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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, April/May/June 2016

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil

April-May-June
2016

Volume L, No. 2

President's Message



The 71st Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association is just around the corner. It is hard to believe that another year has passed.

The reunion committee has been busy finalizing all of the details for a successful event in Fort Myers on August 5th, 6th and 7th. If you have not sent in your registration or made your hotel reservations yet, time is running out. We really need an accurate count of the folks planning to attend.

New this year will be a military history workshop by Ms. Jennifer Holik, a genealogist and author on researching military records. She has spoken to groups in Europe and other military organizations like our Association and will help guide us through the often complicated records research process. There will be handouts provided by Ms. Holik for all attendees. Another highlight will be the Saturday night dinner cruise and of course, the Sunday night banquet and raffle.

This spring our Octofoil newsletter editors, Theda Ray and Jane Mitchell, mailed approximately 735 letters to past and current members who are on our master list. The response back was terrific and many people or their relatives are renewing their memberships and subscriptions. We are anxious to hear the details of this effort. A full report appears on page 2 of this issue.

You may have noted that we have modified the membership registration form so that we can more accurately determine the number of veterans, widows and sons, daughters, grandchildren, etc. that comprise the Association. Mary Blann Cooper will be reporting on this and how it may affect our organization as it relates to our IRS non-profit designation.

I look forward to seeing all of you in early August in Fort Myers. I hope that you are having a good summer.

Sincerely,
Terry R. Barnhart, President
Ninth Infantry Division Association

Reunion Banquet Raffle

As you know, a raffle is held at each year's reunion banquet. Glenda Baswell, Chair of the Raffle Committee, wants to remind everyone to please bring items for the raffle. These items should be easily transportable since many individuals will be flying to the reunion.

Last year, \$500 of the raffle proceeds was donated to the Providence Veterans Administration Medical Center in Providence, RI. Many donations in past years have been made to various Veterans Administration hospitals, often in cities where our reunions are held, 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]



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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.



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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: **Theda Ray**
Publisher, The Octofoil

[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 2 April, May, June 2016

As Terry mentioned in the President's message, a "Welcome Back" letter was sent to each name on the Master List for the Ninth Infantry Division Association, with information about the association and the 71st reunion in Ft. Myers, FL. A membership form and Octofoil subscription form were also included. Below is a summary of the results of that mailing:

Letters Mailed	740
Returned to Sender with new addresses	17
Letters re-mailed with new addresses	17
Deceased	27
Returned to Sender with no new addresses	139
New Octofoil Subscriptions	27 As of 7/3/16
New Memberships	26 As of 7/3/16

TIP OF THE HAT

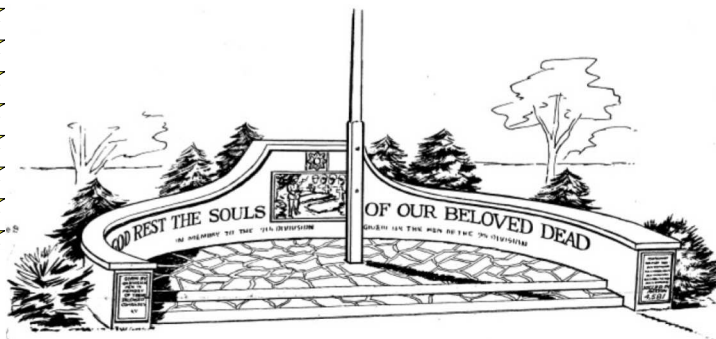
We thank the following members and friends for remembering the Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

Herb Stern— I just received the Jan.-Mar. issue of The Octofoil and was saddened to read that Col. Ralph Williams passed away in Nov. 2015. I met Col. Williams through my long time friend and comrade Louis Prince, former Capt. In the 60th F.A. We were all of the same age. To me, Col. Williams personified what the 9th was all about. He was a highly intelligent, dedicated, courageous and compassionate soldier. Those of us few old timers from way back at Ft. Bragg were very proud to serve with men like Ralph Williams, a truly Old Reliable. I feel honored to make a contribution in Col. Ralph Williams memory.

