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## The Octofoil, February 1953

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

Volume 8  
Number 3

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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Jersey City (3), N. J., P.O. Box 428

DECEMBER 1952-JANUARY 1953

## July 16-17-18, Date Set for D.C. 53 Convention

"Hit Don't Make No Difference"



### Legends of Paddy Flint

The story of Col. Paddy Flint is best told in the following manner. As reprinted from "Hold Fast" published by the 9th Div. 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 39th Infantry during the Sicilian campaign. Paddy Flint was a full colonel and had traveled through Africa as a supernumerary officer with the 2nd Armored Division. One hot summer day in 1943 the commanding officer of the 39th Infantry broke his leg, and Paddy got the chance he had been longing for. He was ordered to take over the 39th 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 sol-

dier'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 diary 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 39th Infantry, which always produced a variety of open mouths and pop-eyed expressions. And the tale of how Paddy named his beloved 39th Infantry the AAA-O outfit — Anything, anytime, anywhere — bar none.

The legend of how Paddy Flint became commander of the 39th 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 39th 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 39th Regiment. 'Im 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

(Continued on page 3)

### Washington, D.C., Chapter Goes All Out to Insure Success for 1953 Affair

Hotel Statler in Washington, D. C., to be the Center of All Social Activities in Air Conditioned Environment That Will Set Off the Hot Summer Heat. . .

The reports of what is planned for the Washington, D.C. convention are now starting to shape up in detail. . . This year the Convention will be guided by the able stewardship of Bill Peverill and arrangements to make the 8th annual reunion the biggest and best and most memorable in our history are in the making.

The D.C. chapter is pushing ahead with all types of plans. Each member of the chapter hopes to see these plans bear fruition by way of having the largest possible numbers of 9th Division buddies on hand at the Hotel Statler next July 16, 17, and 18th in our nation's capital.

All of you Republicans who didn't make the inauguration certainly should start planning to be present at the festivities.

#### Committees Appointed

Several committees have been appointed and are now functioning. Charlie Tingley, (former Secretary-Treasurer,) of the Association is head of the Reunion Planning Committee, and is being ably assisted by Col. Peter Ward, Don Clarke, (former Association President,) John O'Donnell, Bill Robey, Tony Micke and Dick Cohen.

Our very capable National President, Frank Wade is contributing heavily of his time and his efforts in order to make this event a success. He has undertaken several important responsibilities among them the Chairmanship of the Program Booklet Committee. The entertainment committee is headed up by Harrison Daysh, (Judge Advocate of the Association.)

#### Sights and Tours

Our nation capital affords many attractions to entertain and edify visitors and it is the firm intention of your Reunion hosts to capitalize on them to the fullest advantage. One feature of the entertainment to be offered will be a guided tour of historic points of interest around Washington including stops at the White House and the Pentagon.

#### Memorial Service

The memorial service will be held at the Arlington National Cemetery. These are just a few of the many fine activities which are being currently planned for the benefit and enjoyment of those who plan to attend the D.C. '53 Convention.

#### Hotel Statler

Also not to be overlooked is the fact that the principal activities of the Reunion will be conducted at the Hotel Statler, one of the finest hotels in Washington, known far and wide for its excellent service, fine hospitality and reasonable rates.

President William Peverill, requests that any of the Association members who have suggestions to offer for the betterment of the Reunion should take time out to formulate them and send them in

for the consideration of the Reunion planners. Please send all such communications to Anthony B. Micke, Secretary, 7 Underwood Place, N. W., Washington 12, D.C.

#### Publicity

John O'Donnell and Steve Gray are to be in charge of all the publicity emanating from Washington regarding the '53 Convention. If any members can provide them with names of possible subscribers to Advertising in the Reunion Program booklet which will be distributed to all of those who register for the affair. The advertising rates will be as follows . . . \$30.00 for a full page, \$18.00 for a 1/2 page and \$10.00 for a 1/4 of a page. There will be space provided for the names of individual sponsors of the Program at the rate of \$1.00 for each such entry. It is obvious that the more revenue that can be attained by this means the more money will be available to provide better entertainment for the various functions at the Reunion.

Let's pitch in and assist the Reunion Committee in Making the "D.C. in '53" the best convention yet . . .

All the planning and all the arranging are fine and dandy, but no convention is successful unless the turnout makes success a possibility.

The only comment that one can add as to why you should attend, is summarized by this statement . . . ask any of the lads who attended the previous conventions and then ask them what kind of a time they had and we are sure that the answer you will receive will be the same . . . TERRIFIC . . . What more can be said about any gathering of the men of the 9th Infantry Division.

