NEW YORKERS ARE READY

The Right Reverend Monsignor Anthony DeLauro, former Chaplain with the 47th Infantry, will be the Toastmaster for the annual banquet to be held on Saturday July 24, 1976. General Westmoreland will be the main speaker, for the night. The acceptance by Chaplain DeLauro and General Westmoreland sets the final reunion detail.

WESTY'S BOOK
Mr. Martin Bergman
68 East 36th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Martin,
Thank you for sending me a review of your book A Soldier Reports. At this juncture, I plan to come to the reunion in New York City for the final day. I would be happy to autograph copies of my book but they will have to be purchased from a local bookstore since I do not have copies and can not get involved in the complexities of personally selling them. You may choose to pass this word to the New York gang and they may wish to contact my publisher, the Doubleday Company.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,
W.C. WESTMORELAND

Dear Dan:
The above letter is self-explanatory. I wrote to the General asking him to have books available for us to purchase that he would autograph at the affair. So please print his answer for the membership.

Marvin Bergman

The USA's first capital, New York City, is rich in historic sites that mark and celebrate the birth of America. The "Big Apple" as it is also known will be the site of this year's 31st Annual Reunion.

There will be many visitors coming to New York for a vacation during the Bicentennial year. You can be sure that the N.V. Convention Committee will do everything possible to make your vacation here an enjoyable one. There will be many Special Events to choose from. In addition to New York being the greatest City it is also the Entertainment Center of the World. Of particular interest to Baseball fans is the New Yankee Stadium. The old stadium has been torn down and a new modern stadium renamed with former Yankee stars as Manager and Coaches. New York will be right at the top, or near top when its Reunion time in New York. The Yankees will be playing in New York on July 22, 23, and 24.

Both American and British forces marched across what is now the city's five boroughs: Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx. Battles were fought when sailing ships knew no harbor. It was in New York City where George Washington took the oath of office as the country's first President.

MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION AT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY. A moving history of the settling of the United States, from pre-Revolutionary days to the present. The immigrants' story — where they came from, how they came, what they brought with them, where they settled, what they accomplished — is told in photographs, exhibits of clothing and other possessions, and audio-visual materials.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND. Always government property. First it was the home of the British colonial government, then the American military headquarters, and now, since 1966, the U.S. Coast Guard's Atlantic headquarters. It is open to Bicentennial visitors only on certain special occasions (check the Visitors Bureau). Sites include the Governor's House (1788), Ft. Jay (1786), Castle Williams (1811), the Admirals House (1840), the Dutch House (1863). Ten minutes by ferry from the Battery.

TRINITY CHURCH. The 180-ft. bell tower and spire date from 1797. The cemetery contains many famous New Yorkers (Robert Fulton, Alexander Hamilton, printer William Bradford, Jr. and Albert Gallatin). The first Trinity building was burned in the great fire of 1766.

SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM. An entire area (along South Street at Fulton Street), this indoor-outdoor "museum" is being restored to its appearance when it was one of the world's great ports for sailing ships. The area already contains a faithfully restored printing shop and three pares of historic ships.

U. N. TRIP. The itinerary of almost every visitor to New York includes a trip to the United Nations. This world famous organization is housed in a beautiful building located in an enclave on the East River. For the past two decades some of the most important international discussions have taken place within its confines. A guided tour of the United Nations is one of the events that the committee has arranged for guests of our reunion. The United Nations is a city within a city and you can spend hours going through its many interesting exhibits.

When drawing up the plans for the reunion the committee didn't forget about the merits making their schedule for the evening events includes plenty of good entertainment and refreshments. Members who attended the last reunion on New York will recall the wonderful music that was provided by Pete Mezzappelle and his crew. Pete will be back again this year and his group is greater than ever. Pete is a former Ninth Division man and he will be looking forward to seeing many of his old buddies.

Home Stretch. The die has been cast, the preparations have been made, the committee has done everything they can to make the reunion a success. The rest is up to the membership, they are the ones upon whom the success of the get-together depends. We hope that every able bodied member is in New York when the gang starts their glasses to toast the grand and glorious Ninth Infantry Division. Let's all pitch in and help make the 1976 reunion the biggest and best one that the Association has ever had.