GENERAL FUND

We thank the following member for her donation to the General Fund.

Janice Turowski



Friends of Father Connors Fund

The Friends of Father Connors Fund would like to thank the following new donors for their generous contributions:

Janet Casanave— in memory of George H. Brown on the 5th anniversary of his death.

The current balance in the FFCF is \$709.61
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, [Redacted Address]

**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) - INCOME TAX BASIS FROM 07/01/15 TO 03/31/16**

Prepared by Mize Houser and Co. P.A.

Revenue	Current Qtr.	YTD
General Fund Income	\$ 52	\$777
Octofoil Fund Income	120	1,720
Memorial Fund Income	0	1,370
FFCF Income	0	1,720
70th—2015 Reunion	0	4,642
71st—2016 Reunion	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,372	\$11,429
Expenses		
Office Expenses	0	107
Postage Expenses	70	377
Printing and Copies	204	909
Supplies	0	1,478
Entertainment	0	200
Accounting Expenses	355	1,850
Food/Catering	0	1,713
Transportation/Room Rental	0	8,698
Lodging and Travel Expenses	318	318
Miscellaneous	0	1,104
Donations	0	500
Memorial Repairs	<u>0</u>	<u>318</u>
Total Expenses	\$947	\$17,572
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	425	(6,144)

**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES
AND EQUITY-INCOME TAX BASIS 03/31/2016**

ASSETS

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Assets

General Fund Cash	\$25,763
Octofoil Subscription Cash	7,595
Octofoil Library Project Cash	590
Memorial Fund Cash	3,730
FFCF Cash	660
68th—2013 Reunion Cash	1,686
Reunion Insurance Fund	5,000
69th—2014 Reunion Cash	4,280
70th—2015 Reunion Cash	2,882
71st—2016 Reunion Cash	882

Total Current Assets 53,066

Balance in Sub-Accounts as of this issue

General Fund	\$26,140.20	Total in All Sub-Accounts	\$57,920.16
Octofoil Fund	7,946.30		
Octofoil Library Project Fund	589.59		
Memorial Fund (Tip of the Hat)	3,755.00		
Friends of Father Connors Fund	709.61		
Reunion Insurance Balance	5,000.00		
2013 Reunion Balance	1685.63		
2014 Reunion Balance	4,279.71		
2015 Reunion Balance	2,882.08		
2016 Reunion Balance	4,932.04		

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Cooper, Treasurer



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 Battalion, 4th 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

STANLEY J. TUROWSKI
K Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

MARY GRECO
Widow of Wm. Greco
34th F.A. Bn.



TAPS OBITUARIES

TAPS OBITUARIES



Stanley J. Turowski
K Company, 60th Infantry Regiment



Mary Greco
Widow of William C. Greco
34th Field Artillery Battalion

PFC 1st. Class Stanley J. Turowski of Detroit, MI passed away on November 20, 2013. He was 89 years old.

He served his basic training at Camp Wheeler, in Macon, GA. After landing on Utah Beach D-Day +3, Stanley fought along side his beloved 9th Division. They battled through France, Belgium and into Germany. The last battle he fought was the battle of the Huertgen Forest. So many of his buddies died in that horrible battle. Injured in the Huertgen Forest he received his second Purple Heart. He was so proud to be a part of the 9th Infantry Division. His personal achievement was to receive the Combat Infantry Badge.

He came home to open his own funeral home in Dearborn Heights, MI, serving so many people in their time of grief.

He leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Dorothy, his six children and seven grandsons who miss him very much.