We have gone through 7 national conventions each convention has been better than its successor, why, because each time the men of the 9th turn out in full strength . . . and they make it better and bigger and more successful.

Here is an opportunity to see Washington, D.C., an opportunity to see old friends, an opportunity to have a wonderful time. Why not cash in on time and fortune . . . make it definite, make it positive, make it a point to attend the Washington D.C. 1953 Convention in the Hotel Statler, July 16, 17, and 18th . . .

**PAY YOUR '53 DUES NOW**

### L. Metcalf Newly Elected Congressman

Les Metcalf formerly of the 60th Infantry has been recently elected to Congress as a good DEMOCRAT representing the state of Montana. Charlie Tingley sends the following clipping taken from the Washington Evening Star which announced Metcalf's appointment.

Les Metcalf, 41, Helena, Mont., Democrat, who has been elected to the House seat formerly held by Senator Mike Mansfield, is a solid 6-foot sort of a person with a record as a soldier, lawyer State legislator and judge.

In the past election campaign he won the 1st Montana congressional district over Republican Wellington D. Rankin.

A native of Montana, he was born at Stevensville in 1911. His father was the cashier of the Stevensville First State Bank. His mother was the daughter of pioneers in Bitter Root Valley.

#### Graduated at Stanford

Judge Metcalf attended local schools and received a degree in history and economics at Stanford University before taking a law degree at the Montana State University in 1936.

He immediately entered political life. In the fall of 1936 he was elected to the State Legislature, serving as a representative from Ravalli County in the 25th Legislative Assembly.

The next year he was appointed an assistant attorney general of the State and in 1941 he returned to private practice at Hamilton, Mont.

After Pearl Harbor, Mr. Metcalf volunteered for Army service and with other Montana men was sent to the 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Then, after a trip to Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned a tank destroyer officer and went overseas in 1944.

He participated in the Normandy invasion as a staff officer of the 5th Corps. He also served with the 7th Corps and with the 1st Army. After the capture of Aachen, he was given the task of establishing the first occupational police system in Germany.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Judge Metcalf was sent to the 9th Infantry Division and served the remainder of the war as an officer of the 60th Infantry Regiment.

After VE Day, he supervised thousands of displaced persons,

(Continued on page 2)



## THE OCTOFOIL

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## TO SERVE UNTIL 1955

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Extract from the certificate of incorporation of the Ninth Infantry Division Association: This Association is formed by the officers and men of the Ninth 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 ever-lasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to members and former members of the Division.

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

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February, 1953

Number 2

## A Soldier's Soldier and an Officer's Officer....

No one can write a more eloquent epitaph in description of man like Col. Paddy Flint then is contained in his own slogan, "Hit Don't Make No Difference".

His vigor is best demonstrated by this citation award of the Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished-Service Cross.

This was Paddy Flint, a soldier who created a fighting machine. A man, and an officer, who never underestimated the fighting potentialities of the American soldier.

He joined the 39th when the regiment was faltering, and he brought with him the strength and the vitality that was needed to mould a group of men into a fine and efficient fighting organization.

"Col. Harry A. Flint, 39th Inf. U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on July 24, 1944, in France. Fierce enemy resistance consisting of heavy tanks, artillery, mortar, machine gun, machine pistol and small arms fire was delaying the advance of his regiment in the vicinity of LaCour des Landes, France. Convinced that a determined infantry could push through the hostile positions, Colonel Flint went to the battle command post of the 2nd Battalion to urge the troops forward. Fearlessly exposing himself to heavy enemy fire, he moved ahead of the assault elements of the battalion to observe positions for his troops to occupy. Calling for a tank, Colonel Flint moved along its side and directed fire on a heavily defended hedgerow and then continued alone to a group of buildings just evacuated by the enemy. Far in advance of his troops, Col. Flint remained in the dangerous position personally firing at the enemy and urging his men to follow his example. While in this advanced position, Col. Flint was mortally wounded by sniper fire. During the engagement, Col. Flint's absolute fearlessness under heavy enemy fire and his dogged determination to show his men by personal example how to dislodge the enemy, so inspired his troops that the objective for which his unit had been fighting for several days was captured. The brilliant leadership, unflinching devotion to duty and extraordinary heroism displayed by Colonel Flint was in keeping with the highest traditions of military service" . . .

