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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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4-1-2019

## The Octofoil, April/May/June 2019

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# The Octofoil

April-May-June  
2019

Volume LIII, No. 2

## President's Message

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



I am most pleased to report that our Association has finally heard from the Internal Revenue Service concerning our change request from a 501(c)(19) veterans organization to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. This has taken us over two years to achieve this change, but we have been discussing this issue for a long time.

This change in status was necessary given the decline in the number of WWII veteran members, but it has been our desire to continue our mission to honor and remember the men of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division both from WWII and Vietnam. With our membership makeup, we no longer fit under 501(c)(19) definition, but the new charitable organization status will still allow our Association to be exempt from federal income tax and to allow the Association to receive tax deductible bequests, devices, transfers or gifts.

I would like to thank Mary Cooper, our treasurer, and Tina L. Melo, our attorney in Houston, for their tireless work in pulling together the necessary materials and documents and for completing the proper forms for submittal to the IRS. Also, I would like to thank again Janet Schnall, Mary Cooper and Theda Ray for their work in rewriting our Association Bylaws. This new document was critical in our IRS application.

Margi and I are looking forward to the 74<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Pittsburgh in early August. I have had several new inquiries from some Vietnam veterans and relatives of WWII veterans. Also, several 9<sup>th</sup> Division Vietnam veterans from the Pittsburgh area have been in contact with the committee regarding their attendance at some of our reunion activities. The Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square is a beautiful facility located near the headwater of the Ohio River. Our organizers, sisters Jane Mitchell and Theda Ray, have worked hard on this event lining up an excellent speaker and even taking us out to a baseball game on Sunday and an excursion to the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA.

We are still striving to increase the Association presence on Facebook and on our own dedicated website. This has proven to be more of a challenge that originally thought, but we are not giving up.

Finally, don't forget the fall Huertgen Forest Battle Tour in Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. This will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle so an additional day has been added. Contact Albert Trostorf at [REDACTED] if you are interested in attending this excellent tour in October.

I hope that you all are having a good summer. See you in Pittsburgh.

Terry Barnhart  
President, Ninth Infantry Division Association



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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.

Please remember to bring at least one raffle item with you to this year's reunion in Pittsburgh. Each year a raffle is held at the reunion banquet, and we would love for everyone to bring items to donate. The proceeds are donated to local Veterans' organizations. Your participation in the raffle is appreciated. If you have any questions, you may contact Kathy Tapelt at [REDACTED] or Glenda Baswell at [REDACTED]

## 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

Effective July 1, 2018, the annual fee for membership, which includes The Octofoil, is thirty five dollars (\$35.00) and must be sent to the Membership Chairperson by check or money order made payable to:

**The Ninth Infantry Division Association.**

Send payment to: **Clare Irwin**  
**Membership Chairperson**

The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 Charitable Organization of the Internal Revenue Code, effective October 26, 2018. Contributions are tax deductible.

**Volume LIII, No. 2**

**April, May, June 2019**

## TIP OF THE HAT

This fund has been established to honor our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

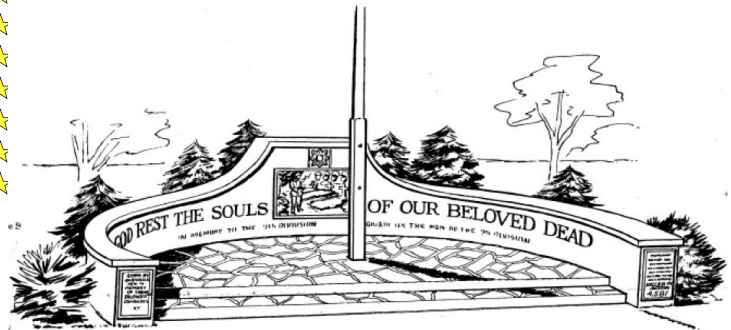
There were no donations to the Tip of the Hat this quarter. The balance in this account is \$7,409.00

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]



## Veterans' Travel Fund

The Veterans Travel Fund was established to provide financial assistance to our 9th Division veterans to attend our annual reunions. We would like to thank the following donor for his generous contribution:

**Charles Bonney**

The current balance in the Veterans' Travel Fund is \$5,975.00. 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 "Vets Travel Fund" and send 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:

**Herb Stern**—In memory of Louis Prince, Captain 60th Field Artillery, 9th Infantry Division. Louis and I were longtime friends going back to high school and in the Division as well as in recent years. He was a resident of Cincinnati, OH.