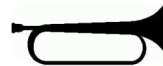
Mrs. Mary Greco, resident of Taylor, passed away peacefully in the arms of her daughter Suzanne, Monday, six days shy of her 96th birthday at Mountain View Care Center. She was the daughter of the late Peter and Susan Shedler of Duryea. She was the wife of the late William "Wimpy" Greco who preceded her in death on August 22, 2004. They were married for 58 years. Mary was born and raised in Duryea, attended the Duryea schools, later worked in the Bloomsburg Silk Mill in Duryea until marriage. After marriage, she and her husband resided in Old Forge where they owned and operated the Old Forge Grocery and Produce Market for over 50 years. Mary was a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend to many. She was an avid bowler until her late eighties. She and her husband loved dancing, Atlantic City casinos, and traveling especially to attend the annual Ninth Division Army Reunions throughout the U.S. and Europe.

She was baptized in the Byzantine Rite and later became a member of Prince of Peace Parish (St. Mary's Church) and its Parish Society in Old Forge. During the last five years of her life, she resided at the Mountain View Care Center, Scranton. She is survived by her loving daughter, Suzanne, numerous nieces and nephews, and two sisters-in-law. She will also be missed by two special Scottie canine friends, Lad and Sadie. She was preceded in death by four brothers and two sisters.





TAPS SOUNDED



As a result of the letter that was sent to all those on Ninth Infantry Division Association's Master List, we sadly learned of the passing of veterans, wives and friends listed below:

DECEASED

William Anderson		C Co., 39th Inf. Regt.,
William Bonsall	(No information on Master List)	
Gerald G. Bryant		L Co., 39th & 9th MP Plt.
Paul Callahan	RAM	
Anita Daniels	(No information on Master List)	
Herbert L. Frank	(Nephew of Johan Tanem)	B Co., 39th Inf. Regt.
Nathan Gaynor		L Co., 47th Inf. Regt.
Mrs. Lucien Hutchinson	(Wife of Lucien Hutchison)	(No information on Master List)
Jack Jewell		B Co., 39th Inf. Regt.
C. Webster Johnson		A Co., 15th Engr. Bn
Martina Malon	(Wife John H. Maloney)	9th MP Co.
Dominic Martello		Cannon Co., 39th Inf. Regt.
Marjorie Martens	(Wife of Clarence G. Martens)	I Co., 47th Inf. Regt.
Earl P. Mosel	RAM	
Irene F. Murray	(Wife of Lawrence J. Murray)	C Btry., 60th F.A. Bn
Mrs. R. A. Nevens	(No information on Master List)	
Bernice Nichols	(Wife of Nicholas Nichols)	(No information on Master List)
Kate Nicklin	(Wife of George L. Nicklin)	K Co., 47th Inf. Regt.
Robert J. Patterson		39th Inf. Regt.
Paul Potts		39th Inf. Regt.
Marjorie H. Rigby	(Wife of Henry S. Rigby)	(No information on Master List)
Hall F. Stansell		M Co., 60th Inf. Regt.
Frank Tibbetts	RAM	
Arnold Tomanek		Serv. Co., 39th Inf. Regt.
John G. Tschupp		Hqtrs. Co., 1st Bn, 39th Inf.
Edward A. Tyszka		2nd Plt., M Co., 60th Inf. Regt.
Richard Yates		M Co., 47th Inf. Regt.
Al Zarnowski	(Son of Chester Zarnowski)	



6/3/2016

Thank you for sending me the application to join the 9th Division Association. I am so proud to do this in honor of my father "William C. Greco". He and my mom "Mary" were members for many, many years. I could remember all the reunions I went to with them when I was a child. I remember dancing with General Westmoreland at the convention, I believe, in Atlantic City.

My father was so proud to have served his country and to be a member of the 9th Division. Each year he and my mom looked forward to attending the reunions until their early 80's. I've enclosed the obituary of my mom's passing in 2014. She used to belong to the Ladies Auxiliary.

Once again, I thank you for the invitation to join and continued success with your fine efforts.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Greco (daughter)
William C. Greco
Battery C, 34th Field Artillery

April 12, 2016

Dear Theda and Jane,

Yesterday I was so happy to receive your communication regarding the 9th Infantry Division.

