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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, July/August/September 2017

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil

July-Aug-Sept
2017

Volume LI, No. 3

President's Message

"If we don't remember, who will?"



The 72nd Annual Reunion in Arizona was a resounding success thanks to many people, but my heartfelt thanks goes out to our Mesa, AZ residents, Kathy and Robin Tapelt and Jan Sewick, who organized the events. We had over 50 attendees registered this year with many new faces including two new Vietnam veterans, Gary McCracken and Tim Henson and active duty soldier John Skowyr. As we say, "A good time was had by all!"

Thanks also to our two Memorial Service speakers Mark Savolis and Peter Stern. Their thoughtful words were an inspiration as we reflected on the people lost in the 9th Infantry Division and the Association.

I spoke too soon in the last issue of *The Octofoil* when I said it was my final president's message. I was elected to serve as your Association president for another year. You will learn who your other 2017-2018 officers and Board of Governor members are elsewhere in *The Octofoil*.

As we move forward into our 73rd year, the Board of Governors has authorized the officers to start the transition from a veteran's organization to that of a non-profit 501.c.3 organization. This is due to the declining veteran ratio of our membership, but our mission will remain the same. As I write this message, the Bylaws Committee has rewritten our governing document and it is being sent out to the Board for review and hopefully approval. That will clear the way to begin the reorganization process with an attorney. Hopefully, by the time our next reunion rolls around we will have all the documents in place and the transition will be complete.

Glenda and Edd Baswell have agreed to organize the 73rd Reunion near Memphis, TN. The "Save the Date" appears on page 16 of this issue. You will learn more in the coming months, and I am hoping you will plan to attend.

The Ninth Infantry Division Association is quite the unique group. When I mention to people about our mission and that it is primarily made up of second and third generation descendants of WWII veterans and now a growing number of Vietnam veterans, they are amazed. The secret is that we are family. We are people who care for each other and enjoy coming together once a year to renew old friendships and to remember those who never made it home during the wars or who are no longer with us. "If we don't remember, who will?"

Have a good fall. Margi and I are headed to Europe on holiday for a couple of weeks before I retire in October.

Terry Barnhart
President, The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Arizona - Land of Beautiful Sunsets, Baseball Spring Training Camps and Dry Heat

The 72nd Annual Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held at the Hyatt Place Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona on July 21 – 23, 2017. Friends, old and new, were welcomed by our hosts, Kathy and Robin Tapelt and Jan Sewick. Many of us met in the Hospitality Suite during the weekend for lots of laughs and spirited conversation.

We were very fortunate to have in attendance three WWII veterans, Jack Dauner, Clarence Ray and Paul Schumacher as well as three Vietnam veterans, Charles Bonney, Tim Henson and Gary McCracken, and special active-duty guest, John Skowyr, SSG, US Army, Senior Drill Sergeant, E Co – 3-39th Infantry Regiment.

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OUR MISSION

This Association was 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 about the 9th Infantry Division.

THE OCTOFOIL

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The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

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

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 LI Number 3 July, August, September 2017

"Lest We Forget"

**The Ninth Infantry Division Association
Memorial Service
Immaculate Conception Parish
353 Grove Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01605
Sunday, October 15th, 2017, 10:00 A.M.**

On Sunday, October 15, 2017, the 73rd annual Memorial Mass and wreath laying ceremony will be held at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Worcester, MA. This year's service marks another milestone in a long line of continuous Mass celebrations started by Father Edward T. Connors. Father Walter J. Riley, Pastor, will celebrate the mass and conduct the memorial service.

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Eisenhauer at [REDACTED] Hotel reservations should be made on your own if you plan to stay overnight.

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.

The Ninth Infantry Division Association
(from the 72nd reunion raffle)

These funds were donated to the following organizations:

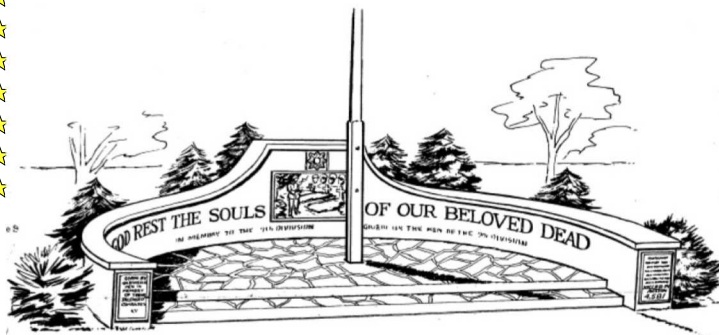
Phoenix V.A. Hospital—\$500
Vets Helping Vets Heal—\$500
Immaculate Conception Parish—\$100

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 "Tip of the Hat" and mail to:

Mary Cooper, [REDACTED]



Friends of Father Connors Fund

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

Phil Bosko

Herb Stern

"It is truly an honor for me to make a contribution to the 9th Division Monument at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Wooster, MA. For those few of us still living who served along side of Father Connors from 1941 to 1945, the memorial mass and wreath laying ceremony is a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice by our comrades-our 9th Infantry Division family. My special thanks to Gail Eisenhauer for the work she has done over the past years in connection with the memorial service and the maintenance at the monument."