His life as an exemplary combat soldier has earned him the right to wear the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, the Mexican Border Service Ribbon, the German Occupation Ribbon, the World War I Victory Medal, the American Defense Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon, the Legion of Honor (French) and the Cross of Czechoslovakia.

These are the ribbons that Col. Flint won the field of battle, but the ribbon that the 39th Infantry Regiment bestowed upon Col. Flint was "ANYTHING, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, Bar None". . . A soldier's soldier, and an officer's officer.

## 60th F.A. Reports

By Charles Fabre

With the advent of a new year we have hopes that this will be the biggest year for the Association to date. We are of course looking forward to the National Reunion to be held in Washington, D.C. sometime in July and we hope that you all have been putting away those coins and bills with this in mind.

We are now starting to make plans to make this the most remembered Reunion of all and with the help of the regulars, I mean fellows like Bish, Belmonte, Briggs, Remmer, Pandolphi, etc., I can't see how we can fail. I know the 60th Field will stand out again.

Rumor as it that Joe Bureton (Hq.) and Jack Markowitz (Hq.) have organized a committee to go around and ring door bells in order to get out the Southern vote. Believe me we need them. You fellows certainly can count on me for any help that I can give.

I also understand that Service Battery is engaged in a secret maneuver by which they hope to have more men at the Reunion than any of the other Batteries. Good luck to them, but what I hear from Mike Belmonte they will have a hard fight to beat "A" Battery.

The holiday season always brings nostalgic memories to us and with the receipt of every Christmas card our thoughts go back to the time and times we have spent with the writer. We had tried to reach every one of you with the Season's Greetings but to those we did not reach please accept our belated but nonetheless heartfelt greetings. We want to thank all those that sent us Christmas cards, among others there is Frank and Lilly Wade (we have been looking for your address, Frank — but seems it is not in our files, how about sending it along?); Frank Ridzi (B) and the Mrs. Marge and the three little Ridzi's — Barbara, Francis and Margaret also say hello; Jim Conley and Marie (Hq.) wish everybody the best; Frank Lovell (Hq.), his charming wife Pat and the two boys send their greetings from Brighton, Mass. From Garfield, New Jersey, the genial Savino De Rose (S) and his wife send greetings and wish to be remembered to all; "Pop" Gates (Hq. Maint.) and Jean are joined by Candy in sending along the Season's Greetings. Then I see a couple here from two of our bachelors, Tom Deli Priscoli in Springfield, Mass., and Mike Belmonte in Chicago. The Charlie Ahrens (A); Charlie and Jean and the two small fry Carroll and Chuckie wish to share the joys of the season with all of you. We are going to visit the Ahrens before this goes to press, so we hope to be able to report on the visit in the next issue. From our ever smiling friend in Pawtucket, Eugene Skocylas, comes wishes for the best the season may bring you; as well as from Ruth and Jerry (Hq.) Fatscher (doing fine Jerry). Gordon and Marjorie Dalrymple wish to be remembered to all. Warrant Officer Henry B. Nix sends along greetings and if some of you would like to drop him a

line his temporary address is 110 R-1, Governor's Island, N.Y. 4, N.Y. John and Mary Shea send greetings as well as the two boys (John hopes that Jim Connolly will be at the Reunion because he wants to talk over old times with him over a bottle of Malaga. I'm only kidding Mary, it's only coke that comes in large bottles now. Mike and Anne Bish (Hq.) send greetings as do the children. Say Anne — is it true that Mike is starting to pack for that Washington trip already? One of my spies says it's true. You can always depend on the medics to come through, says Anthony (Doc) Moleca — Bill and Jo Skibinski — and Edward T. R.) Tarasiewicz (the girl who keeps him on the straight and narrow is Edna and the one who keeps his nose to the grind stone buying baby shoes is Paula.) We were looking forward to seeing you in Worcester last November, Ed. Hope you can make the Reunion. Then from the Windy City of Chicago comes greetings from Lew and Murial Gray. Their three young ones also say hello. Hello Lewis, Tommy and Eddie. Tell your daddy that you want to see Washington in July. (That guy Fabre will try anything). Our good friend Joe Burton (Hq.) and Frances send greetings as well as Randy and Dianna and again extend the hospitality of the South to all members of the outfit. We see a card from Archie and Lil Douggan (Hq.) from Florida yet. He is the guy that was known as the letter writer and had a job of being supply sergeant on the side. We sure wish we could nail him down long enough to extract that \$3.50 from him. Raymond U. Brown (Hq.), Eva and little Jimmy send greetings and a change of address: 533 Center Street, Pocatonton, Ark. Thanks Ray, that will help keep the records straight. Jack cowens send his best and a change of address also: Route 2 Thornton & Elliot, Lockport, Illinois. Last but not least we were very pleased to receive a letter as well as a card from Jack Markowitz from way down Memphis way. Jack enclosed three sheets of names and addresses, many of which we did not have. Thanks Jack. We will get after them right off trying to extract that \$3.50. Did someone ask what that was for? Well, seems like there is a new year and in order to operate the Association must have money — so — if you have not already done so, get that money out of your pocket, put it in an envelope, and first chance tomorrow mail it off to me or to the national secretary. Want his address? Sure thing — 9th Division Association, P. O. Box 428, Jersey City, N. J.