It was addressed to my father Stanley Turowski. Sadly, my beloved dad passed away on November 20, 2013. We miss him dearly. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend. Most of all, he loved his Country and his 9th Infantry Division. His headstone notes "WWII-9th Infantry Division." We have the Octofoil etched in the right hand corner.

My father was D-Day +3. Along with the 9th, they fought their way up through France, Belgium and Germany. His last battle was the Battle of the Huertgen Forest. So many of his buddies succumbed in that needless battle. Injured in that battle, my father received his 2nd Purple Heart.

When my dad passed away it was very important to us that we contact someone from the Octofoil. I was not successful. I wanted the news of his passing to be known to anyone who may have fought along side my dad. If there is any way we can get him mentioned in an upcoming publication we would be so happy. If there is anything I can do to give you more information to make that happen, please let me know.

I have sent checks for both the Octofoil subscription and the membership application today.

This all sent with love to honor:

Stanley J. Turowski
Company K
60th Infantry Regiment
9th Infantry Division

Sincerely,
Janice Turowski

(Mr. Turowski's obituary appears in the "Taps Sounded" section of this issue.)

April 15, 2016

I'm glad the mail forwarding worked and especially glad the 9th Infantry Division Association has opened membership to Vietnam Veterans. I don't know how long that topic has been around but do know it was voted down at the reunion at Ft. Bragg in 1992. My dad was one of those who had been pushing for membership to open and I attended it, in uniform, with him. He was working for the change because both he (WWII) and I (VN) deployed with the 9th, on board ship. When I returned I cut one of his old patches from his uniform and wore it proudly as my combat patch on my Class A's for the rest of my career.

The letter arrived yesterday. My checks for membership and Octofoil subscription are in the mail.

Wyett

Wyett H. Colclasure II

April 13, 2016

Dear Jane,

I recently received a letter and subscription form from the 9th addressed to my father, Gerald G. Bryant. Sadly, my father passed over 2 years ago. Although I had previously notified the 9th Association, it looks like his name found its way back onto the list. If you would be so kind as to remove his name from the mailing list I'd be most appreciative. Thank you.

Kind regards,
Terry Bryant

P.S. Dad would be pleased that the 9th finally admitted the Vietnam veterans into the association.

April 26, 2016

Dear Jane,

I'm writing to thank you so very much for sending me and my brother the latest issue of the Octofoil with our Dad's obituary and photo in it. We will add this to his collection of memorabilia/future scrapbook honoring his life.

We appreciate your efforts in officially acknowledging his death. We were so proud when he made it to The Ninety's Club. But, we both knew one day it would become his turn for his life and death to be listed in the Taps Obituaries section. I guess that's the circle of life for all of us.

We continue to be grateful for what you do as editor of the Octofoil. Thanks again.

Blessings to you this day...

Mindy Reynolds

(Mindy is the daughter of Harold V. Schramm)

MAIL CALL ((continued))

April 13, 2016

Hi Jane,

My name is Tracy Gibson. My father, Robert L. Gibson, served with the 9th Infantry Division in WWII. I know he was with them in Algeria, but then developed a bleeding ulcer and had to ship back home. He stayed friends for life with his army buddies, though, and he and my mom, Norma Gibson, faithfully attended annual reunions in Worcester, MA, organized by Father Connors. I was always struck by how well the wives, who were quite different, got along. I'm not sure you'd see that these days.

My parents are both gone, now. My father died in '85; my mom in 2006. I wish my father had shared army stories with my siblings and me. Hell, I wish he'd shared *any* stories. But he didn't, so for us, there is no 9th Division legacy. (I tried to get his service records, once, and was told they'd gone up in flames. Huh.)

Anyway, I wanted to ask if the Association had a photo archive, and if so, if they'd want my father's old photo album. It's mostly shots from before the guys got shipped out, and then (I think) a few from Algeria. My father took the pix, so he's not in them, and we don't recognize the guys who are. If someone can use the album, please let me know. I hate to let that history just sit there.

