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The Octofoil, January/February/March 2015

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil

Jan.-Feb.-Mar.,
2015

Volume L, No. 1

President's Message



Greetings to members and friends of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

In a few months we will meet in Warwick, Rhode Island for our 70th Annual Reunion. There is still time to register and request hotel reservations if you have not already done so. The registration form is on page 12 in this issue of The Octofoil.

Clare Irwin and her staff of competent volunteers are putting the finishing touches on what I think will be a memorable reunion. The Saturday trip to the Ninth Infantry Division Memorial located on the grounds of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Worcester, Massachusetts will be a highlight of our 70th Reunion. Please don't miss it, especially if you have not yet seen the memorial since it has been refurbished.

Officers will be elected during a business meeting. Take this opportunity to select competent persons from the membership to manage the business of the association by volunteering to serve on the nominating committee, or give your suggestions and nominations to the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in Warwick, Rhode Island on July 24th through the 26th of this year.

Paul Schumacher, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Association



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Treasurer's Report

The balance in all accounts as of March 1, 2015 is as follows:

General Fund	\$27,093.07
Octofoil	\$6,533.50
Octofoil Library Project (OLP)	\$689.59
Memorial Fund (Tip of the Hat)	\$2,730.00
Friends of Father Connor (FFCF)	\$201.94
Reunion (Insurance Fund)	\$5,000.00
Reunion 2013	\$1,685.63
Reunion 2014	\$4,279.71
Reunion 2015	\$800.00
TOTAL	\$49,013.44

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Cooper, Treasurer

OUR MISSION

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.

THE OCTOFOIL

The official publication of The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc.. Published four times yearly, January - March; April - June; July - September; October - December. Material for publication must be received by the publisher according to the following schedule:

December 20 for the January publication
March 20 for the April publication
June 20 for the July publication
September 20 for the October publication

One year subscription fee is twenty dollars (\$20.00) and must be sent to the publisher by check or money order made payable to:

The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

Send payment to: **Publisher, The Octofoil**
Theda Ray

[Redacted Address]

The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc. is a registered 501(c)19 Veterans' Organization of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in January 1948. Contributions are tax deductible.

Volume L Number 1 January-February- March, 2015

TIP OF THE HAT

We thank the following members and friends for remembering the Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

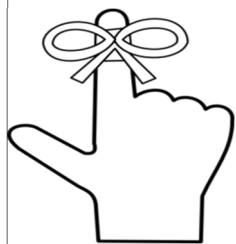
Note: Please make checks payable to:
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Paul Schumacher in grateful remembrance of Walter Victor and John Baswell. Walter served in the 60th Infantry Regiment and in an Ordnance Company. But he is best remembered as the official photographer for the Association and was seen at reunions as far back as I can recollect. John was a Vice President and a Governor on the Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Both Walter and John graciously performed duties and fulfilled requests that were of significant benefit to the Association. Their presence is missed by all of us.

Marilyn L. Martin in memory of Lucille Andrews (wife of William Andrews, 26th FAB). They were both members of the Ninth and would both come to the reunions and were very active in the Michigan Chapter.

Send to: **Mary Cooper**

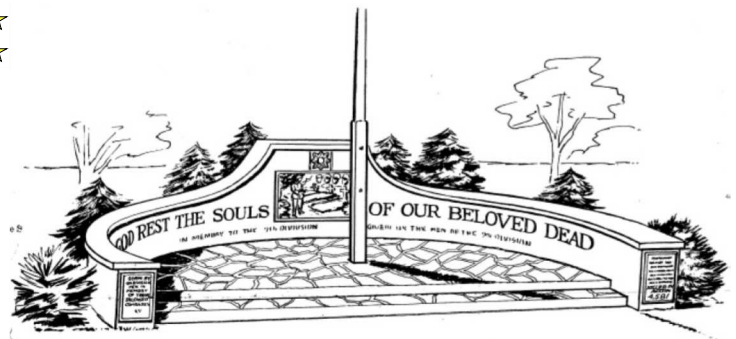
[Redacted Address]



Don't Forget!

If you have not yet paid your membership dues or renewed your Octofoil subscription for July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016, time is running short! Membership and subscription forms are provided on the last page of this newsletter.

Be sure to note the membership year on the memo line of your check.