The current balance in the FFCF is \$2,069.95. 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]

**Balance in all sub-accounts as of June 15, 2019**

Account	Balance
General	18,682.84
Octofoil	8,640.54
Library Project	587.29
Memorial Fund	7,409.00
F.F.C.F.	2,069.95
Reunion Insurance Fund	5,000.00
2013 Reunion	0.00
2014 Reunion	0.00
2015 Reunion	3,062.49
2016 Reunion	2,591.86
2017 Reunion	4,406.78
2018 Reunion	70.39
2019 Reunion	-13.41
Vets Travel Fund	5,975.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58,482.73</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Cooper, Treasurer

See page 10 for a complete financial report.

## Don't Forget!

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2019-2020, time is running short! Membership dues are \$35.00 and include your subscription to The Octofoil. The membership application is on page 11. Please complete the entire form and submit with your payment to our membership chairperson, Clare Irwin. If you have questions, please direct them to Clare at [REDACTED]



Pittsburgh Skyline



### HELPFUL HINTS FOR PITTSBURGH REUNION GOERS

**PARKING AT THE SHERATON AT STATION SQUARE**-If you park in the Sheraton Lot or the Parking Garage, the cost is \$23 per day. If you drive past the parking garage to the Carson & River Lot (across from the Gateway Clipper ramp), the cost is \$18 per day.

**TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AIRPORT**-The Sheraton does not provide a shuttle to and from the airport. Listed below are costs for ride sharing services:

Super Shuttle (one way)-- \$26 first passenger, \$24 each additional passenger

Taxi Service (one way)--\$37

Uber or Lyft (one way)--\$28 (can vary depending on demand)

If you provide Theda Ray [REDACTED] or Jane Mitchell [REDACTED] with your flight information, someone may be able to pick you up at the airport. That would give you a few more bucks to spend on raffle tickets!

**IF YOU ARE 65 OR OLDER**, bring your Medicare card. By showing this card, you can ride public transportation and the incline for free.

**FOR THOSE GOING TO THE PITTSBURGH PIRATE VS NEW YORK METS game** on Sunday afternoon, the cost is \$19, which includes a Pittsburgh Pirate hat (lucky you!). Theda Ray has already paid for the tickets, so you can pay her in cash or write a check at the reunion.

**FOR THOSE GOING TO THE FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL** on Monday morning, the cost is to cover the van rental is \$15 per person. You can pay Jane Mitchell either by cash or check.

### PLACES OF INTEREST FOR VETERANS IN PITTSBURGH

World War II Memorial (375 North Shore Dr, )

Vietnam Memorial (North Shore Trail)

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum (4141 Fifth Ave)

USS Requin Submarine (Three Rivers Heritage Trail)

Heinz History Center (1212 Smallman St):

The museum is currently featuring an exhibit called **THE VIETNAM WAR: 1945-1975**. Admission is \$15 for ages 62+ with an additional \$2 off for retired and active duty military.



## 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

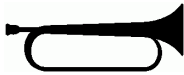
S/Sgt. Herschel F. Briles, Co. C, 899th TD Bn; Near Scherpenseel, Germany; 20 November 1944  
2nd Lieutenant John E. Butts\*, Co. E, 60th Infantry; Normandy, France; 14, 16, 23 June 1944  
T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro, Co. E, 39th Infantry; Near Kalterherberg, Germany; 22 December 1944  
Sgt. William 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

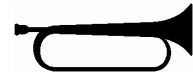
### Vietnam War

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](http://www.homeofheroes.com)



Golda Nadine Collier  
Widow of Jack Collier  
C Co., 47th Inf. Regt.



#### TAPS OBITUARIES

#### TAPS OBITUARIES



**Golda Nadine Collier  
1928-2019  
Widow of Jack Collier  
C Company, 47th Infantry Regiment**

Golda Nadine Collier (nee Brennecke) passed away on January 12, 2019.

Nadine was the beloved wife of the late Jack A. Collier.

She was the loving mother of Dave (Carole) Collier, Mike Collier, JoAnn (Ken Fluchel) Bryant, Linda Collier, Karla (Conrad) Privateer and the late Jack and Ruth Collier.

She was also a devoted grandmother of Sara, Michael, Jeremy, Ben, Erin, Chris, Kate, Jack and great-grandmother of 12.

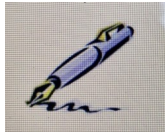
She was a dear sister-in-law, aunt and friend to many.