Your correspondent has enjoyed the holidays much more because of your kind remembrance and until the day after New Year's we felt swell, then some little bug found its way into our throat and the next day we were in bed with a fever of 104. We called in the services of our eminent medic and through the magic of modern medicine we were up and about in six days. We feel fine now but that brings to mind that time in Sicily when we reported sick with various and sundry symptoms and the doc says "No fever? Give him some C. C. pills." It was only through the intervention of T. R. that we were saved from a fate worse than death. C. C. pills were the last thing in the world we needed.

By the way, how many of you remember the places you were on Christmas 1941 — 1942 — 1943 — 1944 — 1945.

## Shirt Tales

By Ted Matusik

Things in the Illinois Chapter have been fairly quiet, just the ordinary run of things, moving, working, having new additions to the family etc.

Those who attended the Chicago reunion remember the capable job of toastmaster that Otto Kerner Jr., performed. Otto served with the Ninth in Africa with the artillery. He still is active in military circles, made local headlines in Chicago. Lately when the Illinois National Guard announced a transfer in assignments, Otto was transferred from Assistant Division Commander to Division Artillery Commander. No change in rank though Kerner is a B.G. (One Star.)

Bob Winkelman one of the Illinois Chapter's most loyal, made an appearance after a long period of inactivity. Bob was under the doctor's care for a bad case of ulcers, and just to make things a little more miserable, Mrs. Winkelman had a miscarriage and lost her baby but misery always comes in threes. Shortly after their little girl Pamela (now 6) broke her arm just as Mrs. Winkelman came up with a case of hives on her arms. But there is a ray of light because the Winkelmans just moved into their new home, address is Bob Winkelman, 734 W. Glencoe Rd., Mtd Rt. 2 Palatine, Illinois.

Proud Poppas of the Chapter Rober Elmer and John Huffman.

The Chapter boasts of two new members, one of which we are happy to acknowledge with the cooperation of George King of 44 Park Ave., New York, who felt his buddy should be a member of the Association and sent the Illinois Chapter the initiation dues for Charles Kaskie, 9645 Irving Park, Schiller Park, Illinois as a present to Charlie for 1953.

Another new member of the Illinois Chapter is Arthur Rottau, 1642 N. Marshfield Ave., Chicago 22, Illinois, secured through the efforts of our new Chapter President John Huffman.

## "B" Co. 39th Inf. Reunion Notice

"B" company will hold their second annual reunion at Elmira, New York on the 5th and 6th of June this year.

Al Baccile, Chairman, is in charge of things in Elmira.

Last year the reunion was held in Fairport, New York, and everybody had a swell time, so let's get together this year and make it a better and bigger one.

Al would like to know how many B men intend coming, so please let Al know if you plan to attend, and the number of people that you will bring.

Once again the "Hawk" will be the genial Master of Ceremonies.

Don't miss this opportunity. There are plenty of hotel accommodations. Please contact Thomas Orband, of 133 Conklin Ave., Binghamton, N.Y. and send \$1.00 dues . . . This buck is to take care of some of the expenses . . .

## L. Metcalf

(Continued from page 1)

their camps, their feeding and repatriation. He helped in the drafting of the ordinances for the first free local elections in Germany. He supervised free elections in Bavaria.

Out of Army service in 1946, he was elected to the Montana Supreme Court in the fall of that year and was completing his term as associate judge when elected to the House.

Judge Metcalf is married to a sweetheart from his school days. He is a Mason, Elk member of various veterans' groups, a Sigma Chi, is Boy Scout Commissioner for the Helena District, and a member of Phi Delta Phi, national honorary legal fraternity.

## New York Salutes

The New York Chapter has set aside their April meeting as a tribute to their hard working secretary, Harold Pepper.