The current balance in the FFCF is \$689.61. 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]

(continued from page 1)

Friday was a busy day for the Officers and Board of Governors who began their discussions and preparing agendas for meetings with other association members. Friday evening festivities included local faire, and the delicious Mexican food did not disappoint.

Saturday continued with the Association General Business Meeting and a free afternoon to explore Mesa and the surrounding cities. In early evening, we loaded the bus for a buffet dinner and country western entertainment at Rockin' R Ranch.

On Sunday morning, the traditional Memorial Service honored those who paid the ultimate price for their service. Terry Barnhart served as the Master of Ceremonies, Mary Kay Darr lead us in song with her beautiful voice, and Pete Stern played a magnificent rendition of TAPS. Mark Savolis, Head of Archives and Special Collections at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, was the keynote speaker. Mark provided information on the collection that has been archived at Holy Cross and about preserving documents from the 9th Infantry Division. The four widows in attendance, Jackie Armstrong, Janet Casanave, Judy Goldsmith and Marilyn Martin were presented with carnations during the Memorial Service.

John Skowrya and Mark Savolis made interesting presentations in their areas of expertise to fascinated veterans and family members on Sunday afternoon.

Sunday evening was especially exciting when we arrived at The Arizona Museum of Natural History. We were surrounded by a mastodon and dinosaurs as we enjoyed a lovely dinner and were treated to delightful musical entertainment by The Maxson Family. The raffle, held following the dinner, was successful and yielded \$1,100 from which donations were made to veterans' organizations and Immaculate Conception Parish. Nona and Harry Hutchins and their family made a special presentation to the attending veterans. Nona had created blankets with a large Octofoil in the center for each of the veterans. A special thank you goes out to Nona for her generosity to the veterans of the 9th Infantry Division.

On Monday morning, many attendees said goodbye as they headed to their homes in various parts of the country. Others headed to the Grand Canyon for one more day of fun with Ninth Infantry Division Association friends.

While planning a reunion for our organization is a privilege, it is also time-consuming and can be stressful at times. We wish to acknowledge the entire 2017 Reunion Committee, Kathy Tapelt, Robin Tapelt, Jan Sewick, Terry Barnhart, Glenda Baswell, Mary Cooper, Gail Eisenhower and Clare Irwin for the fabulous weekend they planned for us.

The 73rd Annual Reunion is being planned by Glenda and Edd Baswell and will be held near Memphis, Tennessee. We look forward to seeing all of you there. In the meantime, stay healthy and don't forget to laugh every day.

Financial Report

Balance in all sub-accounts as of September 15, 2017

Account	Balance
General	25,316.73
Octofoil	9,294.19
Library Project	614.59
Memorial Fund	4,809.00
F.F.C.F.	689.61
Reunion Insurance Fund	5,000.00
2013 Reunion	1,685.63
2014 Reunion	4,279.71
2015 Reunion	2,882.08
2016 [REDACTED]	2,772.27
2017 Reunion	4,406.78
Vets Travel Fund	1,625.00
TOTAL	63,375.59

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

MAIL CALL

Members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association,

I would like to offer you my sincerest gratitude for the opportunity to meet you and represent the 39th Infantry Regiment at the 72nd annual reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division. Your hospitality was truly humbling, and I was honored to be your guest. I would like to specially thank the President, Mr. Terry Barnhart, and Ms. Kathy Tapelt for their efforts in coordinating my participation in this historic event. It is amazing to me that the family members of the 9th continue to carry on the legacy and tradition that has survived since the conclusion of World War II. The motto of "If we don't remember, who will" is ever appropriate, though I assure you we who continue to carry the colors will continue to honor and remember the courage and heroism displayed by our predecessors in the fight for freedom and liberty for all throughout the world. The honor of carrying on the lineage of the 9th is only available to people such as myself as a direct result of the efforts and extraordinary sacrifices endured by those who served under her colors in World War II and Vietnam.

Personally, I take a great deal of pride in being a part of the living legacy of the 39th Infantry Regiment and thus, the 9th Infantry Division. Though the 9th ID may no longer be an activated member of the operational force, it's subordinate units, in regards to the 39th, 47th and 60th Infantry Regiment still play a vital role in the defense of our nation – transforming America's sons and daughters from civilians to soldiers by means of discipline, physical fitness and training in the warrior tasks and battle drills. It is a sacred mission and responsibility which we approach with the utmost respect and professionalism.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this wonderful event. It's a memory I won't soon forget. AAA-O and Carriage Worthy!

John J. Skowyra, SSG {P} USA, Senior Drill Sergeant

MAIL CALL

Thank you for the wonder tribute to my husband, Hal. He would be so pleased as I and my family are. Kaye Olson did a special job, and I appreciate her doing this. The 9th Division meant a lot to Hal, and he was pleased to be part of the Michigan vets. Many, many thanks.

