Chairman.

Thomas Boyle spoke of the 52nd Annual Memorial Mass and Service held in Worcester by friends of the late Father Connors. This year's event will be held on October 20, 1996. More details will appear in the Octofoil. It was also suggested that perhaps the Board of Governors could hold a meeting this weekend to square away matters left from the Reunion meeting for 1998.

Ed Hopkins made a motion that was seconded by Nick D'Agostino to: Have a Long Range Committee appointed for the future direction of the association and have the committee look into all aspects and suggestions be made at the meetings. President Perna thanked Hopkins for his recommendation and stated that he will appoint such a committee:

Respectfully submitted
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

**Ninth Signal Company
Ninth Annual Reunion**

Well troops, it's time again to Fall-In, Dress Right and Start Making Plans to attend the Signal Company's Ninth Annual Reunion. This Year the Reunion will be held on September 19th, 20th and 21st in OMAHA, NEBRASKA and our C.P. and Accommodations will be at the NEW TOWER INN in West Omaha.

Our Hosts will be Leo Eisenstatt and his Lovely Wife Aileen, who are already putting their Plans in effect for our enjoyment. We had a Great time in New Orleans last year, but this Year's Reunion promises to TOP that.

The "Hole-in-the-Wall" will be in operation, as usual, so all and we do mean ALL you Signalmen are cordially invited to help us Restage and Rewin WW II. If the names "Regal, Old Reliables, and Hilters Nemesis" bring back memories, then so be it.

SPECIAL NOTE — We will NOT NEED, Jeeps, Mules, 2-1/2's, Pike Poles, Field Wire or SCR's, just you and your Lovely Lady, and like I have started many times before, the "Clock's Ticking" so let's get together for at least "One More Time."

The Co-Chairpersons for this event will be:
William & Evelyn Miller, 507 Eskridge Dr., Wilmington, DE, 19808
Richard & Mary Craig, 10 Whitney Street, White Plains, N.Y. 10606

The Above Great people can gladly assist.
Raymond M. Connolly Jr.
11 Dunstable Road
Southampton, N.J. 08048

MRS. PAT MORANO
2208 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201
In memory of Robert Edie,
47th Inf. B. Co., I am enclosing a contribution to the Memorial Fund.

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

**9TH MEDICAL BATTALION
1996 REUNION**

The lush green foothills of the Tennessee Smoky Mountains in Pigeon Forge was the setting of our fourteenth annual reunion. It was held May 7-9 at the Heartlander Hotel.

Fourteen battalion buddies, their wives, families, friends and two widows traveled from ten different states, a total of thirty two people attended. From "C" Co.: Alex Balough, Chalmus and Greta Cochran (who deserves our thanks and appreciation for their time and effort making our get-together successful), Charles and Barbara Denton, Fred and Phyllis Dick, James and Marie Fite, Joe and Marion Kash and John Klooz. We were also honored by the presence of Bruce Johnstone's widow, Sue, and by Louise, widow of John Lewis, or founder and organizer. From "B" Co.: Donald and Cynthia Hyde. From "A" Co.: Tandy and Lois Frazier, Oliver and Ruth Karns and Dexter and Jackie Hillman. From Headquarters: Sab and Virginia Agostinelli, Sewell and Bertha Carson and Richard Cooley.

We all had a great time together renewing friendships, recalling past experiences, browsing through picture albums, taking pictures, sightseeing and shopping.

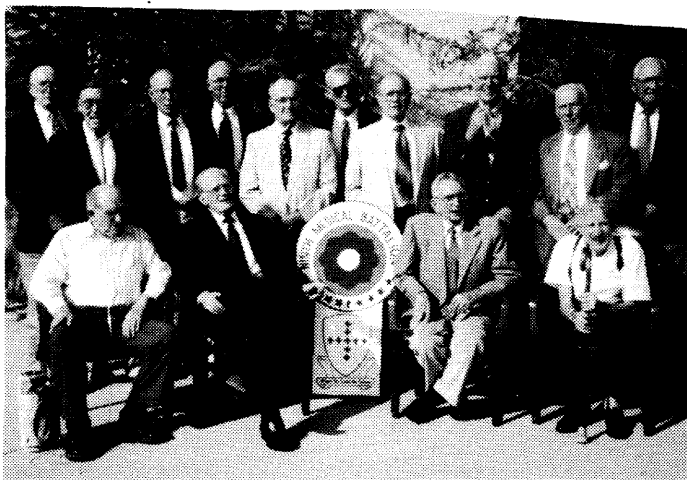
Our meeting, the real purpose of our get-together, was called to order by Chalmus Cochran and was followed by the presentation of the National and Battalion Colors by Richard Cooley and then by the Pledge of Allegiance. After a short business meeting, our memorial service was conducted by our capable Charles Denton and was dedicated to our past founder John H. Lewis. A silent prayer was offered for the divisions deceased as well as our battalions and family members. Also remembered were those who passed away since our last reunion, John H. Lewis, Walter Sammons and John Laubach. Our deepest sympathy to their loved ones. May they rest in peace.

