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The Octofoil, November/December 1997

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

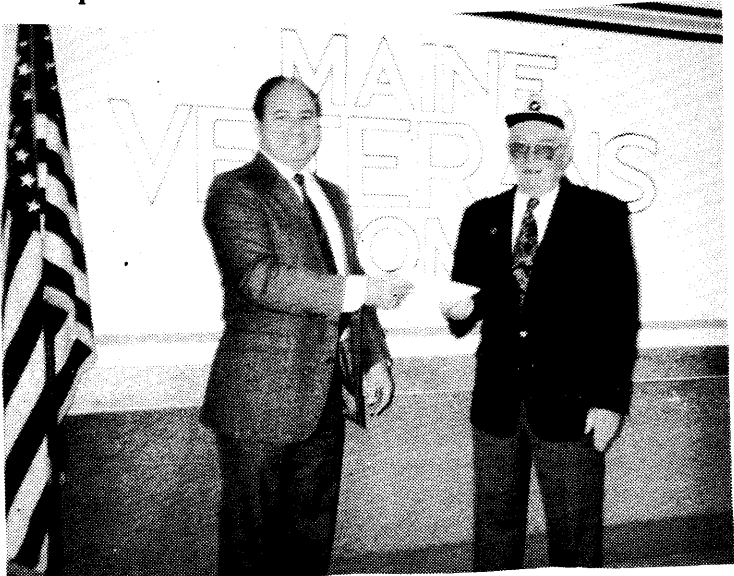
Volume XLXXII Number 5

Nov-Dec 1997

Veterans Awards



The Texas Greater Southwest Chapter was awarded the Veterans stipend for the Temple VA Hospital in Texas by the association. Shown at the presentation are (L to R) Rose Botella, Ms. Sherry Hughes accepting the donation from Ernie Botella and Ken Meyer of the Texas Chapter.



Jerry Shea, right, is shown presenting the Ninth Infantry Association check to the Director of the Maine Veterans Home, for their use.

Sunday October 19, 1997 A Day We Remembered

We met at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Worcester, Mass. Herb Olson brought forward a floral wreath in the shape and the colors of the Octofoil. Monsignor Needham came forward with Father Jerry Rowan. They stopped at the altar and the Worcester Police Color Guard posted the colors.

The Liturgy of the Mass began and after the Gospel Father Jerry Rowan said a few words and then Monsignor Needham approached the lectern and welcomed us all. He then talked to us about the tremendous sacrifice made by the 4581 men that served with us and gave of themselves to provide all of us with the great land we now live in. A tremendous homily that had all of us brushing away tears. He also complimented us on being so faithful to our dead even now with it being over fifty years ago.

At the end of the Mass, the Worcester Police Guard stood at attention in front of the altar, facing the congregation, lowered its city flag and the bugler played "Lights Out," the choir sang the National Anthem and we filed out of the church singing America the Beautiful. All had to use their handkerchief to wipe away the tears.

At the monument after Mass we held a ceremony remembering our dead with presentation of the floral wreath by Herb Olsen and Charles McLhinny and words from Dan Quinn and Monsignor Needham.

We then had a luncheon at the Holiday Inn and our guest speaker was George I. Connolly who knew Fr. Connors quite well and served with him in Division Arty. A pleasant day and all were on their way home by 3:00 p.m.

A most wonderful day and we have made reservations for Sunday, Oct. 18, 1998, same place, Immaculate Conception Church, Worcester and luncheon at the Holiday Inn. Another day to remember, Stay together — its getting late.

Many thanks for all attending and getting involved.
Thanks from "Friends of Father Connors."

Ron Murphy
Tom Boyle

Herb Olson
Fran Maner

LADIES CORNER

I knew that Christmas (December 25th) was coming soon, even did some shopping, (with wonderful help from my children who had great gift ideas for my grandchildren), had bought Christmas cards, even went to our Senior's Golden Age Club's Christmas Dinner-Dance, but did you think I even thought of this column until 4 days ago!! No, not until I received a card from Lily Krasovetz (Our Secretary-Treasurer for 12 years) in which she said "I read your corner every issue and I feel in touch." Also Dvora Heller, in a note, accompanying a P.D. James Paperback thriller "An Unsuitable Job for a Woman" (Dave won it in a gathering of Mystery fans they attended), said how she reads this column as soon as the Octofoil comes, and loves what I write, and how I write. Also Ruth Jordan, Ruth Lees, and Bonnibelle Wakeman remembered us with Christmas cards. It is so nice to have fans as well as friends.

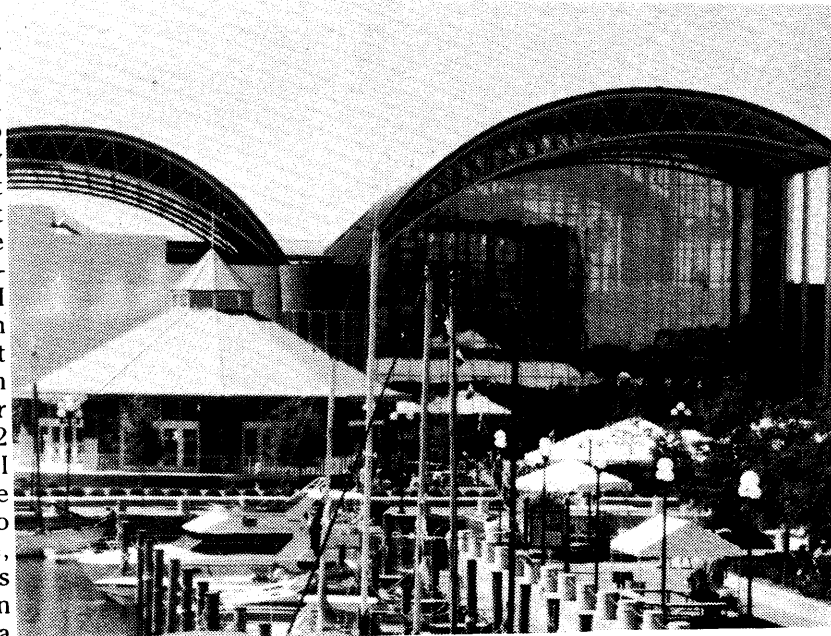
Thank you all, and I shall continue to write as long as I am able. Going on, nothing much happened since my last column — Devora likes the idea of a Mary Kay Demonstration, but no one else has let me know. Please do? Our holiday preparations are proceeding at a snail's pace — Joe has not been up to par, and I am still working 2 days a week but retiring as of January 1st, 1998 — Hallelujah! So it has been slow going, but it will all be done by Christmas. We will have our Family Christmas up at Susan's in Conn., with 3/5 of us there. Steve in Maine and Rosemary in New Hampshire don't make it down in Snow weather. 13 of us should have a Merry time, especially for me with daughter Susan and Granddaughter Diana doing the cooking. I just love to eat other people's cooking, don't you?

Diana graduates next May 7th, with a degree in Secondary School Education, so children are her love. Attendance (ours) at the 9th Reunion is a little shaky, because of that, but we will let you know in the next edition for sure. If you are going please get your reservations in now!! Please take care, keep in touch, and have a very Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah, and a Great New Year! And we shall see you in May?

Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

53rd Annual Reunion
9th Inf Div Assn
May 5, 6, 7, 1998

HAMPTON ATTRACTIONS



VIRGINIA AIR AND SPACE CENTER

The official visitor center for NASA Langley Research facilities, the Virginia Air and Space Center and Hampton Roads History Center houses a unique collection of flight- and space-related artifacts, interactive exhibits, historical displays and a giant-screen IMAX® Theater. Visitors can see a three-billion-year-old moon rock, collected during the Apollo 17 mission; the Apollo 12 Command Module that journeyed to the moon and back; and a replica of the Lunar Orbiter, which mapped the moon's surface for future landings.

Kids especially enjoy the hands-on exhibits. At a favorite display, Astronaut-for-a-Minute, children get a glimpse of what they'd look like as an astronaut! At the Launch-a-Rocket exhibit, kids learn about the stages of preparation for a launch and then, send a model rocket shooting up into the "clouds."

Nineteen aircraft and spacecraft hang from the Center's 94-foot ceiling, including an F-4E "Phantom II" fighter used during the Vietnam War and a Corsair F-106B "Delta Dart" struck nearly 700 times by lightning while flying through storms as part of NASA lightning research.

Since it opened in 1992, the \$30 million Center has hosted more than one million visitors and unveiled 20 major exhibits. (See NASA Langley Research Center, NASA Langley Tours and Hampton Roads History Center listings.)

53rd Reunion will bring back many Memories

It feels as though it was yesterday when we wrote about the first reunion held in New York City in 1946. At that time the agenda for the Bull sessions were confined to tales about our war time experience, now after 52 years they have been expanded to include tales about our exploits at past reunions. 52 years add up to a lot of memories. Memories of good times and great events that took place in Columbus, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Springfield, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh and Fayetteville Fort Bragg. These events that took place will never be forgotten — the solemn moment at the National Cemetery in Arlington when the Association placed a plaque at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier — the demonstration parachute jump at Fort Bragg, when one of our own Major Dan Duncan (2nd Bn 47th), unfurled the colors as he drifted to the ground and when he landed presented the Division colors to General Randle (CD of the 47th Inf) in N Africa. The stirring moment at Boston when everyone rose to their feet and marched around the ballroom behind the American Flag, the Memorial Mass at the Vatican Pavilion at the New York World's Fair in the reception and tea at the Governors Mansion in Springfield hosted by Gov. Otto Kerner executive officer 34th FA — at Pittsburgh the thrill of meeting comrade in arms (Gen. Westmoreland) who had risen to the Top Spot in the Army, in every city the crowds that lined the streets to watch the Association parade to the Memorial Services. Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Tennessee, Lake Placid, Orlando, Florida, Hyannis, Catskill Mts., San Antonio and Louisville. These and other great memories will be recalled when the association gathers in Hampton, Va to celebrate its 53rd Reunion.