SEE YOU IN NEW YORK
THE OCTOPHIL

THE OCTOPHIL

Page 2

THE OCTOPHIL

The 118th Meeting of the National Board of Governors

The 118th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., at the Marriott Hotel at 6 p.m. attended by Members: Walter O’Keefe, Michael Dersch, Elmer Wagner, Everett Tapp, Anthony Chaconas, Oscar Richards, Dom Greene, Ralph Cerci, Herb Olson, also Scholarship Chairman John Clouser, Past President Frank Ovat and former board member Charles Konkie. Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh was also present. The Treasurer, Thomas Doyle had forwarded his report and regretted that he was unable to attend as his son Paul was being married that same date.

President O’Keefe called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand for a silent prayer for the departed men of the Ninth.

The secretary Daniel Quinn read the minutes of the 118th meeting and upon a motion duly made by Ralph Cerci and seconded by Elmer Wagner, it was voted: Accept the reading of the minutes as read and instruct the secretary to place same on file. President O’Keefe presented the treasurers report and upon a motion made by Oscar Richards and seconded by Michael Deresh it was voted: Accept the treasurers report.

SCHOLARSHIPS

John Clouser, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, was called upon for his report and he named Dr. David Heller and Frank Ovat as permanent members of this committee. Seven applications were received by the committee, four new and three renewals. Clouser thanked the members that all applicants are related members of the Ninth and that the scholastic abilities and financial needs are the first considerations.

The committee recommended that four applicants be considered for a total of $800.00. The names will be announced at the reuion and the scholarship committee will notify the recipients. Clouser reminded the members that as of this year the Association has awarded $23,320.00 in scholarships since 1941. All recipients were children of former members of the Ninth Infantry Division. Upon a motion duly made by Dom Greene and seconded by Herb Olson it was voted: Accept the report and recommendations of the Scholarship Committee. President O’Keefe thanked John Clouser and his committee for their efforts with this committee.

Michael Dersch a member of the Board from the New York Chapter briefed the members on the events of the 189 reunion to be held in New York City at the Statler-Hilton Hotel on July 22 and 23th. Charles Konkie suggested to the New York Committee that they publish for the members the reuions into the city. The members will be kept posted through the Octophil. John Clouser quoted the members that the Illinois Chapter members were busy working on the 1897 reunion that will be held in Chicago. The Hotel Hilyt-Regency has been selected as the Headquarters for the Northwest.

President O’Keefe thanked the Illinois members for their report.

Oscar Richards submitted a bid for the 1976 reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association in order to perpetuate the memory of their fallen comrades, to preserve the scholastic abilities and financial needs are the first considerations.

The Octophil, the following members of the Association to the reunion committee: Robert DeSanty and Michael Dersch will serve for one year. John Clouser and Herb Olson will serve for two years. Charles Jones and Harrison Daysh will serve for three years.

The terms will commence from the date of the Board meeting at the 1976 reunion in New York City. Thereafter, as vacancies occur, each member shall serve for three years, his successor will be appointed. Harrison Daysh was appointed initial chairman of the committee whose first meeting will be held in New York in conjunction with the 1976 reunion. The members of the Board were voted:

Held.

Herb Olson briefed the members on the Worcester Memorial. The Board members in turn will brief their chapter members. There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion duly made by Oscar Richards and seconded by Everett Tapp it was voted: Adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

Memory is what reminds you of something you forgot without telling you what it is.

1976

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the LADIES’ AUXILIARY of the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

I would like to become a member of the Ladies’ Auxiliary to the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Enclosed is check or money order for $3.50 for 1976 dues. Please mail my membership card to:

Name:
City State

While attached to the 9th Infantry Division (state relationship, whether the Ninth Division man was a husband, father, brother, son, etc.)

was with
give company, regiment, battery, attached unit, etc.)

Make checks or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.

412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

Enclosed please find 1976 dues for:

Name: ____________________________

Street: ____________________________

City State

I was a member of:

Battery Company, Regiment...9th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year...$5.00

Donation to Scholarship Fund...$2.00

THREE YEAR MEMBER...$13.00

Lifetime Membership...$50.00

Please cross the following chapter:

Phillip Delaware Valley box

Great New York box

Illinois box

New England box

Ohio box

Fayetteville - Fort Bragg, N.C.

Enrolled please find 1976 dues for: ____________________________

MAIL TO: Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.