Picture taking followed our adjournment and then our "Good Byes" with a wish for a safe trip home.

Any former members who are not on Chalmus Cochran's mailing list, please send him your name, address and unit to: P.O. Box 6, Cherrylog, GA 30522.

To those who could not attend, best wishes for a great summer and hope you can be at the 1997 reunion in Pigeon Forge May 19, 20 and 21.

Sab Agostinelli
Headquarters 9th Med. Bn.
39 Latta Rd.
Rochester, NY 14612-4707



Sabatino Agostinelli supplied us with a picture taken at a mini reunion held by 9th Med Bn in Pigeon Gorge, Tn on May 9, '96.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

I was a bit disappointed at the representation of the New Jersey people at the reunion, but then since we did not have our own meeting place, perhaps more people were there from the Garden State than I realized. I was happy to see our new president, Frank Haines, very much in evidence as well as our secretary, Herb Hoepfner. Mike Wengryn was also there as were Finnigan, Wilkey, Slatnick, and Paul Giarraputo. After the general meeting, Frank Haines and I tried to get a sign-up sheet passed around so we could get a tally of those in attendance, but we weren't too successful. If those who missed this reunion knew what a great bargain it was, they surely wouldn't have missed it.

Soon after the summer is over, we'll try to have another of our famous luncheon meetings. I'll be in touch with Frank Haines and we'll choose a convenient date for getting together with all you good people.

Stay healthy and enjoy your summer.

Ed Hoppe Hopkins
110 Hollywood Ave.
Metuchen, N.J. 08840
(908) 549-4021

9th Div. Hq. G-3 Forward
JOHN E. DOOLEY
750 11th Ave. S.
Naples, FL 34102

No news at this end. Hope the 9th Assoc. stays healthy for another 50 years. I'll remain a member regardless of the difference of opinions. Sorry to hear Taps sounded for Howard Waldman. He was my closest buddy going across Europe. Hope to be in New York.

26th Field Art.
BILL BONGIORNO
108 South Hampton Drive
Jupiter, Florida 33458

The enclosed check to the memorial fund is in honor of and memory of, my very dear friends: Johnny Murray, Joseph (Mac) McKenzie, and a truly great American and friend to us all Fr. Connors.

BRUCE M. MOSELEY
PO Box 25
Wampsville, NY 13163
(315) 363-5405

I want to thank you for sending me the copy of the Octofoil. I read it with great interest and will pass it on to my brother.

As I told you on the telephone, my father, Thomas A. E. Moseley, served in the 39th Infantry as regimental S-2 and S-3 under Col. Harry Flint. I did not know my father well, but I can say that Paddy Flint remained one of his personal heroes until his own death a few years ago. The time he spent with the 39th Infantry and the 9th Division were very important to him. He joined the regiment in Sicily and then fought across Europe in 1944/45.

After the war he went to medical school in Virginia and became a pediatrician in Baltimore and then Florida, but, in a letter he wrote to me in 1985, he said "The proudest ornament I own is the Combat Infantry Badge."

I don't know if I will be able to attend your reunion at the Concord, but I would be very interested in receiving your newsletter and hearing from anyone who might have known my father.

Let me know how I might subscribe to the newsletter or join as an associate member if such a thing exists for children of veterans.

84th F.A., Hq. Btry.
BILL RYBKA
5205 Sweetbriar Dr.
Raleigh, N.C. 27609

Laryce and I always enjoy the reunions; in fact, they are always the highlight of our year. This year, however, our highlight came before we even arrived at the Concord. We stopped on the way up in Tamaqua, PA, to visit Joe Lesko and his lovely wife; and it seemed almost as special for them as it was for us! Sgt. Joe Lesko was our battery cook. I'm convinced that the cooks were the most unsung heroes of World War II. If it is true, as I've heard it said and agree that it is, "An Army travels on its stomach," Joe saw to it that ours was well filled! He devised every recipe imaginable using our "Old Reliable" ingredient Spam; so we thought it only fitting that our little gift bag for him contain a 9th Division cap and a can of Spam, which gave him a chuckle.