Friends of Father Connors Fund

The current balance in the FFCF is \$201.94. Continued contributions for maintenance and lighting expenses would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to donate please make your check payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association.** Please note in the memo section of the check "FFCF" and send to :

Mary Cooper, Treasurer

[Redacted Address]

**The Ninth Infantry Division Association
70th Reunion
Warwick, Rhode Island
July 24th – 27th, 2015**

Hello from the 2015 Reunion Committee! Our plans are well underway and July is right around the corner. Please read on for important reminders and updates regarding reunion registration and hotel information.

The registration cost for reunion events and activities (hotel room not included) is \$300.00 per person. If you plan to attend the reunion and have not yet sent in a deposit of \$100.00 per person, (\$50.00 non-refundable, per person) the registration form can be found on page 12 of this issue of The Octofoil. Send your registration form and check to the address noted on the form. The deposit is due immediately.

For those who have already sent a deposit but not the final payment, you do not need to fill out another registration form. Simply send the final payment in an envelope to the address noted on the registration form and a receipt verifying your payment will be returned to you promptly.

Please note that all final payments **MUST BE RECEIVED** by June 1st, 2015.

Important Room Reservation Information:

Our 70th Reunion is taking place at the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings
801 Greenwich Avenue
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886
Direct Reservations: (401) 732-6000

If you have not yet booked your hotel rooms, call the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings in Warwick directly during normal working hours to make your reservations at (401) 732-6000. Calling the hotel directly may be more efficient than booking online or with Central Reservations. Our group rate is \$109.00 +13% RI tax per night. When booking your room(s), use the three letter code **NID or Ninth Infantry Division** to identify your affiliation with the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Please note that rates cannot be adjusted at check-in or check-out for guests who fail to identify their affiliation when making reservations. **Reservations must be made with the hotel before June 24th, 2015 to receive the above room rate.** After this date, the hotel will not guarantee this rate or the availability of a room. It is highly recommended that you reserve your room(s) now. Do not wait until June 24th, the cut off date of our room block.

The Crowne Plaza is a very busy hotel and is booking up quickly for this summer. If you are planning to check in earlier than Thursday, July 23rd or departing later than the morning of Monday July 27th, room availability will be hit or miss. Alternate arrangements are available; for information and assistance in booking nights on either side of the reunion proper, call or email Clare Irwin at [REDACTED]

(PLEASE NOTE: rooms for Thursday the 23rd, Friday the 24th, Saturday the 25th and Sunday the 26th are available and being held for us until the cut-off date of June 24th.)

The Crowne Plaza at the Crossings offers a complimentary shuttle for transportation from TF Green Airport to the Hotel. After picking up your luggage in the baggage claim area, please use the courtesy phone located at the information booth to call the hotel. You may also use your cell phone to call [REDACTED] if you prefer. The pick-up area is the outer lane outside of the baggage claim area. You do not need to make reservations for the shuttle ahead of time.

If you are traveling by car, the Crowne Plaza offers complimentary parking.

Reunion Highlights

On Friday evening, we will dine at the hotel while we say hello and reconnect with friends and family. Our menu will include several regional specialties for a taste of Southern New England cooking. Later, join us in the Hospitality Room for refreshments, snacks and conversation.

Saturday morning will be busy with the General Business Meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. After lunch on your own, we will meet in the hotel lobby promptly at 2:00 p.m. to board the buses that will take us to the Ninth Infantry Division Association Memorial, located on the grounds of the Immaculate Conception Parish. Upon arrival, we will have the option of either attending a special Memorial Mass in the Church or enjoying light refreshments in the Fr. Connor Center, adjacent to the Church. Following, we will all gather at the Memorial for a brief ceremony before enjoying a catered dinner in the Fr. Connor Center.

Join us in the Hospitality room for refreshments after our return from Worcester.

After the Memorial Service on Sunday, take advantage of the free time in the afternoon to do some shopping at the Warwick Mall via the hotel shuttle or take a taxi up to Providence, the Capital City of Rhode Island. While in Providence, consider visiting College Hill, where Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design are tucked into tree lined, centuries old streets or go shopping at Providence Place Mall. A short walk across the street from the mall will bring you to Water Place Park, a celebration of the Providence River right in the center of town. Other options include a walk down Benefit Street to view the fine display of Colonial homes, visiting Roger Williams Zoo or the Providence Children's Museum. The Providence Athenaeum, one of the oldest lending libraries in the country was established in 1753 and remains in use and open to the public. Look for information on these and other interesting things to do in the Hospitality Room.