Fondly,
Lucille Ladouceur

Dear Arizona,

This year you hosted our reunion. We greatly appreciated your hospitality and the awesome food. I could look at the mountains all day. I had no idea Arizona had forests, but I learned that week.

However, we did not appreciate the wonky looking tan lines, the obsessive heat* and the way you rained. But, as we understood it, it almost never rains. While we appreciate the fact that you did something different for us, please don't do it for future reunions and parties hosted in your lovely state. Regardless, you are a beautiful state, and I look forward to visiting you in the future.

I haven't been to a reunion in the last few years, but it felt like I hadn't missed a beat. For that I'd like to thank everyone that came! If anything, this reunion solidified the fact that while we are an association, we are a giant family. Thank you, Arizona, for hosting and making this one of the best I've ever attended. I've only ever attended two, but it was the best ever!

*I can appreciate the dry heat. It was a nice change, considering I inhale water every week here in Louisiana. Others in our group did not feel the same.

**Thank you to Mrs. Kathy Tapelt, for preparing and planning everything! If you hadn't, we may have never seen Glenda Baswell lasso. It was like seeing a unicorn. The museum made me feel like an extra on the *Jurassic Park* movie set.

Sincerely,
Kelsey Bettevy



225th Board of Governors Meeting
Friday, July 21, 2017
Hyatt Place
Mesa, AZ

The 225th Board of Governors meeting was called to order by President Terry Barnhart at 4:00 p.m. The President led the Pledge of Allegiance which was then followed by a prayer given by Janet Casanave.

Board of Governors members present: Terry Barnhart, Glenda Baswell, John Edd Baswell, JoAnn Bryant, Janet Casanave, Mary Cooper, Mary Kay Darr, Jack Dauner, Clare Irwin, Jane Mitchell, Bill Mizell, Theda Ray, Judy Rishel, Janet Schnall, Joyce Schumacher, Paul Schumacher, and Kathy Tapelt.

The Minutes from the 224th Board of Governors meeting were accepted as read.

President Barnhart began the meeting with the announcement that Clare Irwin is retiring from the position of Secretary of the Association. JoAnn Bryant will assume the position at the General Business Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, July 22 at 10:30 a.m.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mary Cooper summarized the Financial Report for Reunion 2017, covering the fiscal year beginning on July 1 of 2016 and ending on June 30, 2017. The Treasurer reported a total balance of \$66,079.80 as of June 30, 2017. This figure includes all seven sub-accounts: General, Octofoil, Octofoil Library Project (OLP), Tip of the Hat (TOTH) Memorial Fund, Friends of Father Connor Fund (FFCF), Reunion Account, and the Vets Travel Fund.

Additionally, the total account balance for the new fiscal year (July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018) was reported to be \$65,122.84 as of July 15, 2017. Mary stated that the Association is in good financial condition. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Octofoil Report

The Octofoil Editors, Jane Mitchell and Theda Ray presented the following summary:

- As of the date of this reunion, there were 140 active Octofoil subscriptions. This number includes five overseas subscriptions, one for the Ninth Infantry Division archives at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester MA, and one for the Immaculate Conception Parish in Worcester, MA., c/o Father Walter Riley.
- Extra copies of individual issues are sent to non-members for reasons such as enhancing and/or increasing membership or providing family members with an issue containing specific information or an article about a loved one.
- As of the date of this reunion, only 45 renewals have been received.
- The balance in The Octofoil sub-account was \$8,519.09 as of the end of our accounting year on June 30, 2017.

Theda and Jane spoke about the subscription form and the need for everyone to be sure to fill out the date range found on the top of the subscription form. This information is necessary to confirm which subscription year the amount sent is intended by the sender. The Editors will amend the current form to request and gather this important information. It was also noted during this discussion that the same problem exists for membership dues, and as a result, both forms will be modified.

Jane and Theda thanked the staff at Corner Print in Lomita, CA for the consistently good job they do with printing The Octofoil four times per year. The next issue, containing photos and proceedings of the 2017 reunion will be printed in color.

The Editors request articles from Vietnam Veterans, WWII Veterans, copies of archived material, Mail Call (letters to the Editor) and report that a new column entitled "Pen to Paper - Letters to Loved Ones" has been well received. Contact Jane Mitchell at [REDACTED] for more information.

Old Business

Regarding the Association's IRS status, Mary Cooper recapped an informal meeting she had with an attorney specializing in non-profit organizations. After reviewing our current IRS status, the following points were confirmed:

- The Ninth Infantry Division Association was created as a 501(c)(19) tax-exempt veterans organization in 1948.
- Under current IRS regulations, a 501(c)(19) organization must be made up of at least 75% veterans. Our data collection reveals that veterans account for less than 50% of our total membership.
- A new status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational/charitable organization would fit well with our stated mission.
- The cost to move from a 501(c)(19) tax-exempt veterans organization to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational organization would most likely range from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 in legal fees.