Nadine was an educator for 30+ years, loved coaching and was a lifetime member of Christ Church UCC.

Internment was in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to Christ Church UCC Maplewood ,  
2200 Bellevue Ave. Maplewood, MO 63143.





## Pen to Paper - Letters to Loved Ones



October 22, 1944

Dear Mom and Dad

Here it is Sunday already and another week is over. I just had breakfast and let me tell you, your one and only son is right on the ball as a cook. Of course, it all boils down to heating up a can of rations, but Jack R. Dauner does it to perfection.

I am afraid this paper is a little dirty, but no other was available at the present time, so that's the reason. Yesterday was really nice for a change. There's nothing like a nice day to make one feel in "tiptop" shape. Last night it was also nice. The nights over here seem slightly damper and chillier than back home.

A couple of Jerrys (German soldiers) walked over this morning and surrendered. It happens frequently. Yet, the war goes on. Most of them would much prefer ending this thing, but the S.S. Troops keep their bayonets too far in the German soldier's backs. One can never tell what will happen. They might give in tomorrow or they might hold out for another year.

By the way, just for old times sake I want you fellas to go out for dinner and have a nice big steak on some of the French francs I sent. My mouth is watering for one of those big thick steaks from Liesers. But it looks as though I'll probably be a little delayed before I get one again. Everything is OK over here. I am feeling fine and aside from being hungry right now, things are all right. Guess I'll eat a can of vegetable stew which is one of my favorite rations.

Give my regards to everyone.

All my love... JACK

*Below is Jack's narrative for the time period in which he wrote the above letter to his parents.  
Notice the contrast in the way he relates the events to his parents and how they actually happened.*

Co. K - 60th Infantry- 9th Division  
Oct. 18, 1944 - December 26, 1944

I can recall the odd feeling when about six of us were dropped off in the woods and told that "the Company Command Post was about 100 yards down the path". We moved out and reported to the Commanding Officer's tent where our orders were reviewed.

In my case there was a great sigh of relief on the part of the CO's right hand man. When he looked at my records he turned to the captain (Commanding Officer) and said: "Man, are we lucky! Dauner is expert in firing the BAR." With that he handed me a BAR and said: "Dauner, you better clean that up good. We lost our BAR man this morning because this damn thing wouldn't fire!" With that three of us were led to the first platoon's position on the front lines. As we crawled to our respective foxholes a few rounds were fired in our direction from a German pillbox which sat about 150 yards away.

My foxhole mate was a guy in his early 40s. He was in extremely poor physical condition and a real basket case. Not only that, but he failed to take precautions against trench foot with the result that his feet were so swollen he could hardly get his combat boots off. He was scared to death - married and worried about his wife and kids. At about 2 o'clock in the afternoon the word was passed to all of us that in one hour we should begin to start firing at anything that moved over on the German side. The objective was to draw out their small arms fire; then, we would lob some mortars and ultimately get some of the big guns in action so our planes could spot the location of some of their 88's and other weapons that were giving us a lot of trouble.

Well, it turned out to be quite an experience, and I must admit I thought it was great sport. I picked an opening on the German pillbox which was about 100 yards from our position as my target and just kept firing the old BAR right on the mark. Obviously someone recognized that an automatic weapon was being used over in our direction because all of a sudden, we begin to get some pretty heavy barrages. My poor foxhole mate was fit to be tied and spent most of his time down at the bottom of our hole.

After about a half hour of this type of warfare everything quieted down, and we began to survey what had been learned. For me it was a new experience, and I did recognize that a person could be killed in this world. The field kitchen provided hot food and before darkness we would slip back to headquarters to get fed. Our cooks were good ones and did a great job in keeping us with decent food. We would fill our mess kits and coffee cups and then head back to the foxhole so the next group could eat.

Darkness set in early and the password was provided as a precaution against anyone who might try and slip behind our lines. We agreed to stand a three-hour watch in our hole, and my foxhole buddy said he would take the first shift. I had just dropped off when

(continued on page 6)





