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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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1-1-1995

## The Octofoil, January/February 1995

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N.J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXX

Number 1

Jan-Feb 1995

## Believes Memorial Marker at Ft Bragg Should be Improved

It's been well over a year since I wrote last to "Mail Call - The Octofoil." My prior correspondence and a letter from a member in your Aug-Sept. '94 issue of the Octofoil prompted this letter.

Last page of Aug-Sept. '94 issue of Octofoil had a letter from an Aaron Lubin - 84th F.A. Flushing, N.Y. He suggested a repository of war souvenirs etc. at Fort Bragg to preserve the memory of the 9th Division. I totally agree.

My last letter to the Octofoil (after our reunion at Fort Bragg) suggested a bronze plaque be mounted on a pedestal immediately in front of our memorial stone marker. This would be similar to one already in place in front of the other stone marker adjacent to our memorial.

In addition to my letter to the Octofoil I spoke on this same subject to the Board of Governors at our reunion at San Antonio, TX. I also suggested in my letter to the Octofoil and also at San Antonio, TX that a "9th Street" sign at Fort Bragg be named "9th Division Street."

I was informed (by a member) that there was no room in front of our memorial stone marker for a pedestal with a plaque.

Since that discussion, and not satisfied with a negative response, I took it upon myself to return later to Fort Bragg and the area of our memorial.

My return visit confirmed my original observation. There is ample room in front of our memorial for a pedestal with plaque.

To prove my suggestion is correct I am enclosing photos I took at Fort Bragg a few months ago showing both the area of our memorial but also the adjacent memorial.

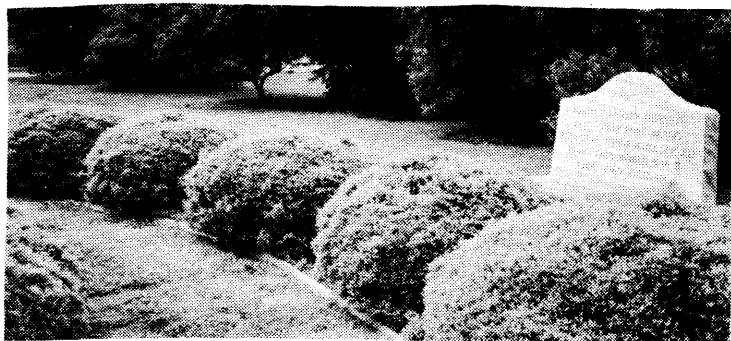
(Incidentally the other pedestal and plaque honors a Sgt. who was the first to receive the "Expert Infantry Badge." Surely the exploits of our proud division deserve no less than equal honors!)

Additionally, I am also enclosing photos showing "9th Street" at Fort Bragg which could be changed to "9th Division Street" without too much difficulty or financial costs. (I ran out of film here!) Also enclosed is a photo of our memorial plaque at Worcester, Mass. which lists our 8 campaigns. I enclosed this (poor photo - unfortunately!!) for consideration as to what a plaque could consist of at Fort Bragg.

I am ready to support these suggestions physically and financially.

Looking forward to reunion in New Orleans.

Rest Regards,  
Larry McLaughlin, 47th Inf.  
82 Gould St.  
Wakefield, Mass.



Larry McLaughlin (47th Inf) sends pictures and story regarding the Ninth's Memorial Monument that was placed there some years ago. Larry is plugging to have additional markers placed at the site.

### TRANSPORTATION TO NEW ORLEANS

If you are coming by car follow these directions:

*From the East or North...* work your way to I-10. Stay on I-10, follow signs to New Orleans (ignore the cut-off 6-10); stay to the left and head for New Orleans Business District. Keep on I-10 and Exit on 235B (Canal St./Superdome). Come down from the exit onto Claiborne St. and proceed straight ahead for 1-1/2 blocks to Canal St. (Traffic Light). Turn right, go 3 block to the Clarion Hotel.

*From the West* (coming from Baton Rouge) head toward New Orleans on I-10. Stay on I-10 until you come to Exit 243B (Poydras St.). This exit will place you near the Superdome on Poydras and Claiborne Streets. Make a left turn on Claiborne and you will find yourself on the side of the Interstate. Ride along Claiborne St. past 3 traffic lights...the fourth one is Canal St. Turn right on Canal St., go 3 block to the Hotel.

*By Air:* United Airlines will honor a 10 percent Senior Citizen discount. Most other airlines will also.

*By train or bus:* See your Travel Agent.

### A Blessing in Disguise

At a recent meeting of the New England Chapter of the Ninth Infantry Association I was told the following story by Dennis Canedy of "B" Company.

It was in November of 1944, and the 47th Regiment was moving into attack positions on the edge of the Rhineland. Also present was Father Anthony DeLaura from St. Bridget's Church, Westbury, Long Island, New York.

Dennis Canedy, who was a runner at the time, was amazed to see Father DeLaura perched on the front end of a Sherman tank which was parked at the side of the road. In his hand he had a squirt gun, and under his arm he had a bottle of water.

As every motor vehicle and column of soldiers went past, he made a point of squirting every soldier and every vehicle. When he ran out of water, he put his squirt gun into the bottle and got more water, and squirted away from his perch on the tank.

Dennis said he was initially very confounded by this action. He could not comprehend why this priest was being such a squirt. Maybe he had finally developed combat fatigue. Maybe his reaction was that the priest had regressed to his adolescent years. As he thought further about it, he realized that Father DeLaura was probably squirting everyone with what he regarded as holy water. (There is an old church story that holy water is made by putting it on the stove and boiling the devil out of it — we are not sure if Father DeLaura had gone through this procedure.) Dennis Canedy realized that Father DeLaura felt he was spraying every soldier and vehicle with holy water.

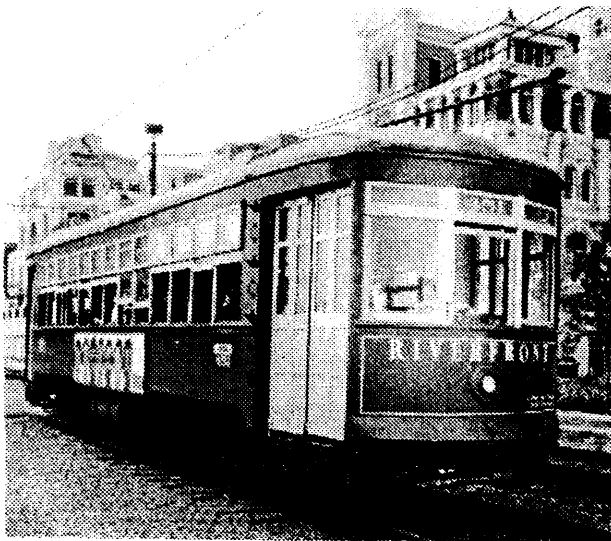
He was very pleased when he realized this, and felt it was a real boon, as he realized that the soldiers probably heard Father DeLaura saying, "Bless you," as he gave each squirt.