Sunday evening, the banquet reception will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and then is followed by dinner in The Rotunda. A variety of entree choices will be offered. **Contact Karen Olsen [REDACTED] with special requests due to food allergies or dietary preferences by April 30th.**

The evening will feature entertainment and our highly anticipated raffle.

Monday morning breakfast will conclude the 70th Annual Reunion.

For those that have indicated an interest in the optional Monday trip to Newport, Rhode Island, we will contact you shortly via email or telephone with details and the nominal per person cost.

Questions? Call Clare Irwin at [REDACTED] anytime!



**70th Annual Reunion Program
Crowne Plaza Hotel At The Crossings
801 Greenwich Avenue
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886**

Friday July 24th, 2015

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration – Hospitality Room: Wickford
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Officers and Board of Governors Meeting: Belcourt
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Reception and Dinner at hotel: Patriots
9:00 p.m. to ??? p.m. Hospitality Room: Wickford

Saturday July 25th, 2015

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Breakfast: Wickford
8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Registration – Hospitality Room: Wickford
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Association General Business Meeting: Wickford
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration – Hospitality Room: Wickford
2:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Board buses from Hotel Lobby
2:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Travel to the Ninth Infantry National Memorial
at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Worcester, MA.
Ninth Division Memorial Mass/Reception followed by dinner in the Father
Connors Center on the Church grounds.
Group picture at the National Memorial, weather permitting.
9:30 p.m. to ??? p.m. Hospitality Room: Wickford

Sunday, July 26th, 2015

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Breakfast: Wickford
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Registration – Hospitality Room: Wickford
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Officers and Board of Governors Meeting: Belcourt
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Memorial Service: Newport
(Please be seated by 9:15 a.m.)
11:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration – Hospitality Room: Wickford
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Banquet Reception: Rotunda
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Banquet Dinner: Rotunda
9:30 p.m. to ??? p.m. Hospitality Room: Wickford

Monday, July 27th, 2015

6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Breakfast: Wickford
Good -bye, check out and head for home. See you next year!



Reunion Banquet Raffle

As you know, a raffle is held at each year's reunion banquet. Glenda Baswell and Jeanette Taylor, Co-Chairs of the Raffle Committee, want to remind everyone to please bring items to be given away at this activity. These items should be easily transportable since many individuals will be flying to the reunion. Last year, part of the proceeds was donated to the Immaculate Conception Parish for small maintenance and electrical costs over the years for the Ninth Infantry Division Memorial, in honor of Father Riley. Additionally, a donation was made to the Knights of Columbus in appreciation for providing coffee and pastries following the Memorial Mass held each year. Many donations in past years have been made to various Veterans Administration hospitals, so as you can see, all are good causes.

Your participation in the raffle is appreciated. If you have questions, you may contact Raffle Co-Chairperson, Glenda Baswell at [REDACTED]



TAPS SOUNDED

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat the soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet that brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping—ground their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead.

Bivouac of the Dead by Theodore O'Hare - 1847

9th Infantry Division Medal of Honor Recipients

World War II

S/Sgt. Herschel F. Briles, Co. C, 899th TD Bn; Near Scherpenseel, Germany; 20 November 1944
2nd Lieutenant John E. Butts*, Co. E, 60th Infantry; Normandy, France; 14, 16, 23 June 1944
T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro, Co. E, 39th Infantry; Near Kalterherberg, Germany; 22 December 1944
Sgt. William J. Nelson*, Co. H, 60th Infantry; Djegel Dardys, NW of Sedjenane, Tunisia; 24 April 1943
PFC Carl V. Sheridan*, Co. K, 47th Infantry; Frenzerberg Castle, Germany; 26 November 1944
Captain Matt L. Urban, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Renouf, France; 14 June to 3 September, 1944