## RELIABLES EARN RVN AND VALOR AWARD

*Reprinted from the 1968-1969 Octofoil  
(9th Infantry Division in Vietnam)*

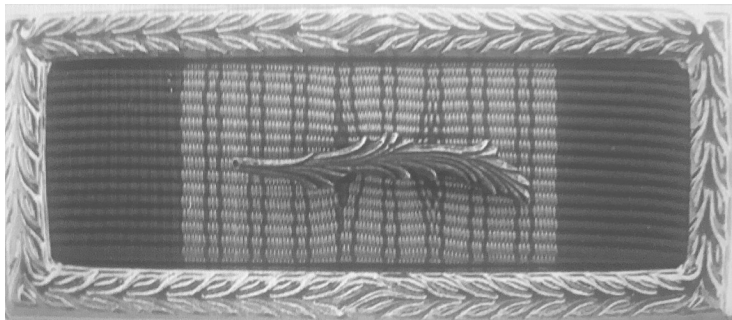
The 9th Infantry Division was presented the Vietnamese Val-  
or Award - Army Level - during ceremonies July 19, 1968.  
The medal consisted of the Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the  
first such decoration given to an American unit and the only  
Division in Vietnam to receive it.

With more than 40 U. S., Vietnamese, Thai, Korean and Aus-  
tralian military and civilian leaders in attendance, Vietnamese  
Lieutenant General Le Nguyen Khang attached a red and  
yellow streamer to the Division colors, symbolizing the award  
from the President of the Republic of Vietnam.

General Khang, Marine Corps commandant and former III  
Core Commander, next pinned the Cross of Gallantry on  
Major General Julian J. Ewell, signifying the award to all Old  
Reliables who served during the period December 1966  
through June 1968. The ribbon is authorized for wear with  
gold border, centered above the right shirt pocket of the khaki  
or green uniform.

"I accept the honor with humility in the name of the officers  
and men, living and dead, who have fought here to help bring  
peace, freedom and prosperity back to Vietnam," General  
Ewell said.

"I would like to express our utmost thanks to the brave  
fighting men of the 9th Division for their glorious victories in  
Saigon and the Mekong Delta," General Khang said to the  
masses troops and dignitaries. "The red and blue of the Octo-  
foil has contributed a great deal to the solemn pact of pre-  
serving peace and freedom in this country. I thank you for all  
the people of Vietnam."



(continued from page 5)

he reached down and put his hand over my mouth and whispered that there were four German soldiers crawling toward us about 50  
feet away and wanted to know what to do.

To make a long story short, I fumbled around with the only German I could think of and said: "Ein soldats forward!". With that they all  
started to come toward us so I repeated myself in a very loud and authoritative voice. In the meantime I told my foxhole buddy to grab  
a hand grenade and be ready to pull the pin if they continued to move toward us. I had already done likewise so I figured we could  
put them out of commission and at the same time have the opportunity to fire a few rounds at point-blank range.

Fortunately, the first soldier came forward and we grabbed him. He was unarmed and wanted to give up. We called for help from  
neighboring foxholes and one by one we captured all four of the "Supermen." Actually, they were Poles who had been recruited to  
fight for the German army and were happy to come across the lines to us. The tragic side of the story occurred the next morning  
when a staff sergeant from one of the other platoons volunteered to take the prisoners back to Company headquarters for interroga-  
tion. After marching them back about 200 yards we heard four shots and learned later that because of his hate for German soldiers,  
he had shot them in cold blood.

Jack Dauner

The citation accompanying the award honored the Division for  
"outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in  
action against an armed enemy... from December 1966 through  
June 1968."

"The 9th Infantry Division has demonstrated great versatility by  
engaging and defeating the enemy in jungles, rice paddies,  
mountains and cities," the citation continued. "During this peri-  
od, the 9th Infantry Division killed over 11,000 Viet Cong insur-  
gents and North Vietnamese invaders."

The Old Reliables were praised for their efforts in operations  
JUNCTION CITY, AKRON, SANTA FE, ENTERPRISE, CORO-  
NADO I - IX, TRUONG CONG DINH, TOAN THANG and PEO-  
PLE'S ROAD. Twice the division was credited with helping  
save Saigon and other cities from invasion. The first was during  
the Tet terrorist attacks, the second during the aborted May  
aggression.

"Treacherous communist Tet aggression brought the 9th Infan-  
try Division new challenges and still greater glory," the citation  
said. "The Division responded to the enemy attacks with alacri-  
ty, force and the spirit of the offensive. In fierce engagements in  
Saigon, Bien HOA, Long Binh, Xuan Loc, Ben Tre, My Tho,  
Vinh Long and Can Tho, the 9th Infantry Division... drove the  
determined enemy from these cities."

"When the Viet Cong and the NVA renewed their attacks on  
Saigon between May 6-13, the 3d Brigade deployed five battal-  
ions to the southern edge of the city where they blunted numer-  
ous attacks and killed 852 enemy in some of the bloodiest  
fighting of the war."