It is our pleasure to send along a donation to the Association Memorial Fund in Joe Lesko's name, "The best darn cook in the 9th!"

Hq. Co. 39th Inf.
9th Div. 1st Bn
ANGELO M. GARDNER
960 Center St.
Lock Haven, Pa 17945

Just a note to inform you that my husband, Angelo, passed away 9/3/92.

His very sudden and unexpected death has left me slow to adjust. Please excuse the delay.

The enclosed check is for the Memorial Fund in memory of Angelo and his brother Arthur who was killed at Pearl Harbor.

Best of health and happiness to all 9th Division.
Peace to all. Thank you.

CO. K 47TH INF.
PEACE

I have talked with "RED" PHILLIPS and DAN QUINN on the phone and they tell me the war is over. The NINTH DIVISION ASSN. (OF WWI) will continue on its happy way, and the veterans of the BOXER REBELLION and VIETNAM will just have to form their own association and leave old DAN alone.

Now, did I tell you about that machine gun nest I cleaned out near —?

REUNION IN NEW YORK

According to BILL McKINNEY, who attended, there were only four K MEN who made it up the mountain. DR. NICKLIN was one, and although BILL didn't meet them, he thinks the other two were RALPH WIZKIN and JAMES POUPART.

BILL was done in by a ringer in the golf tournament, he only managed second place. They played on the BEGINNERS course because of the \$80.00 greens fees on the ADULT seemed usurious. You would think that a \$300.00 room would include something other than a bath and an ice machine.

DAN said he was pleased that the '97 reunion was going back to the south. My ears picked-up until he told me it was LOUISVILLE, KY. He got his geography training with the contemporary group. It IS south of INDIANAPOLIS and the OHIO RIVER, but it's north of EVANSVILLE, IN. The ice should break-up before May. It may not be south any more than Ohio is the mid-west but at least it is tending in the right direction. I could be tempted.

CUP RUNNETH OVER

I've heard from more K MEN than I have in fifty years.

"RED" THOMPSON returned to South Bend Safely and with most of the family jewels. He sent photos of his den which is a shrine to the NINTH DIVISION and INDIANA BASKETBALL. Hell, he could dribble all the way to Louisville.

JOE KILLACKY is still banging the golf ball and bringing up grandkids. He sent me a clipping from a Chicago paper about the German POW's they entertained in the area during the BIG II. They all seemed to enjoy themselves and recommended to any NAZI who ran out of ammunition. Cremate Jews? You've got to be kidding.

HELEN HOLMES was heart broken because her husband, AL, was having heart trouble and it would keep them from the reunion. Maybe they'll get it together in time to go SOUTH.

BASTEDO sent me a page from his old roster book that proves conclusively that EARL LINGREN was, indeed, a member of the 1st. Platoon under the leadership of that fierce fearless warrior, ON-THE-BALL DeVALL. Alerted by all the POST COMBAT HEROISM going around, as evidenced by BLACK MOH winners, he asked if we had seen a rash of suicides in our area, caused by old soldiers caught with an illegal PALM on their GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL. NADA.

BILL McKINNEY wrote to say he doesn't write, so forget hearing from him. He did call and say that his wife has recovered her health and was able to attend the reunion with him. He walks 18 holes several times a week. That's something in those hills. I can barely manage 9 on flat land.

THE BATTLE OF THE BATTLE FLAGS

I mentioned my purchase of three Cavalry Battle Flags in my last K NEWS that I was going to convert into 47th. Infantry/Cavalry battle flags. Buying the flags was the only CHEAP and EASY part.