We sincerely hope that you can be part of this "our 53rd Reunion."

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
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Published five times yearly. May, June, July – Aug., Sept., Oct., – Nov., Dec., – Jan., Feb., – Mar, April by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

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

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

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

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

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Nov-Dec 1997

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.....\$300

Decals.....50 each

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐
Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐
New England ☐ Michigan ☐
Florida ☐ New Jersey ☐
Texas ☐ California Chapter ☐

Ladies Auxilliary
Ninth Infantry Division Association
Membership Application
Clara Scott, Treasurer
1517 Shields St.
Sherman, Tx. 75092
Tel. #903-893-8696

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name.....

Street Address.....

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

My spouse (Brother or relative)

Served with.....

One year.....\$3.00

Credit Chapter.....

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund was enriched by the generosity of these members and friends who remembered. We salute you.

Salvatore Albanese

Walter Laban

Edward Winsch

Walter O'Keefe - In memory of Bill Larson, E Co. 47th Inf.

Adolph Wadalavage - In memory of his wife, Peggy.

Pete Radichio - In memory of Matt Urban.

David Elway

Alex Balough

Emil Langer - In memory of Mildred Vachuda, wife of George Vachuda, 3rd Div.

Daniel Layman - In memory of Pete Delassandro.

Dorothe Schmader - In memory of husband, Ray.

Marvin Toothaker

Joe Killacky - In memory of Bill Stokan and all deceased men of K Co. 47th Inf.

Fred Talarico - In memory of Edward McHugh, B. Btry, 84th F.A.

Conda Knee - In memory of those from M Co. 47th, K.I.A., died of wounds and have passed on since the war.

Harold Hokanson and Joe Russo - In memory of Dick Robbins, 9th Quartermaster Co.

Sam Robinson - Get well wishes for Ruth Kargir, Ayn Mikus and John Vander-miedan.

39th Inf.
CHARLES WARNER
507 E. Main St.
Bound Brook, N.J. 08805
Just to let you know I haven't forgot the fellows. I am still in bad shape. Five years with a lot of pain.
Don't know when I'll see you. I talked to Dan Quinn, he called to see if things were O.K. I know you have not forgotten me. I've been with the Chapter since 1946. I miss Frank Russo. Best buddy I ever had. So long for awhile I hope.

B Btry. 84th F.A.
SAM ROBINSON
402 Paradise Rd., Madrid 1D
Swampscott, Ma. 01907
Xmas time and Hanukkah time on same day, best to all the men and their families. God bless all of them.

Enclosed donation for "get well" to Ruth Kargir, Ayn Mikus (Chester's wife) and John Vandermiedan.

I hope to get in touch with John when I get to Fla. in Feb. Hope he is feeling better.

We all have our health problems in some way. I'm 81 and still playing a little golf.

Best to all.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Holiday Inn

HAMPTON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
1815 West Mercury Boulevard
Hampton, VA 23666
Phone (575) 838-0200/ (800) 842-9370
Fax: (575) 838-4964
E-Mail: holiday@cvent.net

RATES: \$69.00 Single Group Name: 9th Infantry Division
\$69.00 Double Group Code: DIV
Triple Dates: May 4-7, 1998
Quads Cut-Off Date: April 4, 1998
Suite

Upgrade to our Executive Level for an additional \$10.00 per room/ per night* (Y/N)

*Rates are subject to local tax, currently 10%. Rates honored two days before/after, if available.

Guest Name(s).....

Telephone Number.....

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

Arrival Date.....Departure Date.....

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE GUARANTEED WITH A CREDIT CARD NUMBER OR DEPOSIT IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE NIGHT'S ROOM AND TAX (CURRENTLY 10%) BY APRIL 4, 1998. CONFIRMATION OF YOUR RESERVATION WILL BE MAILED TO YOU. RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS THE CUT-OFF DATE ARE SUBJECT TO SPACE AVAILABILITY, AND WILL BE AT THE PREVAILING ROOM RATE.

Credit Card Number.....Expiration Date.....
CHECK-IN TIME IS 4:00 P.M. AND CHECK-OUT TIME IS 11:00 A.M.

SPECIAL REQUESTS:.....

(EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR REQUESTS — HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT GUARANTEED.)

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

Holiday Inn Hampton Hotel & Conference Center
1815 West Mercury Boulevard
Hampton, VA 23666
ATTN: Reservations Dept.

Don't wait to Purchase
Strip Tickets

The regular price of the strip ticket will be \$80.00. If you can send in your money before December 30, 1997, the price will be \$70.00.

The deadline for the purchase of the 1998 Reunion Strip Tickets has been extended to Feb. 15th 1998. This saving of \$10.00 is offered to the members attending the 98 Reunion in Hampton, Va. The returns so far have been very good but the committee felt that with the added expenses around the Christmas holidays — the cash flow might be a little tight and so the offer. If for any reason you cannot attend the reunion your deposit will be returned. For those who do not know about the strip tickets used at the reunion, the first night there will be a dance with refreshments, the 2nd night another gathering of the same nature and the third and last day the Memorial Service in the morning with the Banquet and Cocktail party that evening.

Please note: When you send in your money for your strip tickets, include your Regular Battalion and Company name — for example, military police, artillery, medic, etc. Also include the name of any other outfit you were with in order that we may include this on your name tag. Include your wife's name or guest that you may wish to bring.

Please use the form below to make your payment and send to Albert Perna, 2642 South Juniper Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148. I may be contacted at (215) 467-2159.

Name of Member	_____		
Address	_____		
	Street		
	City	State	Zip
Phone Number	_____		
Company	Battalion_____		
Regiment	Unit_____		
Wife/Guest's Name	_____		
Strip Ticket	before	2/15/97	\$70.00
	after	12/31/97	\$80.00
	Amount Enclosed		

Deadline for next issue of Octofoil Feb. 20th



Al Baccile of Company B 39th Inf is shown in France on a trip he took last summer with his son Nick. Story appears in Mail Call.

Co. B 39th Inf.
ALBERT BACCILE
815 W. Broad St.
Horseheads, N.Y.

I hope this letter finds you in good health.

The last issue of the Octofoil referred to several tours being promoted by Mr. John Miller of Arlington, Tex. My advice to all, go if you can - you will never regret it.

I recently went on such a trip with my son Nick who lives in Florida. Nick is an avid reader of history and wanted to see for himself the places traveled by the 9th.

We flew to Belgium last September - rented a car and headed for Normandy. Besides some British museums we took in practically all of the Americans historical spots, such as Omaha, Utah, Quinnville, St. Mere-Eglise and other locals in the Cherbourg area.

The American Cemetery at St. Laurent (adjacent to Omaha) is beautifully kept and lie some 10,000 American dead.

One particular place of interest was St. Jacques-De-Nehou, a small French farm community. It was here in June 44 "The 9th was in the process of cutting the Cotentin Peninsula and iso-

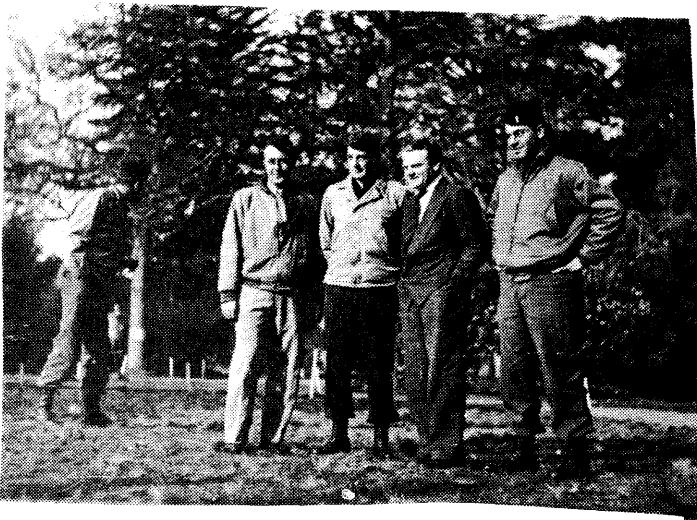
lating the Germans in and around Cherbourg. The dog-tired G.I.s of 1st Bn. 39th were in this area when the German 77th Div. attempted a breakout through our position. They attacked at dawn and in force, and the battle raged for several hours before they finally retreated towards Bri-quelec and Cherbourg leaving upward of 300 dead. I believe their general was killed in this engagement.

The machine gun barrels and mortar tubes all needed replacing after the fray - (burned out 8) - these things you never forget.

Well, we headed back to Belgium and spent some time visiting - Malmédg Verviirs, and St. Vith, also some border areas in Germany - Eupin, Monschau - etc. All-in-all a nice journey.

I do keep in constant touch with my old buddies 1st Sgt. Joe Grovino and Mess Sgt. Al "Hawk" DiRisio. Both live near Rochester. The "Hawk" has been and is struggling to regain his health. He was I believe the best known entertainer in the 39th Inf. We hope to have a decent turnout of B Co. members at our next reunion in Hampton, Va.

Enclosed are dues for 98. "God bless you Danny Boy."



Bob DeSandy sends this photo taken in England in 1944 when the shown members talked Jim Cagney to visit their Companies. (E & F 47th) could not attend the show held at Regt Headquarters which was stationed at the Grange in England. Cagney consented to come to their Companies if they promised him a little "libation" and a hot tub bath (most of the outfits had showers). Guyer had Company F and Larsen had Company E, both stationed near the village of Alresford. Shown from left to right: Guy Wilkes (KIA in Normandy) Otto Geyer, Bill Larsen, both who passed away this year, Jim Cagney and Jim Leopold. Jim Leopold is the only one left in the group.