Regards,
Tracy Gibson

(Upon receipt of this album, it will be forwarded to Mark Savolis at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, who is archiving 9th Division photos and documents.)

April 11, 2016

Theda,

This is John Thompson. I received your Octofoil letter today, and I'll rejoin up again. I'm a veteran. I'm one of the guys. I will be 95 so give me a call when you get a chance, Ok? There's nothing terribly important. I just wanted to say hello and let you know that I received the letter and that I will renew my subscription and so on. O.K. Thanks.

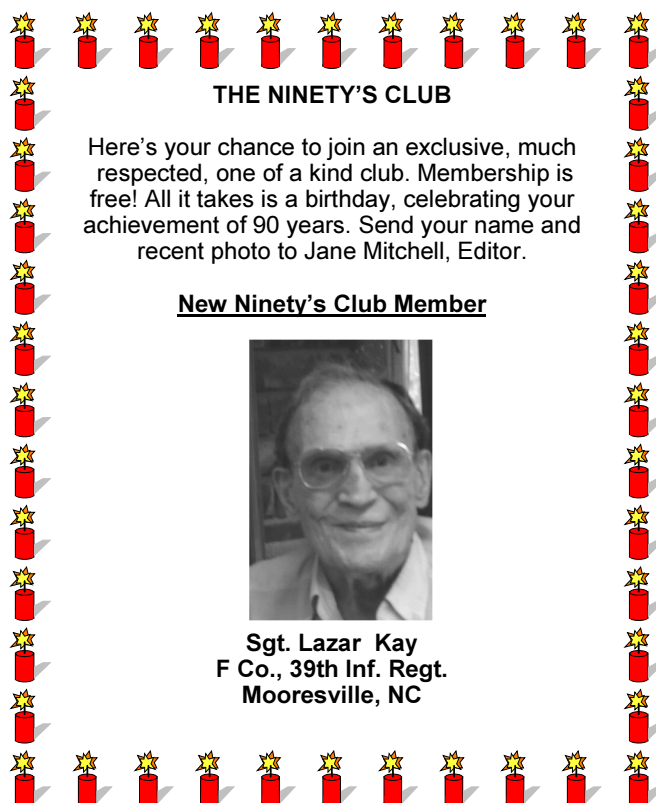
Bye,
John Thompson

May 1, 2016

Dear Theda,

Very sorry to inform you and members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association that my husband, Al, died one hour into a three week "Naples FL/Cruise to the Islands" vacation in January of 2014.


Sincerely,
Leslie Zarnowski



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 your achievement of 90 years. Send your name and recent photo to Jane Mitchell, Editor.

New Ninety's Club Member



Sgt. Lazar Kay
F Co., 39th Inf. Regt.
Mooreville, NC



Clarence Ray served in the 9th Infantry Division, L Co., 47th Infantry Regiment. In 2006, he recorded the account of his service and for his 90th birthday, on March 17, 2012, his daughter, Theda, presented him with a book based on that recording entitled **Dad's World War II Story (In His Own Words)**. This is Part 1 of that account. Clarence now resides in Penn Run, PA.

This is an account of some of my experiences in the Army during World War II, but first I think a little background or introduction would be appropriate. My name is Clarence Fred Ray. I was born on a farm, as the crow flies, about two miles south of the village of Penn Run in Cherryhill Township, Pennsylvania. This farm is located on what is called Chestnut Ridge. I was born at home on March 17, 1922. They tell me I got there before the doctor did. My parents were Fred Cameron and Theda Sue Ellenberger Ray. There were six children, I being the youngest. The first two, Max and Mildred, died in infancy before I was born. My oldest sister was Helen; next to her were Dorothy and my brother, Wayne, and then me. I went to school in Penn Run. Since Penn Run only had a three-year high school, I finished my senior year at Indiana, Pennsylvania and graduated from there at the age of 16. The reason I had graduated a couple years early is because I had skipped the fourth grade and the eighth grade when I was at Penn Run. I graduated from high school during the depression days, and work was very poor. I just helped my Dad on the farm and got a little work helping some of the neighbors at \$1.00 a day.