* Posthumous award

Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History

Vietnam War

SGT Sammy L. Davis, Battery C, 2nd Artillery; West of Cai Lay; 18 November 1967
SP4 Edward A. Devore, Jr.*, Company B, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry; Near Saigon; 17 March 1968
PFC James W. Fous*, Company E, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 14 May 1968
SSG Don J. Jenkins, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry; Kien Phong Province; 6 January 1969
SGT Leonard B. Keller, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ap Bac Zone; 2 May 1967
SP4 Thomas J. Kinsman, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Near Vinh Long; 6 February 1968
SP4 George C. Lang, Company A, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 22 February 1969
PFC David P. Nash*, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry; Giao Duc District; 29 December 1968
SP5 Clarence E. Sasser, Headquarters Co., 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ding Tuong Province; 10 January 1968
SP4 Raymond R. Wright, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ap Bac Zone; 2 May 1967

* Posthumous award

Sources: *A Short History of the 9th Infantry Division* and
www.homeofheroes.com

The following article was written by Yuri Beckers and is reprinted with his permission. Yuri is a friend of The Ninth Infantry Division Association and has a keen interest in the history of the 9th Infantry Division.

COMBAT UNIFORMS

Uniforms Worn by the 9th Infantry Division Men (Part 1)

We all know the pictures of soldiers during World War II. We have seen footage of men fighting, the battles, walking miles and miles to liberate Europe. But what exactly were they wearing? What were they carrying with them? In this article we will have a closer look at the uniform worn by the American infantry soldier in combat.

Service Shoes - The World War II combat boot design evolved from the service shoes used with leggings. The Model 1939 "Shoes, Service, Composition Sole" was an ankle high shoe/boot made of tanned leather in a dark red color, originally with leather soles, changed to rubber soles after 1940. The same shoe design was modified in early 1943 (called Type III) to reverse the leather (rough side out) and add reinforcing rivets. A simplified version of the Type III shoe was adopted later in 1943 as the "Shoes, Service, Reverse Upper", different from the earlier service shoes in that it was built a little lower with no toe cap and with nylon laces instead of cotton. The latter two types were the most common service shoes of the war.

In the field, all of the service shoes were worn with leggings

that extended the shoe up the calf. The leggings had a strap that looped under the shoe in the space in front of the heel. The leggings were laced up with a series of hooks and grommets. At the start of WW II longer leggings were in use in khaki or light OD shades. By 1944 a shorter, dark OD #7 legging was issued. Most ground troops wore the service shoe-legging combination until late in the war. Service shoes continued in use for garrison wear even after the war.

A World War II soldier received an initial issue of two pairs of shoes which could be resoled twice, then were replaced with a new or rebuilt pair. The replacement rate varied depending on conditions where the shoes were worn, ranging from a year in the US to only five months in the Southwest Pacific.

M38 Leggings - At the beginning of World War II, the U.S. soldier wore a service shoe with canvas leggings. The leggings were difficult to put on and take off and did not provide much protection. In 1938 the M38 Leggings replaced the old fashioned "puttes". The leggings were meant to keep water and dirt from coming into the shoes. They were made from khaki colored canvas. On the outside they had eyelets and hooks tightened with a lace. It also had a strap on the bottom of the inside which was worn under the sole and hooked to a fastener on the outer side to prevent the leggings from riding up. The trousers were meant to be worn tucked into the Leggings. Getting them on was pretty difficult and took some time, practicing and patience. The introduction of the M43 Combat Boot with its cuffs eliminated the need of extra Leggings and was welcomed by the troops.

(continued on page 10)





THE NINETY'S CLUB

Here's your chance to join an exclusive, much respected, one of a kind club. Membership is free! All it takes is a birthday, celebrating you achievement of 90 years. Send your name and recent photo to Jane Mitchell, Editor.

New Ninety's Club Member



THOMAS J. MORGAN
47th Infantry Regiment, M Company
Hendersonville, TN

MAIL CALL

Hi Jane,
On March 4th I suffered a mild heart attack. My wife, Audrey, and I caught a severe case of the flu starting on February 28th. During the past 30 years I never had the flu so I never got flu shots. I was rushed to Munroe Hospital in Ocala FL and was treated for getting rid of the flu and my heart attack. On March 10th, I was released. Since my release I have been making progress in my recovery with the help of Audrey and my two sons. I won't be writing the Florida Chapter report as a result of my condition. I wish the membership a wonderful reunion.

Mr. Dee

(Emil DeDonato is the president of the Florida Chapter)

There are several significant anniversary celebrations in Europe this year: 70th year of the crossing of the Rhine River on the Bridge at Remagen; Memorial Day 30 May; 70th anniversary of cessation of hostilities in Europe in May; 70th year ending of World War II, to name a few.