The citation closed with praise for the Division's work in the  
"Other War" - civic action. Since the Division's arrival in coun-  
try, MEDCAP teams have treated over 350,000 patients and  
repaired or constructed 34 hospitals and dispensaries and 26  
schools.

## LEGENDS OF PADDY FLINT

*Reprinted from The Octofoil  
Dec. 1952-Jan. 1953*

The story of Col. Paddy Flint is best told in the following manner. As reprinted from "Hold Fast" published by the 9<sup>th</sup> Division in Munich, Germany in 1946, written by Capt. J. Mittlemen, the Division Historian.

A soldier can be a hero and a hero can be a legend and a legend can make a superman out of a soldier. Paddy Flint was an old man for a combat soldier and he had a bad right eye and he spoke like an Irish dock hand-when he wanted to. Paddy was an old yellowleg cavalryman turned infantryman and he commanded a regiment in combat and he did become a legend. But Paddy Flint would have been the first to admit that he was no superman.

But then, he wasn't any plain ordinary soldier, either.

The legends of Paddy Flint were born when Paddy took command of the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry during the Sicilian campaign. Paddy Flint was a full colonel and had traveled through Africa as a supernumerary officer with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division. One hot summer day in 1943, the commanding officer of the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry broke his leg, and Paddy got the chance he had been longing for. He was ordered to take over the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry. War correspondents quickly sensed a good human interest story in colorful Paddy Flint, who was seldom seen without a black silk scarf around his neck. The legends began to grow and reached full maturity in the summer of 1944 when the tale to end all tales about Paddy Flint was published in the London Illustrated, dated August 26, 1944. It was written by Bill Richardson. War Correspondent Richardson began his full page story by saying, "Paddy Flint was fifty-six years old, and he was a soldier's soldier." That line was probably the only entirely accurate statement in Richardson's story. The legends of Paddy Flint had come of age!

Richardson's version of Colonel Harry A. Flint's combat caught on, and even old time Ninth men began telling the Richardson version over and over again, with certain embellishments, to each new replacement. There was the Richardson version of how Paddy Flint took over the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which always produced a variety of open mouths and pop-eyed expressions. And the tale of how Paddy named his beloved 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry the AAA-O outfit—Anything, anytime, anywhere—bar none.

The legend of how Paddy Flint became commander of the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry, or at least the Richardson version, goes something like this. According to Richardson, Paddy Flint was wandering around Sicily without a command, beating his breast and yelling, "I'm a fightin' son of a b-----, and they ain't got no right to do this to me." So Richardson killed off the 39<sup>th</sup> C.O., and had Paddy dashing up to Maj. Gen. Manton S. Eddy, the Ninth Division commander, and saying, "General Eddy, I'm Paddy Flint and I'm your new commander of the 39<sup>th</sup> Regiment. I'm one fightin' son of a b-----, and don't you ever forget it. And just one more thing, general, if you want anything out of my g--- d---- regiment, just come to me with it and I'll handle it." According to Richardson, General Eddy could muster no more original an epithet than "Well, I'll be g--- d----."

In actuality, Paddy Flint received his command through the normal circumstances of war. He certainly did not call the regiment together as Richardson had him doing in a dress right, dress parade ground fashion. Richardson's entertaining but overly imaginative story had Colonel Flint stalking off the regiment where Paddy said to the operations officer, "Call the g--- d---- regiment together." At which the operations officer is supposed to have said, "And who the hell are you?" And old Paddy looked at him with a great disdain in his old soldier's eyes and drew himself up to his full five

eight and fairly shouted, "I'm Paddy Flint and I'm commanding this g--- d---- regiment, and when I say call the g--- d---- regiment together, I mean call the g--- d---- regiment together!" Of course, it was right in the middle of combat when Paddy took over, but that didn't make any difference to Richardson.

The only persons Paddy Flint called together when he assumed command of the regiment were his three battalion commanders. He told them that he was new to an infantry outfit and would need a little time to catch on to everything that should be done. He said he had only once change in mind. "From now on", Paddy said, "we're all going to work and stick together as a gang and help each other." Not nearly as dramatic as Richardson's version, but much more true.