When the Germans under Adolf Hitler invaded Poland in September 1939 war clouds were looming. It was feared that the United States might possibly get dragged into the war, so under President Roosevelt, a military draft was established where all eligible young men had to sign up and would eventually be drafted into the Army for one year of service. Since all my buddies and people that I hunted with and caroused around with were older than I was, they had registered for the draft. I wasn't old enough to register and be eligible for the draft, so I felt kind of left out and couldn't wait until I was old enough so I would have to register for the draft.

Then on December 7, 1941, the Japanese surprise attacked Pearl Harbor, and the United States was into the war for real. Uncle Bob, my Dad's brother, and his wife, Aunt Pearl, were at our house that particular Sunday when the news came across the radio that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. Uncle Bob had been in the Indiana Unit of the National Guard, F Company, 310th Infantry, 28th Infantry Division. It was a National Guard outfit. When World War I came along, the 28th Division was federalized, and Uncle Bob went to France serving in that outfit. He had been gassed with mustard gas pretty badly, and he knew what war was like and what the infantry was like. That particular day I remember, he cried; he wept. He said he knew what it was like. He knew what to expect and what was coming.

It wasn't long until I was old enough and had to register for the draft, and then I felt more satisfied that I was in it with the rest of my buddies. Finally, after my 20th birthday I had to register. There were three draft boards out of Indiana County, and I was registered under draft board number three. Shortly after my registration, I received my greetings from President Roosevelt that I was eligible for the draft and was classified as 1A. I continued to pick up what work I could through the summer months, and on September 8, 1942 my brother, Wayne, was drafted and then in late November, I got a notice from the draft board to report to Indiana for transportation to Altoona for a physical. So I went to Altoona, took a physical, passed the

physical, took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States, and at that time, I was a full-fledged member of the United States Army. They gave me two weeks to go home and settle up my affairs. At that time, I could have settled up all my affairs in thirty minutes, but it was good to have two weeks at home.

A little side note to this tale: Sometime during those two weeks I had a date with a girl from Brush Valley, an adjacent village, and we were on route 22. I don't remember where we had been or where we were going, but there was a soldier hitchhiking along the road. At that time, you hardly ever passed up a hitchhiker, and you never passed up a person in uniform, so we stopped and picked this fellow up. I inquired where he was going, and he said he was going to New Cumberland, Pennsylvania where he was based. I told him that I was being inducted at New Cumberland on December 8 and would be going through there. He inquired what branch of the service I would like to be in. I was always intrigued with airplanes, and I told him I would sure like to get in the Army Air Corp. He got my name and serial number and said he would look up my name when I came through on December 8 as he was in the classification section at New Cumberland. He said he would see that I got in the Army Air Corp. And boy, that made me feel so good! I was just jubilant about being able to get in the U S. Army Air Corp! Well, that's the end of that because when I went through New Cumberland, where did I end up? I ended up just about as far away from the Air Corp as I could get. I was assigned to the Army Infantry.

On the morning of December 8, 1942 Dad and Mother took me to Indiana where three busloads of us went to New Cumberland. There I was processed, got immunization shots, was issued Army clothing and boxed my civilian clothes up and sent them home. A couple days later we were put on a troop train and ended up in Camp Van Doren in Southern Mississippi. This was a new camp and a new division was being formed there, the 99th Infantry Division. I was assigned to the Third Platoon of F Company of the 394th Infantry of the 99th Infantry Division. That is where I would get my training. In the Third Platoon of F Company of the 394th Infantry I was assigned as an Assistant Squad Leader of the Third Squad. Now being just a recruit I was given a title of Acting Corporal, and as training went on, finally I got my first promotion to a PFC, Private First Class that was one stripe. Then not too long after that, I got another promotion to Corporal, which were two stripes. We trained in Camp Van Doren through the winter months of 1942 and 1943. And then, I think it was in May 1942 I got my first ten-day furlough so I came home for ten days. It was pretty good to be home to see my folks and my buddies that were still there. Then I went back to Camp Van Doren and continued training there.