Having to make a choice, the March 7, 2015 event, the 70th Anniversary Celebration at the Bridge at Remagen, was an easy one for me because it was an especially moving event for me when I crossed the Rhine River early in the afternoon of 9 March 1945.

I have talked with some veterans who were in Normandy, France on the 70th Anniversary Celebration of D-Day at Omaha and Utah Beaches on 6 June 2014. Because President Obama and President Putin were there the American veterans could not get close to the places where the celebrations were held. The veterans told me they stayed an extra two days to visit the place they landed on D-Day, 6 June 1944. Neither world leader was at Remagen on 7 March 2015.

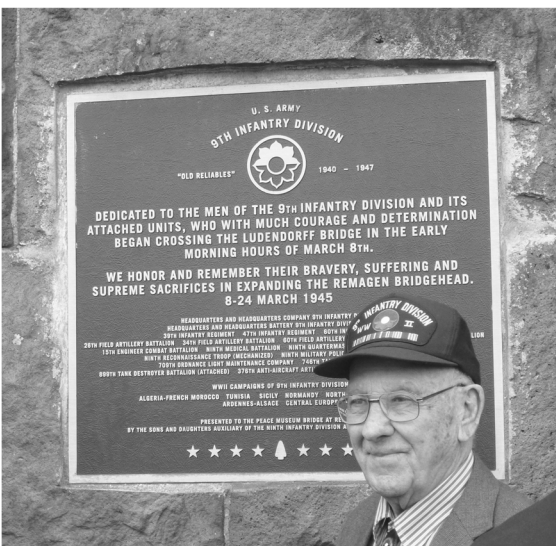
Present for the daylong anniversary celebration at Remagen were veterans from Belgium, France, the Netherlands,

the USA and Germany. Reporters from radio and TV stations, the press and citizens, young and old, interviewed the veterans at length throughout the day. Also among the group at Remagen were a classroom of high school students from a high school in Ansbach, Germany. The students were from some of the military families stationed in Europe. I spoke with the students about their home states of Wisconsin, Texas, Montana, Louisiana, California, Ohio, Kansas and North Dakota. All of them were curious about my experience and what took place on the bridge the day I crossed the river.

During the ceremony at the tower of the west side of the river, I could clearly see the plaque that William Sauers, on behalf of the Association, presented to the citizens of Remagen several years ago.

Both the remembrance of that one special day of 9 March 1945 and years later giving the plaque to the people of Remagen are extraordinary events in my life, the memory of which lasts forever.

Paul Schumacher
Co C; 39th Infantry Regiment
Ninth Infantry Division



Paul Schumacher
at the 70th
Anniversary of the
Crossing of the
Rhine River at
Remagen
on March 7, 2015

The plaque was
presented by The
Ninth Infantry
Division
Association
In 2010.





Paul views one of the displays at the museum.

Paul Schumacher at the
Huertgen Museum in
Vossenack, Germany
on March 8, 2015

Paul looks at uniforms that were donated to the museum
by members of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.



Paul shakes hands with Manfred Klinkenberg in
front of the plaque that was presented to the
museum by The Ninth Infantry Division
Association in Oct. 2011.



The following two articles were submitted by Richard L. Stoltz. Dick served in L Company, 47th Infantry Regiment. Part 1 of his story appeared in the April, May, June 2014 issue of The Octofoil. He resides in Vandalia, Indiana.

Battle of the Bulge in World War II

What I remember was, it began on a deep covered snow, cold gray morning of December 16, 1944. We were in our foxholes being very cold, freezing and just plain miserable. My 9th Division was on a defensive action, containing one flank of the German offensive. We were all caught off guard and the drive was very heavy and swift, overrunning many Infantry Divisions. The boys that were in the spearhead drive itself got hit the hardest, most of them got killed. They came at us with infantry divisions – Panzer and Tiger tanks and the SS Storm Troopers who were known for their dirty fighting and showing inhumane treatment towards civilians and for its practice of murdering prisoners upon capture.

We were relieved of our positions by another company, and we got replacements for the men we lost, then we were taken to the front spearhead drive and attached to another division who was trying to stop the Germans from further penetration on their drive. We were losing a lot of good men trying to hold the line.