The offensive which the 47th Regiment of the Ninth Division was undertaking was only moderately successful. The intent was to advance the twenty miles to Cologne and capture the city. The reality was that in late November of 1944 the German army was in very good strength on the western front, and we managed to advance only one or two miles before the onset of the Battle of the Bulge, which began on December 16, 1944.

George Nicklin, M.D.  
Medic, "K" Company,  
47th Regiment  
6 Butler Place  
Garden City, L.I., N.Y.  
11530-4603

"NATIONAL ORDER OF BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS are trying to locate all men, WWII, Korea and Viet Nam, who on the field of battle against an armed enemy, received a COMMISSION from enlisted or Warrant status to commission status. It may be you or someone you know. CONTACT: JOHN ANGIER — 67 OCEAN DRIVE — ST. AUGUSTINE, FL — 32084

## The Ninth Infantry Division Rolls Into New Orleans



PERMISSION GRANTED BY THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS TOURIST & CONVENTION COMMISSION

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION

# 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

New Orleans • May 25-28, 1995

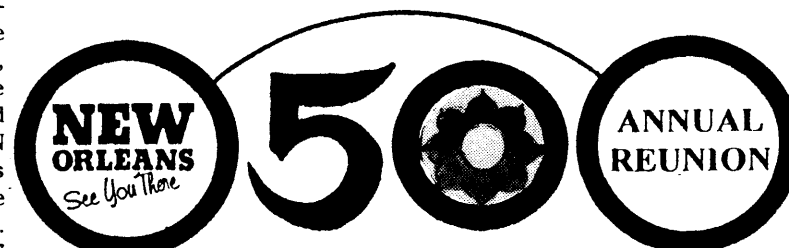
YES...the famous 9th Division Association members will be rolling in from all parts of the U.S.A. ... from California to New York ... from Maine to Florida. They will be coming by car, rail, air and bus. After they arrive, some may be looking to go on a trolley ride (known as a streetcar in New Orleans). There are two streetcar lines in New Orleans ... the St. Charles and the Riverfront lines. The fare as of April 1994 was \$1.00 on the St. Charles and \$1.25 on the Riverfront line, (exact fare required). Transfers to buses is 10 cents. Regular one way bus fares cost \$1.00.

A narrated streetcar tour along Carrolton and St. Charles Avenues followed by a motorcoach to Longue Vue House and Gardens costs \$28.00 for adults and \$18.00 for children. Ask the Hotel Tour Desk located in the lobby of the hotel for the exact tour and pick-up times. The Florida Chapter will have maps showing the streetcar routes plus locations of many interesting places.

The Hotel owns several small busses and will provide FREE bus service to several locations. Use the La Salle Street entrance to board the bus. Busses leave the Hotel every hour on the hour starting at 10 A.M.

THE CLARION HOTEL CHANGED OWNERSHIP. Effective January 3, 1995, the CLARION HOTEL will be known as the RADDISON HOTEL NEW ORLEANS. Manager Director Lee Grossbard and Director of Sales & Marketing, Stefanie Baurer, advised the Florida Chapter Reunion Chairman, Phil Berman, of this change. They assured the Florida Chapter that the details of our group programs will not be affected and that they will honor all terms and conditions of our contract made with the CLARION HOTEL. Please send all future reservations and correspondences to the RADDISON HOTEL, 1500 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70012 ... or phone 1-800/333-3333.

THE NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF COOKING. Join the group of women who will be attending the authentic Creole cooking that can only be found in New Orleans. The cost is \$16.00 per person. All women attending the 50th Annual Reunion are welcome ... but you must make plans now as no reservations will be taken after May 10th or at the Reunion. Please make your check out for \$16.00 payable to the FL CHAPT 9TH INF DIV ASSN and send it to Audrey M. De Donato, 3650 S.W. Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431. You will receive a confirmation post card which will act as your admission ticket. BE SURE TO TAKE THIS TICKET WITH YOU. The luncheon following the demonstration is included in the price of admission.



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

National Officers

**President**  
John J. O'Grady  
7912 NW 10th St.  
Plantation, FL 33322

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114 Charles Street  
Floral Park, NY 11001

Pat DeColli, 2nd V.P.  
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Phila, PA 18148

Francis Maher, 3rd V.P.  
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Worcester, MA 01610

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618 Sumac Rd.  
Highland Pk. IL 60035

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer  
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Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary  
412 Gregory Avenue  
Weehawken, NJ 07087

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Merrick, NY  
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Trenton, NJ  
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Ted Preston  
Walworth, WI  
John Miller  
Arlington, TX  
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Cherry Hill, NJ  
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Oak Park, IL  
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Herb Olsen  
Marson Mills, MA

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 exclusi-  
vely 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.

Volume XLXX      Number 1      Jan-Feb 1995

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.....

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 Auxillary Member.....\$ 2.00 ☐  
Decals.....50-each

Please credit the following chapter:

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

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.....

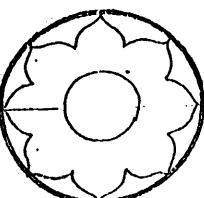
My spouse (Brother or relative)

Served with.....

One year.....\$2.00

Credit Chapter.....

1946  
NEW YORK



1995  
NEW ORLEANS

Fiftieth Annual Reunion

THURSDAY • FRIDAY • SATURDAY • MAY 25, 26 AND 27, 1995

Radisson  
HOTEL NEW ORLEANS

1500 Canal Street • New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Room Reservations

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit of Service (Co., Btry, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Will arrive on \_\_\_\_\_ Will depart by 12 noon on \_\_\_\_\_  
(date) (date)  
I will guarantee payment Credit Card-Type \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Dat \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK OUT TIME: 12 NOON • CHECK IN TIME 3 PM  
50th REUNION ANNIVERSARY - HOSTED BY THE FLORIDA CHAPTER  
Please check any special request: Smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Handicapped \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ NAME(S) OF ADDITIONAL PERSON(S) SHARING ROOM \_\_\_\_\_  
Single \$75.00  
Double \$75.00  
Triple \$95.00  
Quad \$105.00  
All prices subject to sales tax(s)

Reservations must be accompanied by \$100.00 deposit. Personal check or Credit Card with expiration date  
acceptable. Reservations must be received by April 25, 1995. All cancellations must be received before  
May 22, 1995. THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION. MAY 25-28, 1995.