I

Clarence with his parents at his family home



In the summer months of 1943 we went on maneuvers in the Camp Van Doren maneuver area, and in the fall of 1943 we went on what were called corps maneuvers in the Third Army maneuver area of Louisiana, which was very interesting. We ran all over those swamps of Louisiana. The last problem in November was crossing of the Sabine River, which separated Louisiana from Texas. Our railhead was Jasper, Texas. When the maneuvers were over, we got on a troop train and ended up in Camp Maxey, Texas. It was an older camp and had better facilities, barracks and all that. It was near the small town of Paris, Texas. After we got settled at Camp Maxey I got another ten-day furlough and came home. As usual, I had a very good time, but it was all too short. I returned to Camp Maxey, and we continued training through the winter of 1943 and 1944.

In March of 1944 at reveille one morning the First Sergeant asked for one non-com and fifteen privates for transfer out of the division for overseas duty. I was the first non-com to step out of ranks to volunteer, as, by that time, I had gotten my third stripe and was a Sergeant. I had enough of this training stuff, and I was ready for some action. So along with fifteen Privates, we transferred out of the division along with a whole lot from the other companies in the division. We made up a troop train and ended up in Fort Meade, Maryland. We were in Fort Meade, I think, about a week, and we were moved to Camp Shanks, New York just outside New York City. We were only there for one or two nights, were transferred by bus into New York City and onto the Staten Island Ferry over to the docks at Staten Island and boarded a troop ship, a liberty ship. The next morning when I got awake and went up on deck, there was no land in sight, nothing except ships all surrounding us. I think there were approximately a hundred ships in our convoy, ships of all different kinds. We were headed for the British Isles across the North Atlantic, which is pretty rough. About the only thing that happened was a report that a German submarine was trying to infiltrate into the convoy, and I guess the destroyer ships were throwing out some depth charges trying to get the submarine. Whether they did or whatever happened, I never knew, but we were in no danger. Five days after we left New York we entered the harbor at Gourock, Scotland. It was on the Firth of Forth in Scotland. Since they were unable to handle us on shore, we laid in the harbor on the ship for three days. Finally, they could handle us on shore, and we debarked and hiked up the hill to the train station, got on a British troop train, went south and ended up on the Brendon Hills in Southern England where they had set up a tent city. We lived in peramial tents, and that's where we continued our training, mostly physical training. We were called a replacement company. We were to replace the casualties from troops that were already in combat.

Then came June 6, 1944 when the huge invasion of Normandy began, we were still in the Brendon Hills. A couple days later we were moved by British lorry (the British name for truck) to Southampton on the Southern coast of England on the English Channel. After we spent a night there, we were put on a ship, an LSI, landing ship infantry, and we crossed the English Channel. We landed at Utah Beach on the coast of Normandy on June 10, 1944, four days after D-Day. The beachhead at that time was quite small. Although there was no artillery or small arms fire, there were a few ME109s that tried to get in and dive bomb and strafe the beach, but there was so much anti-aircraft set up around there that they just had no chance of getting in there, so they would just peel off and leave. So my landing was pretty safe. We were in Normandy as a replacement company, I think, about two days before I was finally assigned to a permanent combat outfit. I was assigned to the Third Platoon of L Company, 47th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division. Now the 9th Infantry had originally landed in North Africa in November of 1942. They fought through North Africa; then they made the invasion of Sicily and fought through Sicily and then had been transferred to England where they trained. As a mat-

ter of fact, they landed in Normandy, I think, a day before we did. Anyway, I was assigned to them and being a buck Sergeant, I was assigned as an Assistant Squad Leader. I was in the Third Squad of the Third Platoon of L Company, 47th Infantry Regiment.

