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9th Infantry Division Association

3-1-1994

The Octofoil, March/April 1994

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLIX Number 2

Mar-April 1994

Battle of Normandy Foundation's New Leadership Speaks Out

Boardman F. Lockwood
275 Steele Road
Apartment B-523
West Hartford, CT 06117

Dear Mr. Lockwood:

We hope the following letter will alleviate your concerns regarding any misinformation you've received concerning the Battle of Normandy Foundation. Also, for your information, we have enclosed a copy of the conclusions from the report made by the Independent Review Committee on the Battle of Normandy Foundation's activities and projects.

The troubling information currently circulating about the Battle of Normandy Foundation has all originated from stories printed by *The Washington Times*. Let us state from the outset, the information as reported by *The Washington Times* in **no way** represents the real story. As a registered non-profit organization, our financial documents are a matter of public record. The articles blatantly misrepresent the real facts and are slanted to tell the story the way the reporter wanted it told. They are filled with inaccuracies and gross distortions.

In one article, *The Washington Times* claimed that the Battle of Normandy Foundation "...misused collected funds and spent...90% of its monies raised for administrative expenses..." Point of fact is that independent audits, as required by law for nonprofit organizations, reveal that since 1986, the Foundation's administrative expenses and fund-raising costs, have been only 37 percent of revenue — well within the philanthropy industry guidelines of not more than 50 percent. That means the Foundation spends 63 percent of its revenue on commemorative and educational programs which honor America's WWII European Theater veterans. Because of their commitment, both the president of the Battle of Normandy Foundation, Anthony C. Stout, and Pierre Salinger, Chairman of the Wall of Liberty Campaign, volunteer their time to the Foundation. They receive no compensation whatsoever.

Since its inception in 1985, the Battle of Normandy Foundation has worked continuously to honor American veterans who served in the ETO during World War II. The Foundation provides funding to its five commemorative and educational programs. These programs include:

- * The Wall of Liberty
- * The U.S. Armed Forces Memorial Garden
- * The Normandy Scholar Program
- * The Eisenhower Commemorative Statue
- * Support for the WWII Memorial Museum

With the 50th anniversary of D-Day only months away, the Foundation is moving forward with all of its commemorative projects. Veterans, their family and friends across the country are responding positively to the Wall of Liberty Campaign. The Wall will be built next to the WWII Memorial Museum in Caen, Normandy. As planned, ground breaking ceremonies for the Wall of Liberty will be held in June 1994 and the first phase of the Wall is slated for completion in May 1995 as part of the 50th Anniversary of V-E Day.

At the present time, we are happy to report that the U.S. Armed Forces Memorial Garden is under construction in Caen, Normandy. Ground was broken for the Garden on Sept. 13, 1993, and it will be dedicated during the 50th Anniversary commemoration in June 1994.

The Normandy Scholar Program, now in its fourth successful year, offers an unprecedented scholarship opportunity for American university students interested in the study of the causes and effects of World War II.

Sincerely,
Paul P. Belle Isle
PROJECT MANAGER

Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center
Lake City, FL 32055-5898

Mr. Edwin Wisniewski, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Ass'n

On behalf of staff and veterans receiving care at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, Lake City, Florida, it is my privilege to extend our sincere thanks to you and The Ninth Infantry Division Association, Weehawken, New Jersey, for the contribution of \$885 recently received. This donation was placed in our General Post/TV Fund Account, and will be used towards the purchase of three TVs in the new Nursing Home. A receipt is enclosed for your records.

It is truly heartwarming to know there are so many who really care about our veteran patients.

Your continued dedication and support to our hospitalized veterans are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Thomas F. Wheaton
Medical Center Director

Battle of Normandy Foundation

Hqs. 2nd Bn. 60th Inf.
M.B. Kauffman
4466 Abinadi Rd.
Salt Lake City, UT 84124

As one of the original members of The Battle of Normandy Foundation (as well as the 9th Division) I would like to refute the allegations contained in recent letters in the Octofoil, and set the record straight.

Upon reading the article in the Washington Times by reporter Tom Kelly I contacted a close friend of mine in the Washington area to find out the true facts. Kelly based his story solely on the statements from an individual who was fired from the Battle of Normandy Foundation, and who apparently was trying to create a "backfire" for his misappropriation of the Foundation's funds.

The Foundation got a disinterested group to investigate the allegations. This group consisted of General John Vessey, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; William McKenzie the former Chairman of Texas A and M College Board of Regents; Judge of the Military Court of Appeals H.F. Gierke; and President of the Communities Foundation of Texas E. M. Fjordbak.

This Independent Review Committee employed Price, Waterhouse and Co. an internationally renowned firm of Certified Public Accountants to assist in examining the Foundation's records. The investigation found the charges to be false, and demonstrated that the Foundation had exhibited an admirable record of service to veterans. For a copy of the report's conclusions write to the Foundation at 1730 Rhode Island, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

I personally have contributed to the Foundation for several years, and will continue to do so.

Sorry that I will not be able to make this year's Reunion in Lake Placid.

Enclosed is my check for a three year membership renewal to our Association.

FOUNDATION CLEARS ITS NAME

The Battle of Normandy Foundation has generated a considerable amount of positive publicity and support; however, inaccurate and unflattering articles have been printed about our financial management in a number of newspapers. Moreover, many veterans' organizations have picked up on the allegations in their newsletters.

The Foundation's Board of Directors took this newspaper article seriously. It commissioned an Independent Review Committee to investigate the Foundation's activities and it invited a Price Waterhouse audit of our finances. On January 7, 1994 the Committee published its final report. Its conclusions are summarized below in this letter from the Committee Chairman.

Make Lake Placid in '94

On Friday, March 15th, the Reunion Committee met at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort in Lake Placid, New York. We are pleased to announce that all of our plans have been finalized. Everything possible has been done to make your stay at Lake Placid a pleasurable and memorable one. As always our first and most important commitment is to the remembering of our honored dead. Our objective is to see old buddies, to laugh, reminisce, enjoy each others company and after a three day reunion promise to meet again next year.

Reservations

The Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort is filled to capacity and the overflow is now being billeted at the Golden Arrow, across the street from the Holiday Inn. Please remember whether you are staying at the Holiday Inn or the Golden Arrow you must first report to the Holiday Inn as they are handling all reservations. At the time of registration you will receive a package containing tickets for meals and all reunion events as well as name badges, program of events and all information concerning the reunion. All taxes and gratuities are included in the package plan.

Transportation

Because the Holiday Inn is set on a high hill, too difficult for most of us to climb, two shuttle buses will be scheduled to run between hotels. An arrival and departure schedule will be posted at each hotel. There is ample parking at the Holiday Inn for those who wish to use their own vehicles.

Strip Tickets

For those who are not buying the package plan and are staying at other hotels, strip tickets will be sold at a cost of \$60.00 per ticket. As usual the strip ticket includes the welcoming party on Thursday night with two drinks of your choice, the Friday night dance featuring music from the forties and the banquet on Saturday night with a surprise guest speaker. It does not include the cocktail party on Saturday night. The cocktail party is an extra for those purchasing the two or three day package. There will be no banquet tickets sold on Saturday. Strip tickets may be purchased at the Holiday Inn registration desk on a cash basis only no checks or credit cards will be accepted.

Calling All Chapters

Committee meetings will be held prior to the general meeting on Friday morning. Please have representatives from your chapter to serve on the following committees.

Budget and Finance
Bylaws
Miscellaneous
Newspaper
Nominating

Thank you for your cooperation.

Catholic Mass

We are honored to have Father Jerry Rowan as the celebrant of the Catholic Mass on Saturday afternoon. Father Rowan fought with us as a soldier, became a priest after WW II and celebrated Mass many times with Father Edward Connors at our annual Memorial Mass and Service in Worcester, Ma. He has always been a friend of the N.E. Chapter.

Golf

All plans have been made for the golf tournament to be held at the Lake Placid Golf Course (18 holes) on Thursday morning. It would be a great help in arranging transportation (free) if those planning on participating would send their names to Herbert Olsen, 326 Turtleback Road, P.O. Box 845, Marstons Mills, Ma. 02648. Each player should stop at the Holiday Inn registration desk to receive a \$10.00 discount ticket to be used at the Lake Placid Golf Course. Golfers — for those who do not want to leave the premises there is a new putting green on the grounds on the Holiday Inn.

It is not too late to make reservations. Come to Lake Placid and renew old friendships that were born as we shared mutual hardships.

Ron Murphy

Reunion — Co-chairman

The latest issue of The Octofoil contained an article about "The Battle of Normandy Foundation," which caused me some concern since I am a charter member of that organization and a contributor to "The Wall of Liberty."

I asked myself, "Am I the victim of a scam?"

Then a few days later I received a copy of "The Beachhead," the official journal of "The Foundation," which tells a different story.

Also I urge you to write to Senators Bob Dole and Strom Thurmond for their comments about the foundation and print their replies in the Octofoil.

Best wishes to you and Marie. You're doing a great job with the Octofoil.

Med. Det. 47th Inf.
LOUIS SIEBEN
68 Richard St.
Dover, N.J. 07801

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
Octofoil Associated Editors
Walter O'Keefe and Daniel Quinn

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7576 Gratiot Rd
Columbus, Mi 48063

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114 Charles Street
Floral Park, NY 11001

Pat DeColli, 2nd V.P.
1017 Jackson St.
Phila, PA 18148

Francis Maher, 3rd V.P.
14 Davenport St.
Worcester, MA 01610

Dave Heller
Judge Advocate
618 Sumac Rd.
Highland Pk. Il 60035

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, NJ 07087

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Published five times yearly. May, June, July - Aug, Sept, Oct. - Nov.
Dec. - Jan. Feb. - Mar. April by and for the members of the Ninth
Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, pho-
tographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every
effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condi-
tion.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry
Division Association read: "This Association is formed by the officers
and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the mem-
ory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the
Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusiv-
ely by means of educational activities and to serve as an information
bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division.

Copy must be received on or before the 15th of each month to
guarantee publication of the 20th.

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. 07087, and additional
offices.

POST MASTER: Send address changes to 412 Gregory Avenue,
Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

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Publication # 402820

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn. 412
Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

Enclosed please find dues for:

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

Street Address.....

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

I was a member of:

Battery..... Company..... Regiment..... 9th Div.....

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year..... \$10.00

Sustaining Member.....

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund.....

THREE-YEAR MEMBER..... \$25.00

Life Membership..... \$75.00

Ladies Auxiliary Member..... \$ 2.00

Decals..... 50- each

60th Hist..... \$ 2.50 (incl. post.)