DON'T WAIT! MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS NOW!

Fill out the above form (or make a copy). Be sure to include  
\$100.00 deposit check or print your credit card number. Send it  
to the Radisson Hotel, 1500 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana  
70112-9990, Attention Reservations.

OTHER HELPFUL HINTS

The Hotel will honor the same daily room rate to our group  
for anyone wishing to arrive 3 days before or remain 3 days  
after May 28, 1995. Tel. 1-800-824-3359.  
State your choice of Smoking or Non-Smoking Room.  
Radisson will send you confirmation of room reservation.  
Suites and C.P. Hospitality Rooms can be ordered on an indi-  
vidual basis. Contact Ms. Stacey Vigee, Sales Dept., Radisson  
Hotel, 1500 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70112.  
Any cancellation must be received by the Radisson Hotel not  
later than May 22, 1995.

ORDER STRIP TICKETS IMMEDIATELY

Strip Tickets for Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings will  
be used. The revenue from these tickets pays for the entertain-  
ment, beer, soft drinks, snacks, gratuities, etc. For those wishing  
a mixed drink, a Cash Bar will be set up. Have some fun at the  
Thursday MARDI GRAS & Welcome Party Night. Dress appropri-  
ately and dance to the music of the night.  
Friday night the Cajun Dancers will perform for us, and then  
provide us with music for dancing and enjoyment.  
Refreshments, etc., will be the same as for Thursday night.  
Saturday night is our Banquet Night. Our guest speaker will be  
Mr. Walter Smith of the Greater New Orleans Tourist and  
Convention Center.

Cost of the strip tickets follows:

Thursday Night	\$17.50 per person
Friday Night	17.50 per person
Saturday Night	30.00 per person

Sorry, no credit cards accepted. Please make your check for  
your strip tickets payable to the FL Chapt 9th Inf Div Assn and  
send it to Philip Berman, 322 Bucknell Drive, Daytona Beach, FL  
32118. You will receive a confirmation card soon after receipt of  
your order. This card must be presented at the Florida Chapter  
Welcome Desk where you will receive your strip tickets.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT:** The Golf Tournament will be held  
Thursday a.m. May 25, 1995 at the Bayou Golf Course located  
approximately 15 minutes from downtown New Orleans. All par-  
ticipants must be ready to go before 8:30 a.m. Meet at the  
Florida Welcome Desk located on the second floor. John  
O'Grady is the Tournament Chairman. Players must arrange for  
their own transportation. Green fees are \$20.00 per golfer. The  
cart cost is included in this fee. Rental clubs are available at  
\$15.00 per set. Prizes will be awarded for the longest drive, clos-  
est to the pin; MOST HONEST GOLFER; first, second and third  
place winners using a handicap system.

Anyone wishing to participate in this tournament is urged to  
send their name immediately to John O'Grady, 7912 NW 10th St.,  
Plantation, FL. 33322 or phone (305) 474-2791.

**CATHOLIC MASS** will be held in the TULANE ROOM on  
Saturday, May 27, at 4:00 p.m. Consult Bulletin Board for any  
changes.

G Co. 60th Inf.  
S. REINHIMER  
2572 Wilson Ave.  
Bronx, NY 10469-5609

Here is dues for 3 years and  
\$10 for the fund. I know that I  
am kind of late but these things

happen. I am always looking to  
see if anyone writes from G  
company 60th but very little are  
from them. All the best to all the  
old buddies wherever they are.

Tip of the Hat

The following members  
remembered by contributing to  
the Memorial Fund.  
We salute you.

William A. Miller

Herbert W. Brasington - In  
memory of the men from L. Co.  
60th Inf.

Walter Pochis - In memory of  
Al Wisnowski, Med. Det. 47th  
Inf.

Robert and Betty Davis - In  
memory of James Tomaso

Phillip Emmons - In memory  
of James Tomaso, A Co. 15th  
Engrs.

John Caughey - In memory of  
his wife, Nellie.

Floyd Sheriff

Alice Lynch - In memory of  
husband, James, of Serv. Co.  
39th Inf.

Preston Stillings - In memory  
of Albert Stidman

Milton McDaniel  
Erma Teachout - In memory of  
husband, Gerald, F. Co. 60th  
Inf.

Richard McGrath - In memory  
of Fr. Connors and Fr. DeLaura

David M. Pinkney

Siegfried Reinheimer

Walter Labaj

Marjorie M. Privett - In memo-  
ry of Husband, Park Dean

Walter Nalepa

Herbert Stern - In memory of  
Jimmie Richards, 9th Med. Bn.

Carlo Palermo



**Searching for the last foxhole  
(Part 2 continued from last issue)**

Dr. Bill Butler, 39th Inf, Med Det, Charles Scheffel of the 39th Inf and William Clark also of the 39th Inf made the trip to Normandy last summer and Dr. Butler sent a story of the trip. It appeared in the last issue of the Octofoil. This is the continuation of that story. Doc lives at 3327 Lakehill Drive, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49008. Scheffel lives at 8620 N. Glenwood Ave., Oklahoma City, Ok. 73114.

This state of affairs became the story of the rest of the trip. A mile away, through the old mine fields, is Les Gougins on the water's edge. The battered church, that had been the fulcrum of a battle to reduce a large German fort located beside it, has been rebuilt. The village is a beach resort with the cops parked along the road on the lookout for nude bathers.

At Orglandes, I couldn't find the wooded ridge that overlooked the town. There, I had spent the night with C Company and twelve casualties, and waited for the firing in the surrounding woods to die down before sending the ambulance in black-out to ford a stream in a marsh and be walked back four miles along old farm trails to safety.