On Christmas Day I was in deep snow moving forward trying to remember what it was like having Christmas with my family by a nice warm fire, but here I was with the enemy trying to kill me, and freezing cold, down below zero.

Our airplanes could not get into the air to help a stop to drive due to inclement weather, so you might say we were on our own, doing what we were trained to do – FIGHT – KILL – Do or Die – Thank God I'm still here.

I won't go into the depth of some of the fighting we encountered in the Bulge, but I will tell you, by the Germans hitting us first with a sucker punch, we lost a lot of good 19 and 20-year-old men, and any man that was in the Bulge and got out alive sure had God on his side.

Now the two reasons the Germans failed in their drive to take us over are:

#1 - The Panzer tanks and SS Infantry never were able to swing North and capture Liege, which would have trapped a lot of division armies, you might say we headed them off at the pass.

#2 - The Germans underestimated the American fighting men. If the Germans had crashed our defenses on the northern flank, the entire 1st Army, the 9th and the British and Canadian Armies would have been trapped.

The American people can be grateful there were such veteran divisions as the 1st Infantry Division – the 9th Infantry Division which was my division) – the 4th Infantry – and the 3rd Armored Division waiting to meet the massed assault. We had the know-how and the blood and guts with which to stop the drive 18 miles short of their goal and litter the frozen fields and roads with German dead and knocked out tanks and equipment. Also, thanks to our Air Force for having the airplanes in the air when the weather cleared, to really put the finishing touches on the drive. When the battle was over we all were battle weary with very little sleep and suffering from the great blizzard in early January, and being out in the weather 24 hours a day and night with no roof over my head, only a steel helmet. Some men got trench foot and frostbite suffering from the cold. I had two pair of socks and when one pair was wet or sweaty I would take them off and put them next to my body to dry them out, ready for the next time. I think that is what kept me from getting frostbite.

Second Hitch Tour of Duty

Have you ever heard of a second hitch in World War II, like they have in the wars today? No, well now you will hear it from me to put it in my short story book.

First hitch in World War II, I was drafted out of my senior school year into the army at 18 years old. I took basic training, and landed on Utah beach as a replacement in the Normandy invasion when I was 18 years old. I began fighting in the hedgerows of France. The Germans were trying to kill me. Statistics tell me a male's brain is not fully developed until he is about 22 to 25 years old. I was just a scared kid fighting a man's war. I had to harden my insides as well as my outside, living 24 hours a day in all kinds of inclement weather with no roof over my head and shells exploding sending shrapnel my way, into my back. I was loaded onto a C-47 hospital airplane and flown back to England to get healed up and rehabilitated to start my second hitch in the fighting with my 9th Division. They needed me badly because they were losing a lot of good men. I told them I was still not completely healed up yet, and they said, you can walk, can't you? Now the hardest thing I ever had to do in my life was face death once more. Face it I did, running scared and never looked back.

Second hitch, I hooked up with my division at the German Ziegfeld line, and took off where I left off, trying to be more careful in my thinking to stay alive. There was no one I knew left in my company. They were either killed or wounded. I fought in the Huertgen Forest, Battle of the Bulge and the first 9th Division, 47th Regiment to cross the Remagen Bridgehead over the Rhine River. I kept fighting till close to the end of the war, and I got hit with a bullet in my neck and out my shoulder blade. I never had a bath anytime on the front lines in the fighting. Now, thank God the war was over, and I didn't have to go on a third hitch. I ended up with two Purple Hearts, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star and, oh yes, a Good Conduct Medal. How's that for my little part keeping us free?

(continued from page 5)

M43 Combat "Double Buckles" Boot - This boot was meant to replace both the Service shoes and Jump Boots. It was introduced in late 1943 but it took until late 1944 that the shoe was widely seen in the field. Like the Service Shoe Reverse Upper it was made with flesh out leather. It too had a rubber sole and heel. It had no toecap. It had a cuff with two buckles (hence the name "Double Buckles"). The introduction of this boot within the Paratroops in mid 1944 stirred some trouble because the Paratroopers were proud of their distinctive Jump Boots. Most combat veterans stuck to their Jump Boots instead of wearing the new M43 Combat Boots. Also still both types of the Service Shoes and M38 Leggings were worn until the end of the war.