60th Inf. G Co.
WILLIAM SHANNON
Box 814
Marca, TX 79843

I am enclosing a check for 3 years dues. Have a little ranch on the Rio Grande, we

have had very little rain this past year, so we are having to feed all of our cattle. Hope El Nino will bring some moisture this winter. Wish you a Merry Christmas.

F COMPANY 47TH INFANTRY from Ed Hopkins

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Hanukkah to all the great men of Company F and their families. I send these greetings with mixed feelings as once again I bring sad news of the death of another of our great leaders: Ray Schmader has left us after a gallant fight with heart disease. Ray led F Company from the Remagan Bridge (where he took command after Chuck Jones received his third Purple Heart and the wound that sent him back to the States) to the end of the war when the company met the Russians at the Elbe River. Ray made his first reunion at Lake Placid many years ago when he first discovered that the Association existed. I don't believe he missed a reunion since. We'll miss you, Ray. Our hearts go out to Dorothy. It seems that it was such a short time ago that we could boast of five company commanders attending our reunions. One by one they left us to go to a more peaceful existence, so that now only Chuck Jones remains with us. Hang in there Chuck! Three people called to inform me of Ray's demise: Bob DeSandy, Chuck Jones and Dan Quinn. He was well thought of by those who served with him, and he was well loved by those of us who met him after the hostilities.

Paul Giarraputo is on the phone with me often, as is Bob DeSandy and Dan Quinn. I have heard from Marion Slatnick, Jacqui Armstrong, Marie Tokarchek, Yosh Ryncavage, Jack Finnigan, and George King. I plan to have lunch with Paul after Christmas. Perhaps I can talk Jack Finnigan into driving to Toms River with me if I can pin him down. Jack is always on the go.

To all you good people who have inquired about my health, I am coming along slowly. Having both heart failure and kidney failure in March so soon after my quintuple bypass left me with permanent kidney damage that restricts my diet enormously. Lucy is like a mother hen with me. It was a lucky day that I married this young lady! Mark has moved in with us to help out around the house and do the chores that I am no longer permitted to do. It's great having him on board, but we don't get to see him as much as we'd like. His job seldom lets him get home before nine o'clock.

I received a nice card from Johnny Goldpaugh who has been retired on Cape Cod for many years. He and his lovely Kay are enjoying the relaxing life on the Cape. Yosh Ryncavage and I are on the horn occasionally. Joe Bergin writes or calls once in a while. The Bergins are retired in New Hampshire. Al Yanushefski moved from Philadelphia to smaller quarters in Drexel Hill recently.

I must bring this chit-chat to an end in order to make the deadline. So once again Season's Greetings to all you wonderful people. I hope to see you in Hampton.

110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840-2116

PROPOSAL

Revisit the ETO

TO FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE 9TH INF. DIV. ASSN:

As previously announced, tours to Europe in September of 1998 have been developed to retrace, as much as possible, the route our division followed as it advanced from Utah Beach, thru France and Belgium, into Germany.

Tour #1, from September 11th thru 20th, 1998, will cover, in depth, the Normandy Beaches and Paris. On Day #1 you will depart the USA on your overnight flight to Paris. Meals and entertainment will be enjoyed en route. You arrive in Paris on the morning of Day #2 and are met by your tour escort and driver and transferred to your hotel. You will enjoy a special welcome dinner that evening. The tour of Paris on Day #3 includes all the best of Paris, including the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysees, the Eiffel Tower and the Cathedral of Notre Dame. En route to Normandy on Day #4 you will stop in the fascinating town of Rouen and visit the site where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. One of the highlights of Day #5 is the visit to, and orientation tour of, the famous city of Dieppe. Dinner will be enjoyed that night in your hotel in Honfleur. Days #6, #7 and #8 will be filled with visits to: Utah, Omaha, Juno and Gold beaches; the American Cemetery of St. Laurent; the invasion landings museum at Arromanches; the walled city of St. Malo; and Mont Saint Michel. The city of Orleans, via tours and Amboise, is visited Day #9, with dinner that night at the famous Troglodyte Restaurant. The transfer to the airport on Day #10 visits Estampes and Arpajon en route. The tour provides overnight stops, in first class hotels, for two nights in Paris and Honfleur and for one night in Rouen, Mont Saint Michel, St. Malo and Orleans.

Tour #2, from September 19th thru 28th, 1998, will visit the area in which the "Battle of the Bulge" was fought. This tour will provide overnight hotel stops for four nights in Cologne, three nights in Luxembourg and the final night in the beautiful city of Wiesbaden. Days #1 and #2 feature the overnight flight to and arrival in Frankfurt. You will board a special train for the trip along the Rhine River to Cologne. One highlight of day #3 will be the coach trip, via the Hurtgen Forest to visit the Remagen Bridge War Museum. Wetzlar, Markburg and Kassel will also be visited prior to returning to Cologne for dinner. A beautiful cruise on a Rhine River steamer, plus a visit to a local winery for a "wine tasting" will make Day #4 a most enjoyable one. Days #6, #7 and #8 include visits to: the US cemetery at Magaraten; Bastogne; Kirchberg; and General Patton's grave. On Day #9 you will journey back to Germany. En route to your overnight hotel in Wiesbaden, you will have a detailed tour of Heidelberg, where you will see the town hall, the Church of the Holy Spirit, the famous students' Red Ox Inn and the impressive 16th Century castle, overlooking the Neckar Valley. That night you will be treated to a gala farewell dinner party in a typical local restaurant in Wiesbaden.

For those who desire to take both tours, a tour #3 is available which includes both Tour #1 and #2. Tour #3 will begin on September 12th and will end on September 28th. Those on this tour will travel from Paris to Cologne, Germany by train on September 19th to join up with those beginning tour #2. The approximate six hour train ride, from Paris to Cologne, will give the travelers many closeup and varied views of the beautiful European countryside.

The following are included in the reasonable tour prices (which are special reduced group rates): Full breakfast daily; dinner each evening; English speaking tour escort throughout; guided sightseeing with English speaking guides; and roundtrip airfare from New York or Chicago for tours #1 or #2. Add on fares are available from all major airports.

Per person prices for tours #1 and #2 vary from \$1,953 to \$2,195, depending on the number of paying passengers. Prices for tour #3 (which combines tours #1 and #2) range from \$3,185 to \$3,625 per person, again, depending on how many go on the tours. The extra, per person, charge for a single supplement for tours #1 and #2 is \$435 and \$760 for tour #3. The "Initial booking deposit" of \$200.00 per person is payable only by check and should be paid at your earliest convenience. The final full balance will be due on or before June 30, 1998, and may be paid by Visa, MasterCard or American Express card.

A "TAL tours package insurance plan," which covers pre-existing conditions, is available with a per person price of \$129.00 per person. This coverage, which must be purchased at the time of making the initial booking, provides various medical, emergency medical evacuation, baggage and accidental death benefits as described in a brochure which is available for mailing to you.

Full details and complete printed information by mail may be obtained by calling: Bruce Murphy of Bruce Murphy Travel, Little Rock, Arkansas - Phone, toll free - #1 (888) 988-8844.

Most Sincerely,
John W. Miller
1511 Cochise Drive,
Arlington, TX 76012
Phone: (817) 274-2773

Remember the Dates
May 5, 6, 7, 1998
53rd Reunion
Hampton, Va.

When arguing with your wife - make damn sure you're absolutely right - then drop it.

TEXAS & GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

In mid October, 1997, a mini regional meeting was held in Kaufman, Texas at the Cotton Gin Restaurant. Pete Rice made the arrangements. In attendance were M/M Robert Burky, M/M William "Dub" Lynch, M/M John W. Miller, M/M Charles Newton, and M/M William Scott.

On December 9, 1997, a second mini regional meeting was held in Arlington, Texas. John W. and Jean Miller arranged a luncheon at Moni's Italian Restaurant. In attendance were M/M Ernest Botella, M/M Robert Burky, M/M William "Dub" Lynch, M/M John W. Miller, M/M Gordon Schneider, and M/M Herb Stern.

Following luncheon, we adjourned to the John W. Miller's residence. There Jean had prepared a dessert buffet that was out of this world. Now we know how Jean spent her time at the culinary school when she and John were stationed in Paris, France. Jean had prepared a Chocolate Toffee Torte, a Coffee Hazelnut Raspberry Torte, a Chocolate Raspberry Ganache Cake, a White Chocolate Cheesecake, a Chocolate Mascarpone Cheesecake, and a Chocolate Macadamia Nut Torte. If that doesn't whet your appetite, she had also prepared cookies: Citrus, Pinwheels, Marzipan Stars, Hazelnut Biscotti, Express Pretzels, Chocolate Dipped Orange and Chocolate Truffles. Several hours later, we waddled out totally satiated. Your correspondent, having spent most of his life in the hotel business, can attest she can compete with the finest pastry chefs.

Ken Meyer, a veteran of seven campaigns with the Ninth in WW II, the Korean conflict, and finally as a Command Sergeant Major with the 47th Regt in Vietnam, advises us that he has resigned as the Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the 47th Regt. At 76 years of age, Ken felt it was time to pass the position on to a younger candidate. Colonel Ray Inzer, past honorary Colonel of the Regiment resigned in 1995 for health reasons.

Let it be known the 47th Infantry Regiment is still alive and well. The 2nd Battalion of the Regiment is located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

The Regimental Association was formed in 1987 with Brigadier General "Chip" Maness as the 1st Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

"Chip" resigned in the early 90's due to medical problems at that time. He was replaced by Colonel Ray Inzer who also served with the 2nd Battalion in WW II.

Through the efforts of Ken, a new Honorary Colonel was found, along with a new Honorary Command Sergeant Major.

At Fort Leonard Wood on 20 November 1997, a ceremony was held inducting a new Honorary Colonel and a new Honorary Command Sergeant Major.