The details of this meeting are in the process of being assembled. We know one thing however, that there will be dancing, and free beer. We also know that the tab for the night will be all of \$1.00, and the details of bringing in a wine tasting forum is being worked out.

Harold has done a magnificent job as Secretary for the New York Chapter and this is the one way that the Chapter feels they can best express their appreciation for the work done by Harold.

Watch this column for further news and development regarding the Harold Pepper night.



## Directory List Of Boston Convention

(Continued from August issue)

The following list of names were compiled by Marty Connelly and Frederick D'Amore for the convenience of those who wish to contact their friends who attended the Boston Convention.

Robert O'Callaghan  
174 Crescent Avenue  
Chelsea, Mass.

T. C. Schmidt  
8737 Percy Street  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Chesley Mischler  
264 Frank Avenue  
Whitaker, Pa.

Domenic Grieco  
34 Windmill Street  
Providence, R. I.

John Clouser  
Fort Bliss, Texas

Thomas J. Boyle  
39 Hall Avenue  
Somerville, Mass.

Walter P. Swenson  
17 Porter Street  
Everett, Mass.

Marcus M. Sciarappa  
1303 11th Avenue  
Neptune, N.J.

William Olcavage  
27 Clune Court  
E. Hartford, Conn.

Joseph McKenzia  
108 Lowell Street  
Waltham, Mass.

84th Field Artillery

Jack Kargir  
27 Verdale Street  
Brookline, Mass.

Ernest Dimarzio  
14 School Street  
Newton, Mass.

Samuel Robinson "B"  
35 Rangeley Road  
West Newton, Mass.

George Levesque "A"  
38 Aquardneck Avenue  
Portsmouth, R. I.

Vincent Recchia  
77 What Cheer Avenue  
Providence, R. I.

Anthony Chacenas  
5101 13th St. N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

Fred Talarico "Serv."  
99 West Union Street  
Pittsfield, Miss.

Abraham Feder  
1647 Union Street  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Adam H. Yanulis  
37 Cheverus Road  
Dorchester, Mass.

Earl Demoranville  
288 Hillcrest Street  
North Dartmouth, Mass.

J. Edward German "Hq."  
417 Hobart Drive  
Haddonfield, N.J.

Richard O'Connor  
30 Laurel Avenue  
Arlington, N.J.

Frank Baker  
359 Locust Street  
Swampscott, Mass.

34th Field Artillery

Joseph Gurliaccio  
183 London Street  
East Boston, Mass.

Wallace Stine  
Portland, Pa.

John F. Lannon "B"  
158 Chapel Street  
Saylesville, R. I.

John Halpin  
503 W. 47th Street  
New York, N.Y.

John Pappas  
50 Fairfield Avenue  
Holyoke, Mass.

Orlando Bruno  
18 Hamilton Road  
Belmont, Mass.

Thomas Collins  
16 Paradise oad  
Swampscott, Mass.

Albert Gingrass  
144 Robinson Avenue  
South Attleboro, Mass.

Headquarters Special Troops

Lawrence McLaughlin  
82 Gould Street  
Wakefield, Mass.

## His Motto for His 39th Regiment: *Anything, Anytime, Anywhere, Bar None*



(Continued from page 1)

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 to 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 one 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 39th 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 dully harangued and belittled his parade ground 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 39th 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 39th 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 Vermont boy 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 cavalry men 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 2nd Armored Division at Fort Benning, Georgia, 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—r—old 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 39th 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 39th 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 39th 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 2nd 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.'"

## A General's Tribute To Paddy Flint

Hqs. 9th Inf. Div.

APO No. 9 27, July 1944

To all members of the 39th Inf.

Yesterday morning a soldier of the 39th Infantry was buried in the American cemetery at St. Mere Eglise.

The grave he now occupies is a simple one — a soldier's grave, no different from the other graves of your comrades row on row besides it. Only one thing about it will make you and me remember it for the rest of our lives — the dog tag on the cross reading "Harry A. Flint." That dog tag doesn't make much of an epitaph, but the soldier lying beneath would be the first to say, "Hit don't make no difference." It does make a difference, however, to every one of you and to me to know that Paddy Flint will lead you no longer. His loss cannot be measured by words, but his death means to your regiment, to this division, and to the U.S. Army the loss of a gifted and lovable leader, and to each of us the passing of a personal friend.

One thing will never be lost — our memory of him as your regimental commander in Sicily, in England, and in Normandy. It is this memory which will carry your new commander and every fighting soldier of you in the same direction in which Paddy was leading you when he died.