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐
Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐
New England ☐ Michigan ☐
Florida ☐ New Jersey ☐
Texas ☐

Ladies Auxiliary
Ninth Infantry Division Association
Membership Application

Ellie Taubner, Treasurer, Ladies Auxiliary
Ninth Infantry Division Association
85 Smith Avenue, Bergenfield, N.J. 07621

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name.....

Street Address.....

City..... State..... Zip.....

My spouse (Brother or relative)

Served with.....

One year..... \$2.00

Credit Chapter.....

Tip of the Hat

The Memorial Fund was en-
riched by the generosity of
these members and friends
who remembered. We salute
you.

Edward Netta

John Bonkowski - In memory
of Charles Fox, M Co. 60th Inf

Robert Mandle - In memory of
Barney Angell and Louise
Mullen, wife of James

George Pedrick - In memory of
Oscar Thompson

Leon Birum - In memory of
Jesse Davis.

Donald Wright

Olido Starro

John Lammie

William Douthit - In memory
of Oscar Thompson

Paul Lisa - In memory of
Louise Mullen, wife of James

Claude Sarfati

Edward Kuklewicz

A.T. Forrest

Norman Weinberg - In mem-
ory of Les Ronay

James Benane

Ralph Palermo - In memory of
Angelo Rinchuso, C Co. 9th Med.
Bn.

Jerry Langer

Samuel Ledford

Robert Moore and Burleigh
Brewer - In memory of Angelo
Rinchuso

Richard McGrath - In memory
of deceased 15th Engr. Bn.

Anthony Madonna - In memo-
ry of Frank Dickenson

John Baumann - In memory of
Grace Gravino (wife of Joe) and
Oscar Thompson, B Co.

NINTH SIGNAL COMPANY
ANNUAL REUNION

The Ninth Signal Company
will hold its 7th Annual Reunion
on September 7th, 8th and 9th
at the "Day's Inn/West in St.
Clairsville, Ohio, and as usual
we expect a large turnout, but
we specifically want to extend
the Invitation to ALL 9TH SIG-
NALMEN, as we were all a very
formidable part of the 9th
Division, and as such we would
welcome each and every one of
you at this reunion.

There are great plans already
in place, and an activity list that
is terrific, but No Regimenta-
tion. As usual, the "Hole-in-the-
Wall" will be filled with the
exploits of how the Signal
Company won the war single-
handed. (No offense to the
Regiments or Div-Arty is intend-
ed.) Please address all requests
for info, to the following:
William A. Miller, 507 Eskridge
Drive, Wilmington, DE, 19809, or
Richard Craig, 10 Whitney
Street, White Plains, N.Y. 10606,
so Dig out the "Barracks Bags"
and make plans to join us for a
really good time, and as I have
said, many, many times, "Let's
get together for at least ONE
MORE TIME," and you will be
glad you did....

Ray Connolly
11 Dunstable Road
Southampton, N.J. 08088

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION
LAKE PLACID
HOLIDAY INN SUNSPREE RESORT
LODGING RESERVATION FORM

Arrival: Thursday, June 9, 1994
or Friday, June 10, 1994

Departure: Sunday, June 12, 1994

All reservations must be made on this form and returned
by Thursday, May 12, 1994 with a deposit of \$100.00 per
room to:

Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort
1 Olympic Drive
Lake Placid, New York 12946

(518) 523-2556

FAX: (518) 523-9410

3 Night Package 2 Night Package

Arrival: Thur. 6/9/94 Fri. 6/10/94

Standard Rooms:

Single:	\$391.05	\$305.16
Double:	246.08	192.84
Triple:	210.01	163.98
Quad:	191.39	150.14

Mini-Suites:

Single:	\$549.00	410.46
Double:	325.85	245.49
Triple:	262.68	199.08
Quad:	231.08	175.88
Tax:	Inclusive	Inclusive
Gratuity	Inclusive	Inclusive

Rates are quoted on a per person, per stay basis and for a
2 night minimum stay.

The "3 Night" Package Rates include: 3 Nights' Lodging, 3
Breakfasts, Complimentary Welcome Party on Thursday
night, Dinner on Thursday, Complimentary Cocktail
Reception and Dinner on Friday, 1 Banquet on Saturday
and all Taxes and Gratuities.

The "2 Night" Package Rates include: 2 Nights' Lodging, 2
Breakfasts, Complimentary Cocktail Reception and Dinner
on Friday, 1 Banquet on Saturday and all Taxes and
Gratuities.

** Reservations must be received by Thursday, May 12,
1994.

** Reservations received after this date will be accepted
upon availability.

** Deposits will be refunded, if cancellation is received by
Thursday, May 26, 1994.

** Payment arrangements for the total package will be
required upon arrival in the form of cash or major cred-
it card. Personal checks will not be accepted as
a method of final payment.

** Credit will not be given for missed meals or early
departures

** Check in time is 3:00 PM, Check out time is 11:00 AM

** Telephone reservations will not be accepted.

** Telefaxed reservations must be guaranteed by a major
credit card.

** All standard rooms have 2 double beds.

** Rollaway beds are available upon request at an addi-
tional charge.

To confirm your room, it is necessary to guarantee your
reservation with a \$100.00 deposit in the form of a Check
or a Major Credit Card.

— \$100.00 Check — \$100.00 Credit Card
Card Type:..... Account #..... Exp:.....

Name:.....

Unit:.....

Street:.....

City/State/Zip:.....

Telephone #:..... Number of Persons:.....

Standard:..... Mini-Suite:.....

Single:..... Double..... Triple:..... Squad.....

Name of Roommate(s).....

Arrival Date:..... Departure Date:.....

Anticipated Time of Arrival:.....

Package Rates for our Specialty Rooms with Fireplaces and
Jacuzzis available upon request.

Rates for Early Arrival on Wednesday, June 8th or for Late
Departure on Monday, June 13th are:

	Standard	Mini-Suite
Single:	\$ 81.76	\$135.61
Double:	\$ 89.70	143.54
Triple:	109.38	163.80
Quad:	129.08	184.04
Tax & Gratuity:	Inclusive	Inclusive

These "Bed & Breakfast" rates are quoted per room per
night, including 1 Night's Lodging, Breakfast, Tax and
Breakfast Gratuity. Reservations will be accepted subject
to availability.

Strip tickets will be sold on Thursday and Friday only, at
a cost of \$60.00. The strip ticket includes the Thursday
night welcoming party, the Friday night dance, and the
Saturday night banquet. It does not include the Saturday
night cocktail party. The cocktail party is an "extra" for
those purchasing the two- or three-day package.

Strip tickets will be sold on a cash basis only. No person-
al checks will be accepted.

When was the last time you wrote a letter to our Mail Call
Column? Just a postal card would denote your interest
and let some buddy know where you are. You like to read
what other members send in ... why not do your own part
and write a few lines now and then for their enjoyment.

President's Message

to: Members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association
Gentlemen,

It has been brought to my attention that there is no suitable marker for the Ninth Infantry Division at the Remagen Bridge Museum. There are numerous Octofoils in the vicinity, including the Bulge area, but no specific tablet or marker giving the 9th due credit for having the first complete regiment and the first whole division on the east side of the river. I would like to have the subject brought up at the next board meeting. Then, we could decide if it should be brought up at the General Membership meeting at Lake Placid.

I am quite sure we can come up with a suitable plaque and have the same made. I know it is late this year, but next year, 1995, it could be in place. A lot of 9th men, and other units, will be there for the 50th anniversary of the end of the War in Europe. I am sure that we, as a division, will have to do it on our own, as throughout the War we were left out of the news time and again.

Yours in comradeship,
Pres. Edwin W. Wisniewski
7576 Gratiot Rd.
Columbus, MI 48063



Al Bravin 3rd Bn Hq 47th receiving a belated Bronze Star medal for heroism from General Staling at a recent ceremony held at Bravins home. Al because of illness could not make the trip to Washington, DC so the Army was gracious enough to come to New Jersey to make the long overdue presentation.

Company F 39th Infantry Booklet

The collection of "biographies" which comprise this booklet is a very partial record of a group of citizen-soldiers who served in Company "F," 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th United States Infantry Division during its 8 major campaigns in World War II.

While Fox Co. was only one of the many U.S. Army rifle companies that fought in North Africa and Europe in World War II, it was, like the other companies that wore the Octofoil shoulder patch of the 9th Division, unique in its long combat history which began in Algeria-French Morocco and continued through Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. The 9th Infantry Division suffered the fourth highest number of casualties in the entire U.S. Army as a result of its many, many battles, and Fox Co. had its fair share of men killed and wounded.

Brigadier General (Retired) Frank L. Gunn, who commanded the Second Battalion of the 39th Infantry through its 5 campaigns on the European mainland, (he was in the 1st and 3rd Battalions in North Africa and Sicily) writes: Fox Company was an outstanding rifle company which consistently accomplished the mission given it and often accomplished more than was asked for. I was also impressed by the Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Company. Fox Company contributed greatly to the immense success enjoyed by the Second Battalion, 39th Infantry throughout the battles fought in Europe during the five campaigns I commanded the Battalion."

This book then is dedicated to our valiant comrades of Fox Co. who made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom on the far away battlefields of No. Africa and Europe and to our returning buddies who have since gone to their heavenly reward. They remain forever in honored glory and in our hearts.

SEEKING

Co L 39th Inf.
VICTOR A. LARSON
2 Via Ripa
Rumson, NJ 07760

Hi Dan, and all you guys.

It was easier when you were on the next block, I could just walk over. As I told you on the phone my wife of 46 yrs. Mary passed away on 21 Nov. 93.

The reason I am writing is to find out if anyone out there is interested in a few guys getting together and flying over renting a van or car and doing our own tour for the 50 years job.

Best regards to all and God Bless.

Sam Burns
1556 S Interstate 35 W
Burleson, Tx 76028

F Co. 39th Mini-Reunion
F Co. 39th 9th Div. WW II
Oct. 11th through 13th, Las Vegas. Contact Ward O. Payne, 3950 Avenida Castilla, Laguna Hills, Calif. 92653. Phone (714) 837-7198.