I did find the old barn near St. Jacques-de-Nehou that was the aid station on the following night, when the 9th Division had reached the west shore of the peninsula and sealed off the enemy to the north. There, from 4:30 AM, the 1st Battalion had in three hours fired off three truckloads of ammunition upon a column of five battalions of the German 77th Infantry Division that had attempted to break through to the south. The farmer and his wife, in their nineties, remembered the battle clearly. The barn is probably a thousand years old, has an earthen floor and the original cobwebs. The current mayor, a boy at the time, reports a count of 465 dead Germans; other old natives report numbers of 427 and 452. I had estimated 300 — so take your pick.

We continued to trail north through Bricquebec to Cherbourg and up past a large nuclear plant to the tip of La Hague at Goury, then south through Le Pieux, Carentan, St. Lo, to St. Jean-de-Daye and onto the battle road through Le Desert to the Perriers road that cost the division 3500 casualties in 10 days. Operation Cobra had bombed the pants off the Germans along the Perriers road in front of us and opened the door for the breakout into southern Normandy and the encirclement of the German army. In Le Desert is a bronze plaque in memory of Colonel Harry Flint, commander of the 39th, who was killed at the Perriers road.

We slept in Avranches and the next night at Mortain, as we sorted out the movements of C Company in that breakout territory that has confused even the military historians. Hitler's massed Panzer counterattack toward Avranches to cut the breakthrough corridor on Aug. 7 had isolated our battalion on the hills above Cherence-le-Roussel and also a battalion of the 30th Division on a hill above Mortain, about three miles distant. However, our presence on those hills had forced the Panzer divisions to channel their attack on two secondary roads that led them to failure after four days, about twelve miles from the sea. After we had solved that question, we "circled the underbelly of the German army, as we had 50 years ago, to attack at Briouze," and slept that night in Falaise.

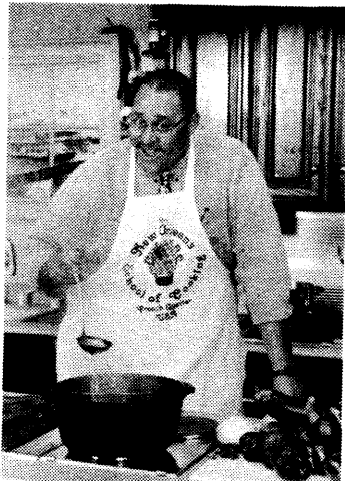
Next day, eastward to cross the Seine at Melun south of Paris and turn northeast toward Chateau-Thierry cemetery where I was photographed at the same spot fifty years ago, then a side trip to Reims; then onward to Laon and Hirson to Cerfontain, and Phillipville in Belgium; then north to Charleroi with a side trip to Waterloo and Brussels; then back south of the Oise River on the road to Namur where C Company found the German army crossing the Meuse River bumper to bumper, and prudently withdrew fifteen miles south to Dinant.

The river valley has turned into a continuous suburb of tourism. A series of locks have changed the river banks so that the first hundred yards paddled by the company that I was with that night is a dry parking lot for a swank riverside restaurant. Charlie took me out on the balcony of the Dinant Citadel and proudly pointed to artillery scars that he had caused in his efforts to silence a German gun. We drove on to Spa, Eupen, Roetgen, and into Germany at Lammersdorf where Charlie had received his wounds next to the dragon teeth of the Siegfried Line. We had fought in and around that forest from Sept. 14, 1944 to Feb. 26, 1945 until the 9th Division crossed the Roer River and swept across the Rhineland to cross the Rhine at Ramagen. Lammersdorf is three miles from Monschau, the northern shoulder of the Battle of the Bulge, and ten miles south of Aachen [Charlemagne's old headquarters] where we had dinner near the cathedral.

We stayed overnight with a family in Lammersdorf and headed for Cologne to cross the Rhine and follow the east bank south to the site of the old bridge at REMAGEN. After we had passed my last foxhole along the road that winds up the Victoriaberg to Unkel on the east side of the old Ludendorf bridge, we gave up on going all the way to the Elbe River. In Linz, next to the ferry landing on the Rhine, is the old museum where we had had an aid station that is now remodeled into a resort hotel. We crossed the Rhine on the ferry and headed southeast up the Moselle valley to Trier, then into Luxembourg to Bastogne. Then to Sedan and down the Marne past many French military cemeteries from World War I to Verdun and across France through Orleans to Le Mans.

From Le Mans, we travelled on the high speed train to Paris early in the morning; the train had formed in Nantes with only one stop at Le Mans. The rails are continuous steel ribbons upon a special smooth roadbed with the curves carefully designed and no road crossings along the route. The train reached speeds up to 220 Km. per hour, and for a time the line paralleled a motor expressway where the high speed auto traffic seemed to crawl as we flashed by. One car of the train had a bar that was well patronized.

**Continued next issue**



**Kevin Bellon to demonstrate authentic Creole Cooking May 26.**

**ADD YOUR OWN SPICES**

Chef Kevin Bellon, who will demonstrate Creole Cooking techniques at the New Orleans School of Cooking, promised to prepare the food with mild flavoring for the women attending the 9th Inf. Div. Assn. 50th Annual Reunion. For those who want more "OOMPH" in their food, additional spices may be added from a set-up table. School attendants will explain the different kinds of spices.

Join the group who will board the Clarion Hotel bus at 8:45 a.m. on Friday, May 26, 1995 and will watch, learn and then taste the results of this authentic Creole Cooking. You will enjoy the comfortable atmosphere of a Louisiana homestyle kitchen. This is a class that you don't have to be a gourmet chef to enjoy "jambalaya" or other aromatic food.

The cost is \$16.00 per person. All women attending the 50th Reunion are welcome. We urge you to make plans to attend NOW...don't wait...we must fill our quota before April 15, 1995. No reservations will be taken at the Reunion. Please make your check for \$16.00 payable to the FL CHAPT. 9TH INF. DIV. ASSN. and send it to Audrey M. De Donato, 3650 S. W. Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431. You will receive a confirmation card which will act as your admission ticket. BE SURE TO TAKE THIS CARD WITH YOU!

Chairperson Barbara Berman made all the arrangements and she believes everyone will enjoy this experience. For further information, contact either Barbara at 322 Bucknell Dr., Daytona Beach, FL 32118 (904) 677-7292 or Audrey at (904) 489-4070.