Regulations specify the Honorary Colonel must be in the grade of Colonel (or higher), retired, and have served with the Regiment. Colonel (Retired) Edward E. Thurman, who served as the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion during 1988, 1989, and 1990, was selected as the new Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

Regulations concerning the appointment of a Honorary Command Sergeant Major are the same, except for rank. Command Sergeant Major Lorenzo Clark, who served as the Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion from 1984 to 1988, was selected to be the new Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regimental Association.

Guests attending the ceremony were M/M Jack Collier. Jack served in the Regiment during WW II. Henry Jezek and Ed Lohf, both of whom served with the Regiment in Vietnam, were also present. Representing the current 2nd training Battalion were Lieutenant Colonel Kardos, Commanding, and Command Sergeant Major France.

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



Members of Company E 39th Infantry are shown at the Louisville Reunion held last summer in Kentucky. Their company was well represented at the reunion.

9TH DIVISION GOLF CAPS

9th Division Association golf caps can be obtained by mail for a total cost of \$10.00 per cap which includes postage. These caps with an adjustable back (one size fits all) have the 9th Division Association embroidered emblem. Three styles are available:

1. Summer cap (most popular style) which has a white front panel with a royal blue visor and nylon mesh back panel.
2. Winter cap in all navy blue.
3. All white plain summer cap.

Send all orders made payable to: Elmer Wagner, 2833 Hotchkiss Rd., Bav City, MI 48706.

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.

Taps Sounded (Nov.-Dec. 1997)

Robert "Bob" Story
47th Inf. M Co.

Ray Schmadier
47th Inf. F Co.

Clifford Williams
39th Inf. A Co.

Capt. J.B. Wiley
Hqs. 3rd. Bn. 47th Inf.

Albert Napadano
47th Inf.

Dick Robbins
9th Q.M.

Peter F. Zimmer
Co. L 47th Inf.

Anna Edie
Widow of Bob Edie Co. B
47th Inf.

Edward Wargo
9th Signal

Orlando "Mickey" Bruno
34th F.A.

Duane Olson
Hdqs. 47th Inf.

G.W. Snead
60th F.A.

Tom Harney
39th Inf.

47th Inf. E Co.
MAURICE HOUCKES
133 Jackson St.
Haskell, N.J. 07420

I'd like to express my sympathy to Bob Colfish's family. He will be missed by all his friends in E Co. 47th and myself. God Bless you Bob.



84th F.A. C Btry
EDWARD M. WINSCH
Apt 2N
1 Birchwood Ct.
Mineola, NY 11501

Enclosed is my check for one year dues for the Octofoil and the rest for the Memorial Fund.

It was interesting to read Aaron Lubins account of that battle at Thala Feb. 21, 1943.

We did everything by the "Book" under the capable guidance of then Captain McGonagle, later General. Our orders on arriving at Thala after the 722 mile trek across N. Africa were "supposed to fire at dawn." However the Germans hit us before dawn.

I thought it was the end of the world, but we did survive that long day obviously with good results. We let them know that the 9th Division had arrived.

Greater New York Area Chapter

The NY Chapter met at the Masonic Hall, 71 W 23rd St., New York City, Friday, November 21, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. After the traditional pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence in respect for our departed buddies, President Al Lipton opened the meeting.

Secretary Art Schmidt read the minutes from the previous meeting and Treasurer Al Zenka gave the financial report. Correspondence was read by Prez Lipton. We heard from Al Baccile, Dennis Canedy, Lillian Abramson, Ben Kovacs, Peter Mastriano, Frank Kavala, Joseph F. Donovan, and the Strasser family, acknowledging the NY Chapter's condolence for the passing of 9th member Walter Strasser.

Dan Quinn noted that eighty-six 9th members from various parts of the country attended the Annual Memorial Pilgrimage to Worcester, Mass. to honor our departed comrades of World War II and since.

A discussion was opened about the future dispensation of 9th Inf. Div. Assn. funds. Suggestions included possible donations to VA hospitals, college scholarships and a new 9th memorial in Worcester. Of course, the inevitable demise of our WWII association within its current charter is a sobering thought, as the new millennium approaches. This issue will, increasingly, draw greater realization by surviving 9th members — that one day, the 9th Infantry Division Association, like General MacArthur's "... old soldier... will just fade away."

Nomination of NY Chapter 1998 Officers

While we still have an organization, the main course of business tonight was the nomination of NY Chapter officers for 1998. The members agreed to move up present 1997 officers one chair with a new nomination for 2nd vice president. The slate approved was: President — Emil Langer; 1st VP — Joe Killen; 2nd VP — Antoine Dietrich; and incumbents: Secretary — Arthur R. Schmidt; Treasurer — Alphonse Zenka and Chaplain — George Apar. Board of Governors: 60th — Charlie LiBretto; 47th — Dan Quinn; 39th — Herminio Suarez; and Divarty — Al Lipton. Special Troops — Adolph Wadalavage and Sgt. of Arms — Al Lubrano.

Election of officers was held at the December 19 meeting. Also, on that date, the 50-50 Christmas Raffle was drawn. Installation of Officers will take place at the January 16, 1998 meeting.

Meeting was adjourned around 9:30 p.m. and we all headed for the hospitality table.

Members attending, not mentioned above: Tony DeRobertis, Jack Holabuff, Marv Levy and Joe Rzesniowicki. George Apar, Vincent Guglielmino and Tony Varone were on sick call.

The NY Chapter wishes all 9th men and their families everywhere, a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

NY area chapter members reminder: if you haven't paid up your dues this is the time to catch up for 1998 — \$10 for 1 yr., \$25 for 3 yrs. and \$75 for Lifetime Membership. Make checks payable to the Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assn. and send to Arthur R. Schmidt, Secretary, 90-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385.

Marv Levy
Co A 60th
2044 Ellen Drive
Merrick, NY 11566-5404
NY Chapter

On December 19th, the Chapter held its annual Christmas Party. President Al Lipton opened the meeting. Upon motion, Secretary Arthur Schmidt's minutes were dispensed with and Treasurer Al Zenka submitted his financial report. Charlie Warner sent his regrets in not being able to attend because of his health.

Election of Officers

The President called for further nominations and, there being none, the following Officers were elected for 1998: President, Emil Langer; 1st Vice-President, Joseph Killen; Secretary, Arthur Schmidt; Treasurer, Al Zenka; Sergeant-at-Arms, Al Lubrano; Chaplain, George Apar; Judge Advocate, Dan Quinn. Board of Governors: Dan Quinn, 47th Reg't; Charles Libretto, 60th Reg't; Herminio Suarez, 39th Reg't; Adolph Wadalavage, Special Troops; Al Lipton, Divarty.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and the following-named comrades, in addition to the above-named, Bill Canales, Tony DeRobertis, Anton Dietrich, Frank Fazio, Mike Gatto, Marty Gross, Jack Holuboff, Vince Iannucci, John Marcogliese, Walter O'Keefe, Joe Rzesniowicki and Charlie Vandermark, sauntered down to Ireland's Inn for a delicious full course dinner which was served in a festively-decorated dining room. During the meal, Al Lipton conducted the raffle drawing. Many kudos to our Comrades and ladies who returned their books for their generosity so that we may continue to memorialize our 4581 KIAs and those who have joined them since.

The winners are as follows: George Bastdeo, Aaron A. Weinberg, Tom Burke, Carl Winter, Mrs. B. Blockley, Mrs. J. Abramson (donated back to Chapter), Walter Strasser, Ann Klauz, Joseph Kscenaitis, Arthur Schmidt, Anthony N. San Giacomo, Joseph R. Coppolino, Walter J. O'Keefe, and Willard M. Weaver.

Respectfully submitted by Al Zenka in the absence of Marv Levy who, with Barbara, is on Holiday, as the Brits say.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MINI-REUNION COMMITTEE FORMED: At the Kissimmee, FL Meeting, Charles Van der Poel was named Chairman of the 1998 Fall Chapter Reunion. Chuck wasted no time in appointing Richard Baudouy as Co-Chairman; Emil De Donato, Advertising and Promotion Mgr.; and Phil Berman, Treasurer and Negotiator. Chairman Van der Poel plans to call for a meeting of the Reunion Committee soon after the new year to start the ground-work for our Fall Meeting. Because the National Reunion will take place on May 5, 6, 7th and 8th 1998 at the Holiday Hampton Hotel in Virginia, there will not be a Spring Chapter Meeting. The Committee urges all members who have made other commitments during the months of September and October to please drop the Chairman a note stating those days you will be away. The Committee will make every effort to pick the days whereby it will have the most attendees. Contact: Chas Van der Poel, 2005 Elaina Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32216 Phone: 904/724-3633.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: Secretary Bill Fleming has been very busy organizing and producing a new Membership Roster which all dues-paying members should receive by the time you receive this copy of the OCTOFOIL. Thanks to the hard work of Richard Baudouy, this roster will have telephone numbers. If you discover any corrections, deletions or omissions, please send them in to William Fleming, 7861 Praver Dr. West, Jacksonville, FL 32217. Notices of these errors will be printed in future issues of the OCTOFOIL so that you may up-date your copy and also in the next up-dated roster. Anyone wishing an extra copy of this new roster is asked to send \$1.00 and a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope to Secretary Fleming.

IN MEMORIAM

PETER F. ZIMMER: The Florida Chapter deeply mourns the death of Pete Zimmer who died at his Cape Coral home on November 2, 1997. Pete and his wife Ruth, attended many Chapter and National Reunions.

He was born June 3, 1919 in Ridgewood, N.J. Pete served in Co L of the 47th Regiment, became a prisoner of war in Germany, Stalag 7, then escaped to the U.S. Lines. He also served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Pete was a builder of homes in the S.W. area of Florida.

Peter is survived by his wife Ruth, 3 sons and their spouses, and 12 grandchildren. Our sympathies go out to his wife Ruth, his sons Kenneth, Peter and John and to all of their families. May the Good Lord have mercy on him and grant him forever peace.