Janet Schnall (Bylaws Chair) added that our current bylaws were written to meet the requirements of a 501(c)(19) veterans organization. She has been preparing an update of the current bylaws but stated that before that happens, we need to decide what we are going to do about our status. If we decide to move to a 501(c)(3) IRS status, our bylaws need to reflect the new status. Janet also stated that in doing so, we will need to be mindful that since we are now incorporated in the State of Rhode Island, there may be additional requirements to be aware of.

Theda Ray suggested that we move forward with the change. Paul Schumacher added that our organization needs to be opened up to anyone that has ever served in the Ninth Infantry Division, including those that served during the Cold war. The new status will allow anyone in, to the benefit of the organization.

Glenda Baswell made the following motion:

MOTION: The Ninth Infantry Division Association will begin the move to become a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Mary Cooper seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried unanimously.



A committee chaired by Janet Schnall and including Mary Cooper and Theda Ray met to work on the bylaws during this reunion. A report of their progress will be given at the next Board of Governors meeting scheduled for Sunday, July 23, 2017.

New Business

Board of Governors:

President Barnhart summarized the discussions that have taken place over several years about the numbers and make-up of the Board of Governors. We are now fully implementing staggered three-year terms and continue to work towards reducing the number of board members to 11. This year, the President proposed that Jack Dauner, Clarence Ray and Paul Schumacher be moved to an advisory, non-voting status that encourages active participation and guidance for all matters coming before the board. The President also stated that those members scheduled to move off the board this year can decide if they want to stay on for another term. Staying for another term would provide continuity while we address the many changes that we are facing.

Bill Mizell announced that he will resign from the Board of Governors. The vacancy will be filled by Charles Bonney.

The President then appointed Clare Irwin as the Membership Chair. Clare will continue to process membership forms, dues, and maintain the database.

Veterans Travel Fund:

The President stated that as of the beginning of our new fiscal year, we have a balance of \$3,275.00 in the Vets Travel Fund sub-account. He reminded the Board of Governors that the Association received these funds from an anonymous donor and that they are to be used for the purpose of reducing reunion costs for Ninth Infantry Division veterans exclusively. It was proposed that the Association access these funds to pay for the registrations for the six Ninth Infantry Division veterans attending the reunion this year.

John Edd Baswell made the following motion (amended):

MOTION: Our Association will pay the reunion registration fee for each of the six 9th Infantry veterans attending this year.

This motion was seconded by Janet Schnall. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

Growth of the Association:

President Barnhart provided the good news that attendance over the past four reunions has remained stable. The increase in registration and membership of Vietnam Veterans and lineal descendants confirms that there is a lot of interest in the Association. Word is getting out, in part, through Yuri Becker, a WWII researcher in the Netherlands. Yuri supports our Association by posting information about recent reunions and events on his website.

President Barnhart added that he wrote a press release to gain attention from the media about our Mesa reunion. He then asked for ideas to spread the word.

Mary Cooper added that our plans for a new IRS status may help, especially after updating and fine tuning the now outdated bylaws.

Reunions:

The President spoke about upcoming reunions; the 73rd, 74th and 75th. Regarding next year's 73rd reunion, two locations have been looked into. Mary Cooper offered that she has been researching Nashville as a possible option. She reported that although there is adequate availability of hotel rooms in good locations, booking costs are very expensive. Glenda Baswell has been researching the Memphis area where costs are lower. She reported that the city will be an easy destination to travel to as many airlines fly in and out of Memphis International Airport. The pros and cons of hotels, ease of travel, and availability of amenities for each location were presented.

Judy Rishel provided the following motion:

MOTION: The next reunion location for our reunion will be Memphis.

Janet Schnall seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

Bill Mizell also researched an area in Virginia which had very high room rates and limited availability due to our comparatively small numbers.

Looking ahead, President Barnhart suggested something special for the 75th reunion, perhaps near Fort Bragg.

As the final item of the meeting, the Treasurer referenced the Financial Report and the growing amount of money in the reunion sub account. Mary proposed that we start using this money to go towards meeting space at future reunion locations. She will also check to see if the guidelines can be extended to other types of expenses for reunions.

Glenda Baswell provided the following motion:

MOTION: We will begin to use funds in the Reunion Account to pay for meeting space costs at our reunions.

Janet Schnall seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Irwin



**Minutes of the 72nd Business Meeting
Saturday, July 22, 2017
Hyatt Place Phoenix/Mesa
Mesa, AZ**

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Barnhart at 10:32 am. We opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Robin Tapelt.

The minutes from August 6, 2016 were read and approved as read.

Presidents Report

President Barnhart thanked:

Kathy and Robin Tapelt, and Jan Sewick for planning the reunion in Mesa, Arizona.

Clare Irwin for 9 years as secretary. She will now be our Membership Chair, and JoAnn Bryant will be our new secretary.

Special welcomes were given to:

John Skowrya, an active SSG US Army, Senior Drill Sergeant from Ft. Jackson, South Carolina and Mark Savolis, Head of Archives and Special Collections, College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA.