Paddy Flint's naming of his regiment the AAA-O outfit resulted in numerous other legends coming to the surface. Richardson's masterpiece of overstatement had Paddy Flint naming the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry the AAA-O outfit five minutes after he took it over. "And one thing more", Paddy is reported to have said, after he had duly harangued and belittled his parade round regiment. "I got a motto. You may not like it, but it's my motto, and it's going to be your motto too, and you're going to like it. That motto is 'Anything, anytime, anywhere, bar none.' And tomorrow morning at six o'clock I want to see that motto pasted in every g--- d--- helmet here, No, I take that back; I want to see that motto written across the front of every helmet here. AAA---bar zero". According to Richardson, "At six o'clock the following morning, AAA-O was written across every man's helmet".

Any man who has ever seen combat knows that AAA-O painted across the front of a steel helmet would make a soldier a perfect aiming stake. And any man in the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry will tell you that AAA-O has always been painted on the side of the helmet. And besides, there probably wasn't enough paint in the whole of Sicily to have had every man's helmet painted by six o'clock that next morning.

Paddy Flint used a psychology accumulated through years of close contact with men in giving the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry a new nickname. Paddy knew that to force the name on the unit might result in dislike of the whole idea. He went about it gradually. He had the letters painted on his own helmet first, and stationed the painter out in full view of whoever might be near the regimental CP. The painter could paint anybody else's helmet too, if they wanted it, and some did. The idea caught on. Finally, Paddy's battalion commanders suggested that for uniformity's sake, the letters should either be on all helmets or none, and Paddy was persuaded to issue an order making it a part of the regimental uniform.

But no matter how colorful a man is, he can't be all legend. And the facts about Paddy Flint's life which no legend can distort are more important than any exaggerated tale. Paddy Flint was a Vermonter by birth, but after he graduated from West Point in 1912 he spent more time in the west than he did in the east. And like all good cavalymen his legs soon conformed to the outline of a horse's belly and he received the usual number of broken bones a hard riding polo player and jumper gets. Paddy loved nature and the outdoor life. His observation was keen, and he saw beauty in the little things of life. When war clouds loomed, Paddy Flint joined his friend, then Brigadier General George Patton in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division at Fort Benning, GA, staying with it continuously until July 27, 1943, except for some supply and staff work in England, Oran, and Algiers.

Paddy's friendship with "Georgie" Patton dated back to their West Point days. After the Sicilian campaign, Paddy went back now and then to Patton's Seventh Army Headquarters to spend the weekend with him. Much of their time was spent in trying to beat each other to the draw with their pistols. Shortly after the





end of the fighting in Sicily, the Ninth Division staged a review for men and officers to be decorated. Patton made the awards, and then took the review. Paddy was mighty proud of his command. As he marched by at the head of his regiment, his chest was puffed out a few more inches than usual, and his head and eyes were about as high as he could get them. Suddenly, Paddy stepped into a small hole in the ground, lurching forward, and did a few dance steps to regain his balance. Patton grinned and said, "Look at Paddy, the g\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_ fool."

Another of the legend makers was Charles Christian Wertenbaker, Time and Life magazine correspondent, who wrote a lot about Paddy in his book, "Invasion". But Wertenbaker was much more accurate in his reporting. Wertenbaker pointed out that Paddy had graduated from West Point five years before General Omar Bradley, "and Bradley always treated him accordingly. Before he took over the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry", Wertenbaker continued, "Paddy Flint was a cavalryman; after he changed the insignia on his collar he said, 'An Infantryman ain't nothing but a cavalryman without his horse anyway.'" However, Wertenbaker did not point out that after Paddy changed his insignia, he was an infantryman, and nothing but. To show his disdain for his former branch, the armored force, he would not even speak to visiting colonels who unfortunately wore the tank insignia on their collars. It was Paddy's own special brand of humor, but also, he knew its psychological effect on his own men.

Paddy's 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry was one of the regiments assigned to cut the Cotentin Peninsula after it had reduced the battery at Quineville on the channel. "The attack on Quineville," according to Tom Henry, war correspondent for the Washington Evening Star, "had been preceded by a great air bombardment two hours after which the regiment was scheduled to advance over the Merderet River marshes. As the hour approached, the Army commander phoned to inquire if all were ready. 'Paddy Flint and two companies have been in the center of town two hours,' came the astounding reply. Mission completed, the utterly fatigued 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry marched west to rejoin the division. Paddy, in a jeep, passed a little man struggling under the weight of a

mortar tube and remarked, 'That's the way with this world. The littlest men carry the biggest loads.'" Whereupon he piled the man on the jeep, took him two miles ahead and told him to lie down and wait for the others."