MEMBER NEWS

ANTHONY BOLOGNESE: For the past two years, Tony has been volunteering 10 hours or more per week at the V.A. Medical Center located on 7305 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach FL 33410. This facility was completed in June, 1955. It has 400 patient rooms plus approximately 60 beds for nursing home patients. There's a beautiful Chapel on the premises in addition to housing for visiting families and friends. This 9 story complex serves 6 counties that is home to approximately 250,000 veterans.

Tony reported that this V.A. Hospital is well kept and has the latest medical equipment. Patients that we reviewed were very satisfied with the care they receive.

Tony looks forward to his 10 hour per week shift volunteer duty. Maybe it's the "\$4.00 free-bee lunch" that he gets. (Just kidding) He is in the **Escort Service** that transports wheel chair patients throughout the hospital and also to various clinics, re-hab services or wherever the patient needs to go. Golf carts are available to transport patients from the parking areas. A valet parking service has been recently put into operation... and as Tony commented... "It's quite a great place."

In addition to the regular volunteers, there are Vans from the DAV, the American Legion, Jewish Vets and other organizations that provide transportation for the severely disabled veterans.

The Florida Chapter Officers and its entire membership salute Tony for his unselfish devotion to our hospitalized veterans who are not as lucky as many of us who are able to get around on our own power.

RICHARD BAUDOUY: In addition to being an active President of the Florida Chapter, Richard spent many hours researching and compiling telephone numbers of as many Chapter members that he could find. He sent this listing to Bill Fleming who has incorporated them into the new up-dated Membership Roster. Richard is to be commended for this tedious effort.

ARNOLD TOMANEK: It was Arnold who phoned in the news regarding the death of Peter Zimmer. Arnold then followed up his phone call with a write up with some of the details. (PLEASE SEND IN ANY NEWS CONCERNING THE FLORIDA CHAPTER TO EMIL DE DONATO).

HENRY SANTOS: Henry is back at the Tampa V.A. Hospital and is showing signs of improvement. Eva, his wife, stated that they are waiting for a room at the nursing home so that Henry can continue with therapy. Our prayers are for Henry to make a complete recovery and also prayers for Eva to remain in good health. Eva may be reached at 813/985-5444 whenever she is not visiting Henry.

JIMMY DRISCOLL: Sick Call claimed another one of our Chapter members. On October 15, 1997, Surgeons at Largo Medical Center performed a 4-way by-pass heart operation on Jimmy who got a heart attack while going through a catheterization procedure. Virginia, his wife, stated that Jimmy suffered a brief set back due to some internal stomach problem. Jimmy returned to his home on or about October 30th and is making steady progress in his recovery. Jimmy and Virginia make their home at 3213 Moog Road West, Holiday, FL 34691. Phone 813/392-2307.

EMIL LANGER: Honorary member Phil Langer will be spending the Winter months... January to May 1st... in Florida. He may be reached by writing to him at 3600 Harrison Street, Apt. 14, Hollywood FL 33021.

WILLIAM MEGLA: Bill and his wife Marjory, "snow birds" who make their permanent home in Columbus, Ohio, will be spending their winter here in Florida. Bill phoned this writer saying he underwent a stroke, a heart attack with by-pass operation and as a result, lost the sight of one eye. Bill and Marjory attended our Spring Meetings in the past. Bill was in Co C of the 47th and was a POW. Bill plans to play some golf soon. We wish him a speedy full recovery.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

DOROTHY AND BILL FLEMING: Congratulations are in order for their 3rd grandchild. A beautiful baby girl, Virginia Raye Fleming came into this world on September 29, 1997... just in time to receive gifts from Grandma and Grandpa Santa Claus.

RUTH AND IRVING KING: During our last September Kissimmee reunion, which Ruth and Irv came from Monticello, FL to attend, we learned that they celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary. Looks like Irv got married in anticipation of Pearl Harbor Day. Please accept our belated well wishes for many more years together.

DOLORES AND CHARLES VAN DER POEL: They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in February of the new year. Congratulations from all of us. Chuck and Dolores live at 2005 Elaina Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32216. Phone: 904/724-3633.

DONATION MADE TO VA HOSPITAL: On November 18, 1997, Dolores and Charles Van der Poel met with Irv and Ruth King at the Lake City, FL V.A. Hospital. At the September Women's Auxiliary Meeting, a vote was passed to donate \$300 to the Lake City Veteran's Hospital. Ruth King and Dolores Van der Poel were chosen to make the presentation. They met with Ron Joyner, Chief Voluntary Section, who accepted the donation. It will be used to purchase supplies for new veterans entering the facility. A letter acknowledging this donation was received by Sec./Treas. Audrey De Donato who will read the letter at the next Women's Auxiliary Meeting.

Emil J. De Donato
3650 S. W. Mosswood St.
Dunnellon, FL 34432
Phone: 352/489-4070



Women's Auxiliary of the Florida Chapter donated \$300.00 to the VA Medical Center of Lake City, Florida. Dolores Van der Poel and Ruth King are shown here making the presentation to Ronald W. Joyner, Chief Voluntary Section.

Cannon Co. 39th Inf.
GEORGE W. BOOTH
621 S. Olive
Jefferson, IA 50129

Am enclosing check for three years dues and some decals. I would like to see more letters from men of the 39th in the paper. I enjoyed the reunion in Louisville, it's great to visit with all the friends we've made over the years. See you in Hampton hopefully. Best wishes until then. Have a Happy Holiday.

Hq. Co. 47th Inf.
JOHN JUNG
603 N. Church St.
Greensboro, N.C. 27401

Am pleased to renew membership for three years. Enjoy reading the newsletter every issue.

Was with the 9th May 1943 to Sept. 1945 and wish regards to all that served with me.

Hope to make the annual reunion this year and it would be my first.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Nothing much to report this time other than we held our annual Holiday party at our home on December 6th. We were going to hold it at a hotel as last year but knew we weren't going to have many people. So much depends on the weather. The Clarks had more snow in Indiana and didn't want to chance the drive. By the way, Paul is feeling much better these days. Present at the party were the Andersons, Hellers, Grays, who brought Wanda Preston with them, Vera Carpenter and her daughter, the Paulis and the Belmontes. As usual, we had plenty of snacks and Punch since no one is drinking anymore. We played the White Elephant Game and the Andersons were the winners of the grand prize. Afterwards, we ordered in some pizzas and had dessert. A good time was had by all.

We have no meetings planned for the next few months and are looking forward to the Reunion in Hampton. Will be sending in our reservations soon.

Mike Belmonte
1161 S. Lombard
Oak Park, IL

M Company (47th) Chronicler

I have sad news to relate from Montana. Bob Story, once of the illustrious 1st Platoon, passed away last September 29th from Lou Gehrig's Disease, according to his wife, Avis. Bob was an eight-star "Iron Man." Such a pity. While passing through Western Montana about ten years ago, I stopped in Ronan and looked him up. He and his family were happily ensconced out in the woods, backed up against some snowcaps, a long way from his native Minnesota. They were big on hunting and fishing which was very handy there, and loved it.

I've had Christmas cards from Ed Wills and Joe Ksenitis who, I expect, are champing at the bit, waiting for May and the next Reunion in Hampton, Virginia. We're planning to attend and expect to see the usual great turnout of the best of the heavy weaponeers.

Best wishes for a grand 1998 to you all.

Red Phillips
14002 Henlock Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946

M Co. 47th Inf.
CONDA KNEE
625 Ridgefield Rd.
Newark, OH 43055

Enclosed is a check for three years renewal. Plus a bit for the Memorial Fund, in honor of those from M Co. who were KIA and died of wounds and passed on since the war. I have been in touch with Bill Horan, Ed Wills and Jack Knight. How about you that served in M Co. 47th to drop a note to The Octofoil and let us know how you are. Enclosed is the amount for two decals. Dan keep up the good work, as I always look forward to receiving the Octofoil

Deadline for next issue Feb. 20th

9th Med's.

PETER A. RADICHIO
P.O. Box 1541
Homosassa Springs, FL
34447-1541

Dear Dan,

I hope you and Marie are doing well as for myself I am doing well other than my eyes as it will be checked tomorrow maybe for cataracts, other than that doing fine.

Margie and I had a great trip cross country, visited our friends in Guffy, Colorado also visited Milo Olson in Texas had a stroke but hanging in there his wife has a problem and also hanging in there as well. Went to Denver visited George Stein and he is having a problem with his head and thank God he has a damn good partner for a wife taking care of him. From here we went to Oakland visit my son he's handicap from a motorcycle accident but he is hanging in there of course. During the course of travel went thru Salt Lake City - salt all over the place then to Lake Tahoe- Reno - down to Los Angeles saw the men at American Air Lines left went to San Diego. We went to visit Vito Splevdorio to have him sing to me every time I visit him a cappella he still has a pretty good voice. All you guys from B Company 9th Medics drop Vito a line he'll be happy to hear from you.

Margie and I will be leaving for Los Angeles on the 9th Dec., 1997. We have a few Christmas parties to go at American Air Lines Van Guards retiree and also Local #502 TWU it should be fun.

Since I haven't written a letter so long I apologize the length of this letter.

My second part of this letter, I am going to support John Bonkowski letting the president of America know the hospital for the veterans in Michigan should be named in memory of Mat Urban Veteran Affairs Medical Center, and I mean it shouldn't be named after a dingling that the president owes a favor. Bay Pines Veterans Hospital in Florida has a saying veterans come first. Let's live up to this slogan. Jake I hope you get more response from the guys in the 9th Div.

Dan, last year when Margie and I visited Mat Urban's grave, let me tell you Mat's stone was a sad one by comparison to the others; in fact Joe Louis has the largest stone there in section seven (7) just below the tombs of the Unknown Soldiers. Let's all place a donation towards a heroic stone. I will lead the way. Thank you for editing this letter and again I will say to all my friends and comrades have a joyous festive holidays with your family and friends.