New members were asked to stand and introduce themselves.

President Barnhart asked if we had a quorum for our meeting. It was confirmed.

Introduction of Board of Governors

President Barnhart announced that Bill Mizell has resigned.

Term Expires 2018

JoAnn Bryant

Janet Casanave

Joyce Schumacher

Arlene Silver

Terms Expires 2019

John Edd Baswell

Janet Schnall

Kathy Tapelt

Term Expires 2020

Terry Barnhart

Glenda Baswell

Mary Cooper

Mary Kay Darr

Clare Irwin

Charles Bonney

Judy Rishel

All approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR REUNION 2017

Balance as of July 1, 2016 **through** June 30, 2017

Account #1-General	\$25,176.18
Account #2-Octofoil	\$ 8,519.09
Account #3-OLP (Octofoil Library Project)	\$ 614.59
Account #4-TOTH (Memorial Fund)	\$ 4,709.00

Account #5-FFCF (Friends of Father Connor Fund)	\$ 759.61
Account #6-Reunion	\$23,026.33

Insurance balance-	\$5,000.00
2013 Reunion-	\$1,685.63
2014 Reunion-	\$4,279.71
2015 Reunion-	\$2,882.08
2016 Reunion-	\$2,772.27
2017 Reunion-	\$6,406.64

Account #7 Vets Travel Fund (9 th Infantry)	\$3,275.00
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TOTAL OF ALL ACCOUNTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2017 \$66,079.80

Balance as of July 1, 2017 **through** July 15, 2017

Account #1-General	\$25,221.18
Account #2-Octofoil	\$ 8,639.09
Account #3-OLP (Octofoil Library Project)	\$ 614.59
Account #4 -TOTH (Memorial Fund)	\$ 4,709.00
Account #5 -FFCF (Friends of Father Connor Fund)	\$ 759.61
Account #6 -Reunion	\$21,904.37

Insurance balance-	\$5,000.00
2013 Reunion-	\$1,685.63
2014 Reunion-	\$4,279.71
2015 Reunion-	\$2,882.08
2016 Reunion-	\$2,772.27
2017 Reunion-	\$5,284.68

Account #7 Vets Travel Fund (9 th Infantry)	\$ 3,275.00
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TOTAL OF ALL ACCOUNTS AS OF JULY 15, 2017 \$65,122.84



Discussion

Explanation of Account #7 Vets Travel Fund was given by Treasurer Mary Cooper. A donation was made to this account to assist 9th Infantry Vets. for their reunion expenses. Checks were given to six veterans in attendance: Charles Bonney, Jack Dauner, Tim Hen-son, Gary McCracken, Clarence Ray, and Paul Schumacher.

OCTOFOIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Introduced Publisher/Editors, Jane Mitchell and Theda Ray.

"Letters From Home" published in *The Octofoil* was well received. Please continue sending in your articles.

NEW BUSINESS

Next year's 73rd reunion will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Memphis. Co-chairmen for the event will be Glenda Baswell and John Edd Baswell. Look for more information in the next issue of *The Octofoil*.

We are looking for future places for our 74th and 75th reunions. 74th up for discussion and looking at Ft. Bragg as a possibility for the 75th since that is where the 9th began.

Looking for Vietnam Vets to invite friends and would like to include all Vets including those involved during the Cold War. Would like to advertise our reunions to grow our group.

Discussion on Saturday and Sunday evening activities.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.

Respectfully submitted by JoAnn Bryant

226th Board of Governors Meeting Sunday, July 23, 2017 Hyatt Place Mesa, AZ

Meeting began at 8:07am. This is a continuation of our Sat. July 24th meeting.

Those in attendance: Terry Barnhart, Glenda Baswell, Paul Schumacher, Janet Schnall, John Edd Baswell, Mary Cooper, Kathy Tapelt, JoAnn Bryant, Mary Kay Darr, Judy Rishel, Charles Bonney, Clare Irwin, Janet Casanave, Joyce Schumacher.

President Barnhart stated we have three topics for the meeting: Bylaws, Donations, and Election of Officers.

Bylaws

Janet Schnall met with her committee of Mary Cooper and Theda Ray to update the By Laws. Many hours were spent on this project. The updated Bylaws will be sent to board members for approval. We need changes to comply with the 501(c)3 guidelines.

Janet Schnall moved that our Annual Membership Dues will now include *The Octofoil*, and other benefits starting in July 2018. Mary Cooper seconded.

Discussion:

The purpose of combining the membership dues with *The Octofoil* subscription is to make sure our members get all the information on the Ninth Infantry Division Association. This is how we communicate with our membership.

Motion carries.

Donations

Discussion on who to donate our raffle money to.

Janet Schnall made a motion to donate \$500.00 to VA Hospital in Phoenix and \$500.00 to Vets Helping Vets Heal. Judy Rishel se-
conded.

Discussion on motion.

Motion Carries.