9th Medical Bn. Reunion
The mini-reunion of the 9th Medical Battalion will be held May 13 and 14th at the Shoneys Inn in Chattanooga, Tennessee. For further information contact:

John Lewis
211 Midland Street
Shelbyville, TN 37160
615 684-2496

LADIES CORNER

Today is April 20th, the 9th Division Annual Reunion starts on June 9th, our Meeting is on June 10th, and as of today's date. I only have 28 Ladies signed up for our Breakfast/Craft Workshop! Where are the rest of you? Carol Saunders and I are hoping for a least 100-125 women to participate in our meeting, and we will have plenty of room! So, please sit right down **now** and send me your \$10.00 check with your own name, make it out to: Ladies Auxiliary, 9th Div. Assoc. and mail it to me at the address below. Got that? And remember, no kits can be ordered at Lake Placid, they **must be** ordered before **I even** get there! OK? The rest of this column will be short and sweet: Remember your Pollyanna gifts, and if you have a Veterans Hospital or Group you wish to nominate for a donation from us this year, please write to Carol Saunders, or to me, with the name and address of said group. The Officers will then sift through them, and present them to you for your approval at the meeting. So far this year, I have had only one request and we do raise enough money to enrich several Veterans' groups. Please, send them in! I finally received the last letter of thanks for our October donations: The McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia thanked us for our gift, delivered through Mary Brasington. It seems that the Hospital Representative to whom Mary gave the check to, was in a car wreck very shortly after giving the Coupons (purchased with our \$400.00 check), to the Dialysis Ward 2H for its patients. She was in a coma for some time, and only able in March to write to Mary and then to me. You never know, do you?

Lastly if the Alice Caswell, mentioned on the TV News and in newspapers, as having been a victim of a mail package explosion on April 5th in Queens, New York, is the same lovely woman who, as the wife of Norman Caswell, a former 9th Division Association President and 47th, Company B member, attended our reunions for years, we extend our sincerest Get-Well wishes, and hope that by now, she has recovered much. It is a small world isn't it? Well, no more news for now.

The Taubner Clan is all fine, with Jake's Christening taking place last Sunday, and Grand-Daughter Diana's Graduation to be on June 28th. The baby grows fatter by the day, and Diana more beautiful. The 4 Maine Grandchildren were down for the Christening, so our old house rocked once more!

I, for one am so glad to see our grass green and our trees budding! Take care now, and keep in touch! One last item: GOLD STARS for our #1 and #2 Ladies to sent in their checks: Dvora Heller and Julie Cecchine. Thank you, thank you.

Ellie Taubner, Treasurer
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

Frank Fazio, New York Chapter member (Co H 47th) informs us that on May 30th at 9:00 PM on the Discover Channel a TV production of Normandy (the great Crusade) will be shown. Hope it will be shown in your area, believe it will be on Cable TV.

Proposal to Amend By-laws

To All Members

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Re: Long Term Planning

Gentlemen:

When the membership voted in 1992 on Henry G. "Red" Phillips' resolution to include eligibility for membership of those 9th Infantry Division Veterans who had served ... "during the officially established campaigns of the Vietnam War," and it was rejected by a majority of the some 500 (+ or -) members present, no one addressed the inevitability of that decision.

The youngest members of the Association are now 69 years of age (replacements in June, 1994 had to be 19 years of age before being sent overseas). By the year 2000, our youngest members will be 75 and the original Fort Bragg cadre will be a minimum 78 years of age. One only has to read the "Taps" column in each issue of the OCTOFOIL to see the constant diminution of our membership.

As "Red" Phillips so cogently stated in the Nov.-Dec., 1991 issue of the OCTOFOIL on maintaining an organization: "It's not an old man's game."

The writers of this letter believe the membership should be presented with at least three alternatives:

1. Again vote to include at least membership eligibility for those who served in Vietnam.

OR

2. Vote to accept all veterans who served in the Division from it's 1940 activation until deactivated at Fort Lewis, WA.

OR

3. Set a timetable for the dissolution of the Association by the year 2000; disposal of any Association funds that might be remaining; and locate an archive to store the Association's records.

If the membership elects to dissolve the Association at a future date, the writers of this letter propose the following:

PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT

The Ninth Infantry Division Association will have it's final reunion in the year 2000, the 56th anniversary of the Association's founding. At that time The Board of Governors will direct dispersal of the remaining general funds and investments, assign a committee to disperse the memorial funds, and send all records to the archival files previously assigned.

If we are not prepared to "perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades" with the infusion of new members, then we need to formulate, while there is an active membership, the agreed upon method and timetable for the Association's demise.

The year 2000 is only six years away!

Respectfully,
John W. Miller
Gordon A. Schneider

MGEN M. B. KAUFFMAN
4466 Abinadi Rd.
Salt Laker City, UT
84124-4006

Attached is an article about an award given to Clara Langston, widow of Capt. Perry Langston, C.O. of Company H, 60th Infantry.

As you know, Perry was seriously wounded at Djebel Dardyyis in the Sedjenane Valley in 1943 and was left a paraplegic. He became one of the foremost Baptist educators in the field of religious education.

Perry died in 1992 and it is obvious from the citation that his success was due in large part to her support.

I believe we ought to recognize our female members for their accomplishments, and hope you will include an article about this award in a future Octofoil.

Sorry I won't see you at Lake Placid. Other commitments prevent me from attending.

My best to you and yours.

Sincerely
M.B. Kauffman

Clara Langston receives the 1994 Alumni Service Award on Campbell University's Founders Day

Clara Lloyd Langston, a 1935 alumna of Campbell College and a resident of Buies Creek, received the 1994 Alumni Service Award during the 108th Founders Day ceremony held Jan.11 at Campbell University.

Co-sponsor for 34 years of the campus Religious Education Club, Mrs. Langston served the school with her late husband, Dr. Perry Q. Langston, one of the foremost Baptist educators in the field of religious education. Along with Dr. Langston, a World War II hero whose injuries in the North African campaign left him a paraplegic, Mrs. Langston has worked diligently to make life easier for the handicapped.

During the presentation of Mrs. Langston's award, Campbell president Norman Wiggins said, "Campbell University and Clara Lloyd Langston have much in common. They have overcome difficulties and obstacles. Their days have been invested in service before self, and the Lord has caused the results of their efforts to survive and prosper."

Serving as a second mother for many Campbell students, Mrs. Langston is known for her friendly manner, encouraging letters and timely visits.

A graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, she is a member of Memorial Baptist Church and has represented the church in the Little River Baptist Association.

COMPANY F 47TH INFANTRY

I find myself in a depressed state of mind as I report the recent demise of another of our old timers. Frank Gonzol passed away last week after putting up a gallant fight against heart disease. After a quadruple by-pass he developed pneumonia and then his kidneys quit functioning. He finally succumbed in a nursing home not far removed from his beloved Lyl. Frank fought the good fight with the same courage and stamina that he exhibited during the hostilities of the forties. I shall miss him. Frank was instrumental in establishing the first CP with me at the Philadelphia Hilton back in '77. He didn't miss many reunions as he was extremely proud of having served with you men. Jack Finnigan and I paid him a visit the day after his surgery. Then a week or so later Lucy and I visited him. Frank didn't look good then, and he had a foreboding of approaching death then, but he faced it like a man. It is a tribute to him that, though he didn't welcome the approach of his final travail, neither did he back off one little bit. He will be missed by all whose life he has touched.

George King called last week to report that he had just returned from visiting his daughter Mollie in Charlotte. He left the spring blooms of North Carolina to be greeted by snow and ice as he landed at the Albany airport an hour and a half later. George informs me that he will be in Lake Placid accompanied by his grandson. Except for an old ulcer kicking in now and then George finds himself in good health.

I spoke with Paul Giarraputo a couple days ago, and he sounded hale and hearty. Paul regrets that he will not be able to attend the reunion this year, but he asked to be remembered to all you good men. Paul's Anne remains in a nursing home, and Paul misses her sorely. Fortunately his sister lives nearby and he dines with her daily. We had a good conversation recalling fond memories of Sidney Glick, Harold Ginsburg, Slatnick and others of those great mortar teams.

I understand that George Gaynor has been on sick call. Get well soon - George.

Everything seems to be in order for the CP which once again will be a joint affair with E Company. George Brown stopped by yesterday with his lovely bride and dropped off the remains of the booze from the San Antonio reunion. George and Jan won't be in Lake Placid this year as they'll be going to Normandy for the ceremonies there. We were able to talk George and Jan into going to dinner with us despite their protestations. It seems that George is always in a hurry as he passes through New Jersey, barely taking the time to make a short pit stop before speeding on his way to his old homestead in Freehold, N.Y. It was good visiting with this great couple again. George certainly has been a great addition to our CP.

I must make this letter brief so I can get it posted to reach Dan before he departs for parts unknown next week. We hope to see you good people in June at Lake Placid.

**Reunion 1994
Lake Placid
June 9, 10, 11**

TO "B" (47TH) OR NOT TO "B"

This is the last column before our Placid Reunion, with not too much to report, as I haven't heard from anyone else about attending. However, I hope we get a good turnout. With a price that covers room and meals, we should get a large crowd to come. Last time, we had close to one thousand at Lake Placid and everyone enjoyed the Reunion. Of course that was about 12 years ago. A lot of you from the east coast can drive, as it is not too far. So come on out and have a great time seeing your old buddies. I recently received a couple of letters and a 'phone call from Ron Birkes, whose father was **James Birkes**, who was our 1st Sergeant at Fort Bragg, and in North Africa, until he was wounded. He would like to know what happened to Joseph White, who was one of his runners. Anyone who knows Joe's whereabouts, please let me know, or write to: Ron Birkes, P.O. Box 3403, Temple, Texas 76505. He also sent me a Company B Roster, that was made up March 23, 1943. I'll bring it to Lake Placid, so all you old timers can see it. I had fun looking at the names, trying to remember the faces, and what happened to them. James Birkes, our oldest 1st Sergeant, is not in good health so his son writes to me. He also believes he was awarded the Silver Star in North Africa at El Guettar, but never received it. Any help on this matter would be very appreciated by Sgt. Birkes. Lt. Troy Cerzine was with him at the time, but fell and broke his leg. Since he was the only Officer around, any information regarding the Lieutenant may help him get his medal. Please write to me or Ron Birkes if you know anything about this. Ellie and I are looking forward to Lake Placid, and hope to see a great turnout. Till then.

Joe Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621
(201) 385-5280

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

No meeting since our last newsletter. We are waiting for our snowbirds to come up in May and we will hold our next meeting. This will be at our Mini-Reunion in Madison, Wisconsin on May 13th and 14th at the Ramada Inn. At that time we will have election of officers and will report the results in our next issue. We will also make plans for the Memorial Day services.

Meanwhile, we are happy to report some good news. We hear that Bob and Georgia Winkelman drove in from Florida in March to welcome their new grandson, Shaun Harrison Kuppen, son of Debbie and John and brother of Jason. Congratulations!

We are happy to announce that our family is growing also. Our son, Michael was married this past December. After all these years, we are now home alone. Our youngest daughter, Linda, gave birth to a boy, Jake Michael, on January 30th. Our oldest daughter, Luann, gave birth to a boy, Mark Donald, on April 6th. This was her third child and we now have a total of four grandchildren. Happy to report all are doing well and we are all keeping busy.