The great 9th Division should never be turned over to education. The tradition must live on, I am all for it.

I remain a 9th forever including the 9th Viet Nam combat troops.

60th Inf. K Co.

JOS. RAPPAZINI
24001 Sherman Ave.
Oak Park, MI. 48237

There's a warmth that arises, countless memories arise, and yes, tears form in my eyes. In no way do they blot out the memories envisioned that outline men and achievements of the Ninth Division. 'Tis truly a blessing to experience and share in the visions and images that come to mind, and there is little difficulty in attempting to create them. Visions appear of faces, places and events — all of warm, historical beat. I've rested my head in the palm of my hand, as my mind wanders and pictures far-away lands. 'Tis thus each time I survey and read the pages of "The Octofoil," that marvelous "gift" of your devotion and toil! Realize all the wonder and gratitude felt, when Ninth G.I.'s engross themselves in wonder and awe and gratitude whenever "The Octofoil" is received. While reading it, I sit in constant wonder, thrilled and amazed at warmth that is felt, reading page after page. And, even as I write, I pause, gaze out across the sea — and in mind and heart, numerous faces and places I see — many familiar, I'm sure, to both you and me.

My mind conceives, in a wide-awake dream,

A far-off, contemplative war scene —

American G.I.'s armed with M1's

Engaged in a war that must be won!

The fate of the world — all mankind —

Is that which formidably stalks the mind!

The world was engaged in a struggle that must be won,

So that all mankind might live harmoniously as one!

Co L 47th Inf.

LAVERNE W. RIDDELL
601 NW 6 St.
Aledo, IL 61231

After reading your article in the May, June, July Octofoil taken from the VFW magazine regarding Normandy Medal, I followed the instructions given by Mr. Raymond M. Connolly Jr.

The letter I sent via registered mail on August 28, 1997 was answered Oct. 9, 1997, and I received the medal of the Jubilee of Liberty offered by the Regional Council of Lower Normandy. It was an impressive medal and was accompanied by remarks from Pres. Rene Garrec.

I was most fortunate to serve in Co. L 47th Reg. in Normandy, No. France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe as a Sergeant, 60 MM Mortar Squad leader and come out with no injuries. When we recall such places as St. Lo, Falaise Gap, Crossing the Explosive Wired Remagen Bridge, Dessau, Germany on the Elbe River and all battles in between. I was surely blessed each day.

Thank you for your informational newsletter.

**53rd Annual Reunion
9th Inf Div Assn
May 5, 6, 7, 1998**

47th Inf. I Co.

GORDON MORK
205 S. Stewart Rd. #188
Mission, TX 78572

Got to get my things in order before we leave for Hildago Co., Texas for the winter months. One of the first things is to send you a change of address, and pay up my dues for 3 years which I enclose.

I enjoy some of the readings about things that happened on the side, and not about the actual combat. I do not dwell much on that as I can't remember 2 days in a row even after four campaigns. I think more of the other little things that happened, things that I can laugh about or bring a smile to my face. It was tough at times, but today I can laugh about them. I guess I never was very serious about some things.

In Africa I think about a day's pass to Sidi Bel Abbes. A visit to the medics to pass a test and get a card with a picture of a cart with a broken wheel. I am sure some of the persons that were there remember what it meant. I think of the uniforms we wore. I am sure we looked like some "sad sacks" with our impregnated clothes.

In Sicily it was always the search for water to drink or I guess it was prevelant every place we went.

In England it was warm ale and fish & chips wrapped in an old newspaper. And in France it was "Where is Everybody." It seemed we were always alone and nobody else was fighting the war.

I've got to sign off and good health to everyone of our guys.

Hdq. 60th F.A.

DAVID ELWAY
4221 El Rancho Dr.
Allison Park, Pa. 15101

Just to renew my dues for three years, and wish every one the best for the coming holidays. Lost my wife in Jan. 1993 and have been a lost soul ever since.

Will be 85 years old next month and don't expect to be around many more years.

Thank you for doing such a good job keeping the Ninth going. I look forward to the arrival of the Octofoil and read every letter in it. Excuse poor writing due to arthritis.

Best to everyone and may God bless.

It's hard to be nostalgic — when you can't remember anything.

Co. B. 15th Combat Engrs.

CHARLIE HOFFMANN
91-43 81 St.
Woodhave, NY 11421

Since I haven't sent any of my tales about our 9th Div. for a long time, I thought it was time to drop a line.

I want to get this in before the 20th of Dec. so another chapter of my long time coming book called "The Old Reliabilities" will have to wait.

What I want to tell all the guys is that I am reading the book "Hello Everybody I'm Linsey Nelson." He relates his time with the 9th with the "town pump" incident. That alone is worth getting the book. Most libraries have it.

The last reunion, Gloria and I made was the one at Lake Placid. If things get better with some medical problems we will see all of our engineer buddies in Virginia.

Our best to all the guys who were with the best Div. in World War II.

A Co. 15th Engrs

CARROLL DEVOLD
40 White Birch Lane
Williston, VT 05495

There's a '97 on my last few Octofoils so it's time again for dues. Here's for another three years, who knows maybe I'll make it. I sure don't want to miss any of them.

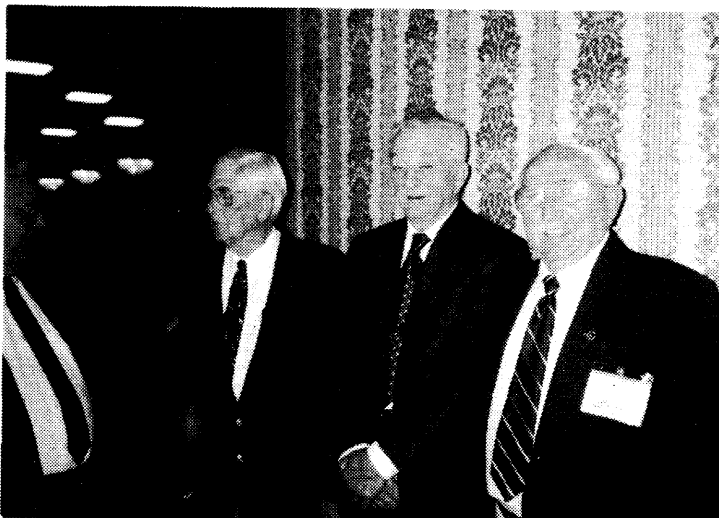
What a great time in Louisville and what a job Henry Santos did.

I talked recently with Eva and he is gaining slowly for I'm sure he'll make it, he's a fighter.

Hoping to make the reunion in Virginia. I would hate to miss seeing old friends again.

MS. NANCY SAN GIACOMO
429 Marion Oaks Golf Rd.
Ocala, FL
34473-3633

In the Sept-Oct (1997) issue of the Octofoil, I noticed a name, Anthony San Giacomo, in the "Tip Of the Hat" Memorial Fund. I would like to know more about the donor, because my husband's name was Anthony San Giacomo. He was with the 751st Tank battalion in Anzio, Italy. Perhaps the 'Anthony San Giacomo' mentioned in print, is a long lost relative.



At the reunion last summer in Louisville three old timers from Hq 3rd Bn. 47th met their 1st Sgt. Homer Dixon, after 52 years. Shown (L to R) Hal Saum, Homer Dixon, Mike Pele and Ben Kovacs.

Subject: Letter from the Huertgen Forest

This is in response to John Ausland's letter in the April 29, 1993 **International Herald Tribune**.

It was my experience to be one of the infantrymen assigned as a replacement to the most advanced Allied infantry group on the western front. This was beyond Aachen, and well into Germany through the Siegfried line. It was the Ninth Infantry Division, K company, 47th Regiment. From October 22, 1944 until February 19, 1945 I fought with this unit.

During that time we held the front to the east of Aachen, while a very large pocket of German soldiers in Aachen was absorbed. We successfully fended off repeated counter-attacks by the Germans to break through to their units in Aachen.

We then pushed off in November, 1944 from a small town called Schevenhuetten to attempt to capture the route into Cologne. The Germans successfully resisted our offensive. Just as it was ending, with probably about 250 casualties (with replacements) for my infantry company, whose normal complement was 100 effective men, we were rushed down to the north flank of the Bulge with instructions to hold the north corner and prevent the Germans from any further swinging back of the front.

We did successfully resist the enlargement of the Bulge, and held the hinge of the northern flank until other units were able to bring the Bulge even with us. Following the end of the Bulge about January 18, 1945, we moved into the town of Schmidt on the Roer River. We successfully eventually crossed the river and captured dams that were to the south of us. By the time February 19, 1945 arrived I was finally wounded and left the front. It is my estimate that we had approximately 500 replacements in the four months for the 100 effectives in our company.

It is also my impression that all of us felt that the battles raging from the Aachen area south to the Vosges Mountains and into Luxembourg were the type of battles that did have to be fought. Those of us participating in it felt very much that this was a crucial aspect of the war, and would ultimately lead to the victory we were seeking.

Never throughout my fighting experience did I feel that I was really fighting for the United States' victory. What I always felt I was really fighting for was the evolution of the United Nations. To this day I am grateful that the war did result in the birth of that organization.

Many may have forgotten this series of battles in West Germany as World War II was coming to an end, just as they also forgot the Battle of the Wilderness in the Civil War. However, this was an essential step on the road to victory, and it is my impression that those who participated in it were quite aware of what they were doing, and of the importance of their activity.

Sincerely

George Nicklin, M.D.
Medic, K Company,
47th Regiment

P.S. George Nicklin, M.D. is now a practicing medical psychoanalyst and Associate Clinical Professor at New York University School of Medicine.

Start the day with a laugh
— and get it over with.