M37 Wool Trousers - In 1938 wool trousers for enlisted personnel were standardized in olive drab, light shade based on a 1937 pattern. These had conventional side and hip pockets (2 each), a watch pocket, and a button fly. An 18 oz. wool was adopted as optimum for weight, warmth, and ease of production. In 1942 a gas flap was added behind the fly.

M37 Wool Shirt - The flannel shirt was standardized in an olive drab coat style and was a fully opening shirt adopted in 1934, with seven buttons down the front and two large chest pockets closed by buttons. During World War II this style was augmented with a convertible collar (i.e. could be buttoned up with a tie or could be worn open) and buttoned gas flaps in the cuffs and inside the front. This special version also included buttons at the back of the collar to attach a gas hood.

M41 Field Jacket - The M-1941 Field jacket was simply known as the "the OD (Olive Drab) Field Jacket". Its construction was khaki cotton/poplin with an olive flannel lining. The over all style was like a civilian windbreaker in the Army color. It had a Talon zipper, covered by a buttoned fly up the front. The collar and wrists had button tabs, as did the waist. The M-1941 was widely worn during World War II, even to the end when the M-1943 Field Jacket was the standard issue. It was found to be too light for severe cold conditions, too hot for summer, and did not have good cargo pockets, factors that eventually led to the M-1943 design.

M43 Field Jacket - Although the M41 Jacket was widely used in World War II, it was not really a satisfactory solution for the soldier. The Field Jacket M-1943 was an integral part of a combat uniform being developed by the War Department based on the layering principle to give great flexibility for conditions encountered in the worldwide war. In 1944 large quantities of the M-1943 (also called the M-43) jacket began to appear in the ETO, after tests by the 3rd Division at Anzio. Paratroopers wore them for Market-Garden and they were widely available to Army units in the Fall of 1944, and thereafter. The M-43 Field Jacket consisted of an olive drab cotton outer shell with layers added inside as more warmth was needed. There was a pile jacket liner for extremely cold

areas, while the short wool jacket (the "Ike" jacket) was worn in milder temperatures. An olive drab cotton cap, also designated M-1943, was the head cover and was worn inside the helmet liner when the M-1 helmet system was used. A fur-edged hood was also added as an accessory. The wide-cuff double-buckle combat boots were adopted at the same time.

HBT Jacket - In 1938 the U.S. Army introduced cotton HBT (Herring Bone Twill) for summer weight coveralls. The HBT uniform was originally intended to be only for work duty but quickly became the standard dress for all types of informal temperate weather activity, including combat, replacing the cotton khaki uniform. The popular uniform jacket and shirt was made in several styles. The original 1941 pattern jacket (PQD 45) had a button front with lapels, two pleated breast pockets with angle-cut flaps, and adjustments by straps at the waist and buttons on the sleeves. Metal buttons with 13 stars and black paint were used, although plastic buttons for use in hot weather or inside armored vehicles were also issued. It can be identified by two closely-spaced buttons at the sewn double hem.

In 1942 another pattern HBT jacket was introduced (PQD 45B), featuring square cut cargo pockets, side pleats, and a plain hem with only one button near the bottom. The 1942 pattern and its later variations are the most common, having been used in Europe and the Pacific for all types of service. The size of these jackets was much larger than the size tag that was sewn into the inside collar. They were meant to be worn over other layers of clothing - for example, the wool shirt could be worn under the HBT jacket for extra warmth in cold weather. If you picked the jacket for your normal size, and wore it alone, you were swimming in it.

HBT Combat Fatigue Trousers - For each of the HBT jackets there is a corresponding pattern of the "Trousers, Herring-bone Twill". The first in 1941 matched the jacket in the style of pocket and metal buttons. The second version had cargo pockets with square cut flaps, like the 45B jacket, and a gas flap.

Overcoat - The "Overcoat, Wool, Roll Collar" was first issued in 1939 with brass buttons, similar to a design in use since 1927. It featured an olive drab, double breasted, woolen overcoat made with a convertible roll collar with notched lapels. This overcoat was issued to every soldier along with his service uniform to provide sufficient warmth for winter campaigns. Although the overcoat had been an essential clothing item in past wars, and was expected to be the same in World War II, the development of more functional clothing, especially the 1943 Field Jacket and other components of the winter combat uniform, made the overcoat obsolete. It was relatively heavy to carry in combat and was often discarded. Although soldiers were seen with the overcoat through the end of the war, it gradually became used for dress wear over the service uniform rather than field gear.

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