Discussion on Father Connor Fund. Janet Schnall made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Immaculate Conception Parish to help with the upkeep of the Memorial. Janet Casanave seconded, motion carries.

Discussion on Mark Savolis, Head of Archives and Special Collections, College of the Holy Cross.

Election of Officers

Due to bylaw changes, there is a need to change the number of officers. Mary Cooper made a motion to change the slate of officers to four: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Janet Schnall seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Janet Schnall made a motion to elect Terry Barnhart for President, John Edd Baswell for Vice President, JoAnn Bryant for Secretary, and Mary Cooper for Treasurer. Charles Bonney seconded. Motion carries.

President Barnhart announced that Jack Dauner, Clarence Ray and Paul Schumacher will be advisors to the board for the 2017-2018 term.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 am.

Respectfully submitted by JoAnn Bryant





The Ninth Infantry Division Association 72nd Reunion-Mesa, AZ

First Row: Jackie Armstrong, Glenda Baswell, Marilyn Martin, Judy Goldsmith, Brenda Bowers, John Skowyra, Clarence Ray, Marlynn Ray, Jack Dauner, Paul Schumacher, Janet Casanave

Second Row: Gail Eisenhower, JoAnn Bryant, Kelsey Bettevy, Linda Jorden, Mary Cooper, Theda Ray, Jane Mitchell, Mary Kay Darr, Janet Schnall, Janet Bonney

Third Row: Jack Armstrong, Kathi Stachecki, Jan Sewick, Judy Rishel, Kathy Tapelt, Kevin Hutchins, Nona Hutchins, Tyler Willis, Joyce Schumacher, Phil Bosko, Laura Huot, Clare Irwin, Margi Barnhart, Terry Barnhart, Charles Bonney

Fourth Row: Mark Savolis, Edd Baswell, Gary McCracken, Gary Corbell, Karen Gillies, Dennis Bonkowski, Tim Henson, Robin Tapelt, Harry Hutchins, Bill Mizell, Peter Stern, Linda Collier, Mack Darr,



Our veterans in attendance at the 72nd reunion

Charles Bonney (Vietnam), Jack Dauner (WWII), Gary McCracken (Vietnam), Paul Schumacher (WWII), Clarence Ray (WWII), Tim Henson, (Vietnam)



Memorial Service



Meet and Greet



John's presentation

Rockin' R Ranch





**Banquet
Sunday evening
Arizona Museum
of Natural History**



During the period 1967 through 1969 seven issues of "Octofoil" were published for the soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam. The following is an excerpt from an issue published in 1967, one year after the 9th Division arrived in Vietnam:

From Training to Vietnam

The 9th Division became the first Division to be organized, equipped and trained for deployment to an overseas combat theater since World War II when the Department of the Army reactivated the Old Reliable Division on February 1, 1966. Nine months later, the first contingent of the Division, the 15th Engineer Battalion, landed in Vietnam and began the task of preparing a base camp for the entire 16,000-man Division. Two months later, the first 5000-man increment arrived at Vung Tau, marking the official entry of the Division into Vietnam. Barely one year from the reactivation date, the entire 9th Infantry Division was in Vietnam conducting limited combat operations.

Following the reactivation of the 9th Division, men and equipment began arriving at Fort Riley, Kansas, its new home. During the succeeding weeks, the Division, commanded by Major General George S. Eckhardt, initiated intensified training designed to familiarize the men with the rigors of combat they would face in Vietnam. After demonstrating the combat capabilities on Army Training Tests conducted during the fall of 1966, the Old Reli-ables began preparation for deployment. With this came the task of packing all equipment, making necessary modifications in the Division's original organizational structure and coordinating plans for shipment.

On December 19, following three weeks aboard naval transport ships crossing the Pacific Ocean, a ceremony was held at the South China Sea port city of Vung Tau as General Eckhardt led the first increment of the 9th Division onto the beach and was welcomed by General William Westmoreland. When the ceremony was concluded, and the men proceeded to Camp Bearcat, also known as Camp Martin Cox, 20 miles east of Saigon and began programs of camp development and limited combat operations.

Awaiting the newly arrived Old Reli-ables were base camp facilities cleared from dense tropical jungle growth by the 15th engineer Battalion. Working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the engineers had cleared 720 acres of jungle, established an internal road system and erected shower points, latrines and mess halls to accommodate the Division.

The engineers had also moved into the Mekong Delta region south of Saigon to begin work on a brigade-size camp known as Dong Tam in the marshlands along the My Tho River. Accomplishing this feat required that sand be dredged from the bottom of the river to fill in the Delta lowland and to provide a firm base for buildings and barracks. A 400-man task force consisting of two engineer companies, an infantry company, along with signal, medical and logistical elements began work on Dong Tam in mid-January.