**SEEKING INFO**

PFC. Charles Young was in the 60th Regiment in 1944 and was killed in action September 20th of that year, as far as we know near Aachen, Germany. I am writing to you on behalf of Charlie's family. Charlie and I trained together and were from the same town in southern Idaho. I served several months with the 100th Infantry Division in the 7th army. This 50th anniversary has piqued our interest in those years and we are seeking more information about Charlie and his time in action. Is there a regimental roster available that we could buy, or is there a way we could become acquainted with someone that served with Charlie? Is there a Division history we could buy?

We will greatly appreciate any information you could supply us with.

Gene Pollard  
Box 1298  
Riggins, Id. 83549

**NOW TAKING ORDERS!**

**Remagen:**

**Springboard to Victory**

by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Henry G. Phillips,  
author of *El Guettar: Crucible of Leadership*  
and *Sedjenane: The Pay-off Battle*.

*Remagen* completes a trilogy of oral histories of selected WWII battles of the 9th Infantry Division. The earlier accounts dealt with the 9th learning tactics and developing leadership under fire in Tunisia two years earlier. This concluding volume shows the 9th at its prime, leading III U.S. Corps to defeat a desperate foe. Authoritatively acclaimed by senior officers, military historians and veterans of the battle.

*Remagen* has more pages, survivor anecdotes (from both side) and particulars of what really happened than its predecessors. Learn the full story of the bridgehead battle, including the relief of the corps commander, and the so-called 5th Platoon Experiment, i.e. the integration of volunteer Afro-American soldier organized for combat as an extra rifle platoon in an infantry company

Paperback, 191 pp. w/maps, photos & bio. index.

Send \$17.50 (incl. p.& h.) to "Red" Phillips at 14002 Hemlock Dr., Penn Valley, CA, 95946.

ISBN 0-9637444-1-0. Available no later than 7 March 1995. No further copies of *El Guettar* on hand, but copies of *Sedjenane* still may be ordered with above at \$15.00 ea. Nothing extra for its p.& h.

**Trip down Memory Lane**

**(Part 2 continued from last issue)**

George Albert, 1st Bn Hq 60th Inf, and his wife Therese were fortunate to make the trip back to Normandy last summer. The town of LaHaye Du Puits, France invited them to help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the liberation from the Germans. Henry Rigby was also invited but could not make the trip at that time. The Alberts were given the royal treatment and shown all around Normandy.

**Pain of Losing**

I lost a good buddy in August of '92 Mario (Gabe) Gabrielli who lost his leg in Normandy passed on to ultimate heights after a battle of forty-eight years. Gabe is survived by his lovely wife Lillian and two daughters, Marcia and Nancy and grandchildren. P.O. Box 207, Avella, Pa. 15312.

Gabe was one of the Pioneer Squad of the 1st Bn 60th. Also he fought a number of exhibition-fights as a heavy weight on the Matt Urban 9th Div. Boxing Team in England.

To me the pain of losing good friends and buddies once again becomes very real when you return to familiar battle grounds. Faces out of the past appear on the T.V. screen of your mind complete with sound to crowd out the merriment of the occasion and then you discover that your having a battle with feelings of guilt, and faces and scenes appear flashing on and off in your mind and you see names like urban, Gabrielli, Poney, Tibbetts, Tepper, Deluria, Swain, Flint, Sprindis, Skirpinsky and deeds done and undone.

Those feelings ease somewhat when the local folks are eager to show their appreciation to you for all you have done for them.

**Honored To Be There**

I was honored to be there, sharing with the French people of their (four) villages (one each day) to celebrate 50 years of liberation, thanks to the Americans, and by accident of time being the only American there to represent (wearing my cap with the 9th Div. Insignia) the men of the 79th Division (the Americans honored in each of these towns) both the living and dead. Truly it was a humbling experience; and yet with all the pomp and ceremony special church service, a parade with their band down the main thoroughfare from the church to the new, soon to be dedicated, war memorial, unveiling, the dedication, speech by the local mayor, an interpreter interpreting the speech from French to English, followed by a reception in each of the community buildings, (one each day in each town) French wine and/or champagne, hors d'oeuvre, canopies, pastries as only the French make was for all who was in attendance. And enough for all to enjoy.

Dan and Marie, and all who this letter touches — have a happy and healthy holiday, wishing you lots from above.

34th F.A. Bn. A Battery  
WALTER NALEPA  
15161 Colson  
Dearborn, Mich. 48126

The enclosed check is to be used for my Octofoil dues and the remainder for the Memorial Fund.

I look forward to reading and receiving the Octofoil. All the people on the staff are doing an excellent job. A special thanks to Leon Birum who goes out of his way in sending his News Letter and keeping in touch with us all. Keep up the good work, Leon.

Hqs. 1st Bn 60th Inf.  
GEORGE ALBERT  
144 W. Wayne St.  
Waynesburg, Pa. 15370

9th Signal  
WILLIAM MILLER  
507 Eskridge Dr.  
Wilm., De. 19809

Enclosed are my dues for the next three years plus something for the Memorial Fund. Also I just learned one of the 9th Signal Co men who left the U.S. with the 9th and returned after the war was over, Willard Brown passed away Oct. 1, 1994. May he rest in peace.



### TAPS SOUNDED

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

by John Donne

With deep regrets we announce the passing of these "Old Reliabilities" and friends. To their loved ones may we offer our belated sympathy. May they rest in peace.

Josephine Laubach  
Wife of John, B Co. 9th Medics

Austin Koeppel  
47th Inf.

Anne Giarraputo  
Wife of Paul, F Co. 47th Inf.

Angelo Ferraro  
G Co. 39th Inf.

Nellie Caughey  
Wife of John L. Co. 47th Inf.

Murray Cohen  
9th Meds.

John K. Moore  
1st Bn. 60th Inf. Co. D.

Houston Meade  
A.T. 47th

Edward Tuft  
899 T.D. Bn.

Park Dean Privett  
9th Q. M.

Archie Rohrer  
47th Inf. G. Co.

Angelo Parento  
M Co. 60th Inf.

Melba Frances Lester  
Wife of Vestal Lester, 47th Inf. L Co.

James Perrine  
H Co. 60th Inf.



Only Rischel, widow of Doc Rischel, 2nd Bn 47th Inf sends this article and picture of Joe Scarelli and George Brown shown in England last summer when they made the trip back for the D Day Ceremony. The place was Alresford where the mascot of the 47th, Hambone Jr., was buried and the people remembered the men of the 47th when they placed a regular marker at Hambone Jr.'s grave. Joe and George were two of the old timers of the 47th who took time out to visit the site.

