Gold Star Parent’s Dream Comes True For Old Reliable’s Son

For Mrs. John Finley of Decatur, Illinois, September 6th will always be a red letter day on her calendar. On that date, Mrs. Finley, a Gold Star Parent, realized a dream that she had cherished for almost twenty years—she left the states to visit the grave of her son William, who is buried in the American Military Cemetery at Margraten, Holland.

AN “OLD RELIABLE”
William Finley answered his country’s call to duty on May 2, 1942, enlisting in the United States Army to join the Ninth Infantry Division. During World War II, the division fought in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy before being sent to the Pacific Theater of Operations, where it played a role in the liberation of the Philippines.

The nine-month campaign in the Pacific ended in July 1945, and the division was mustered out of the Army on October 14 of that same year. William Finley was discharged from the Army on October 21, 1945, and returned to his hometown of Decatur, Illinois.

AN ORDERLY DEPARTURE
William Finley’s death on September 6, 1945, was a tragic event for his family. Mrs. Finley, a Gold Star Parent, was devastated by the loss of her only son. She devoted herself to honoring her son’s memory and fulfilled her dream of visiting his grave in the American Military Cemetery at Margraten, Holland.

The trip was not an easy one, but Mrs. Finley was determined to make it happen. She spent months planning the trip, and it was only after months of hard work that she was able to realize her dream.

The trip was a long one, and it took Mrs. Finley a great deal of courage to make it happen. She was accompanied by her son’s old friends, and they spent the entire trip together, sharing stories and memories of William.

The trip was a success, and Mrs. Finley was able to visit her son’s grave. She was able to place flowers on his grave and spend some time with his old friends. The trip was a bittersweet one, but it was a fitting way to honor her son’s memory.

The trip was a reminder to Mrs. Finley that her son was always there with her, even in death. She knew that her son was watching over her, and she felt a sense of peace knowing that he was at rest.

The trip was a reminder to the rest of the world that the sacrifice of the soldiers who fought in World War II was not forgotten. Mrs. Finley’s trip was a testament to the courage and sacrifice of the soldiers who fought in World War II.

The trip was a fitting way to honor the memory of William Finley, and it was a reminder to all who knew him that he was a man of honor and dedication. Mrs. Finley’s trip was a reminder to all that the sacrifice of the soldiers who fought in World War II was not forgotten.

(Continued on Next Page)
Harry O's Report

The New York Chapter wanted to get on the way in getting started on their plans for 1971. At the February meeting they got together and selected the dates for the various activities planned for the coming year.

IMPORTANT DATES

The Past Presidents of the Association were honored on May 7, 1971. Past President Night is always a highlight on the Chapter's social calendar. This year it should be noted that this was not over because President Harry Urselman has promised a special program for this meeting.

Every year the Chapter holds a Memorial Service at Firestone National Cemetery. After the services, members of the Chapter decorate the graves of the deceased Redshirts who are laid to rest in this country. This year the service will be held on May 22, 1971.

The Chapter always starts off the Fall season with a dinner and dance. October 16th has been selected as the date for this event. Everyone who attended last year's dinner and dance will agree that it was one of the best the Chapter ever had. Frankl and Jack Scully were the fellows who made that affair so successful. They will handle the arrangements for the 1971 Dinner Dance so you can be assured of another wonderful time. Reservations should be made early for this affair.

SAD TIDINGS

Unfortunately our mainland doesn't always deliver good news. Last month brought us some sad tidings about Mrs. Bullock, one of our Gold Star Parents. Mrs. Bullock's daughter informed us that her mother had suffered a heart attack and was brought to the hospital in critical condition. Her doctors say that she may live in the hospital for some time.

Mrs. Bullock is a patient at the Highsmith-Rajaj Hospitai in Fayetteville, N.C. Her home address is 911 Davis Ct., Fayetteville, N.C. 28305. We know that all our members join us in wishing Mrs. Bullock a speedy recovery.

EXTRA JOURNAL

We still have a few copies of the Silver Anniversary Journal on hand. Any member wishing a copy can get it by writing to Walter J. O'Keeffe at 1516 Woodbine St., Ridgewood, N.Y. 11327.

GOOD NEWS

For a while quite a few members have been on the sick list but we are happy to report that most of them are getting back into shape. George Apar's surgery was a success and the recent newsletter meetings got notice that he has recovered remarkably fast. Jack Scully had a coronary here on the West Coast and one of his grand-parents in the State of Arizona has been informed that his son Jack will be on the mend. Charles Gage had a little trouble with his ticker but he now seems in fighting shape. At the last meeting he looked like he could go a fast ten arounds with any heavy-weight at the meeting. Mike Dersch must be hanging out with some professional football players because he developed a bad hand and had to have it operated on. Our last report on Mike indicates that he is making a full recovery.