Before I was assigned to the 9th Division, I saw my first dead German, and it gave me kind of a squeamish feeling. We were hiking down this road, and this German soldier was on a motorcycle. I don't know whatever happened to him, but he was still on his motorcycle, and the motorcycle was just kind of laid up against the bank along the road. That was the first German casualty that I saw, but I was to see many of them later on as well as many of our own casualties.

The night I was assigned to L Company the objective was to infiltrate through the German lines. We were trying to cut the Cotentin Peninsula, and we did. We infiltrated through the lines. I can remember we weren't in the lead unit, but I can remember a German machine gun opened up, and I can remember the bullets hitting in the brush and going pop - pop - pop; everybody scattered and hit the dirt. As far as I know, there were no casualties from that. As we continued our combat after we cut the Peninsula off at Barneyville, we turned north toward Cherbourg and were to capture Cherbourg. I might tell you a little incident that happened to me out on the outskirts of Cherbourg. There was a sunken road. Through Normandy there are lots of sunken roads with growth, trees and brush and stuff on either side. I had gone ahead of my outfit, and when I crawled through the brush and jumped down onto this sunken road, I looked up to my right, and there was a German machine gun all set up where he could fire in my direction. Instead of firing they threw up their hands and surrendered. Now instead of surrendering, they could have fired that machine gun and cut me in two, but fortunately, they didn't. So I took the three machine gun crew prisoners and turned them over to one of my men and told him to take them to the rear. We continued on, and finally, Cherbourg fell is about all I can say there.



(to be continued in a future issue of The Octofoil)

"Memories" was written by John Delmore and dedicated to his brother, Thomas Delmore, who served with the 9th Infantry Division, 34th Field Artillery Battalion. In July 1981 Thomas was in the hospital after a stroke. Following a visit to see him, John went to Thomas' home and picked up "Eight Stars to Victory." After reading it cover to cover, he wrote the poem, "Memories", which he dedicated to the 9th Infantry Division and especially to his brother, Thomas.

MEMORIES

Thirty six years have come and gone,
Since they lived their wartime story.
Thirty six years of memories,
Since they blazed their trail of glory.

Memories of comrades they left behind,
In Africa and France, \

Memories of beach-heads and bursting shells,
In that terrible game of chance.

Memories of a pass called Kasserine,
In that winter of forty three,
Where as rookies they fought and died,
That their country might be free.

(Memories of "Westy's" Red Leg lads,
Of that February morn,
From Thalass Hills, they spied "The Fox",
When the smoke cleared, he was gone.

Memories of "Gertie" from Old Bizerte,
As they drove the "Hun" to the sea,
Then off again with barely a pause,
To a place called Sicily.

Memories of Cherbourg and "Paddy" Flint,
Now there was a grand old guy,
Memories dimmed with the passage of time,
But memories that will never die.

Memories of Belgium and the Siegfried Line,
As they chased old "Jerry" home,
Hot on his heels with rounds of steel,
They made "Der Fuehrer" moan.

Memories of Aachen and Hurtgen Wood,
Of heroes emblazoned with honors,
Memories there of a chaplain brave,
The intrepid Father Connors.

Memories of "The Bulge" and Remagen Bridge,
Who could ever forget that one,
First over the Rhine and just in time,
To beat out a guy named Patton.

Memories of the "Ruskies" on the River Elbe,
In April of forty five,
Shake hands "Ivan", our job is done,
And thank God we're still alive.

*Red Leg Lads- Nickname for Artillery soldiers
Westy- Retired General William C. Westmoreland, then C.O of the 34th F.A. Battalion
The Fox- the late Field Marshal Erwin Rommell, the Desert Fox
Father Connors- Rev. Edward Timothy Connors, Holy Cross Chaplain, 9th Inf. Division Chaplain
Paddy Flint- C.O. 39th Inf. Regt., 9th Inf. Division, killed in action, Cherbourg, France in June 1944
Gertie- A famous (or was she infamous) Arab lady befriended by many 9th Division G.I's*



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