I plan on visiting Melvin Jaggi in Verona, Wisconsin when we go to Madison in May.

All plans are go for the reunion in Lake Placid in June. Hope to see you all there.

Respectfully,
Mike and Ann Belmonte
1161 S. Lombard
Oak Park, Illinois 60304

39th Inf. D Co.

EDWARD LEWIS
1351 Bal Moral Ave.
Westchester, IL 60154

I am sorry for the delay in sending in my dues, but I was in the process of moving and I just forgot.

Please continue sending me the association's paper.

Sorry for the handwriting as I have arthritis in my hands.



Company E 47th Inf shown waiting for chow in Scheyer, Germany in late May or early June, 1945.



Pictured in the closing days of the War from left to right - Harris, Miles, Cook and Hart of th 2nd Ptl. E Company 47th Inf after the platoon returned from a patrol across the Mulde River when they tried to contact the Russians.

Liberation of Belgium

Members interviewed

Dear Dan,

I wanted to express my gratitude to you for the opportunity to go with William Klauz, company commander of B Company in the 47th Regiment. We met on Monday, April 4, with Andre Zaleski, a television commentator from Belgium, who interviewed us on the fighting and liberation in Belgium. Bill, who remained with the military is now a retired Colonel, and actually made the entire trip across Belgium, and also in the Bulge, but he had had hardly any contact at all with the Belgium civilian population. However, he had amazing, fascinating stories to tell about the campaign in Belgium.

One of the most fascinating stories was that in crossing the Meuse at 3 o'clock in the morning they got into their boats and got off on the "other side of the river." They then discovered when the sun came up that they were on an island. They had to return to the French side and move several miles north, and cross over behind another American unit which had already crossed. He also commented on losing about half the company in Belgium in an intense fire fight.

I actually was billeted in Belgium when I first came up as a replacement, and arrived on the front just inside Germany on October 22, 1944. My next adventure in Belgium was to be following the battle for Frenzerberg Castle. Since only 35 of us were left in K Company, we went on three-day passes to Verviers. I had the good fortune to socialize with some of the Belgians, who were extremely lovely and friendly people. I also had the chance to have a haircut in Belgium, which was one of the best haircuts I have ever had. It is obvious that barbering is a great profession there. My next adventure was at Malmédy, where we went into the Belgian Army Camp to replace our losses and bring our company strength up to about 135 men. We had a day or two of maneuvers there, and then went back on the front in Germany, supposedly on the road to Cologne and/or Duren. However, on December 15 I was transferred from the 60-mm mortar section to being a medic. So the day before the Bulge began I went to the regimental headquarters aid station for a three-day first aid course. I was 19 years old at this time.

On December 16 we were rushed down to the Ardennes Forest in Belgium, on the north corner of the Bulge. That is where I saw my first patients whom I ever treated medically. Most of them were German paratroopers who were surrendering. As I mentioned in an earlier article, we had the good fortune to capture Colonel Van der Heydt as one of the very first prisoners. He was anxious to cooperate with us as much as possible. He helped in bringing his men in for surrender. I did not have any contact with him, but this is what I have gleaned from others after the war was over.

I was in the Ardennes Forest in Belgium for about eleven days because of the intense fighting around us. We then moved on to Kalterherberg, and I then moved on the front line with K company, second platoon, as medic with Captain Bill McWaters and Sgt. Steve Miltich. Those were exciting times. The company was producing an average of three or four casualties every day, so that you could count on the company of approximately 125 men more or less replaced every month.

Andre Zaleski, who is a television commentator and journalist in Belgium, interviewed us each for about ten minutes with a Belgian television crew, using Times Square as a backdrop. We were interviewed in the Renaissance Hotel, which is on the north side of Times Square overlooking it, at 48th St.

It was great to have these fond memories of our wonderful guys in the Ninth.

Sincerely,
George Nicklin, M.D.

6 Butler Place
Garden City, L.I., N.Y. 11530-4603

Btry 60th F.A.

MELVIN O. JAGGI
1643 Fritz Rd. #R8
Verona, WI 53593

I am Melvin-O-Jaggi from Verona, Wisconsin and I am a life member. I had Mike Belmonte sign me up a few years ago. I like to say hi to all the buddies of the Btry "A" 60th F.A. Bn. and of the ninth. I came to Ft. Bragg in Aug. 6 or 7 of 1941 and went to North Africa and Sicily and to England. I left England in mid Jan. 1944. Why I go to go home was my father got killed on the farm in a haying accident. My mother sent in papers to the Ninth Div. to come home to help on the farm. I signed the papers when we were in Sicily. I have a farm 157 a. and two houses on it. My wife passed on in Oct. 14, 1983. Have three children and three grandchildren. I am 75+ and, semi-retired. Part time I go to the neighbor and help him repair small engines. He has a small engine shop. We fix lawn mowers, snow blowers, chain saws, weed eaters and lawn tractors. That's about it.

Co K 47th Inf.

G Co 47th Hq. Co.

SPENCER NORWOOD
635-30th. Ave. W. #211F
Bradenton, Florida 34205

Enclosed you will find a check for 3 more years association dues. Not sure if I will be here that long, but who knows.

I had open heart surgery, in January. It left me weak and tired.

I want to report the death of a 47th Reg. Hq. I. and R. platoon member. He was Lawrence Dalton Martin.

I have enjoyed reading "Red Phillips" books about our Tunisian battles. I learned a lot. Most of the time a lot of us never knew what was going on 100 yds. away.

I was with the 47th from Bragg to Dachau. Either in Reg. Hq. Co. or C. Co. Hi to all the fellows out there I used to be with. A lot have left us already.

A big thanks to Dan and anyone else who is keeping the Octofoil, a big success
Good luck.

Deadline for next issue July 20th

Greater New York Area Chapter Report

The NY chapter held its monthly meeting at the Masonic Hall, 71 W. 23rd St., New York City on Friday, April 15, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. (Because of a bout with "shingles" this scribe was not able to attend and report on the February and March meetings.)

Chapter president Al Zenka called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance to our flag and a prayer for world peace by resident chaplain George Apar. A moment of silence was held in respect and memory of 9th departed comrades in war and since.

The first order of business was Treasurer Charlie Vandermark's financial report. The chapter's financial condition on the whole was good. Because Charlie had attended the previous two meetings he read some notes he jotted down as substitute minutes for the absent recording secretary, yours truly, who was substituting for Secretary Art Schmidt, who was hospitalized again for refitting a new prosthetic leg. (Art should be in his new home by the time this report is seen. His new address is 89-12 Doran Ave., Glendale NY 11385.) Charlie then read some correspondence from Lou Almassy and Milton Haas.

Memorial Service

Following the reports Prez Zenka discussed preparations for our annual Memorial Service at the National Cemetery in Farmingdale, Long Island on May 21. Beginning at 10:30 a.m. we will march from the parking lot along the Boulevard of Flags to the memorial assembly area where an Octofoil floral wreath will be placed at the main flag pole to honor our 4,581 comrades who gave their lives in World War II. Following the memorial service we will travel a few miles to Bethpage State Park where 9thmen will have a picnic with food and beverages provided by the chapter. As in the past, we have had a fine turnout of 9thmen at previous ceremonies and picnic, including many who have come from 100 miles or more, in and out of state. If readers of this report haven't attended this Memorial

Service you are urged to do so where you will meet many of your old 9th buddies — and many of the ladies who attend.

On general new business Prez Zenka showed a newspaper clipping on the letter-bomb explosion that severely injured Mrs. Alice Caswell of Brooklyn, NY, on April 5, 1994, noting that deceased 9th comrade and former Association president Norman Caswell was her husband. We're sure expressions of get-well wishes would be welcomed by Alice and her family from 9th buddies and friends.

Exhibition Planned

Also, on new business, member Aaron Lubin brought up to date the planned 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Normandy exhibition proposed by the Main Branch Queens Library in Jamaica, NY in May and June. Headed up by Mrs. Lubin, a formal request will be made to chapter members to donate souvenirs and memorabilia to the exhibition. (This artist-writer has offered copies of his wartime drawings of the Cherbourg Campaign for the exhibit.)

Perpetuity

Other new business included some discussion of the issue of the 9th Infantry Division Association's "perpetuity" in the coming years. (See John Miller's proposal elsewhere in the Octofoil.) In closing we hope to see you all at the Lake Placid Reunion in June.

The meeting was adjourned and we all partook of refreshments provided by Tony DeRobertis and Prez Zenka. Attending, not mentioned above by name: Saul Bernstein, Anton Dietrich, Vincent Guglielmino, Jack Holuboff, Mary Levy, Al Lipton, Al Lubrano, Dan Quinn and Ed Winsch. Remember to pay your dues! NY Chapter dues are \$10 per year, \$25 for 3 years and \$75 for Lifetime Membership. Make checks payable to "Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Ass'n." Send to Treasurer Charles Vandermark, 38 Miller Avenue, Floral Park, NY 11001-3325. (Tel. 516-352-7360)

Marv Levy
Co A 60th Infantry
2044 Ellen Drive
Merrick, NY 11566

47th Inf

AL BRAVIN
420 Fairview Ave.
Fort Lee, N.J. 07024

Due to the fact that I was ill and could not travel to an army post to be awarded a medal for heroism in action. Washington was kind enough to send Gen. Starling, Capt. Kenney and a photographer to my home. Hope you have room in the Octofoil for this picture.

Does anyone know what happened to McCoy from K Company. I took care of him when a shell landed near the kitchen truck. He is in the second picture.

60th Inf. B co.

JOHN LAMMIE
3636 Cantrell St.
New Port Richey, FL 34652

I am sending a check for dues and put the rest in The Memorial Fund. I was in Co "B" 60th Inf. Enjoy reading the Octofoil. I notice once in a while some of the guys I knew write an article.

I am sorry I must miss the reunion. My wife died on Nov. 23, 1993. And to make matters worse I am no longer allowed to drive as I am losing my eye sight. So best wishes to all and keep up your great work.

60th Inf. F Co.

Earl Lees
1280 Morris Ave.
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642

Enclosed please find a check for three years for the membership for the 9th Infantry Division Association.

We hope you folks had a little milder winter than we did here in Pa. In fact we were having snow flurries this a.m.

Earl and I and our friend had a good time in San Antonio, TX. We drove down and came back with the intention of seeing Branson, MO. When we stopped at the information center she couldn't give any guarantee — we could get an accommodation as it was the Ozark Craft & Festival days. So maybe we can go on a bus trip sometime.