The 47th. crest, to fit in the eagles belly, has to be 4 1/2" x 5 1/4" which is a little large for a cap or a blazer, so there is nothing on the shelf. It is not easy to get anyone to bet they can sell enough crest of a defunct outfit with a rapidly declining alumnus to make tooling-up worthwhile. BUT I DID! EDDIE WEBBER, who has done a number of 9th. and 47th. patches is willing to take a chance. To help this patriotic but poor businessman feed his family, I want each and every one of you to go out and purchase an Infantry blue windbreaker and order at least two crests. One for the attack and one for retreat. You might also want to buy a flag and for \$55.00 keep up with the Jordans. He is selling the crests for \$10.00 ea. You might also want to purchase three other great patches he has stitched up. One is a 47th.-9th. patch, one is a Hurtgen Forest patch and one is a Remagen Bridge patch. They sell for \$5.00 ea. order from:

WEBBER GRAPHICS
2224 LARIAT TRAIL
FRISCO, TX 750324
(214) 292-3258

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

Now that the proposal was voted down again, it should be put to rest once and for all.

It's a pity that Red Phillips with all his talent chose to devote his entire term mainly on this one controversial issue.

For the good of our great association, let by-gones be by-gones. Let's close ranks and cherish the time that remains for us.

Story told by Dennis Canedy to George Nicklin

After the breakout from the Remagen Bridge-head, B-Company, 47th Regiment moved swiftly eastward and then to the north to help encircle the Ruhr pocket. In early April, just north of Berleberg, Company B had reached its objective for the day. Captain Bill Klausz and I, the runner for his company, were sitting around in a farmhouse command post. Captain Klausz came to me with his map case and said, "Canedy, let's you and I go and see what's in that town about three miles in front of our lines."

Bill had a .45 pistol. I myself was armed with a carbine. We proceeded to the edge of the small village. Captain Klausz told me to lay low outside the town while he reconnoitered. If he did not come back within a certain period of time, I was to go back to B-Company and report to the Executive Officer.

As I lay on the ground I was startled by a voice saying, "What are you doing here, soldier?" I turned, and there was the Commanding General of the Seventh Armored Division, alone with an aide. As I was explaining our mission, Captain Klausz returned, and informed the General of the facts on the town, which was clear of German troops. The General remarked that he had a lot of confidence in the Ninth Division, after seeing a company commander doing his own scouting.

Bill Klausz replied that he felt the same way about the Seventh Armored Division, as their Commanding General did is own scouting alone with an aide.

Co K-47th Inf.
George Nicklin,
6 Butler Place

Garden City, L.I., N.Y. (11530)

Hq. Co. 47th Inf.

W. D. DAVIS
2150 Garfield Ave. W.
Ferndale, Mi. 48220

60th Inf.

JOE RAPPAZINI
24001 Sherman
Oak Park, Michigan 48237

Dear Dan,

Memories linger and are treasured indeed, and, to keep them alive, you keep planting the seed — "The Octofoil" — and, needless to say they bear bountiful fruit for which, believe me, I am most thankful. Although this is a duplication, 'tis doubly meant —

There are hundreds of words available to all, but 'Tis difficult, indeed, to heartfully express

The intense appreciation which is deeply impressed in the mind and in the heart as well —

For the richest memories that therein dwell.

There is a warmth and wealth for beyond measure That remain as a longed-for lifetime treasure.

The names and faces of places and wartime events — To remember them all is a gift Heaven — sent!

Warmest wishes,
Joe Rappazini

60th Inf. E. Co. 1942-45
NORBERT J. HENNEN
4558-58th Avenue N
Apt. 257

Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Another great big thank you for the wonderful job you do on the Octofoil. I note the '96 topping my name plate and enclose \$25.00 for another three-year membership.

Too many of our good friends have left us and included are Matt Urban, Mike Kauffman, and Lindsey Nelson.

At the request of our president, Red Phillips, Joe Joyce (erstwhile S-1 of the 60th Infantry) and myself spent 23 April 1996 browsing Shattuck College at Faribault, Minnesota, recalling the early days of Cadet Sergeant M.S. Eddy. We found mention of him in the 1911 Shattuck yearbook listed as a cadet in Company A.

We were searching the school's records at the bequest of Red Phillips, current president of our 9th Division Association. Red, as you know, is writing a book about the life of Lieutenant Manton S. Eddy, the commanding general of our Division during WW II.

Co M 47th Inf

RED PHILLIPS
14002 Hemlock Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946

Some time ago when I thought to republish my book, El Guettar with an added chapter about Maknassy, Go-Devil Herb Clark sent me a carton of his masterful books, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen. He thought I could give these away as a bonus with each sale of the new edition to 60th guys. It was a great idea but things didn't work out that way. The Maknassy story may appear in a future magazine issue but re-issue of El Guettar is out. Herb now has a spacey office while mine is more cluttered than ever.