A new book Zoot Suits & Parachutes (1942-1945) has just been published. It contains experiences of Doris B. Tanner's training as an Air Force Pilot, and the letters she received from her husband Lt. Col. Wm. W. Tanner, 47th 9th Div. while he was overseas in Africa, Sicily, Normandy, Remagen, etc. Price \$39.50 + postage \$5.00. Write Box 280, Union City, Tn. 38281 to receive a copy.

SEEKING

DAVID W.J. BARTLETT
30, Anstey Lane,
Alton, Hampshire,
England G034 2NH

I have been given your name by the American Embassy, London, and I do hope you can assist me in my quest.

As you are aware, we (the Allied Forces) have recently commemorated the D-Day invasion of Europe which took place 50 years ago. During the war years, in particular just prior to D-Day there were many U.S. soldiers stationed in Hampshire and quite a few visited an English Pub in Winchester, called The Jolly Farmer, which was owned and run by my wife's uncle (Mr. Charles Ivory and his wife Dorothy).

Both of these relatives passed away a few years ago, but I have in my possession a letter written to them by a Cpl. Gordon Roberts (please see the attached copy of his envelope for his full details) and I am wondering whether or not this old soldier is still alive and kicking!

As a long shot, would it be possible for you to circulate his details in any Association Magazine you may run, with a view to tracing him. I would dearly like to find him (or a relative) in order to return his letter which describes the few days after D-Day landings.

Hoping to hear from you.

60th Inf. G Co
SIEGFRIED REINHEIMER
2532 Wilson Ave.
Bronx, N.Y. 10469

Enclosed is my dues for 1999 and something for the Memorial Fund. I am enclosing a picture of myself and our mail clerk and I hope that someone will recognize him and send me his name and address. I am on the right of the picture, it was taken some where in Germany but I never marked any dates or places on the pictures. It is unbelievable that it is over 50 years that the picture was taken. I have many more and they bring back good and bad memories, as on some of the pictures the buddies never made it back. A Healthy and Happy New Year to all the men of the Ninth.

Cheers.

Advice to the bridegroom — No matter how she treats you — always try to look a little bit hurt.

When was the last time you wrote a letter to our Mail Call Column? Just a postal card would denote your interest and let some buddy know where you are. You like to read what other members send in ... why not do your own part and write a few lines now and then for their enjoyment.

Grateful
47th Inf. M Co.
RICHARD YATES
384 Spreading Oak Ln.
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Dan, I am enclosing a check to cover next year's dues for the Octofoil. Would you please put the following item in the next issue of the Octofoil?

I want to thank Raymond M. Connolly, Jr. of Southampton, New Jersey for his article in the last publication of Octofoil regarding the availability of the "Jubilee of Liberty" medal.

I had been trying to obtain the medals I was entitled to from the U.S. Department of Army. This had been going on for over 15 months.

I used the address provided by Mr. Connolly, and had written requesting the "Jubilee" medal. It so happened that on the day the U.S. Service medals and the Jubilee medal arrived on the same day.

15th Engrs, A Co.
EDWARD RICKERT
4912 W. 156th St.
Oak Forest, IL
60453

Another year is just about gone, and I still remember Christmas of 1942 in Africa, sleeping in the wine vats, and 1943 in England in Winchester, had Christmas Church service in the mess hall, and 1944 in Germany. The time of the Battle of the Bulge, and 1945 home.

And now 1997 home with our family and friends my thoughts are still with the many friends that I met in the service. The ninth division and their units had a great bunch of good soldiers.

The Christmas card list seems to be getting smaller each year.

I'm enclosing my dues once again for a great paper the Octofoil. Thanks for a great job.

9th Med C Co.
ALEX BALOUGH
4138 Delavan St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

Enclosed you will find a check for three years dues. Also am enclosing a contribution to the Memorial Fund for my buddy, Sewell Landon, and all my buddies who have passed away.

Ralph Palermo called me and told me that he had been in the hospital for a week — (The golden years). He is doing much better now. I also talked to Chalmers Cochran and his wife, lovely people — always feel very happy when I talk to them. I also talked to Andy Kopach, he sounds great. Also talked to Joe Kash and Marion. They also have those golden years problem. Hope to see them all at the next reunion. Hoping that they are all on top of the world. God bless all of you, I remain.

P.S. I hope Fred Dick and his wife Phyllis are doing great.

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

Dear Sir, I never get to see any of my Co. "D" friends in our wonderful paper, and I am too riddled with ailments to make the social gatherings, so let me stir up some memories and a friend or two.

Remember Cheriton, England in 1943? I do. I met a wonderful young lady over there. Her name is Peggy. I have been writing and phoning her for a year, and exchanging cards. Things have changed some, I understand the Quonset Huts are gone and other things according to Ernie, another friend I correspond with in Cheriton. My old dart player Fred has left for the south.

I remember my good old Sergeant giving me unused passes to London. Whew, what a time with the Australian Wacs and the New Zealand Wacs. My friends gambled so much most of the time they were broke. I saved for good old London. What about it Kormis. Thank you for the Hungarian goulash.

Mrs. Welch, cooked many a Sunday dinner for us. I do believe Al Kongsle ate with us a time or two. We left money, knowing food was hard to get. Remember Capt. Nivens, a fine C.O. he was!

A few months ago I got a passport but I know my health now won't permit me to go to England.

Say, even if I would care to live out my days in England, the officials have made it impossible for me.

I must earn approximately \$37,500 a year, can't make use of their medical program, children can't attend public school, lose Medicare, and hosts of medical and personal papers, etc.

In 1943 they let me stay without proof of income, and was glad to get my money. Maybe I can go over next war!

My friend Fred keeps me up on Cheriton. I loved England, but they don't want me now. They say there are too many people on the "dole". And "Maybe too old. Say what!!

How about you "D" Company heroes give us a write.

Hqs. Btry. 34th F.A.
ROBERT TURNER
6 Munroe Ave.
Woburn, MA 01801

Enclosed find check for three years plus a little extra for the Memorial Fund.

Haven't been able to get to reunion since Lake Placid — Vision problems among others. However, my memory is still sharp. Article on Thala in Oct. issue by Aaron Lubeis of 84th F.A., brought back memories to me of the 770 miles in X days from Clement to Thala in some of the worst weather imaginable (unit citation). I drove a GMC through N.A. and Sicily, so remember it well — Trucks and drivers assigned to 60th Inf. for two weeks and to 82nd Airborne in Sicily for two weeks.

The best to you and family for the holidays.

Troop Ship--1942

Since you thought enough of my article in the Bergen Record about my most memorable Christmas Dinner in the Monschau area, I thought you might like to see if you would be interested to publish this in the Octofoil.

A-T 47th Inf.
Charles A. Bodnar
187 New York Ave.
Bergenfield, N.J. 07621

TROOP SHIP - 1942

A call to arms and the whirlwind of preparation in the course of moulding from civilian to soldier was coming to a finale. Lessons in the use of fire arms such as rifle, light and heavy machine guns and mortars was over. Live ammunition was used once on the target range for each weapon. We simulated tossing grenades with rocks until there was enough to ration out one per man for actual experience. Field tactics, camouflage and aggressiveness were emphasized, but never under simulated battle conditions. Our so called training over, everyone received a one week furlough and told to take a pro (prophylactic) whenever involved sexually. A greater emphasis was placed on preventing venereal disease than patriotism.

The last week of September was departure day from recruit training. Everyone was being assigned to permanent infantry divisions as replacements to bring them up to division strength. A trainful of us arrived at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the home base of the 9th infantry division. As replacements, we were divided among its two regiments, the 47th and 60th. Five of us were assigned to Co. G second battalion of the 47th regiment. Others were placed wherever needed throughout the division. A fifteen minute truck ride brought us to the Co. bivouac area, where we were put into platoons and squads.

At retreat, everyone was ordered restricted to the Co. area. Rumors spread wildly of an overseas trip to join up with the 39th regiment already somewhere in Scotland. On and off alerts and restrictions were becoming habitual until the middle of October. We were moved to Norfolk, Virginia where we practiced invasion tactics in Chesepeak Bay for four days. Going down cargo nets into landing craft belted by high winds, rain, a choppy sea and salt water spray drenching the clothing. On the fifth morning, we returned to the Norfolk Navy Yard and boarded a jam packed troopship where all available space was packed with crates and equipment. Every man was assigned a bunk, one above the other which ran four to five tiers high. With everything from humans to cargo secured, our ship pulled out in preparation to sail with other vessels to a rendezvous area. We bobbed around in the Atlantic for one final night, then the following day (Oct. 23, 1945) as the sun came upon the horizon, 850 ships with naval escorting vessels were steaming into the Atlantic.

Considering myself to be one of the unlucky ones to be given the fifth bunk from the bottom, I accepted the inconvenience of climbing up and down between bunks. The quarters were tight, approximately a twelve inch space between each tier, which also accompanied each man's equipment. There was more comfort sleeping on deck, in lifeboats or on crates of am-

munition. It became worse when men got seasick. Not having time to run above deck, they would vomit from their bunks letting it go past the bunks below them. The heavier the swells in the ocean, the sicker the men became until you couldn't bear the sight and smell in the holds of the ship. It was then that I was thankful for having the top-most bunk.