Christmas came soon and spent it with son and grandchildren in Ohio. With '94 being ushered in came the snow. Lots of it, cold -22° below and Earl was admitted to hospital. So since he was admitted again February and March. He had a series of Radiation and chemotherapy. So at the moment I haven't sent the reservation in for Lake Placid till after 4/19 as he will get chemo again and will see how he perks up. We sure hope we will be able to go.

Keep up the good work Dan.

Taps Sounded

*There is no death! The stars go down
To rise upon some other shore.
And bright in Heaven's jeweled crown
They shine forevermore.*

*And ever near us, though unseen
The dear immortal spirits tread:
For all the boundless universe
Is Life—there are no dead!*

Taps Sounded

Frank Gonzol
F Co. 47th Inf.
Howard Brooks
C Co. 47th Inf.
Walter Hickey
G & H Co. 47th Inf.
Angelo Rinchiuso
9th Med.
Donald Crawford
I co. 39th Inf.
Martin "Doc" Flynn
Med Det. 47th Inf. Hq Co.
John Burke
39th Inf
Frank Dickenson
Hqs. Co. 15th Engrs.
Lawrence D. Martin
Hqs. 47th
Grace Gravino
Wife of Jos. Gravino
B Co. 39th
Jess Davis
34th F.A.
Lora Konigsle
Wife of Alfred
47th D Co.
Lawrence Martin
47th Inf. C Co.
Matthew Klosek
47th Inf. M Co.
Edward Heuston
84th FA.
Earl W. Johanning
Co. I Co. 47th Inf.
Carl McQueeney

39th Inf G Co.

OLIDO STARRO
3 Spring Rd.

Yonker, N.Y. 10705

Enclosed find dues for 3 yrs. and Memorial Fund donation.

Still looking for Mike Passerale and Frank Trani since 1960-1994.

JOHN and DOLORES BAUMAN

The enclosed is for the Memorial Fund in memory of Grace Gravino wife of Joe Grovino, "Co B" 39th Inf. Col. Oscar Thompson "Co B" Commander.

See you in June at Lake Placid.

H.Q. and B. Co.

15th Eng. Bn.
RICHARD C. MCGRATH
2856 West 85th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60652

Check for the Memorial Fund in memory of all deceased members of the 15th Engineer Battalion.

Look forward to seeing you and all the good, "Old Reliabilities" at Lake Placid.

Co-D-47th

RONALD FRANK
RD #1 Box 82
Leechburg, Pa. 15656

Just a note to say all is well at our house. Enclosed is payment for dues for 3 yrs. Time sure does fly by quickly. Didn't realize I was late. Does anyone know the address of Ray "Goldie" Golden lost track of him when he left district. He was headed south to Calif.- Ariz. area to live that was in the 80s.

Take care, God Bless.

THE FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FL CHAPT. TO HOST 50TH REUNION – During the Florida Chapter Meeting, Phil Berman and Emil De Donato outlined the preliminary details of the 1995 National Reunion to be held on May 25 to 28, 1995 at the Clarion Hotel in New Orleans, LA.

Phil Berman, Chairman, stated that this undertaking is going to require a good deal of hard work and support from the Florida Chapter members in order to make this Golden Anniversary Reunion a memorable and a fun loving time.

Emil De Donato explained the Promotional Program. In addition to the OCTOFOIL he stressed the importance of getting the word around by the members of the Florida Chapter and also the co-operation by members of the other Chapters.

Details regarding reservations and other information will be printed in future issues of the OCTOFOIL. Anyone seeking information prior to receiving the OCTOFOIL please contact either Phil Berman, 322 Bucknell Dr. Daytona Beach, FL 32118, Phone: 904/677-7292 or Emil De Donato, 3650 S. W. Mosswood St. Dunnellon, FL 34431 Phone: 904/489-4070.

REGIMENTAL & OTHER UNIT PINS AVAILABLE – Requests for different unit Army pins have been coming to my office. I have located a supplier and will take orders for the following units only: 39th, 47th & 60th Regiments; 26th, 60th, 84th & Division Artilleries; 15th Engineers; 9th Inf. lapel button pin and the 15th Engineers money clip. The supply is limited on the 15th Eng. pins and regarding the others...as they say in the automobile commercials: "when they're gone...they're gone." **SEND NO MONEY** Just your desire to have them. I will reply with cost information and the approximate time of delivery. Contact: Emil J. De Donato. **CAP PROGRAM:** We have a quantity of ALL WHITE and BLUE & WHITE 9th Division Caps for sale priced at \$8.50 each plus \$1.50 for Handling & Postage (Total \$10.00). To order state color, quantity wanted and a check to: Emil J. De Donato, 3650 S.W. Mosswood St. Ph: 904/489-4070. (NO CREDIT CARDS PLEASE)

IN MEMORIAM – We mourn the death of Walter Hickey who passed away on June 15, 1993. Walter lived in Hernando, FL. He served with both G & H Companies of the 47th Infantry, was wounded, confined to a wheel chair. He attended National & Chapter meetings together with his wife despite his handicap. May the Lord watch over him.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER CHANGES – In order to save time, work and expense, all Florida Chapter Members are asked to update their own copy of the roster "EFFECTIVE Feb. 1, 1994" Every member should have received their copy in the March 16, 1994 mailing.

Please make the following changes:

Bowen, Wm C. Jr-deceased 9/91

Dodd, Wilbur-Add "Villa #3401" to address

Hickey, Walter-deceased 6/15/93

Megla, Wm J-Add "Bill" & "S W" substitute 47Inf for 39th

Pelligrino, Anthony-Substitute "Antonio" for Anthony

Sapp, Jack-delete from roster-address unknown

Sareyane, Spiro-change address to "716 W. Lescot Ct."

Varcoe, Wm.-Add "P O Box 493421" Change zip to 34749-3421

Other changes will be noted in future OCTOFOIL issues. Anyone wishing an extra copy or any National member wishing a copy of the Florida Membership Roster, send \$1.00 in a self-addressed, 29 cent stamped #10 envelope to Emil J. De Donato. Please send in any roster changes to Emil J. De Donato or LeRoy Miller.

SPACE SHUTTLE STS-62/COLUMBIA – Norris Gray, a member of the Florida Chapter, who is employed as a consultant by NASA, sent in a full color reproduction of the STS-62 insignia. The Space Shuttle Columbia is the world's first reusable spacecraft. It recently made its sixteenth flight to outer space where its main purpose was to study various science and engineering experiments. Norris Gray usually attends the Chapter as well as the National Reunions. Ask to meet Norris...he may even arrange a free pass for you on the tour bus at Cape Kennedy.

V F W RETIREMENT HOME – Less than three years ago the V F W built a beautiful Retirement Home in Ft. Mc Coy, FL. This is not a government sponsored or financed project. In fact, 1.5 million dollars was raised by VFW fund raisers throughout Florida to build this sprawling complex. Some of the eligibility requirements for residency to this V F W Home are:

1. Be a Florida V F W member of its Ladies Auxiliary in good standing. Out of state V F W members and V F W Auxiliary members must transfer to Florida V F W.
2. Must be able to care for themselves.
3. Must be able to attend to their personal needs.
4. Must be able to dress themselves.
5. Must be able to attend general dining facility.
6. Must be a Veteran with Honorable Service. Members of V F W Ladies Auxiliary are exempt from this request.

Audrey and I visited this facility and were taken on a guided tour. We found it most interesting for a veteran who wants to maintain his own freedom to come and go as he pleases and yet live within a reasonable monthly cost. You are cordially invited to see this complex. Contact Martin Feinberg, Director, V F W Home; P.O. Box 2040, FT Mc Coy, FL 34473 for complete information found in "COME LIVE AT OUR HOME" and directions.

Emil J. De Donato
3650 S. W. Mosswood St.
Dunnellon, FL 34431
FL Chapt. Pub Rel. Officer

47th Inf. M Co
LOUIS A. LA CIVITA
32 Brisk Avenue
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

On Sunday December 5, 1993, I had the distinct honor of helping to induct a 9th Division hero into the "Hall of Valor" of the "Soliders and Sailors Memorial Hall" of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

When I was asked to officiate at the ceremony, I was not cognizant of the identity of the recipient, thinking that it was to be just part of the Pearl Harbor Day Program.

Imagine my surprize and extra feeling of pride when I found out that the man we were honoring was a member of the 47th Division.

I am enclosing a copy of the programme so that you can extract the wording of his citation perhaps can use the information for a story in one of your future issues.

As you can see, 1st Sgt. Karnak was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, June 22, 1944 in the Cherbourg France area.

Sgt. Karnak's address is as follows:

Mr. Charles Karnak
234 Broadway Drive
Pittsburgh, PA. 15236

I'm sure he would like to hear from some of his old buddies, and also get an application for the association.

P.S. at the same program, I ran into another 9th Division vet who would like an application.

Mr. Edard W. Hoffman
2434 Brownsville Road Apt #1
Pittsburgh, PA, 15210

Hq. Co. 39th & F Co 60th
GEORGE PEDRICK
2302 Riddle Ave.
Wilmington, De. 19806

I was saddened to read in the Octofoil of the passing of Oscar Thompson. I had the privilege of serving with Oscar when he was S-3 2nd Bn 39th and I was S-1. Oscar was an outstanding soldier and as fine a gentleman as I have ever known. I can understand how the men of B Co 39th thought so highly of him and I'm sure the men of 1st Bn 39 must have felt the same way when he became Bn C.O. He was a really great guy.

I kept looking for the red ink and I'm glad you mentioned about the number above the name. Dues for 3 years enclosed and also a small contribution to the Memorial Fund in Oscar's name. I read the Octofoil from cover to cover as soon as it arrives. I was surprised to see three letters from Delaware in the last issue.

The service you render to the Association is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks.

84th FA.
OCTAVIAN GANSCA
412 Meek St.
Sharon, PA 16146

Enclosed check for 2 yrs. dues. Rec'd a letter from Harry Wells of Oklahoma. Was very surprised to hear from him and also very glad. Remember him in our outfit. Hear regularly from Nick Labecki, always glad to hear from Dick O'Connor and Sam Rahinson. This weather has really played havoc with my back and legs. Guess old age is really catching up to me. Compared with others I guess I'm not so bad off. Hope I can make the next reunion at Lake Placid. Sorry to be so late in sending my dues. Send my best to all the men in the 9th.

B Co., 47th Inf.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE W. BENTLEY, JR.
P.O. Box 206
39 Landola Dr. N.W.
Conyers, Ga. 30207

It has been so long since we've been in touch with you all. Last time we were at a Reunion was Nashville, Tenn. Hope all are doing well. Don't know how George stands on dues of the 9th Div., Octofoil, etc. I know by reading that a lot of the folks lives have really been changing right and left. So many of the loved ones have passed away.