412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

April 21, 1976

Volume 2

March-April 1976

Number 2

THE OCTOPHIL

FUTURE REUNIONS

President Walter O’Keefe introduced the next topic on the agenda concerning future cities and the desirability of holding them in non-Chapter cities or locations. Herb Olson made a motion that was seconded by Michael Dersch. The idea of active consideration for resort areas as sites for the annual reunion John Clouser finally proposed that in the future the Board should select reunion locales alternately between Chapter cities and new untied places. Thereafter, the following action was taken: The President, with the approval of the Board, ordered the formation of a six member committee to be known as the National Association Reunion Committee. This committee is constituted as a standing committee of the Board of Governors and it is purpose to investigate the feasibility of non-chapter sites for the annual reunion and to make appropriate recommendations to the Board. The committee will begin to function immediately but such recommendations will be effective until after 1978. Thereafter, the committee will be prepared to make recommendations to be carried every other year since it is contemplated that non-chapter sites will be resumed when they are not acceptable to the committee recommendations with National sponsorship.

The Reunion Journal is our greeting card to the members. You can sign this card by taking one copy home. We are Ambroided greeting cards our ads come in all sizes and price type and just want to show that we feel like splurging you can subscribe to a full page ad for $40.00. If you are a commercial greeting cards our ads come in all sizes and price type and just want to show that you remember the Associations’ reunion and you are thinking of doing something about it. You can also subscribe to a full page ad for $40.00. If you are subscription website www.foundationsforchange.org

DEADLINE FOR PROGRAM

JULY 1st

REQUEST FOR RESERVATIONS

NINTH INFANTRY DIvision ASSOCIATION

JULY 21 - 23, 1978

NEW YORK Statler Hilton

From Office Manager

216 Ave. 33rd Street, N.Y. 10001

NAME: ____________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________

CITY STATE ZIP

FIRM NAME: ____________________________

ARRIVAL DATE: _______ TIME _______

DEPARTURE DATE: _______ TIME _______

RÉSERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED

No later than June 15th for hotel reservations and at least two weeks in advance for air travel. Hotel reservations must be postmarked and mailed to:

Hilton Hotels

33rd Street, N.Y. 10001

CONVENTION ROOMS

TABLES

Singles: 25.00

Doubles/Twins: 25.00

Quadruple: 25.00

DORMS: 25.00

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The following story was written by Thomas R. Henry for The Saturday Evening Post in 1946. This is part of a series of articles on Great American Divisions of World War II, that was published by the Saturday Evening Post in 1946. The 9th was the first American beachhead east of the Elbe in firestormed darkness, almost flattened and destroyed until the top brass counted in firestreaked darkness, the 9th following story was written by Thomas R. Henry for The Saturday Evening Post in 1946.

This was one of a series of articles on Great American Divisions which materialized out of darkness and took Cherbourg. It was a story of the 9th Infantry Division, which enveloped the whole strange line was led by a supernatural "ghost," a role filled by Capt. Harry A. Flint and 1st Sgt. Taylor-39th Inf. each

February afternoon. Through snow and mud, and over narrow mountain roads often closed with ice, it moved 777 miles in four days and four hours. There were no halts, except for fifteen-minute stops for refueling. As the 60th Infantry Regiment, Gen. S. LeRoy Irwin, accompanied the 1st Army's beachhead force into Cherbourg and held the first break in the Siegfried Line. It rose like an ancient legend from the mountains and vanquished the Siegfried Line.

The tactics of the Goums added to the American deficiency in mountain warfare. General Irwin was engaged by a series of regiments with a completely unexpected torrent of howitzer and mortar fire. General Irwin brought in the cold stop the most important key to the German in the Goum's three-pronged drive.

The 9th then moved northward to Sedan. cheering was accompanied by two regiments of Goons - fired-faced, brown-turbaned, % skalid bastards. They went into battle wearing black caps and banded gaiter boots. Between their teeth they chomped cigarettes, sharp, curved knives. They were greeted with the most intense hatreds. Silently as cats, they crawled through the brush patches, had to listen to the specie'ed rocks in the eerie blackness of desert nights when hounds were howling. Then they would fall on enemy outposts, leave behind them a demise of bovine or Boche. The tactics of the Goons added immensely to the aura of mystery which enveloped the 9th as its regiments seemed to materialize out of darkness and vanish into darkness again.

Captain Eddy was engaged in moving the division along a twenty-eight-mile front through extremely difficult mountain country, the Eifel valleys the men of the 9th Infantry Division marched through. Perhaps never have or ever again did the 9th Division demonstrate so well its specialty. After the fall of Messina, the anarchy which had reigned the previous months since it landed in Africa was quelled - Gen. Frederico de Abadan 6th Infantry - as probably the most colorful episode of the Sicilian campaign.

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COL. SMYTHE

But the storm troopers never reached that road. In their path stood a small platoon of resistance fighters, led by a company commander, Col. George W. Smythe, who had been one of West Point's outstanding students and a Company G officer in a previous war. Smythe had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star for his bravery and determination in the face of overwhelming odds.