### 2 Bn - 47th Inf.

JOE A. SCARDILLI  
Post Office Box 305  
Absecon, New Jersey 08201

Greetings from Absecon to you.

This has been very exciting and eventful year for the "THE TWO OF US" hobbling around in our middle plus 70s and enjoying life. In June we traveled to Normandy, France for the "D" Day 50th anniversary where we were hosted by the folks at Alresford, St Lo and witnessed the wonderful ceremony in respect to our fellow citizen soldiers who were part of that eventful period of history. In September we traveled to Scottsdale, Arizona to celebrate the arrival of our 3rd grandchild. Cara, the daughter of Dennis is now going on to 13, she is here in Absecon, TN is now 5 (going on 15) and Addison (Addy) is the new arrival and is now 3 months. We traveled in December to Lakeland Florida to witness our son in law portraying the part of Scrooge in a wonderful production "The Scripture According to Scrooge" This was played in a large church in Lakeland that holds 6000 people and the church was filled to capacity all but one night for 5 nights running. Deb, Tim and the children went to Disneyland along with my granddaughter whom we took to Florida to see the "Scrooge" Production and also to Disneyland. It was wonderful to have the two Arizona cousins meet and be with the one Absecon cousin. Hope you are all well and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love and God bless you and Your Family.

P.S. After the holidays we will be spending the rest of the winter at Condo living in Scottsdale — Try it you will like it.

Our Scottsdale Address:  
9475 E. Purdue Ave.  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85258  
602-451-5389

### F Co. 60th

MRS. GERALD TEACHOUT  
1600 W. Struck Ave. #165  
Orange, CA 92667-3427

Enclosed is a donation in memory of my husband Gerald. (F Co. 60th).

Thank you for sending me each issue of The Octofoil. I enjoy them very much.

The very best to you and all of your members.

### Ladies Corner

In the past, I know I have promised a short column — and not done it, but, with my typewriter in the repair shop, and my month-long off-and-on battle with pharyngitis, a miserable cold, and bronchitis — this column will be short! I have sent in my \$16 for the Ladies' Auxiliary's New Orleans Cooking Demonstration in May — have you?

Have you also thought about volunteering for an Officers position in our elections then, or do you have someone in mind for the posts of Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer? Yes, eight years is enough, (Lily, I told you 8 years ago that I wouldn't try to equal your 12-year term in office!) I am ready to resign and hand the Treasurer's reigns over to someone else. Have to say that I have enjoyed tremendously, my work in the Ladies Auxiliary, and met a lot of absolutely wonderful women, whom I shall never forget! But enough is enough — I'm getting tired of doing all things — and am starting with this job. So — start looking girls/ladies, please?? Also — don't forget your Pollyanna gifts — and nominations for donations to Veterans' Homes and Hospitals.

Thank you to those ladies who have sent in their membership dues.

Before closing, I must say a bit about my husband Joe's 47th Infantry Company B — and to one of its nicest and most loyal members — Dennis Canedy — glad to hear of your recovery from surgery and that, although bad is the loss of the 3 middle toes of your right foot — the by/pass surgery down to that area has restored good circulation to the foot. Joe and I, and all of Company B wish you a continued recovery — and hope to see you again in Worcester in the fall? I just had to mention Company B — as Joe did not write the "To B or not to B 47th") column this time. He warned his buddies to pitch in and help him, that the November/December column was his last! So, until the next column — take care and keep in touch.

Ellie Taubner, Treasurer  
85 Smith Ave.  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

Co. A 60th Inf.  
CLINTON A. DALEY  
RR #1 Box 2704  
Sabattus, Me 04280  
Co. A 60th Inf

### SEEKING

Is there anyway I could get the names of the men in the 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Co. A? I never knew the names of my men who were captured with me Sept. 24th, 1944 in the Hurtgen Forest, Germany but have tried every way I can think of to find out for the past fifty years. Somewhere there must be a list of names who were captured from A Co., 60th Regt. Can you please help me as it means so much to me? There were forty (40) men taken prisoner's in my company, that much I know. The only name I can remember is the medic we helped with the wounded, Vaudry Moore from Mississippi. Any information you can give me will be deeply appreciated.

50th Annual Reunion  
May 25-28, 1995  
New Orleans



Robert Dunn, Service Company 47th sends this picture along with a story (of a news release in 1944) that appears in this issue of the Octofoil. "Monument unveiled in honor of Pvt. Dominick C. Gatto in Belgium."

### A News Release From Years Gone By

Public officials and residents of Beaumont, Belgium, have dedicated a monument in memory of a 47th Infantry Regiment soldier who was killed by enemy artillery fire Sept. 3, 1944 during the liberation of the nation from the Germans.

The event, held in honor of Pvt. Dominick C. Gatto, 26, of Bound Brook, NJ was part of Belgium's 50th anniversary of the liberation.

Taking part in the ceremony on Sept. 24 were a number of dignitaries, including the attache to the American ambassador to Belgium.

The U.S. 9th Infantry Division Band played Glen Miller military selections during the program.

### Was On Recon Mission

Pvt. Gatto, a veteran of the North African, Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns and the drive across northern France, was killed while riding in a jeep during a reconnaissance mission.

Chaplain Anthony DeLaura, 38, a former assistant pastor at St. Joseph's Patron R.C. Church, Brooklyn, and another recon member searched the area for the body for two days before learning that it was safe in a Beaumont home.

Belgian civilians had placed the fallen hero on a stretcher and covered him with fresh-cut flowers. His helmet and raincoat were arranged neatly at his feet and a Belgian flag of World War I vintage hung on the wall. Two armed members of the Belgian Resistance stood guard.

The town's mayor and local priest informed Father DeLaura that the community had planned a funeral service for Pvt. Gatto and asked his approval and cooperation.

### Procession Before Church Service

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

Pall-bearers were Regimental Chaplain Richard W. Day, 36, an Episcopal priest of Annendale-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 Father DeLaura, and T/4 George E. Hutton, 25, of Harrisburg, Pa.

### Solemn Requiem High Mass

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

Original plans called for burial the same afternoon, but the retreating Germans had destroyed the local power plant, forcing local craftsmen to construct a casket by hand.

Left in care of the Belgian honor guard, Pvt. Gatto was interred in an American cemetery the next day.