After Cherbourg's fall, the Ninth turned south towards St. Lo, but the main Periers-St. Lo road held up the advance of the entire division. And then it came. The 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion had bogged down on this day—July 24, 1944—under heavy German fire. Paddy Flint went forward. Paddy ordered one of the supporting tanks forward. The tank sergeant told Paddy that his turret was not working right, but Paddy said, "Don't tell me what I can't do. It isn't often that you can have a colonel for a bodyguard." Colonel Flint and his party of nine moved ahead of the tank, and the tank jerked down the road. Paddy finally stopped the tank by a wall and climbed up to give the driver instructions to proceed 50 yards down the road, meanwhile, exposing himself to direct fire.

The group then walked up a lane between some buildings. Paddy stood outside the doorway to demonstrate to a sergeant how to take up positions to drive the Germans out. The group heard a shot and Paddy Flint fell forward. A sniper had shot him in the head. The sergeant who had been talking to Paddy went to a window, spotted the sniper in a tree about 20 yards from the building, and shot him dead. As the sniper fell to the ground, the sergeant shot him again and yelled, "You can't kill an Irishman, you only make him mad." Paddy Flint smiled when he heard that. The next day he was dead.

And so Paddy Flint passed through the stage of being a live hero and became a living legend. But Paddy Flint was a human being, just as you and I. If he could hear some of the present day legends that have been told about his exploits, he probably would have shaken his head and repeated what he said in Sicily the day he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in the Battle of Troina. "Why, when I stood there and heard the citations being read", Paddy said, "I didn't know who they were talking about. It was a good deal like Mrs. Murphy at the funeral of her husband, when she said, 'Why, the priest isn't talking about Pat at all'".



## **NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION INACTIVATED**

Fourth among all Divisions in the number of casualties... Both Generals Bradley and Devers pay glowing tributes

*Reprinted from The Octofoil  
March 1941*

Ninth Division made one of the most brilliant records of any Division in World War II activated in 1918 and re-activated in 1940.

Inactivation of the Ninth Infantry Division brings to a close the active service of one of the outstanding divisions of World War II.

With the inactivation of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, The Ninth Quartermaster, Signal, Ordinance and Military Police Companies and the Ninth Medical Battalion at Augsburg, Germany, the final chapter in a brilliant history was written.

The 39th, 46th and 47th Infantry Regiments, the Division Artillery, Engineer Battalion and Ninth Reconnaissance Troop have been inactivated.

### "Hitler's Nemesis"

Sometimes referred to as "Hitler's Nemesis" during the fighting in Europe, the Ninth Division made one of the most brilliant records of any division in World War II. The cessation of hostilities found the Ninth with battle credits for Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe.

A regular Army Division, the Ninth was first activated in 1918 and reactivated in 1940 at Fort Bragg under the command of General (then Major General) Jacob L Devers.

### Action in November, 1942

The Division went into action November 8, 1942, when its units landed in Algiers, Safi, French Morocco and Port Lyautey, Morocco. When hostilities ceased in that area, the Ninth was given the job of guarding the Spanish Moroccan border, but it moved into action again in Tunisia in March, 1943. On May 7, it drove toward Bizerte, entering the city to mop up final resistance in Tunisia. Its next combat assignment was in Sicily. It went into action August 9, and by August 12 had occupied Randazzo, key point of the enemy's last offense before Messina, and the final surrender of that area. The Division was transferred to the United Kingdom in November of the same year, and immediately begin preparations for the invasion of the continent.

### Hit Normandy

It landed in Normandy on June 10, 1944, drove hard for the East Coast, cutting the Douve River and cutting off the Cotentin Peninsula. With this job done, the Division turns north toward Cherbourg, liberating the Cape de la Hague by July 1. Later that month it spearheaded the St. Lo breakthrough and joined in the chase which closed the Falaise Gap. On September 2, 1944, the Division became the first Allied force to begin the liberation of Belgium, entering the country near Momignies. By September 13, it was in Germany south of Roetgen. During the German winter offensive, it relieved the 99th Division in the Monschau Forest area, and in March, the Division became one of the first two units fighting in the Remagen Bridge area. The closing days of the war found the Ninth concentrating on the Ruhr pocket.

### Fourth in Casualties

Preliminary figures show the Ninth to be fourth among all Divisions in the number of casualties - 22,185. In commending the Ninth Division, General Bradley remarked: "The American Army is studded with splendid Divisions, but rarely have two (1st and 9th) teamed so expertly; never have two Divisions fought longer and harder with greater skill or courage."