Smythe quickly organized his men into an impromptu defense, utilizing the terrain and his knowledge of military tactics to outmaneuver the enemy. He positioned his men along the edges of the woods, where they could ambush the German columns as they moved through the area.

But the German troops were determined, and they continued to push forward. Smythe knew he needed to act quickly if he was to prevent the enemy from taking control of the region.

The next morning, Smythe ordered his men to attack the enemy's supply column. The fight was fierce, with both sides suffering heavy losses. But in the end, Smythe's men emerged victorious, thanks to their superior strategy and the support of the local resistance fighters.

Smythe's victory was not without cost. He lost a number of his men in the battle, and he was wounded himself. But he knew that his actions had saved many lives and had prevented the enemy from gaining a foothold in the region.

Smythe was later awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism, and he went on to serve in several high-ranking positions in the military. He retired from the army as a colonel and spent the rest of his life working to help veterans and their families. Even as he aged, he remained active, always ready to help those in need.

For his service and his courage, Col. George W. Smythe will always be remembered as a hero, a leader, and a man who gave his all for his country and his countrymen.
The Eliot Church Chapter has dog in the Park on Saturday, May 15th. At the 1977 reunion, Chairman John Cloonee along with co-chairmen Bill Hennessey, Chuck Konkie and Frank Oratt are preparing a spring-springing a number of Chicago members to be shared with a surprising accessibility, convergence to a series of convivialities and giving top priority to spring's new life. When it became evident that Hyatt Regency Chicago meet with more association members present it seem to be a Swan Lake, N.Y. The weekend of March 12-14th was a presentation to be better understood. We were informed that the secretary, Feinberg was responsible for conventions that was being held numerous to be mentioned. In with a Postal Supervisors committee, Feinberg was responsible for selecting new members. The meeting was obviously a thing of the past. We had received some ads for the convention, it was clear some of the details for the meeting were missing. Chairman, announced that he would make a speech on the necessity for baby sitters is obvious. We are working on a booster ad for the convention. We need everyone’s help.

Honored

Carrie Richards was honored at a testimonial dinner held March 10, 1979, given by the Pennsylvanian Services Force, to the outgoing commander. People known to the Force, in attendance, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lisa and their son John Troccoli also attended. Carrie speaks most of her day working with disabilities. The Troccoli’s in one beautiful person!

DUNN DONE IT

Bob Dunn did the local paper work for us deep appreciation for his wonderful work all the sights in Sweden, N.J., where the King of Sweden was to visit. The same convention is held May 22nd at Pinelawn. It was a very enjoyable evening. Each gathering we hear of the many calls and cards she had received from members expressing their condolences.

Ralph Witzkin

The Bob Winkelmans family, with their son, Captain Jim are members of the Eliot Church Chapter. The family is living in the Ft. Sheridan Museum. The date of the event is Sunday, May 30. Tentative plans include the service at the Military cemetery, lunch at the Officers club and an afternoon of recreation and tours of the Ft. Sheridan Museum.

Frank Oratt, Chuck Konkie and John Cloonee announced that they were preparing for the 1978 reunion and that they had started assembling in a meeting room to discuss their unanimous approval of the committees recommended by President Bill Hennessey and John Cloonee outlined some of the details, arrangements for their work were involved. They were assured of a complete cooperation and were offered plenty of help with the 1978 Reunion another Illinois Chapter success.

The March meeting was held at Teddman. Frank Oratt informed his audience of the days of the year by accepting subscriptions for the new program book for the National Scholarship Fund.

7: A plaque to be presented to Maurice Mitchell expressing our appreciation of his dedicated service before retiring. We have decided to send it on to Florida last December.

Thanks for the great job you are home HAC tll7 joined many years ago. I am afraid I would not be traced is to run would to Page at Montrose, N.Y. also a for patients of the V.A. Hospital Christmas party. couple of picnics in the summer Yonkers, N.Y. 10701 when we went overseas. After 1047 East 105th Street enlisted 1-13-41 as a private and but Private. huge success even if I am not dues and plans a trip to Ger­ 2411 Lommel Lane Marion, Ind. 46952 every bit of it and meeting some I sure hope the Reunion is a & 39th Inf are around? Nate Gaynor 7921 Brous Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60652 believed to be my best to all of the old Co D "...my best to all of the old Co D ...on the Octofoil. (This letter was sent by Mickie School).