Keep that memory with you — depend upon your new leader — carry your fight to the finish. I am going to do the same.



## Veterans Information

The following data on Veteran Housing was recently received from the Veterans Information Service regarding Veteran Housing. . . If this information can be applied in your specific case, then contact your nearest Veterans Administration Officer for fuller clarification of the issues as stated in this news release.

Q — I am a school teacher and a World War II veteran. I took GI Bill training last summer, and I expected to continue this summer. But I became ill and will have to stay in bed for a couple of months. Will I be able to go ahead with my studies next summer, or will I lose out because I skipped a summer?

A — You will be permitted to continue with your GI studies next summer, since this summer's interruption has been for a reason beyond your control. Of course, you must continue to be employed as a teacher during consecutive regular school years.

Q — I am a peacetime veteran, having gone into service after World War II and having been discharged before Korea. I have a service-connected disability for which I draw compensation. May I have this disability treated by VA on an outpatient basis?

A — A veteran may be furnished outpatient treatment by VA for any compensable service-connected disability, whether incurred during wartime or peacetime service.

Q — Is it possible to pay GI insurance premiums in advance, rather than on a monthly basis?

A — Yes. If you pay in advance, you save a certain amount every year.

Q — After World War II, I went to college under the GI Bill, where I used my 48 months of entitlement to get my BS degree. After graduation, I went back on active duty. Now I hear there's a new GI Bill for Korean veterans. When I am discharged again, will I be able to use this new GI Bill to go ahead with graduate studies?

A — No. The law states that veterans like yourself, who have trained under earlier veterans' training programs, may be entitled to a total of 48 months of training under the old programs and the new GI Bill combined. Since you've already used that maximum under the World War II GI Bill, you are not entitled to any further GI training under the new law.

Q — I was divorced by my wife, and naturally I want to change the beneficiary on my National Service Life Insurance policy. My former wife, however, won't give me the policy so that I can make the change. What can I do?

A — You don't have to have the policy in your possession to change the beneficiary. Either go to your nearest VA office and fill out a change of beneficiary form, or write to the VA district office where you pay your premiums and state how you want the insurance paid in the event of your death.

Q — I understand that down payment requirements have been lowered for GI home loans. But even so, I still don't have enough money to make the down payment on the house I'd like to buy. May I borrow money for the down payment?

A — You may borrow on your life insurance policy for this purpose, but that is all. Other than this, you must certify that you have not borrowed to make the required down payment.

Q — I have been authorized orthopedic braces for leg wounds I received in World War II. If I ever need emergency repairs, must I get VA's approval before I have them made?

A — Not necessarily. You may get emergency repairs costing up to \$15 from any commercial brace or repair shop without prior VA approval, provided you have the newly-issued "Prosthetic Service Card — Orthopedic Braces." These cards are issued by VA regional offices.

### Attention Co. A-47..

Emil P. Langer wishes to notify all members of Company A 47th Inf. that they are going to hold a company reunion of all former members of Co. A, who live in the New York City area in the very near future. For those who do not live in the N. Y. area and want to join in the festivities, please contact Emil P. Langer, at 26-27 92 Street, Jackson Heights, L. I., New York.

Col. H. E. Royall of the 47th and 60th Inf. Reg. has completed the curriculum requirements of the University of North Carolina and was presented the degree of Master of Arts in Political Science December 19, 1952. Col. Royall was retired in 1947 for physical disability due to battle wounds received while leading an attack near Lindern, Germany. . . .

### Local Chapters of the Association

**New York Chapter**  
Sec. H. Pepper  
P.O. Box 1163  
N.Y., N.Y.

Meeting place:  
Southern Restaurant  
17th St., & 4th Ave.  
N.Y.C.

Meeting Time:  
1st Frid. of each Month  
Phila. Chapter

Sec. Jack O'Shea  
1094 So. 52nd St.  
Phila., Pa.  
SA: 7-5299

Meeting: 1st Frid. every Month  
P.R.R. Amer. Leg. Post 204  
3202-04 Chestnut St.  
Phila., Pa.