For those unaware, GRYMG is a collection of Herb's best Christmas stories that have been published each year in his newspaper. They are based upon real events and people that Herb knew while serving in the regiment. He acknowledges that what he doesn't recall, he makes up, but the results are some pretty wonderful yarns. Herb used to give the books away to his friends but I won't do that. I'm selling these — \$11.25 incl. postage. I'll donate the difference to the Association's Memorial Fund in Herb's name.

Now about a new book, Fix Bayonets — Charge! by Roy Gordon once of C/47. This is fiction pure and simple. Rousing stuff, but beautifully written and accurately based upon real events and people of our nation's Mexican War. Order it through your local bookstore from Commonwealth Publications, 9764 45th Ave., Edmonton, AB, Canada, T6E 5C5. You'll be glad I told you about it.

Sedjenane. I published more copies of this book than I did the others and the result is that many are left, also cluttering up the place. These are now 1/3 off! This book does include the Go Devil's sweep around the north flank. Send me \$11.25 and it's yours with autograph.

Finally, Eddy, and I'm still digging. Every so often another good anecdote comes flying in over the transom. Let yours be next! Scribble it down on the back of an envelope and send it in. It can't be any wilder than some I've collected. All best!

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

Enclosed check is to cover a 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.

A Co. 60 Inf.
JAMES W. JENKINS
30 Vickie Ln.
Albertville, Al 35950-8172

Would like to hear from somebody.

C.H. Jordan

1058 West Lakeview Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA, 70810

47th Inf. Hdqs. Co.

ANDREW CRAWFORD
Box 27
Burke, N.Y. 12917

I do enjoy reading the Octofoil and am always waiting for the next one.

You and your wife certainly do a magnificent job.

Our winter up here reminds me of the old winter long ago of the Bulge. Still hanging in here at 79.

I wish you and your wife a wonderful holiday season.

MAIL CALL

NOW HEAR THIS
ALL PERSONNEL * 39TH INF * 26TH F.A. 15th ENGS
AND OTHER NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION
TROOPS WHO WERE ON THIS SHIP *
U.S.S. LEEDSTOWN AP73
for the landing in N. Africa

The U.S.S. Leedstown AP73 Navy and Army survivors annual reunion will be held in Brookings, South Dakota, on September 13-15, 1996, at the Holiday Inn.

The Leedstown was transporting army troops when it was sunk off the coast of Algiers in November, 1942. Both Army and Navy personnel who survived the sinking are welcome.

If you are interested in joining the reunion, please contact the Holiday Inn, Brookings, for a room reservation, by 8/25/96. The telephone number is 605-692-9471.

If you would like more information about the U.S.S. Leedstown AP73 reunion, please contact Louis Martschinske, Secretary/Treasurer, at 5426 Zealand Ave. N., New Hope, MN, 55428, or telephone number 612-533-7975.

Hq. Co. 1st Bn. 39th Inf.
MARTIN KRASOVETZ
107 United States Ave.
Gibbsboro, N.J. 08026

I'm sorry that I have missed the last 3 conventions. I miss the fellowship and the good times.

I hope to make the next convention at Louisville. I haven't been in the best of health.

Enclosed is my dues for the next 3 years. I sure don't want my Octofoil to expire as I sure enjoy reading it.

47th Inf. L Co.
JEROME SYNPIESKI
5430-34th Ave. S. Apt. 116
Minneapolis, Mn. 55417

Jerome Synpieski formerly from Co. L 47th 9th, 320 Battle — still alive and pushing eighty.

I never figured that I would live this long, after landing in Safi, that Nov. 8th, 1942. Less than two hours later I was shot in my right hand. Went to the rest of Africa and Sicily and on to England, then with the 8th Air Force to France.

Co. "C" 9th Med. Bn.
RALPH PALERMO
223 Barbara Dr.
McKees Rocks, Pa. 15136

Sorry I didn't make the 51st annual convention. Heard all went well. We are holding onto our own here in Pgh. Pa. I would like you to know that one of our favorite members Angelo Rinchiuso who has passed away some time ago, his wife Betty recently passed away. She attended many reunions along with her husband. Sadly missed.

I talk to my buddy Alex Balough quite often, and we reminisce about our lives with the 9th.

Sorry I'm late with my dues. Enclosed is my check, plus a little for the Memorial Fund.

Maybe if all goes well I might be able to make the next one.

Hello to all my buddies.