At the February meeting Frank and Ann Bullock announced that he and Vita were the proud grand-parents of baby Scott, a baby boy. Scully finds it hard to believe that the skinny kid he called "Broadway" is now a grand-pop.

PAY YOUR DUES NOW!!!

GOT A SUSPICION thatache or pain which keeps coming back and getting worse is the result of an old wartime injury or disease? If you've never had it checked out before, why not do it now. Your local State Veterans Counselor can help you file your claim. There's no time limit for filing a compensation claim with the VA.

Remember the Dates

1971 Reunion

Springfield

July 29-31

Once again it is our sad duty to announce the passing of these comrades and a note to our friends in the Ladies Auxiliary.

TRAVIS C. (Dick) Seymour of the 26th F.A.

George Ackerman, Co. A

15th Eng.

JOE B. Jones, 66th Inf.

WALTER POTT, M.P.

FYI: U.S. Army Auxiliary

Bill Patton passed away the Friday before the scheduled trip to Europe and Bill had booked vacation and was anxiously awaiting the New York reunion and the trip to the E.T.O. It is with deep regret to his mother and Bill that we missed informing the membership before this time.

Fay Urselman was with us on the trip to the E.T.O. and as sick as she was throughout the entire trip never did I hear her complain even when things went wrong, I believe me, many a time did things go wrong. She made the trip because she knew Mike (as she called him) would want her to make the trip without her.

We may offer condolences on behalf of the membership and may they rest in peace.

Michigan Doings

The Michigan Chapter's first meeting of 1971 was held on February 20th at Bob Dehmlow's home. The most important item on the agenda for that meeting was the election of officers. There were plenty of candidates and the members of the Chapter had a tough time deciding who was to hold office during 1971. However, the candidates all did so well qualified that the Chapter won't go wrong no matter whom they elected. The men in charge of the out of office are to be commended on the good job they did during 1970. They gave the Chapter a shot in the arm to bigger and better things.

OUT-OF-TOWN MEETING

The Chapter's decision to hold a yearly out-of-town dinner meeting has drawn favorable comments from the members. So far, October seems to be the month favored for the meeting. The prospective site of the meeting is still a toss-up. At the moment the following places are in contention: Benton Harbor, Mich., Bay City, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, and Frankenmuth. Unfortunately the members of the Michigan Chapter had no advance notice of his visit so they were unable to see Tippy during her stay in Eaton Rapids.

NEWS LETTERS

The following items appeared in the Chapter's most recent Newsletter. Ada Pihal of Chicago, 60th Inf., underwent heart surgery in January. Jim Brown's mother passed away in California. Bill Linder's brother also passed away. Tippy Plunkett visited Washington, D.C., and was at the NIT in Washington, D.C. Mike Deresh must be hanging out in the Barvarian Inn, Frankenmuth, Mich. Unfortunately the Michigan Chapter had no advance notice of his visit so they were unable to see Tippy during her stay in Eaton Rapids.
THE OCTOFOIL

THE PAWNS OF WAR

This is the 14th Installation of the Story of the 9th Infantry Division from the Beginning of the War, Germany, the years 1941 to 1945.

NORMANDY

We now really had a problem as we had no room in the jeep to ride the prisoners. We weren't going to walk. So, we rounded up prisoners in front of the jeep with their hands cuffed behind their backs. The trip was entirely too slow and monotonous also. We were wasting precious gasoline. After about a mile of this harassment, he appeared and he was figuring out how to get us to go somewhere. He was going to rendezvous. After talking for a while, he mentioned that the 3rd Battalion was on the road to the left of the road and the 1st had the objective. We mentioned that we caught these prisoners on the side of the road and that they belonged to him. So, we let the prisoners in our care and we took off.

The Intelligence motor patrol after leaving the prisoners discerned a very small Ha. The attitude of the French people was helpful. The question was difficult to love that town. However, the French people were searched and one was used as an enemy headquarters of some kind but there were no German personnel to be found.

It was a short interval of time when all enemy resistance ended in the peninsula. The territory would be occupied by American troops of the 9th Infantry Division. The job of the peninsula campaign was finished and it was we German personnel that were left.

When the troops of the outfit reached the town area the territory to search all located the Giverny area. Here, we DOUGLAS drove the jeep into the town and we were able to find an Intelligence man. However, 3AM, when we had found the man for patrolling in them had him look around the area in which they had been looking.

The French people were taken, in fact, too many. We deserved a regretful note to the French government. The Cherboung area was remnants of the 77th German Division, the 243rd and 79th Division. The American 49th Tank Destroyers were attached to the 77th Division. The American 49th was the Company "E," 39th Infantry also, of the 79th Division. The American 2nd Battalion, 39th was on the left enemy tanks on two sides of it. Enemy tanks on two sides of it. Enemy tanks on two sides of it. Enemy tanks on two sides of it.