Maintaining an exhausting work schedule, Dong Tam was made habitable for the 3d Brigade within 15 days. The base camp covering 600 acres was filled to a depth of six feet with more than eight million cubic meters of sand and sedimentary soil. Anticipating the increased support that would be required when combat operations in the Mekong Delta expanded, one artillery unit began conducting tests to establish the technical feasibility of employing artillery pieces mounted on river barges. The 3d Battalion, 34th Artillery found that by mounting two 105mm howitzers on Army barges, they could ply the Delta waterways and reach areas where overland travel was impossible due to the watery terrain.

The Old Reli-ables Face Combat

On January 20, the 1st Brigade headed by elements of the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, began operation COLBY, a cordon and search mission in the Phuoc Chi Secret Zone. It was during this operation that the Division made its first significant contact with the Viet Cong. In a brief encounter, the operation COLBY units accounted for 14 enemy killed.

With the entire 16,000-man Division available for combat and support missions, the 9th Division's area of operations expanded to 7,000 square miles and Mekong Delta operations were under-way.

On February 13, the 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry initiated operation ENTERPRISE when they relieved a battalion of the 25th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta's Long An Province. The operation was expanded two weeks later when the 2d Battalion, 60th Infantry also moved into the Delta province. The undertaking was designed to destroy the Viet Cong units and infrastructure that had gained control of the rich low lands of the province. Missions conducted in support of ENTERPRISE have resulted in over 1,400 enemy killed and more than 260 weapons captured during the continuing operation.

Although the Division was primarily concerned with integrating various elements into its area of operation, commitments did not preclude the direct support of other combat actions by members of the 9th Division. While participating in the multi-division Operation JUNCTION CITY, the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry secured roads along Highway 13 north of Saigon. On the night of March 19, Troop A was attacked by the 273d Viet Cong Regiment near Ap Bau Bang. During a one-sided battle that raged for six hours, the enemy was pounded with 26 airstrikes and more than 2,900 rounds of artillery. The battered VC regiment lost 230 men in the attack while friendly losses amounted to four men killed and 67 wounded.

As the Division continued to expand operations in the Mekong Delta, its strength was tested frequently. Operating in an area where the Viet Cong had formerly run unchecked, Division units were in contact with enemy forces determined to maintain control of the fertile rice lands. In the delta, the Old Reli-ables proved themselves superior fighting men as they steadily sapped the enemy's strength.

The first major battle in Operation ENTERPRISE took place near Doi Mai Creek on April 9. The encounter began when a pre-planned airstrike exposed underground enemy positions, and the Viet Cong were forced to flee their damaged bunkers. In immediate response to the Air Force report, the 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry, together with the 2d, 3d and 5th Battalions, 60th Infantry, quickly boxed in the disorganized unit and killed 209 members of the Viet Cong force.

Although Mekong Delta operations continued with no lapse, the division made no major enemy contact during the rest of April. On May 2, elements of the 2d Brigade clashed with a force from the 514th Viet Cong Battalion. Displaying typical resourcefulness, the 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry and the 3d Battalion, 60th Infantry encircled the unit. Caught in a death trap, the enemy was wracked with fire from helicopter gunships and fighter-bombers. A search of the battlefield by the infantrymen confirmed 181 Viet Cong killed.

During mid-May the Cam Son Secret Zone, and area 20 miles west of Dong Tam, was the target of a combined search and destroy mission. In this sweep, the 3d and 4th Battalions, 47th Infantry, along with elements of the 7th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division and several naval river assault teams netted 113 enemy kills.

(to be continued)



Pen to Paper - Letters to Loved Ones



Jack R. Dauner
Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Iowa
February 2 through February 5, 1943

In early January 1943, I received my military orders to report to Camp Dodge which was located on the outskirts of Des Moines, Iowa. This was the beginning of my military career. I was instructed to report by midnight of 2 February 1943. My orders further stated that I should board the Chicago and Milwaukee Railroad train which ran from Dubuque to Green Island, Iowa where I was to make a connection with the mainline train that ran between Chicago and Denver. At Newton, Iowa I was to disembark and catch a local train which will take me to Des Moines. After arrival in Des Moines, I would proceed by military truck to Camp Dodge.

The train from Dubuque left on schedule at 6:00 PM. It was bitter cold and a heavy snow had begun to fall. The trip to Green Island was scheduled to take a little over an hour, and the train consisted of an engine, a mail car, one coach and six passengers.

Upon arrival in Green Island, which was nothing more than a small railroad station and a few houses, I learned that the west-bound train from Chicago would be anywhere from one to two hours late. The train finally arrived three hours late, and I boarded it for the trip to Newton, Iowa, where I was to catch the feeder line that will take me to Des Moines. Because of the heavy snow the mainline train was slowed to a snail's pace – in fact, we stopped on railroad sidings several times for periods ranging from a half hour to 45 minutes. Needless to say, I could already visualize that my first week in the army would be spent in the guard house for being AWOL (Away Without Leave).

Our train finally arrived in Newton and those of us who got off the mainline train soon learned that because of the heavy snow, our connecting train was still in Des Moines. In the meantime, the train on which we had arrived pulled out of the station and headed on to Denver. A large number of army recruits like myself were left stranded in the depot in Newton to wait for our connection that would take us on to Des Moines. To make a long story short, we finally arrived in Des Moines by noon the following day and were transported by truck to Camp Dodge. We were exactly 12 hours overdue!