**Buffalo Chapter**  
Sec. Henry J. R. Golabiecki  
265 Cambridge Ave.  
Buffalo, N.Y.

**Northern Ohio Chapter**  
Sec: William C. Mauser  
6632 Bliss Ave.  
Cleveland 8, Ohio  
Endicott 1-1007

**EUCOM Chapter**  
Sec. M. Sgt. Willie F. Unsell  
c/o Sec. Gen. Staff Hq.  
7th Army, APO 46, N.Y., N.Y.

**Detroit Chapter**  
Sec: Robert J. De Sandy  
1685 Faircourt  
Gross Pointe Woods 30, Mich.

**Twin Cities Chapter**  
Sec: Richard W. Sims  
3982 Brunswick  
St. Louis Park, Minn.  
Phone Wh 3311  
Meeting — New Years Eve

**New England Chapter**  
Fred B. D'Amore  
75 Webster Street  
East Boston 23, Mass.

**Columbus Chapter**  
Sec: Glenn O. Moore  
22 East Gay St.  
Columbus, Ohio

**Illinois Chapter**  
Pres: Theodore Matusik  
2058 West 76th St.  
Chicago, Ill.

Phone Radcliffe 3-5970  
Meeting: 2nd Frid. of each mo. at:  
Rocket Club, 1122 N. Milwaukee,  
Chicago 22, Ill.

**Wash. D.C. Chapter**  
Sec: Anthony B. Mice  
7 Underwood Place, N.W.  
Washington 12, D.C.  
2nd Mon. of each Month at  
Hotel Statler, Wash., D.C.

### "Eddie Aurora"

A Village restaurant that has for the past few years changed hands back and forth has been recently bought by 3 ex-GIs. It is a 100% American cosmopolitan partnership; a Jew, an Irishman and an Italian. The Irishman and Italian are both veterans of the Air Corps, and the third partner, is a veteran of the 9th Div.

His name is Irving Klotz. He joined the Division at Fort Bragg, was assigned to L. Company, 60th Inf., and was with the Division in Africa where he was wounded, at which time he was separated from the Division. The restaurant they jointly own is called, "Eddie's Aurora."

Just east of 6th avenue at 144 West 4th Street, you will find this well patronized Village place. The food is excellent and about the best in Italian cooking and the price (would knock you over) from \$1.25 to about \$2.00 for a full meal. It also has plenty of Village atmosphere but we don't consider that as important as the good food. It might be a good idea for you and your Mrs. if you're in the neighborhood to stop in and get acquainted. They say that the Salsinobocca w Risotto is just out of this world. . . .

Howard J. Heilman informs us that he was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court on Jan. 14, 1953. Howard was with the 60th Infantry.

Maj. Gen. G. W. Smythe sends some news from Korea and relates that he is back in fighting again and has two former members of the 47th Infantry along with him. Daniel Duncan (2nd Bn. 47), who is now commanding a Battalion in the 15th Infantry. Klegg, who was recalled and who formerly commanded a Co. in the 2nd Bn. is now G-3 Air in the Corps he is in. Maj. Gen. Smythe informs us that he received Christmas cards from Don Clayman, Doc. Stoll, Randy Bryant, and Freddy Scheel. Incidentally, Maj. Gen. Smythe is now commanding the 3rd Inf. Div. in Korea.

### A Reciprocal Gesture of Truly Fine French Hospitality

Last week a note was received from a Mrs. Geo. T. Gaynor, husband of G. Gaynor, Co. F-47th Inf. . . . telling your editor of the following experience her husband had. When he was in France, he and a few other friends of his were going back to Paris on a pass. While passing thru Verbins, France, there was no place for them to stay, and these kind French people offered to give them a room and also breakfast and then entertained them regally.

Since returning to the States they started corresponding with one another continuously. Incidentally another 47th man, Felton ones and his family are also part of the pen pals.

Mrs. Gaynor felt that perhaps some of the mothers and wives of some of the boys buried there will know that the graves are well taken care off . . . and it is signed by Mrs. M. Gaynor, 1700 New York Ave., Union City, N.J.

The note sent by the Richard family also had a flower that was gathered in the Bastogne cemetery . . . The note in English that the Richard family sent is as follows . . . Dear Friends . . . All our good wishes for the New Year. The flower enclosed has been gathered by ourselves the 24th of August, 1952 near the American monument, in Bastogne, (Belgium) built in memory of the courageous American soldiers killed upon the field of honor in 1944 to save our France. . . . All of our good remembrances. . . . Andre and Rosita Richard.

Our responsibilities today are many and varied, but when one comes across this type of correspondence it makes you sit up and

## 9th Division Mailbag Reports

### 899th T.D.

Leo La Jeunesse of 33 Farley Street, Lawrence, Mass., recently discovered that the Association has maps of the tour that was undertaken by the Division while they were overseas. We are sending Leo a map, so that as he claims in his letter, he intends some day to return to France and wants to re-travel the same route . . . If anybody else would like to have this map . . . they are available for the low cost of \$.25 . . . By the way, Leo left the outfit in Aachen where he was hit, but still wants to stay active in the Association.