There had been many famous expressions and sayings such as "blow it out your stack and swivel," "Kixley was here," "praise the lord and spare the ammunition," "You ain't a hold rotten," "threw some water out of your outfit the 39th," was "HIT DON'T MAKE NO DIFFERENCE." As the war progressed and the stories of it got distorted, I have to point out that the 9th Infantry Division only got about five or six days rest at that Les Fins bucolic area when they were ordered back to the front. However, although, although the command of General "Lightning" COLVIN's 15th Corps, the 9th helped out in the 4th and 19th Corps as well.

Chapter 20
HEDGEWALL FIGHTING

There were so many prisoners and there were not enough trucks to transport them away. We loaded the trucks with about 100 prisoners and then stopped at the captured vehicles to help stop on a drive. This action made for about forty more as the prisoners already showed armed against the truck driver's cabin. Again this procedure was followed and ten more were loaded before the truck left for its destination.

At this time prisoners were disposed of, the outfit had six large areas which usually, in the village. We put up tents to their tenting area. GIPFARederland, near KUARW, CROSSFORD and a few were fitted up. I was impressed with the fact that the German soldier who wore a gray uniform and with the goods which could be sold many years was the best. There was some truth in these sayings that the Allie's might be there and the German positions were.

"OLD" PFLINT

Old "PFLINT" who was like a father to his boys and who talked his life many times to get his boys such things in cigarettes under fear of coming home to General was wounded, just to mention a name.

The hedgerow fighting was tough. The advance was two of three hedgerows a day or about a hundred yards. However, in a few more days, I found behind a mound of hedgerow, that's a joke being comfortable in a foxhole, or another one of my intuitions. I back up a mound of hedgerow, I dug another hole. The next morning we left behind the hill under the shell craters. Observations were limited to the length of the hedgerow, which the hedgerows were heavily lined with booby traps and trees. Rain and the mud were other conditions. A whizbang sometimes produced a fox-hole in which was filled with rain water. No refuge was found in the foot end of the trench.

The hedgerow fighting which was slow and uncomfortable resulted in many thousands of tons of bombs. Then the Americans invaded and walked through and opened a huge hole in the German line. The Army to breakout. HESSNER. He told me that General BRADLEY had told me during the war that General BRADLEY had told me that the command was called the "COBRA." What should we do? We are commanded to get into our tanks and take enemy tanks. Should we stop the assault and concentrate on the tanks. Colonel BOND replied, "Keep pushing forward. Don't bother with the tanks. We'll get them right."

(continued next issue)

ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A member wishing to apply for a Scholarship must complete the following application:

1. A statement of name and address of the student's parents or guardians, the home address of the applicant, and the name and address of the educational institution attending by the student.

2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include information such as name, address, age, and sex of the applicant.

3. A letter from the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following:

The number of the scholarship award
The name of the applicant
The amount of the award
The name of the educational institution attending by the student

4. Application must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee of the 9th Infantry Division Association, 80018, Plain, Dlinob, Switzerland.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The following procedures will be followed by those wishing to apply for the scholarships:

1. Send a letter of application, written in English, to the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following:

a. The name of the educational institution attending by the student
b. The amount of the award
2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include information such as name, address, age, and sex of the applicant.
3. The applicant must have a transcript of the high school record that is a true copy of the record maintained by the school.
4. The applicant must submit the application to the chairman of the scholarship committee.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

The deadline for the submission of applications is March 15, 2023. All applications must be postmarked by this date to be considered.

INFORMATION

1. Information about the scholarships is available to all students and their parents or guardians.

2. Information on how to apply for the scholarships is available to all students and their parents or guardians.

3. Information on the application process is available to all students and their parents or guardians.

4. Information on the criteria for selection is available to all students and their parents or guardians.

5. Information on the deadlines for application is available to all students and their parents or guardians.

6. Information on the availability of the scholarships is available to all students and their parents or guardians.

7. Information on the application process is available to all students and their parents or guardians.

8. Information on the selection criteria is available to all students and their parents or guardians.

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30. Information on the availability of the scholarships is available to all students and their parents or guardians.
MAIL CALL

One of the benefits that accrue to an Editor of the "Octofoil" is having the opportunity to read the letters that are received by the Association. These letters are constant reminders that the "Old Reliables" have not forgotten their past, nor do they neglect the service that they spent with the famous Ninth Infantry Division. We are always happy to receive these letters and we hope that more and more members will take the time to drop us a line. Here are some samples from this month's mailbag.

Fred M. Gorman
443 Ashburn Ave.
Pottsville, Mich.
Co. G, 47th Inf.