As for George Jr. and I we're plugging along slow but sure. He has his various trips for different things at the VA Hospt. Having triple by pass surgery in July 1990, he's had a cataract removed and a lens implant. Also newer more modern hearing aids. Then new glasses a few months after eye lens implant. He still makes "Peg Board Games" for Veterans Hospitals, etc. Our son George II sponsors so many things and so one of his Little League Baseball Teams, well "Big George" was rather a very good assistant coach with the 5 and 6 yrs. old. He taught them how to bat the ball, many other things, plus hold them and "petting them" when they cried, and told them they were doing super. Gave him something to do and they loved him. They gave him a special "Party Thanks" at their award ceremony. He made them each a trophy. He made them, stained them, glued on a miniature glove and baseball and the ABC Awards gave him a large discount on little plates to go on them. So that was a boast to the boys and 1 girl that they were all winners. He'll soon be doing it again this year. Plus for 3 yrs. making and selling Tomahawks of Atlanta Braves.

I 39th Inf
JAMES BENANE
14 Mockingbird Ct.
Novato, CA 94947

As I wrote the date it reminded me that it was 49 years ago that I was wounded between Remagen and the Autobahn. It was also the day that the bridge collapsed. Anyway here are my dues for another three years and a contribution to the Memorial Fund in memory of my Radio Operator, Donald Crawford from Mahoningtown, Pennsylvania.

I asked California for #939 for my purple heart license plate but they would not issue it until the first 938 had been sold so I waited and I finally got it.

There aren't many 9th Division vets in Northern California but I do have occasional contact with Phil Lones, my Company Commander in Cannon Co.

At 76 I'm still working selling real estate. I must say life has been kind to me. Incidentally I also served in the 2nd, 5th and 6th Infantry Divisions but none compared to the 9th. We were the best!

All the best to 9th vets everywhere.



50th Anniversary Trip to Normandy

As stated in previous copies of the Octofoil this association was not sponsoring a 50th Anniversary Trip to Normandy but many of our members will be attending. We believe some 35 people have signed up with Galaxy Tours, 997 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 207, Box 234, Wayne, Pa 19087 to make the trip. The trips are strictly by the individuals and the Association is not responsible in any way for the actions of Galaxy Tours.

Co. A. 60th
JOHN R. TAPIA
326 S. Mt. Vernon Ave.
Prescott, AZ. 86303

Major John R. Tapia, a former Co. A, 60th man, now at Fort Douglas, Utah, writes Secretary Quinn, in part, as follows:

Dear Dan: Have enjoyed reading The Octofoil and seeing old familiar names.

I served as an enlisted man in Co. A, 60th. After the war and discharge from the service I returned to the University of Arizona from where I was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant, Cavalry, and subsequently called to active duty with the 70th Tank Bn. at Fort Knox in 1948. When I reported to the Battalion and entered the Headquarters Building I heard a familiar voice reverberating thru the corridors. On closer examination I discovered the voice belonged to my old platoon leader in Co. A. Unfortunately, soon afterwards, (a matter of days), he was transferred and I was unable to trade war stories. Later on while I was commanding a company in the 82nd Airborne Division I was informed that an inspecting officer had noted my name on the morning chart and had stated "that's the guy we couldn't kill during World War II." You guessed it, my old platoon leader. I was a scout in the platoon. I swear that he would watch us until we dug our two-man trench to suit our personalities and then would immediately send us on patrol. At the moment I can't recall his name.

34th F.A.
LEON BIRUM
R.R. 1, Box 59
Union City, In. 47390

Enclosed is a check for three years dues and the remainder to go to the Memorial Fund, in memory of Jesse Davis. As several of the men have indicated, I had forgotten the dues until reading the latest issue of the Octofoil. It is always a great feeling of elation when I find the Octofoil in the mailbox. Great to read about the other 'old men' of the Ninth Division. Of course it's always good to see a letter from one of the 34th men.

I keep busy communicating with all my friends from the 34th. All my efforts in publishing Newsbooklets and organizing our first mini-reunion have been rewarded by phone calls and letters.

I just recently compiled some material from 1946 issues of the Saturday Evening Post and Life magazines and put into a booklet. This material consisted of five articles about General Bradley, one about the 9th Division, and other interesting information about WWII. Included also are some very exclusive pictures of battle-grounds.

For anyone interested, I would be willing to send one, with a small charge for copying and postage.

I have appointed an "advisory committee," to help me in organizing another Thirty Fourth Battalion reunion in 1995.

Thanks to all those that have kept the 9th Div. Assoc. going.

60th Inf. I Co.
MILTON HAAS
600 S. Lafayette St.
Millstadt, Il. 62260

I, the undersigned respectfully request reinstatement in the association. I was a member after returning from Europe and after several years kept up the dues but for reasons unknown I failed to pay and was dropped from the rolls.

I was a member of Company I 60th Regiment and was assigned while the Division Headquarters was in Eupen and remained with the company until about Dec. 10 or maybe a little longer when an old knee injury took its toll.

Prior to being shipped overseas I was a member of the 106th for about eleven months as a Battalion mechanic which abruptly ended when assigned to I Company. While there I soon was promoted to a Staff Sergeant squad leader. Oh! what a rude awakening. My time was so short I can only recall the names of Jim Bartlett from Ralls, Texas, Bob Haynes from Terre Haute, Indiana our Platoon Sergeant was Schroeder from West Virginia and was lost during my stay. It would be nice to perhaps locate a few others. Oh, Yes our Co. was Capt. Gatto from New York. during a VFW function it was my good fortune to meet Merton Taylor of Palatine, IL who had been a member of the Cannon Company in the 47th Regiment. Spotting his red, white and blue Octofoil I approached him and ask what unit he had been with and during our conversation he said he would send me one of his copies and that he did. I received the Nov-Dec 1993 issue a short time ago.

Enclosed find my check for dues, 60th History and two decals. Thank you for again allowing me to become a member of the great association of the 9th Infantry Division.

Co. B 60th Regt
JOHN CELLER
48 Grant Ave.
Stamford, Ct 06902

Thanks for reminder letting me know I am a little behind in dues. I wouldn't want to fall out of the association so just so it won't happen again, find check enclosed for three years membership.

Well we might have had a rough winter around here this year but those spent overseas in a foxhole makes you feel foolish to complain.

Remembering the frozen feet. You didn't dare take your booths off maybe you couldn't get them back on. The cure was a couple of aspirin from the medics if you could get to them. So no complaints from me.

I was fortunate enough to exchange some letters with my former company commander Grady Holman Jr., and he filled in a lot of the route we followed a lot of which I had forgotten. Thanks a lot Captain. I'll always remember him at Haven where we were awarded a company citation when he pointed the way forward with the cane he always walked with and said "Lets go Men" to the few of us that were left after the battle.

Wanted to say hello to all the "B" Co. men still around. Drop-a-line and most of all stay healthy and have a good year to all you members of the great Ninth Division.

**Reunion 1994
Lake Placid
June 9, 10, 11**

Co. E 47th Inf
JACK R. BLANN
11303 Valley Stream Drive
Houston, Texas 77043

Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the Octofoil. I look forward to its arrival and read every word in it, especially if it regards Company E, 47th Infantry. I attended my first reunion last year in San Antonio and it was an experience of a lifetime. I can't understand how I lost touch for 48 years. My wife, Lavonne, and I have both commented on the congeniality of the people that we met at the reunion. Everyone welcomed us with open arms. The reunion reinforced my belief that the 9th Division and its members were something special.

It was great to see the guys at the CP of E Company. Bill Mooty and the rest did a great job in making everyone feel welcome. Harry Kenney and I shared many of our wartime experiences and had a great time recalling various people and events. Harry was amazed that I remembered taking shelter behind the turnips near Geich. We got a big laugh out of that. There were dozens of recollections in a similar vein, some bringing laughter and some bringing sadness.

I have dozens of photographs that I took during the last campaign in Germany and I am sending a couple along with this letter. I would sure like to know if anyone had heard or knows how to reach any of the people in these photographs. I will be glad to share other photographs if anyone is interested.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Lake Placid.

A.T. 47th
B.V. RANDALL
4526 E. 104th St.
Tulsa, OK 74137

After reading MAIL CALL I find that I too am very late with my annual dues. Please bring me up to date with the enclosed check.

I was a member of AT Co. 47th Regiment. I joined this group at the German border fresh out of the Army ASTP program at 119 pounds and barely 19 years old. They called me "Hot Shot." Roger Gartland located me in Egypt about 1982 and got me to join this association. I correspond with him and George Remaley at Christmas. But I am concerned because I didn't get a reply from either of them this year.

L. Co. 47th Inf.
VESTAL LESTER
19631 Strathern St.
Reseda, Ca 91335.

Enclosed please find dues for three more years.

I ended up Company Commander of L Co., 47th, 9th Div. I lost my left leg at Bovenberg Farm 21 November 1944.

My residence is only a block and a half from the center of the Northridge Earth Quake. Luckily I had no structural damage to my home. Things are back to normal for us now.

A.T. 39th Inf.
JOSEPH BENZONI
224 County Rd.
Tenafly, N.J. 07670

Enclosed are my dues for the year - time flies and, I almost forgot them. I always look forward to the Octofoil - it brings back the memories of the war which are good & bad. Thank God for many things, a great many of us are still here and enjoying life.

I am looking forward to the reunion at Lake Placid - hope I can make it.

An Invitation from Belgium

The town of Beaumont, Belgium, is planning to unveil a monument in honor of a 47th Infantry soldier who was killed Sept. 3, 1944 while on a reconnaissance mission during the community's liberation from the Germans.

The ceremony is planned to coincide with the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

The soldier, Pvt. Dominick C. Gatto, 26, a resident of Bound Brook, NJ, was riding in a jeep when struck by fragments from a German artillery shell.

After searching for the body for two days, Chaplain Anthony DeLaura and a recon member were escorted by civilians to a modest home where Gatto's body lay on a stretcher, bedecked with bouquets of fresh-cut flowers.

His helmet and raincoat were arranged neatly at his feet, and a Belgian flag hung on the wall. Two members of the Belgian Resistance maintained a constant vigil.

Chaplain DeLaura

The mayor and the local priest informed Chaplain DeLaura that a community service was planned for that afternoon and asked for his cooperation.

Led by two altar boys carrying a cross, the cortege proceeded on the town's main street toward the church. Following in the procession were Chaplain DeLaura, the Belgian priest and his assistant, 40 young girls carrying flowers, two members of the Belgian resistance group blowing bugles, and the stretcher bearing Gatto, appropriately covered with an American flag. The town's population followed.