The weather changed completely for the worse. High seas and winds were buffeting us causing our vessel to bounce around like a cork. At times, the bow of the ship would rise out of the water and come down on top of a wave with a clap like thunder. The impact of the ship meeting the water would send sounds and vibrations throughout the hull. In the berth below with me was Alfred Rowles, a skinny kid from Wisconsin. Sick, and with a green wax-like color, heaving over the side of his bunk, moaning and groaning. In between gags and gasps of "I wanna die" please God, let me die." But when the bow of the ship struck the water, again, he chickened out with, "Not now God!, a little later." At this very opportune time, word came over the sound system for chow call. There were only two meals per day served from the galley, breakfast and supper. The food was plentiful, but there was a one hour wait in line before you entered the galley for each serving. It was an estimated complement of three thousand men on our transport, and the galley was in operation twenty four hours a day. From among the three thousand, one man stood out alone, his name was Hyman Rosencranz, a faithful Orthodox Jew. Being true to his faith, he would not get on the chow line. Instead, ate at his bunk, carefully rationing himself. His barrack bag was stuffed with kosher food from home. He never ate from the mess hall back in the states, the food was shipped from home daily by mail, occasionally he would buy food outside camp to last him. Army food did not meet full Rabinical allowances, so he abstained since he wanted to be an Orthodox Rabbi. Eventually word got around to the Jewish Rabbi on board ship and Hyman was paid a visit. Hy's bunk was two below mine, and there was no secret to their conversation. The Rabbi told him that there was a moratorium on certain religious laws by Jews as well as Catholics and it would not be a sin if he conformed to the allowances made in time of war. Hy said he would not bend until it was absolutely necessary. As the days went on, Hy got weaker and paler. His food had already run out and we wondered if he would starve himself to death or give in to the moratorium. One morning, the Rabbi came to his bunk with a mess kit full of hot cakes and syrup, scrambled eggs, and a canteen of coffee. He showed it to Hy and said, "Eat, that's not an order, it's a request. Do you want to die before you have a chance to fight against that madman, or do you wish to die fighting him?"

Weekly Hy sat up and took the hot cakes while the Rabbi said something like a short chant in Hebrew. As the man finished his breakfast, the Rabbi smiled and said, "Now finish your coffee." Hyman drank the coffee without taking a breath, gave a loud burp and said, "Thanks."

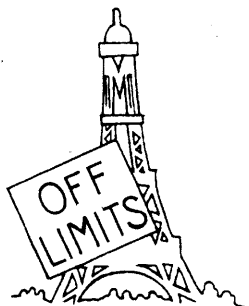
"Be on the chow line from now on, we can practice our full faith when we return home." From that day on, Hy and I went to eat together.

MAIL CALL

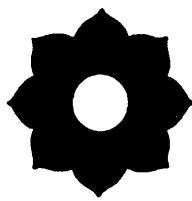
Happy Holidays



The Ninth
Infantry
Division
Wishes You



A
Merry
Christmas



The staff of the Octofoil wish to thank all those who sent the beautiful Christmas Cards and best wishes for the New Year. We would like to wish all the members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. To our Jewish members and families we wish a Happy Hanukkah.

← Christmas Card

The significance of this particular card lies in its origin. During the winter of 1944, the U.S. 9th Infantry Division was in the middle of WWII against the German Army in the Huerfgen Forest area. An upper echelon officer of the Division ordered the originals of this card from a printer in Liege, Belgium, (already liberated by the allies), to be sold to members of the Division to send home to family and friends. I was a member of the Division at that time, and this is a copy of the one I sent home to my family. By the time Christmas arrived we were heavily engaged against the enemy in the infamous "Battle of the Bulge."

Dan: Thought you might remember this card. I now have family who are printers so they made me several copies. Merry Christmas to you Dan and thanks for keeping us all informed.

47th Inf. Hal C. Saum
306 W 36th Dr.
Kearney, NE 68847-2862

34th F.A.
WILLIAM L. RING
P.O. Box 597
Dover Plains, NY 12522-0597

I am writing to tell you that I didn't receive the latest "Octofoil". At Worcester you said it would be coming out soon. Perhaps the P.O. goofed again.

I do like to read about what all the "old reliables" are doing and mostly I need info on the Virginia reunion. I do not like to wait until last minute to make plans.

I enjoyed the Worcester affair, as the 34th F.A. Bn was well represented and the weather was ideal. The trip home was nice except that toll station from 190 to 184 which has to be the most congested in U.S.

I hope you have a nice holiday season. See you in Hampton, Va.

Co. 39th Inf.
DICK PEPPER
154 Hillside Way
Camillus N.Y. 13031

My wife and I have enjoyed many of the reunions in the recent years. However, I have asked her to write to make known the fact that I have alzheimer's disease and along with many other losses that that has caused me I will not be able to attend future reunions. I would enjoy hearing from any of my army buddies from L Co. 39th infantry. Thanks a lot for all the good memories I have of previous reunions. You have always done a super job, Dan.

Remember the Dates
May 5, 6, 7, 1998
53rd Reunion
Hampton, Va.

The Ninth Infantry
Division Association
c/o Mr. Ernest Botella
Dear Mr. Botella:

On behalf of the patients and staff at our Center, we would like to express our appreciation to you and the members of your organization for the \$300 donation. Your donation was used to purchase a TV/VCR combination, as requested, for our Cardiology Service. We have enclosed photographs of your visit and presentation to our Center. The official receipt is enclosed.

Our veterans are grateful to your members for their support and concern for their welfare.

Thank you again for this contribution.

Sincerely,
D. Heffington

For: Sherry Hughes,
Chief, Voluntary Service

SEEKING

Sol Erenetzky
9004 Camino San Martin
Alb., N. Mex. 87121

I need a special favor.

I have been looking for my cousin who was in the 9th Inf. Division. His name is Henry Steiner. He was a cook in, if I remember correctly, Co. K. His nickname was "Hambone".

It's 40 years since I've seen him last. I'm sure he lives in N. Carolina, I tried every phone book to no avail.

If anyone in your outfit knows of him or if he is on your roster, please contact me or him. I would greatly appreciate you for your time and effort.

I lived in NY City and he knew how to contact me, but 20 years ago I moved to Alb., N. Mex.

I was at Ft. Bragg in '41 when my outfit and yours was activated.

Thank you.
Editors note: The only Henry Steiner we have in our files lived at 16 Lake Road, Stoney Point, NY 10980 - last paid dues in 1967. He was with 47th Inf. Serv. Co.

39th Inf. Co. A. B.D.M.
JOHN MINGEN
7107 Betsy Ross Dr.
Louisville, Ky. 40272

Sorry I'm so late on my renewal but things have been hectic in this neck of the woods, but everything under control now.

As you can see from the renewal form I was in several units of the 39th, from Bragg till it was all over, over there. So my best regards to anyone who might remember me, a shave tail fresh from O.C.S.

3rd Bn Hdq Co. 60th
OWEN M. SALLEE
4730 Beacon Dr.
Decatur, ILL 62521

At San Antonio, Tex, 1993, I met Capt. John O'Rourke. First time to meet in years, probably 1943. He was my C.O. at the invasion Nov. 8, 1942. We met again in Lake Placid, N.Y.

G. Co. 39th Inf.

GARLAND B. GLOVIER
R-3 Lebanon, VA 24266
Dear Dan and Marie,

Got the last Octofoil and enjoyed reading about so many of our buddies of the 9th.

I am still able to do work and run my small farm at age 72.

My wife, Frances and I celebrated our 50th anniversary in February '97. We have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren which we are very proud of.

Sorry to hear of the passing of so many of the Ninth. Our prayers are with the families.

Sorry we did not get to make it to the Louisville reunion but we hope to see many at the reunion in May at Hampton, VA.

Here's wishing everyone of the 9th Association a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

God bless everyone.

P.S. Would like to hear from any of the 9th.

47th Inf. F Co.

PETER L. PERI
22 Oakhampton Dr.
Lutherville, MD 21093

Just remembered that my dues are about due. Enclosed is my check for 3 yrs.

I'm looking forward to being at my first reunion next year in Richmond.

Seeking

The Ninth Infantry
Division Association
Dear Sirs:

I am researching my father's participation in WWII as part of the Ninth Division. He started with the Ninth at Fort Bragg and stayed in that same Division through all the campaigns. My father is deceased.

If you would send a current telephone number I would like to ask about the newsletter, sources of information specifically about the Ninth, and the availability of any public records within the Federal Government about the Division and the personnel. If you have a printout of these type frequently asked questions with answers, that would be welcomed also.

Very truly yours,
John D. Harpole
5551 Duncan Kenner Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70820

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

RECEIVED THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
JAN 10 1998
MAIL ROOM
412 GREGORY AVE
WEHAWKEN, NJ 07087

Hq. Btry 84th F.A. Bn.
NEWTON FIELDS
521 John Rolfe
Monroe, Mi. 48162

Enclosed is a money order to catch up on my past dues. Hope to see buddies, friends and families, come May 4-7 in Hampton, Virginia at reunion.

9th Recon
NICHOLAS CAPOBIANCO
1 Yorkshire Ln.
Branford, Ct. 06405

Enclosed find my check for a three year renewal of my dues. Not wanting to sound optimistic, I am coining a phrase from June Allyson the movie star who advertises DEPENDS on TV, when you hear her burst out with, "You have a lot of living to do." I go along with her way of thinking even tho Father Time is taking a toll of our forces, something the Jerries tried to do from 1942-1945.

We of the 9th Recon Troop were small in number, but we did a man size job. Even in peace time we supplied the Assoc. with two presidents namely the late John J. O'Grady and John Ponkowski.

In earlier days, we were always well represented with a good attendance at the Division Reunion.

Our troop has held many Mini Troop Reunions back into the 60s and we still keep in touch by telephone and Xmas cards during the holiday seasons.

Keep up the good work Dan and hope we all make it into the 21st Century.

9th Signal Co
C.T. EARLES
6007 Siler Rd.
Greensboro, N.C.
27406

I enjoy reading The Octofoil, as I get older it seems I read more sitting on my rear I guess. Here are my dues for 98, 99, (2000) if we all make it. I went to the 9th Sig Co. in 1941 got out in 1945. I hope Red Phillips will put in Octofoil the date when he had his book ready on Gen. Eddy. Would like to have one. Red writes good books on the 9th Div. have read all of them. Would like to hear from anyone who was in the 9th Sig Co. during the war. Thank all of you for the effort you have made in getting out the Octofoil. Good luck to all.

A nice thing about senility — you don't have to drink to forget.