### General Devers pays Fine Tribute to Ninth

Inactivation day for the Ninth Infantry Division is an occasion which I, among many others, view with genuine regret, for I look back upon the year for which I was privileged to command the division in training at Fort Bragg as one of the highlights of my military service.

Our feelings at the passing of so distinguished a unit may well be tempered, however, by reflection upon brilliance of its record in World War II, in which its regiments added new glory to the WWI history. Spearheading the invasions of North Africa and Sicily, cutting off the Cotentin Peninsula in France, being the first Infantry Division to cross the Rhine to Germany and reduction of the Ruhr Pocket...these feats will keep the name of the Ninth forever alive. Its service since V-E Day, on occupation duty, has been no less meritorious.

Should any future emergency ever confront our nation, so proud a Division as the Ninth would not be merely reactivated - it would be reincarnated, to fight again to even greater fame.

Jacob L Devers,  
General, USA Commanding



**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION STATEMENT OF REVENUES,  
EXPENSES AND NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)-INCOME TAX BASIS  
FROM 7/01/18 TO 3/31/19**

Prepared by Mize Houser and Co. P.A.

	CURRENT QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE
<b>REVENUE</b>		
General Fund Income	\$1,536	\$2,876
Octofoil Funds Income	140	1,280
Memorial Fund Income	0	2,880
FFCF Donation Income	100	215
73rd-2018 Reunion Income	0	5,054
74th-2019 Reunion Income	700	700
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>2,476</b>	<b>13,005</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Postage Expenses	99	334
Refunds	0	550
Printing and Copies	341	1,564
Supplies Expense	0	609
Entertainment Expense	0	1,807
Accounting Expense	820	2,825
Legal Expense	0	6,149
Food/Catering Expense	2,893	12,042
Transportation/Room Rental	1,000	2,000
Lodging/Travel Expense	0	2,485
Memorial Services	0	454
Miscellaneous	0	26
Donations	0	1,200
Veterans Travel Expense	0	750
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,153</b>	<b>\$32,794</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<b>(2,676)</b>	<b>(19,789)</b>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES & EQUITY-INCOME TAX BASIS 3/31/19**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

General Fund Cash	\$18,583
Octofoil Subscription Cash	8,611
Octofoil Library Project Cash	587
Memorial Fund Cash	7,389
FFCF Cash	2,070
Veterans Travel Fund	5,875
Reunion Insurance Funds	5,000
70th—2015 Reunion Cash	3,062
71st—2016 Reunion Cash	2,592
72nd—2017 Reunion Cash	4,407
73rd—2018 Reunion Cash	70
74th—2019 Reunion Cash	(5,586)

**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS** **\$52,661**

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$52,661**

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted Net Assets-Beg.	\$72,450
Current Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$19,789)</u>

**TOTAL NET ASSETS** **\$52,661**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** **\$52,661**



**Officers and Board of Governors  
2018-2019**

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Terry Barnhart, President  
[Redacted]  
John Edd Baswell, Vice President  
[Redacted]  
JoAnn Bryant, Secretary  
[Redacted]  
Mary Cooper, Treasurer  
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Kathy Tapelt  
[Redacted]

**Terms Expiring 2020**

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Clare Irwin, Membership Chairperson  
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Judy Rishel  
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Clarence Ray  
Paul Schumacher



**The Ninth Infantry Division Association  
Membership Application**

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

9-DIGIT ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular Annual Membership Fee Includes  
The Octofoil Newsletter**

**Amount Paid**

Regular Annual Member (\$35.00 per year) \_\_\_\_\_

*(9th Infantry Division WWII Veterans and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam War Veterans serving in combat or peace time, Widows, Spouses, Lineal Descendants, and any other party interested in the history or the values of The Ninth Infantry Division)*

Foreign Country Renewals (\$45.00 per year) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Paid** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK ✓ MEMBERSHIP STATUS:**

Veteran \_\_\_\_\_  
Veteran Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Veteran Spouse or Widow \_\_\_\_\_  
Lineal Descendant \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association**

Send to: Clare Irwin, Membership Chairperson

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**Publishers/Editors The Octofoil**

Jane Mitchell

Theda Ray



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# *Independence Day*

Freedom has its life in the hearts,  
the actions, the spirit of men and so  
it must be daily earned and refreshed -  
else like a flower cut from its life-giving  
roots, it will wither and die.

~Dwight D. Eisenhower