Pall Bearers

Pall bearers were Regimental Chaplain Richard W. Day, 36, Episcopal minister of Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.; his assistant, T/5 John E. McAdams, 25, of Route 3, Greensburg, Pa.; T/5 Emilio A. Franciosa, 25, of New York City, assistant to Chaplain DeLaura, and T/4 George E. Hutton, 25, of Harrisburg, Pa.

At the little Catholic church, the Belgian choir opened the service with the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner". Chaplain DeLaura, assisted by the two Belgian priests, celebrated Solemn Requiem High Mass, the Catholic Church's highest ceremony, and the choir sang the Belgian national anthem during the offertory.

Original plans called for burial the same afternoon, but it was delayed when it became known that civilians had started construction of a casket. The workmen were unable to complete it on time, however, because the Germans had destroyed the power plant, forcing them to do the job by hand.

So, the body was returned to its former resting place. The bugles sounded again and the flower girls silently filed past the stretcher, placing their bouquets on the fallen hero.

Left in care of the Belgian honor guard, Private Gatto was buried in an American cemetery the following day.

Invited To Visit

Former G.I.'s who participated in the liberation of Beaumont are invited to visit the community. For further details, write:

Mr. Jean Leotard
Rue du Seigneur, 18.
B. 5650 Clermont
Belgium

As a result of our request for information in the Nov.-Dec. 1993 Octofoil, we received some interesting details from John Kilpatrick of 25 Eton Place, Eatontown, NJ, who served as a radio operator with the 34th Field Artillery, attached at that time to the 47th.

He reported that he, in company with Lt. Donald Rankin and Cpl. Carl Bjorcklund entered Beaumont as residents staged a big liberation celebration in the town center.

Just In Time

The G.I.'s had arrived just in time, Kilpatrick recalled, as it had been reported that the residents were to be shipped to German camps the following day.

The shopkeepers opened their places of business and treated the American soldiers like visiting royalty. Music was provided by a Belgian who played "It's a Long Way to Tipperary", a World War I tune, on his trumpet.

During the celebration, Kilpatrick stated, members of the Belgian Resistance captured a young SS trooper and threatened to hang him in the town. But, the priest interceded and the enemy soldier was taken away by the MP's for interrogation.

Robert H. J. Dunn, 47th
527 Lakeview Drive
Swedesboro, NJ 08085



Tony Guttilla Co M 60th Inf sends this photo taken in Ft Bragg in Feb., 1941 when basic training was starting. Left to right top row: P. Greco, B. Rivera., A DELuke, E. Pappa, J. Modaffari, Tony, behind M/Gun, G. Semprivo and Charles Palmer.

Dedicated

Gentlemen in high exalted places,
Profiteers with happy, smiling faces,
And yonder housewife with a ration card,
I know life can be tough, conditions hard
But here's a tale of one, don't know his name
Or what he did or why or whence he came
I only know that now to show his loss
In some green field there stands a wooden cross.
His not to talk of profits — raise in pay,
Time off in which to gambol or to play
Or talk of all the things he could not buy
While other men went out to fight and die
But he along with others of his kind
Who left his home and all he loved behind
The one reward for his devotion true
Upon that cross inscribed, "He died for you."

Dedicated to Howard Mulrane, KIA in France, July 1944 by Aaron Lubin, 84th FA, 69-10 D 188 St., Fresh Meadows, NY 11365

ALRESFORD CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE
24 Broad Street • Alresford •
Telephone (0962) 732633 •
Fax: (0962) 732644
Hampshire, SO24 9AQ,
England

I write as Chairman of the Alresford (New Alresford) Chamber of Trade & Commerce.

Your name has been given to me by a colleague and I wonder whether you might be interested in the activities which are taking place in Alresford to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of D-Day on Sunday 5th June 1994.

As you probably know the Headquarters of the 9th Infantry division — 47th Infantry were 50 Broad Street, Alresford, Hampshire. Many American Troops were stationed in this area, close to Winchester, Hampshire and the South Coast prior to embarkation to Normandy.

I enclose for your information a copy of the brief history about the 47th US Infantry in Alresford.

I am sure you will appreciate we would very much like to try and locate some of the Veterans who were stationed near to or indeed in Alresford who are intending to come to the UK in June 1994 and might like to visit the Town and join in our event.

I shall be most interested to hear from you further and should you require any additional information please of course do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely
NICHOLAS M. KINGSFORD
Chairman, Alresford
Chamber of Trade & Commerce

47th Inf. Hqs.
EARL MOSEL
2015 Laurel Ave.
Eau Claire, Wi. 54701

Regarding the passing of Martin E. Flynn of Baltimore, Md. Marty served in the 47th Inf. Medical Detachment to Hqtrts. 47th, Infantry Regiment where he was more commonly known as "Doc" to Duane D. Olson and myself, both Sgts. in Regimental S-3. We were the best of friends.

M Company (47th) Chronicler

Dear Compadres:

I've decided on a title for the new book — **REMAGEN: Prelude to Victory**. That's progress I guess, but Mail Call has been keeping me very busy. Also, I've had a subsidiary notion.

Over the years I've read in **The Octofoil** complaints from our guys who have been back to Remagen that there are commemorative plaques at the military museum there from every outfit but ours. The 9th Armored, 78th and 99th Divisions are all represented as well as the American Battle Monuments Commission. I've looked into what is involved and it seems quite do-able and would probably cost about \$2,000. If this kind of money isn't in the pot now, it ought to be easy enough to raise. Hope to have this on the agenda at Lake Placid.

Meanwhile, Chester Jordan of K/47, an architect who was headed there in May anyway, is going to check it out and then make suggestions about design etc.

Taking much time is trying to develop correspondents in every battery, company and troops of the 9th, plus attachments, and there are still a lot of vacancies. If I've written and you weren't at Remagen or simply don't remember anything, drop me a card and say so. If you were there and want to play, let me know your phone no., rank/job, and we'll figure out later what you can tell me that would be helpful. I have scads of blank places on the organization chart and I need to know who commanded the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 60th Infantry, also the 26th FA Bn.

EYE-WITNESS

I've had many eye-witness reports of the first German jets, the V1 and V2 explosions, and everyone in the bridgehead must have been looking the right direction when that Great Bridge went down. What I need are more reports of small unit combat and even rear echelon routine, like getting the rations up and the casualties back. I want to know more of the leadership styles of General Craig and the regimental and battalion as these came across to those under them.

One of the things that make Remagen such a great topic is that on both sides the battle developed in a completely improvised manner. To use an old-fashioned term it was a "meeting engagement". There was precious little advance intelligence. Each side was looking for the enemy, to find, fix and finish him.

CRITICAL HOURS

In those first most critical hours after the bridge had been seized, and as the reinforcing U.S. battalions were arriving as trucks could be found to bring them to Remagen, General Craig and his staff were feeding these units into the bridgehead according to what was perceived as the greatest threat. Niceties, like boundaries and keeping units together, came later.

It was the same on the other side. Here the 9th was facing an old foe, Lt. Gen. Fritz Bayerlein, once Rommel's chief of staff and later CG of the Panzer Lehr Division, whose 25 July '44 counter-attack against us in Normandy will be recalled by all who were there. He was one of their best. But the enemy had taken a thorough beating in the Ardennes and since on the Cologne Plain. What was left was committed to the bridgehead battle in ad hoc, screwed up fashion made even more so by superior U.S. air and artillery power. Again, it was improv-time and a very bloody mess resulted when the opposing sides collided.

Possibly, what saved the day for our side was the morale factor. The rocking and creaking Remagen bridge was not in itself very impressive and surely the fast-moving and wide Rhine river and the high ground beyond were most forbidding to our very worn-out guys approached Remagen. But, no one needed an I&E, lecture to comprehend what it meant to be able to walk or run across this obstacle. It was obvious that the door was open. There was light at the end of the tunnel.

It was just as obvious on the other side where it had the opposite effect on morale. Some of the German units were as tough as they had ever been, but there were fewer in the ranks. For the most part, those on-coming units were second-rate and made up of poorly trained kids and old geezers, the beat-up turned out early from their hospital beds, or retreaded fly-boys and other REBs. Our very presence on the east bank of the Rhine was devastating at every level but mostly at the point of those reinforcing gray-clad columns.

It would be gross oversimplification to suggest that our side prevailed just because our advance guards were sharper than theirs, but space is getting short and I'll start to wrap up this letter with that wild assumption.

But first, one more question on which I need help. I have learned that during the Remagen period General Craig was visited by Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis who was General Marshall's expert on the use of black manpower. This meeting led to the so-called "Fifth Platoon Experiment" (see p. 366, **Eight Stars**). The question is — did the experiment begin in the bridgehead or later. Eyewitnesses please advise.

Well amigos, please keep those cards and letters coming. They keep the juices flowing and me going. See you at Lake Placid.

Red Phillips
14002 Hemlock Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946

SEEKING

I would like to put a notice in your Octofoil Newspaper requesting men who knew my father to write me.

My father — M/Sgt. Andrew Jackson Parker Sr. Serial No. 6838956. Served with the 3rd Army 9th Inf. Div. when it was stationed at Ft. Bragg 1940 -

1942? And went to North Africa with that unit. He was in the Quartermaster (I believe).

My name is Estelle Styron, RR 2, Box 158, Fugoay-Varina, NC 27526.

Thank you
Estelle Parker Styron

MAIL CALL

Hdqs. Co., 2nd BN 47th Inf.
HOWARD FITZPATRICK
17 Overdale Dr.
Louisville, KY 40229

Haven't written to you for some time now. I have been bad sick since the first of the year. Had heart trouble in the hospital for about a month. But I am doing a lot better now. But I am still taking a lot of medication for my heart. My legs are bad, I have arthritis in them both. I have trouble walking at times. I am now 77 years old. My wife, Hazel waits on me like I am a baby. I just don't know how I could do without her. I know I am a lot of trouble for he. But I don't want to be. I try and help her out all I can. Don't look as though I can make it to the 9th Division Reunion this summer. But I always look forward to reading about in the Octofoil newspaper which I am still receiving. My wife and I really enjoy reading it. I received the book Sedjenane the Pay Off Battle written by Henry Gerard Phillips. I have read it over about two or three times. It is all about the fighting in Sedjenane. It is a great book and anyone that hasn't got one, should write to Henry Gerard Phillips for one.

I saw a paragraph about our outfit in the book. We were moving up one day when we began receiving machine gun fire from a German machine gun. I was in the 2nd squad anti-tank platoon, 47th Inf. at the time. We were ordered to try and knock the machine out. Lt. Russo was my Officer. We fired a few rounds at them and knocked the machine out. After that we moved on up. This is all in the book, Sedjenane the Pay Off Battle by Henry Gerard Phillips. I would like to receive the book about the fighting in ElGuettar written by Red Phillips. Anyone who has any information please let me know. I would like to have the book. Well, keep up the good work that you are doing for the 9th Division.