9 Med Bn - Co. C
JOSEPH KASH
751 Garfield Ave.
Glenside, PA 19038

Enclosed is a donation to the Memorial Fund. On behalf of my close buddy and best friend (John Lewis) who was the backbone of our past reunions over the years. We will miss him. May be Rest In Peace.

Hello to all of the Ninth Division. Keep healthy (God Bless).

Co. D. 47th Inf.
IRWIN J. DUPUY (DOOPREE)
12233 N. Yorkdale Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70811-1240

I am writing this time to find out what has happened to Sgt. Martin (is it?) he was Motor Pool Sgt. in charge of the Motor Pool of Co. D, 47th, Infantry Reg't. I also believe a Mr. Hughes was a skillful mechanic in our Motor Pool. You couldn't miss either one. Hughes always had a smile, and the sarge has an all business grin on his face.

After being knocked out of action on the 30 heavy machine gun around Weisweiler, I came back to "D" Co. After eating those blue eighty-eights I was ready for a fight.

After "Remagen," I was a driver in the Motor Pool for awhile. I was impressed how smooth the "pool" operated. Any way I hope they are still alive. Anyone knowing the address of either one, please let me know.

47th Inf I Co
GUERINE DALESSANDRO
105 Corbin Dr.
Newport News, VA 23606

The enclosed check is for my dues. The remainder of this check in the memory of Cpt. Richard Witner Co. I Cmdr and the rest of Co. I men who served so gallantly through the war. I enjoy reading the Octofoil, but not able to attend reunions due to health problems. Also give my regards to a great officer in Robert E. Huluslander when and if you see him.

Co. I 39th Inf.
MS. WILLA R. DAWSON
P.O. Box 622
Decatur, TX 76234-00622

Just a note to let you know today I called about the book "Battle of The Bulge" history book.

Imagine my surprise when they told me that the 9th Infantry Division wasn't in the book.

I asked him how could it be a history book if all the history wasn't in it. And I knew the Ninth Division was there.

So if anyone orders the book expecting the Ninth to be mentioned they won't be.

You can verify this by calling 1-800-788-3350. I'm glad I called before ordering.

CHARLES & MARY McLHINNEY
P.O. Box 174

Haure De Grace, Md. 21878
We received a letter July 1 from Bill Mooty's wife informing us of his death on June 20. Enclosed find a copy of the letter and obituary she sent to us.

Bill has been ill for over 6 months with cancer. He was very disappointed he could not attend the reunion with us in New York this year. He has been a regular since his first in 1987.

Bill was Co. "E" 1st Sgt. under Capt. Petty, from February till the end in 1945, although Bill joined the company in October 1944 and became 1st Sgt. in February or March 1945. He had a remarkable memory of the officers and men when they got wounded or killed or transferred out of the company.

Mary and I took the liberty of sending a floral arrangement to Bill before he died, and signed it "From the Men and Women of Companies E and F, 47th INF, Thinking of You."

We hope you and Marie are well and we enjoyed seeing you and all the members of the 9th INF Division.

Thanks for keeping us informed and all you have done to make this a very fine organization. I have found quite a lot about my brother, Walter, who was K.I.A. in April 1945. He joined Co. E in December 1943 while Division was in England.

Enclosed find a check for the Memorial Fund in Bill's name.

Hoping to see you both in Louisville, KY in 1997.

47th Inf. A. T. Co.
JULIUS CLARK
P.O. Box 146
Camden, S.C. 29020

Enclosed is a check for my dues. I certainly would hate to miss an issue of the Octofoil. I was with the 47th Inf. from Sept. '40 through Nov. '44. Served as Company Commander of A.T.Co. from Africa to Sicily, England, France, Belgium and Germany. I knew a lot of truly great men who served their country so well.

Sorry to learn of Howard Waldmans passing. He served in my company from Bragg to England and was a fine soldier. As a Recon Sgt. he excelled in every task assigned. Div. HQ, took him in England to be the Provost Sgt. In France, he served as an assistant to the Div. A.T. Officer who was responsible for coordinating anti tank defenses of all regiments and attached units. Since WW II he has kept up with as many of his old A.T.Co. buddies as feasible and was a "spark plug" in getting us together at reunions. He will certainly be missed.

Thank you and Marie for your many years of service.

47th Inf. I Co.
MARSHALL EARHART
109 Circle Drive
Dover, TN 37058

Thank you for the Octofoil. I sure enjoy reading.