Fred sent in the following note. June and I had a wonderful time at the 26th Memorial Service in Webster, N.Y. It was the first one that we attended and we are looking forward to attending many more.

Walter Taylor
Stop A Star-Route
Lost Hills, Cali. 93249

Walter has been on K.P. for the last two months. He tells us that his wife's brother and his wife are in the hospital. The nearest doctor to Willie's home is thirty miles away. He is not able to stay home during the week and cannot afford to stay longer. He has to work on the California hill.

** * * * * *

Fred was also in the 26th Memorial Service in Webster, N.Y. It was a great time. If this Reunion is anything like the previous one, it is one that should be on every member's agenda for this July.

** * * * * *

The Secretary from members of the Association. These letters are always appreciated and we hope that more and more members will wish to hear from some of them.

Scotty Hunt
Weehawken, N. J.

Scotty is really living it up in Florida. He spent the Christmas Holidays in the Canary Islands, then flew back to Germany to celebrate New Year's Eve in Winnenden. Scotty tells us that instead of going to the "German Inns," he has written a book about the bridge named after his great-grandfather, Traugott. Le Pont de La Traugott. He has also published the Robert Laffon Press of France. They tell us it's probably a news story in the Daily newspaper. Our membership ship will wish to own a copy. Unquestionably your Editor's will wish to have it for the English edition.

** * * * * *

John A. Aragula
Box 1
Baraboo, Wisconsin

The picture of the chartreuse which appeared in the September-Octofoil, I brought back to New York. Last week, the 1st Motor Squad of Co. K, stayed at the hotel from September until November 2. They went to a field near a house on the edge of town. The rifle platoons were in the woods near the graveyard. John remembers the hot time all they had with the Germans during their attack on Schwetzingen. He tells us that he's the whole family goes to school each morning. His #6 is in the seventh grade, his daughter is in the sixth grade, and his wife teaches fourth grade at the Northrup Central Public School. In doing John sent his address to all his friends from the Ninth.

** * * * * *

Edward Richert
Box 1
Brookfield, Illinois

During the 15th Engineers Richert received word that George Arkenmann had passed away. George was the Clerk for Co. K, HQ 15th Engineers. The young folk of the company knew him from Ninth from Brugg until the end of the European Campaign. George died on September 26, 1970. Edward had to write that his old buddy "Artie" will always be missed among all the Engineers.

** * * * * *

Pete Cromer
G Co. 47th
Union, N. J.

Along with this Pete sent us the news that Jimmy Lynch passed away. He served from 1952-54 for the Ballantine Brewery. Jimmy is an old 39th.

** * * * * *

Joe McKenzie
520 W. Washington
Waltham, Mass. 02154

As usual Joe received many Christmas cards from his many friends in the Association but he says things are rather quiet on the news front. However, he did have these tidbits for us. John Murray spent the holidays in the Winchester, Va. area. John has an operation on his back. Bill Bongiorno has decided against retiring from the cleaning business. Paul Griffin has two boys going to Kent State, Trumbul Branch, Philip Haver, son of our Harold, will graduate from Baldwin this spring. Ron Kepple is enjoying retirement.

** * * * * *

John Thomas
1520 N.呼吸道
Niles, Ohio 44446

Along with his holiday postcard Joe included a plug for Frank Ozart. Frank's hard work on behalf of the Association has always impressed us. We are delighted to learn that Frank has been elected President of the Association.

** * * * * *

Keith Lyman
Cleveland, Ohio

Reunion wants to make sure that the younger generation has the opportunity to read about the exploits of the famous Ninth Infantry Division. He tells us that he has paid for a "Eighty Stars To Victory" booklet to be sent to the library of the Ninths Reunion and that he has an even more personal souvenir of the Ninths. Keith has decided against marrying, so he will keep it as a Reunion gift for years to come.

** * * * * *

Bill Skinner
15th Engineers

Bill was also in the 26th Memorial Service in Webster, N.Y. He tells us that Floyd Wofford, Co. M 47th Inf., is in the hospital and is in good shape. (Ed's Note: We hope that the recent round of letters from Floyd will shake Wilton's place in the California hill.

** * * * * *

Fred Brown
5931 N. W. Circle Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60625

Fred and I had a wonderful time at the 26th Memorial Service in Webster, N.Y. It was the first one that we attended and we are looking forward to attending many more.

** * * * * *

Edward Machowski
523 N. W. Circle Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60625

Fred told us that he has a few kind words to say about the members of the Association. He was the very first to ask that he be notified if the 26th Memorial Service took place. He also mentioned that he will be in Springfield during the 1971 Reunion.

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John Smith, Major Dalton, and Chick Bongiorno have decided against marrying, so they will keep it as a Reunion gift for years to come.

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