47th Inf. D. Co.
ALFRED KONGSLIE
Box 463
Tulelake, California 96134

During the past year my wife and I had planned to attend the "94" reunion. As in the past, my wife Lora faithfully sent letters at Christmas to many of my old buddies. She always did this task very early, as was the case this year. Sadly though, Lora passed away unexpectedly, soon after Christmas and our wedding anniversary. She is extremely missed.

I am happy to say, however, that our son Lon and I plan to see you at the "94" reunion. I hope it will be possible to meet old friends that served with me from Camp Wheeler, Georgia, Africa Landing, Sicily, England and throughout Europe, until discharged from the 9th at McCoy, Wisconsin. It is my hope to locate old buddies prior to arriving in Lake Placid. If you could be of assistance in helping me locate these friends, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for any assistance you may be able to lend and look forward to seeing everyone in June.

**Reunion 1994
Lake Placid
June 9, 10, 11**

Co. D 47th Inf
IRWIN DUPUY
12233 N. Yorkdale Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA. 70811

I have been hearing that "Red" Phillips book "Sedjenane," was a must read and I wished I would have ordered it long ago. I will put his book next to my copy of "El Guettar," which I treasure.

On page 36 of "El Guettar" he put my name in print. Something that has never happened, that is a bonafide book with my name in it.

You know if my recruiting sergeant wouldn't have made a mistake on June 1942 I could be caput. Anyway at that time I was young and times wasn't the best it could be I went to the old state capitol to enlist in the service. Friends told me I was doing the right thing and by enlisting I would receive "Lagniappe," which as a boy we expected the grocery man to give us a jelly bean which was his appreciation for us making our purchases with him.

Anyway that wasn't to happen, but let me continue my story. He told me that there wasn't any openings in the Air Force or the Navy etc. But the Infantry was needing men. Now imagine in June 1942, no one needed men except for the Infantry. So, I joined the Infantry. I was sent to New Orleans, then Alexandria, La. Then to Macon Georgia for 13 weeks of basic training. After about ten weeks of training some officers from Fort Bragg visited our Battalion and began to call some names. Why was my name called? I went to the gym and was told I was in the Parachute Infantry. What? I wasn't about to jump from any plane. Not to-day, not on any day.

The officers had their little laugh, then told me to take a slip off the desk and put do not in place of do and sign and date it. So, you see the recruiting sergeant may have saved my life by not enlisting me in another branch of service. Anyway I made it thank God.

Co. "C" 9th Med. Bn.
RALPH V. PALERMO
223 Barbara dr.
McKees Rocks, Pa 15136

Enclosed is my check for renewal plus something for the remembrance for my best friend and deceased comrade Angelo Rinchiuso who past away on March 17, 1994 after a lengthy illness. He passed away in Dayton, Ohio and his body was returned to Pittsburgh for his burial. Angelo left behind a beautiful wife, 4 children and 8 grandchildren. Angelo & Betty attended many reunions and they are going to be missed. I'm sure my wife and I will miss him along with all his comrades and friends from Co. "C" 9th Med. Bn. and the other medical units. The 9th Medical Bn. is having a mini-convention May 13 & 14 and I'm sure he was planning to attend.

I'm not sure if I will be attending Lake Placid, NY. My health hasn't been the best. But my thoughts will be with you all and wishing you a successful convention.

At this time I would like to say hello to all my medical bn. friends and all my other comrades that I met at the conventions. I certainly enjoyed them.

ON THE WARPATH

After picking up the "D" DAY brochure at the reunion I have been thinking GO! My Sons and travel agencies convinced me that we could save money and do it right by renting a car and retracing my WARPATH. step by step.

My oldest Son has collected some great 1:200,000 maps published by Michelin which show about anything you want to find. I have contacted the HISTORIANS of the 3rd Armored and the 9th. Inf. (DAN QUINN) to get as much information as possible on where I was. I have zeroed in on the following:

* The jump-off spot for COBRA on the 25 July '44 and where we ended up in LOZON late that night.

* The exact spot of the battle, I called the thicket, which was for the village of St. Michel De Montjoie. The quarry where Capt. NEELLEY (spelling from Hist. of 47th.) and I had our target practice with the German flares, can be seen on the map.

* I know where we ended up on the FLERS-ARGENTAN road at FALAISE but I am uncertain which of the roads is the one where Sgt. Sheldon and I liberated the motorcycle.

* It is not hard to find CHARTRES nor TILLY where we crossed the SEINE.

* LIEUSAIN where we had the only REAL tank battle, is a suburb of PARIS and is probably a parking lot now. It is much closer to Paris than Disneyland.

* No problem with CHATEAU-THIERRY but I cannot nail down the village we spent the night before, where everyone, especially the girls, enveloped us in hospitality.

I have decided, from 3rd. Armored history, that the village where we met the WHORE TRAIN is named BRAINE. It is due east of SOISSONS.

* I found out, in a travel book, why I had never heard of LAON, no one, except the people that live there know about it.

BINCHE, BELGIUM, that the 3rd. Platoon liberated, is easy to find. The MAYOR has assigned an English speaking resident to help me round-up MY PUBLIC from those bygone days.

* Our crossing of the MEUSE is considerably south of where I thought it was, but I'm sure I'll recognize that cliff when I get there.

Co. M 60th
A. GUTTILLA
3 Rockbrook Dr.
Charlottesville, VA 22901-3752

Just a few words to let you know that I would like to send a few pictures to the Octofoil every now and then. I know that we are all getting older so maybe a picture of the good old days in Fort Bragg will bring back a few memories. I know I like to look in the first book that was made in Bragg in 1941 shortly after we arrived in the 9th division barracks. What nice memories I have of the swell buddies that I soldiered with. I hope they are all in good health. I wish them all the best. Dan keep up the good work you sure do a great job.

60th Inf.
NORMAN WEINBERG
2747 Ridgewood Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45213

Enclosed money for dues. Sorry to be late, any left over send to Memorial Fund in honor of Les Roney.

Would appreciate hearing from former members of my Medical Detachment and other friends in the 60th.

K Co. 47th

* CHENEE in LIEGE I can find but, although I remember the road to VERVIERS and EUPEN I do not remember how we got to CAMP ELSENBORN and back to ROTT. The Company spent the night at the Camp but I had to take the third Platoon down to the Village of ELSENBORN to see if anything was cooking. Do any of your remember our route in this area?

* I have gotten in touch with Kaspar Muller's daughter who now owns his old house on the Schevenhutte — GRESNICH road. KASPAR died six years ago at the age of 89 but his daughter, MARGOT, has welcomed us back. From the map it would appear they have built a lake over the road leading into SCHEVENHUTTE from the west, the one we paralleled on the ridge in going in. It would appear that the quarry, just south of the DUREN road, where we took so many casualties could still be there, just by the dam.

* I can't find BOVENBERG on the map but I am sure I can find the locality. I learned some time ago from an officer who was writing a book about the Battle of the HURTGEN FOREST that FRENZERBERG CASTLE had been plowed under and none of it exist today. I am going to look anyhow.

KALTERHERBERG, MON-CHAU, AND WOLSEIFEN should be easy to find but I have not yet found WOLSEIFEN on my map. Probably need McWATERS help.

* One of my sons has a friend living in BONN and he is trying to pinpoint my CASTLE ON THE RHINE that I speculate is DUIZHOF and see if he can get us in to take photos.

* I cannot pick out the exact mine in the REMAGEN area where I got the MILLION DOLLAR WOUND but I am confident that I can find the sucker.

We plan to fly to BRUSSELS on the 2nd. of May, rent a car, and drive the rest of the way. Anyone care to join us on the WARPATH without FEAR, FATIGUE, or FILTH?

Co K 47th Inf
CHESTER H. JORDAN
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Cannon Co. 47th Infantry
TOM & MARGE MCGINLEY
PO Box 583
Port St. Jose, Fla. 32456

We are down here for the second winter but will be back in our beloved Pittsburgh for Easter. We have been getting our Octofoil regularly and enjoy reading it every month that it comes. I ran across this article on the reverse side of this sheet in the American Heritage Magazine for February-March and I thought maybe you could use it in the Octofoil sometime for the enjoyment of the troops especially the 47th.

Hope you both are feeling well these days as we are and that the winter wasn't too much. We had a great winter down here and I was glad to escape all that snow you had up north. Still hear from Bill Muldoon every couple of weeks, he still lives in Bethpage, Long Island.

So long for now.



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39th Inf K Co.
SAMUEL LEDFORD
4418 Hwy 349
Flintstone, GA 30725

I see that my membership dues are up in 1994. So I am enclosing a check for three more years.

Also would you send me two decals and one copy of the 60th Inf. History. Although I was in the 39th Inf. I like to read about all of the units of the 9th Division in WW II.

Amount of check is to cover — dues, decal and 60th book plus some for Memorial Fund.

The last time that I wrote, it was to pay for my dues three years ago — or so, I should have written to Mail Call often, but I just put it off.

I really enjoy reading "Octofoil" to get all the news of the 9th.

I was proud to have been in the 9th in WW II. The 9th always did what it was asked to do — some things not so hard but others difficult, the Hurtgen Forest and the Bulge are two of the hard ones.

I am looking forward to Red Phillips new book on Remagen, I have his other books on Africa and they were good. I hope he does not quit writing about 9th. He does a fine job, I know researching a book takes time. In the Jan.-Feb. issue of Octofoil there is another 9th Division member living in Chattanooga, TN. A Mr. Thomas J. Morgan — he was in 47th Inf.

Also in the last issue I saw the letter from Mr. Bill Nelson of Co. K 39th my old company. For the past three years writing to a Mr. O.D. Giles who was a buddy of mine when I was in Co. K 1st Platoon and 1st Squad, I later went to Co. Headquarters, he received a bad wound after we crossed Meuse River near Dinant, Belgium.

He read my letter in Octofoil and wrote to me.

I am glad to see more 39th members write to Octofoil. I wish I could locate or find out a method of getting a Roster of Members of Co. K 39th.

I will close for now.

B Co. 15th Engrs.
TONY MADONNA
40 Orient St.
Worcester, MA. 01604

I wish to report the death of Frank Dickenson. Frank entered the service from Worcester, Mass. and became a member of the 15th Engineer Bn. He landed at Fort Bragg the 22nd of February and stayed with Headquarter Co. throughout the war.

Enclosed a check to the Memorial Fund in his honor.