### Information Is Sought

If anyone has any information as to the whereabouts of members of the Gatto family, it will be appreciated if you pass it along to Bob Dunn, who will send it to the town historian in Beaumont, Belgium.

The historian is also interested in receiving photos snapped during the liberation of the area.

P.S. A check of the Association files shows that Dom Gatto's Mother Francis lived at the time of his demise at 130 Vossellen Ave., Bound Brook, NJ.

1995 Reunion

May 25-28



Mrs. James (Alice) Lynch, Service Company 39th Infantry sends this photo along with a generous donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of her James. It brings back memories of our days in London before the invasion. Left to right - Charles Reed, John Schubert (center) and Jim Lynch outside a Pub in Merry Ole England. The date was March 17 (1944). Jim made it home and passed away a few years ago.

47th Special Services  
BOB DUNN  
527 Lakeview Drive  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

## THE OCTOFOIL

### HAMBONE JR.

Hambone Sr's name was Henry Stiener. He was a member of Services Co. 47th Infantry. He was either an amino driver or kitchen driver with a 2 1/2 ton truck. Henry Steiner originated from the Philly area of Penna.

He married a gal from the Rocky Mt. area of North Carolina. After the war he settled down in that area and jobs were very scarce. The story I got two ways.

He decided to move his wife and two kids to the Philly area.

The one story I got he had a mule, loaded all his belongings on a wagon and headed north.

The other story has it that he had a tractor and used that to pull the wagon north.

During D-Day celebrations Michael Wengren of Clifton, N.J. was contacted by someone in Winchester and taken to the grave of Hambone Jr. during our Fort Bragg days. Stiener had a very close buddy by the name of George Cochrane (might not be correct spelling).

Other members who were in Lake Placid who knew "Hambone" are Mrs. Mary McLaglin (not correct spelling). Mr. John Robbins and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Arnold.

I did sent a letter to a Mrs. Nockerman in the Winchester area in April or early May but had no answer to same as of yet but she must have gotten the letter as someone from Winchester contacted Michael Wengren while he was on tour with the D-Day group.

If I can be of any more help feel free to contact me as I am still looking for pictures of Henry Stiener.

Gratefully yours,  
Edwin W. Wisniewski  
7576 Gratiot Rd.  
Columbus, MI 48063-3310

### F COMPANY 47TH INFANTRY

I just received my Continental tickets for New Orleans so Lucy and I will be arriving the evening of May 24. I'm looking forward to this visit as it has been forty-four years since I have visited this city of Saints & Sinners, and the last time I was there it was as a Sinner. During this visit I'll be sporting the halo of a Saint, thanks to the munificence of Father Time and the presence of Lucy. It reminds me of Churchill's statement, "Man has three basic vices: I gave one up; one gave me up; I still smoke!" So I guess we'll enjoy some of the Cajun cuisine and the Gallic architecture. Of course our main reason for going to these reunions is once again to enjoy a few days in the company of some of the greatest guys I have ever had the privilege of serving with. Even Lucy looks forward eagerly each year to renew acquaintances with the men and ladies of F Company. We'd continue to attend these affairs even if they were held in El Guettar, which is as close as I've come to hell.

I don't know if I mentioned in my last letter to the editor that Paul Giarraputo informed me that his lovely Anne passed away late last year after a very long illness. I also received a letter from Stanley Putt's son that his mother had also passed away last fall. Many of you remember Stan's widow Gloria when the two of them were frequent attendees at our reunions.

I received a note from Jackie Armstrong along with her Christmas greetings which included some notes from Jack's memories. It was good to hear from Jackie and also good to realize that she has been able to come to terms with her grief. She is indeed a lady! She is planning to join us in New Orleans. It will be a pleasure seeing her again. As I think of the wives we "F" Company men managed to carry to the altar, I am in awe! Truly the Gods are rewarding us for our years of travail during the unpleasantness of the early forties and want to remind us that there is indeed justice in this imperfect world. We are indeed fortunate!

I have had calls from Bob DeSandy, Bob Landis, Lou Slatnick, Jack Finnigan, Ed Johnstone, George King, and I see Herb Hoepfner every Tuesday when we do our volunteer work at the VA in Lyons. Aside from the usual aches and pains generally described by septuagenarians, most appear to be in good health and spirits. George King is having some pretty severe pains in his back, Slats' Marion has some ongoing infirmities that flare up on occasion, but she is able to deal with them. Lou's two grandsons are making some great athletic strides in Texas. Both boys have been traveling around the state with a group putting on basketball exhibitions between the halves of college and pro games. One member of the team is Earl Campbell's (the great All American and All Pro football star) son, with whom they are fast friends.

Jack Finnigan's granddaughter graduated from Seton Hall Law School last year. . . a lovely, bright girl. My boy Mark has just been made editor-in-chief of the *Rutgers Law Journal* for next year, so he'll be up to his neck in work.

Bill Mooty has everything in order for our jointly-operated CP in New Orleans so I hope as many of you good people will avail yourselves of the facilities as possible. Get the word out to all your old buddies whose addresses you have. Despite our good spirits, time is running out. Good health!

Hoppie Hopkins  
Edward Hopkins  
110 Hollywood Avenue  
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-2116

### Request for Medals of World War-II

From time to time one of our members will inquire where he may receive medals from his time with the Ninth. For those interested write: U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center, Attn: DARP-PAS-EAW, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63132-5200.

Your request should include your serial number, date and place of birth, of course your full name, address, then and present, the dates served in the Army and by all means a copy of your separation document (DD Form 214).

### ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Things have been quiet so far this year. No meetings — but we do plan to get together for lunch with a few of the members on February 22nd.

We are happy to report that Irma Koskie has been released from the hospital and is now at home. She goes in for therapy five days a week and has a live-in. She is doing remarkably well.

Muriel Gray is well on the mend and plans to travel to Florida the early part of March.

#### Out-state meeting

We are still planning our Mini Reunion in Madison on May 5th and 6th. Last year we discussed holding our Memorial Services at that time and Mike Carpenter was to make the arrangements. As faith would have it, we will now be holding Memorial Services in his honor at that time. We have made arrangements at the Ramada Inn and will work out the details for the Service. Rates for the rooms will be \$50.00, single or double. Cut off date for making reservations is April 21, 1995. The Ramada Inn is located at 3841 East Washington Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53704. Phone is 608-244-2481. Reservations are to be made direct to the Ramada Inn.

Hope to have more news to report in the next issue. See you in New Orleans.