We then began processing which included getting our clothing allowances, signing payroll, and getting our shots. This was a totally new experience in every respect. We had to take off all of our clothes, each man was given a quick physical examination, and then a medic would hit you with a tetanus shot on the left arm while another medic hit you with the typhoid shot on the right arm. By that time, you weren't too sure what had hit you, but since the room was cold and drafty, the most intelligent thing to do was to get into some clothes as quickly as possible and get out of there.

The following day involved processing and testing. I was scheduled to go to Meteorology Cadet School so I was able to avoid some of the other tests. However, I do recall taking a mechanical aptitude test which required you to take a simple crystal radio set apart and then put it together again. Fifteen minutes after everyone else had completed the assigned test a sergeant who was the testing supervisor came over and said: "Soldier, you have the lowest mechanical aptitude of anyone that I have put through this test over the past two years. It's a good thing you're heading for something that doesn't require any mechanical intelligence because you're just plain dumb."

On February 6, I received my orders along with six other fellows who were all about my age. I was designated as the leader. We were given our tickets, trucked down to the train station and soon be on our trip to Kearns Field Utah. We were assigned to Pullman cars which was an unexpected luxury. After spending a few hours in the club car, we hit the sack. We arrived in Denver about noon. We had a little over six hours before we were to board the Denver, Rio Grande Railroad, which would take us on to Salt Lake City, Utah. I only recall the name of two of the six fellows who traveled with me one was Frank "Skip" Free from Davenport, Iowa. His father ran a well-known photographic studio. The other soldier was Jim Watson who hails from Oak Park, Illinois.

Since I had traveled to Denver a couple of years earlier, I at least had a working knowledge of the downtown area. At my suggestion, we headed immediately for the old Brown Palace Hotel where we spent some time in the Ships Inn Bar. From there we went on over to the Cosmopolitan Hotel for a few more drinks before heading to union station to catch a train. Once again, we were blessed with Pullman cars and had a reasonably good train ride. We arrived in Salt Lake City and were met by trucks from the base. As I recall, it was about a one-hour ride to Kearns Field which, at that time, was a very new military installation and not too fully developed. My military career really got underway at Kearns Field, and my frequent communications home began to take shape.

Clarence F. Ray
France
July 30, 1944

Dear Mom,

Well, how's my best girl these days? Just fine, I hope. And not working too hard, I hope. I am fit as a fiddle. Well almost, anyway. I have exactly eleven of your letters to answer. The weather has been pretty warm lately, not near as warm as it gets back in Pennsylvania, but nice. We wear long woolen underwear, woolen OD shirts and trousers and field jackets. That may sound silly for July, but on rainy nights, it feels most darn good. Sometimes it gets a bit sweaty in the daytime.

You know I've spent all the way of 65 francs since I've been in France, 50 francs for airmail envelopes and 15 francs for a few postcards of Cherbourg. A franc is worth two cents, so you can see I'm saving lots of money. We aren't getting paid so it's all accumulating. I'm making better money now than I ever did. Since I was made Staff Sergeant, I get \$96 plus \$20 overseas pay plus \$10 for being in the infantry makes \$125.70 a month. You'll be thinking I'm a war profiteer, but I feel as long as I have to be here fighting, I might as well be making the money.

I haven't heard from Ralph White for a long time now. Andrea wrote and said she'd been up to see you all. She thinks all of you are quite all right. But so does everyone else.

It's immaterial whether I vote this year or not. For me it's not whether a Democrat or Republican, Roosevelt or Dewey, but whether next year will be peaceful or if we will still be at war, and voting isn't going to decide that.

How about getting me Doyle Fyock's address sometime you see Bob. If I know what outfit he's in, maybe I can see him sometime. Just a minor chance.

I still have not received any of the packages that you've been sending so faithfully. At least one of them should be coming through. We do get plenty to eat, but a little homemade candy would sure taste good. These nice French cows make pretty good steaks, and we've got a kitchen that has a special knack of getting the cows. Pigs are pretty scarce around Normandy, or I suppose we'd have pork, too. Eggs is something that I sure could go for. The only eggs we get are dehydrated. This darn German ink is like pokeberry juice. I got it off some high German officer's desk.

The war seems to be going very favorable for the allies. It can't end too soon to suit me. I've seen enough. If these people would just realize that they can't win and that the longer they hang on, the more they lose. Well I guess I better close for this time. Take good care of yourself, and I'll do the same. Don't work too hard and neither will I.

To the best mom in the world.
Love, Clarence

Pen to Paper—Letters to Loved Ones is a continuing series of letters written by our veterans while in training camp and overseas to their loved ones at home. If you have letters that you are willing to share, please submit them to:

Jane Mitchell, Editor

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██████████
████████████████████

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2017-2018**

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Jack Dauner
Clarence Ray
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Rev. September 2017

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