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Wilton Taylor Stop No. 6, Route Star, Lost Hills, California, sends his best wishes for a prosperous New Year to all. He tells us that there are quite a few boys of the 9th Division who have settled in California. His ambitions now are to attend a convention if he gets the chance. Wilton would like to see a convention in the Denver area or some place half way out. He relates that Dom Miele, Fred Falgano, and Morris Taylor, all 47th, "M" company men and Mr. and Mrs. William Havolik of Done, Wisconsin, parents of Harold Havolik, Sgt. M. Co. 47th, K.I.A. at El Guettar all wrote to him in the last six months. He also had a letter from Mrs. Artie Sheppard, mother of Jack Shepherd of Canton, N. C. Jack was killed in Normandy in 44; also Mrs. Calen Nolan, mother of Ves KIA in Normandy; he mentions that all of the Gold Star Mothers appreciate the efforts of the Association on their behalf. Wilton also tells of his vacation in September. He drove through Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri. He visited Zion National Park, the Arches National monument in Utah and in Missouri, the Museum of Natural History in Den-

ver. Wilton claims that a vacation through the Rockies is something you'll never forget . . . While in Denver, Wilton visited his brother Fred who was in the 43rd Division in the Pacific. He hopes to shortly get around to visit some of his friends in these parts the next trip. He claims that he has some excellent Kodachromes of his trip and should anybody be in his locale he would love to show you his pictures. So, if you are out his way, stop and say "Hello" . . .

### 39th Infantry

W. J. Sopko of 759 E. 108 Street, Bklyn, D. Company 39th, Inf. recently discovered that his picture was in the front page of the "Eight Stars To Victory." So, we too are pleased to find out who the unidentified men are in the book . . .

**EIGHT STARS**  
are NOW  
Available for  
\$3.50

### New York Chapter Meeting

The February 6th meeting of the New York Chapter was devoted to the installation of new officers for 1953. Al Bruchac and Doc Sternlicht presided over the festivities. As usual a fine turnout of about 50 men showed up for the meeting. . . .

### March 6th Meeting

On March 6th, the N.Y. chapter will hold their annual monthly meeting at the Southern Restaurant at 17th Street and 4th Ave in ew York City.

The usual FREE BEER will be served and in addition, our Pres, Mike Gatto informs your editor that he has gone great lengths to secure a very interesting Army film. Those attending the meeting will be pleased to know that there will be no raffles, nor charges of any kind. This is simply a meeting to discuss policy and actions.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Stan Cohen, National Sec.-Treas.  
Post Office Box 428  
Jersey City 3, New Nersey

Enclosed please find 1953 dues for:

Name ..... Serial No. ....

Street Address .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....

I was a ( Battery ..... member of ( Company ..... Regiment ..... 9th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Regular Member .....                      | \$3.50 per year ( ) |
| Sustaining Member .....                   | ( )                 |
| THREE YEAR MEMBER .....                   | \$10.00 ( )         |
| Life Membership .....                     | \$50.00 ( )         |
| Octofoll Auto License Disc .....          | \$ 1.00 ( )         |
| Eight Stars to Victory .....              | \$ 3.50 ( )         |
| (Pictorial History of 9th Div. in Action) |                     |
| Ladies Auxiliary Member .....             | \$1.50 ( )          |

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Please credit the following chapter:

|                  |                   |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Philadelphia ( ) | Illinois ( )      | EUCOM ( )         |
| Buffalo ( )      | Columbus ( )      | Greater N. Y. ( ) |
| Columbus ( )     | Pittsburgh ( )    | Wash., D.C. ( )   |
| New England ( )  | Northern Ohio ( ) | Detroit ( )       |
| Twin Cities ( )  |                   |                   |

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Explanation of Dues:

Non-Chapter member all payment of dues to Nat'l.  
Chapter Member: \$1.00 for chapter, \$2.00 to Nat'l.  
Ladies Auxiliary \$5.00 to chapter, \$1.00 to Nat'l.  
Three Year: \$3.00 to chapter, \$7.00 to Nat'l.  
Lime Member: \$12.50 to chapter, \$37.50 to Nat'l.  
Sustaining Member: Chapter to receive 1/3 of amount over \$3.50, balance to National.