Enclosing three more years dues. Hope I am around to pay three more. As our Brother said "our ranks are thinning."

I sure would like to hear from any one from 47 Inf. I Co.

Best wishes to all. May God Bless.

Serv. Co. 47th Inf.
ALBERT HASSON
331 E. Long Ave.
New Castle, Pa. 16101

I do not know if you remember me or not.

I was a member of the 47th Inf. Service Co. and attached to Cannon Co. for the duration of WW II.

We left the states from Fort Bragg in Oct. 1942. We landed in Africa and I was with the same outfit from Africa, to Germany. I was then assigned to the 410th Inf. for discharge.

Now after 50 years of inquiring with the army headquarters in St. Louis they tell me they have no record of me being in the 47th Inf. Service Co. of the 9th Div. Maybe you can help me in this respect by sending me a letter confirming that I was a member of the 47th. My Co. Commander was Capt. Walker and Lt. Stewart of the 47th Services Co. Cap. Somenski and Cat Fornen of Cannon Co. 47th Inf.

Enclosed you will find a check for three years membership and donation for memorial fund.

26 Field Arty
WILLIAM (BILL) BONGIORNO
108 South Hampton Drive
Jupiter, Florida 33458

It is that time of the year again, with the reunion having just passed, that my thoughts and prayers focus on our living and dead comrades in arms. My wife Ellie and I have not been in the best of health over the past few years, and missed this year's reunion.

Having been a past president of the 9th Division Association, I look back on our many years of participation and think about the people we have met and the friends we have made. It is truly amazing that the basis for all such great memories was a war.

I obviously would never have wanted to go through it again, but I don't know what life would have been like without those memories and friendships of my comrades in arms.

Thinking of you often, and good health to all.

39th Inf G Co
BILLY ALLSBROOK
4616 Erath St.
Ft. Worth, TX 76119

Enclosed is check for three more years in the best association in the USA.

Would like to establish correspondence with any G Company, 39th Inf. guys out there. I was one of many replacements that joined the 9th subsequent to the Falaise Japan August 1944. Let's get some G Company, 39th Infantry letters going.

39th Inf. M Co.
CHARLES BECKER
5038 Pebble Beach Ave.
Sarasota, FL. 34234

Realized a while back that I have not paid my dues for some time. In spite of that I still continue to receive the Octofoil for which I thank you. My old buddy Artie Clark, M Co. 39th is the only one I'm still in touch with, and he has always been very active.

Again my thanks and best wishes.

THE OCTOFOIL
412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087
Publication No. 402820
Second Class Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1987

A
JOHN CLOUSER
HCF #1 BOX 449
WETMORE, MI 49895
0017

47th Inf.
EDWIN W. WISNEWSKI
7576 Gratist Rd.
Columbus, MI 48063

Unable to attend this year's convention and fulfill my duty as elected to the Board of Governors due to my surgery for total knee joint replacement which turned out O.K. But now the other one is falling apart and I hate to go through that again.

I am limited to very little walking or riding in a car or plane. On top of that I have a spur growing into my spine above where it was fused over 10 years ago.

A Paul Beardon of service Co. 60th passed away a few months ago. I do not believe he ever joined the association. We went through our basic training together, seen him a few times in the 50s and 60s. He was then moving to Fla., but returned to Michigan a few years ago.

On the 25th of May the V.F.W. and other civic organizations put up and dedicated a statue or monument at the Matt Urban Sports and Recreation Center in Holland, Michigan. Due to my health I was unable to attend which I sorely missed.

There being no further news this time I will say I will miss not being there and acknowledge that your job is not getting any easier as time goes by. So take care of yourself and your most wonderful wife.

Today, May 29, is our 42nd anniversary of our wedding day. So until we meet again.

Yours in Comradeship

Regtl. Hdqtrs. Co. 60 Inf.
THOMAS "BUCK" HARRIS
210 Church St.
Elm City, N.C. 27822

Enclosed is my dues for 1997 and the rest in memory of Melvin Kearns. I saw in the March-April issue that more and more members are contacting Mail Call expressing their opinion as to whether or not 9th Division veterans of the Viet Nam War should be allowed to join our association. I would like to put my two cents in. I'm against it. I think that every dues paying member should be able to vote on it by a ballot in the Octofoil. General Douglas MacArthur said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." That's how I feel about our great 9th. Infantry Division Association, let us just fade away.