Mike Belmonte  
1161 S. Lombard  
Oak Park, IL 60304

### In Memory of Albert C. Stidman

After fifty years my memory is not so good. I don't remember where I first knew Stidman. I think it was in basic training at Camp Wheeler, GA or on the ship "Empress of Scotland" from Newport News, VA to Casablanca.

We crossed North Africa in the Forty and Eights, stopping at Oran and Bizerte. Then we took a boat ride to Paleramo. We spent that night in a lemon orchard. The next day we were assigned to the Ninth M.P.'s. We shared a tent in Cefalu. But after that my memory fades. I am sure we were together many other times.

On March 8, 1945 I was picked up from a traffic post, taken to Remagen, given a hot meal and a new assignment. I was offered the traffic post on the Remagen side of the bridge or go across to Erpel Lei. I chose to go across to the other side. We crossed on the foot bridge on the left side. Halfway across I was having second thoughts ... The next morning I was on duty when the patrol came. The sergeant had a funny look on his face. He said, "Stillings you were reported killed last night."

My friend Albert Stidman had taken the post on the Remagen side of the bridge and had been killed. He had a wife and a small child. I often think of him.

Preston W. Stillings, 9th M.P.  
9806 Pleasant Rd.  
Daphne, AL 36526

9th Med-Mini Reunion  
The mini reunion of the 9th Medical Battalion will be held April 19 and 20th at the Holiday Inn North in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

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

### Florida Chapter Newsletter

#### JOIN THE FUN DURING MARDI GRAS NIGHT MAY 25

Here's your chance to let yourself have a good time at our own Mardi Gras Night, May 25, 1995. Every year New Orleansans celebrate this festive period with songs, parades, drinks, food and parties just before the lent season starts. . . and then they fast for 40 days.

Barbara Berman, in charge of entertainment for the 50th Reunion, urges all MEN & WOMEN to come dressed up for this fun night. . . the gaudier the better. Search your attic, cellar, or closet for a costume. If you can't find anything at home, you will find it at a flea market or any party store. Ask a neighbor. . . a friend. . . a relative or contact Barbara Berman for suggestions.

#### REUNION COMMITTEE POLICY REGARDING ITEMS FOR SALE

At the Florida Chapter Reunion Committee meeting in Orlando, FL. on January 26, 1995, a decision was made to set aside a designated area near the pre-function area where members may sell different items. All items must relate to the 9th Division. . . no foreign merchandise permitted.

However, you must write a letter stating what you plan to sell, the price of the items, etc. This is so members selling the same articles will have no conflict. Send your letters to Emil J. De Donato, 3650 S. W. Mosswood Street, Dunnellon, FL 34431 who will clear it with the Reunion Committee members and advise you of their decision.

#### 1995 REUNION COMMITTEE MEETS

At the 50th Annual Reunion Committee Meeting held at the Marriott Hotel in Orlando on January 26, 1995, the word was that all plans were on target and proceeding nicely. There still remains much work to be done.

The promotional program appears to be working well, as stated by Emil J. De Donato, Advertising & Promotion Manager. Over the predicted number of members have already made their hotel reservations as of December 31, 1994. Promotional material has been printed and name badges plus other items are being worked on as information is received from the hotel. There is much work to be done before May 25, 1995. We will need help at the reunion such as personnel to hand out the large envelopes, someone who will collect STRIP TICKETS for the 3 nights and personnel to help Michael Deresh at the table reservation desk for the Saturday Night Banquet. It will be for just a few hours per day. Any Florida Chapter member wishing to help and would like more details, contact Emil De Donato, 3650 S W Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431.

#### NEXT FLORIDA CHAPTER MEETING

September 28, 29, 30 and October 1, 1995 are the dates for the next Florida Chapter mini-reunion and meeting. Chairman John O'Grady has chosen the Orlando Marriott Hotel located on 8001 International Drive at the intersection of Sand Lake Rd. This is the same location that the Florida Chapter held their 1990 Spring Meeting followed by the October 1990 National Reunion which the Florida Chapter hosted.

John O'Grady is planning an interesting program for its members. Room rates will be about \$64.00 per night and there will be a choice of two entries for the Saturday Night Banquet. More details will be printed in the future issues of the OCTOFOIL. A detailed mailing with order form will be sent out to all members in good standing about 6 weeks prior to the September 28th date. These Chapter mini-reunions are a lot of fun and are enjoyed by all those who attend them. Plan now to come.

#### WOMEN AUXILIARY NEWS

As of January 31, 1995, Audrey De Donato has received 37 reservations for the Cooking School Demonstration to be held on May 26, 1995. This number is far short of the guarantee that was agreed upon. Please help by sending in your reservation immediately and also by contacting other women who will be going to the Reunion to join in the fun. . . and the food. Audrey says that the chef will prepare the food with mild flavoring and that each table will be set up to have additional spices. Send \$16.00 to Audrey De Donato, 3650 S.W. Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431. . . make checks out to FL CHAPT. 9TH INF. DIV. ASSOCIATION.

Barbara Berman, Audrey De Donato and Katherine O'Grady teamed up in purchasing some interesting merchandise to be raffled at the reunion. They also have been very busy contacting different companies for samples of their products to give away.

#### ROSTER CHANGES

A note from John O'Grady stated that Henry Santos informed him that John K. Moore, who served with Companies A & D of the 1st Bn 60th Infantry recently passed away. John Moore lived at 1055-301 Blvd. E in Bradenton Beach, FL 34203. We regret learning about this news. Our sympathies go out to his family.

Arthur E. Bresette moved to 511 Vermont Ave., Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547-3031. Please make these changes on your Membership Roster.

#### 9TH DIVISION CAPS

Buy a blue & white or an all white cap with the bright 9th Division emblem on it and wear it to the 50th Reunion. Send a \$10.00 check to Emil J. De Donato, 3650 S. W. Mosswood Street, Dunnellon, FL 34431. Make checks out to the FL Chapt. 9th Inf. Div. Association. Price includes postage, shipping and handling. All revenue goes into the Florida Chapter treasury.

Emil J. De Donato  
FL Chapt. Pub. Rel. Officer

### GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER REPORT

The NY Chapter held its monthly meeting at the Masonic Building, 71 W 23rd St., NYC on Friday, January 20, 1995. Prez Al Zenka opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with members' pledge of allegiance to the flag, and peace invocation by our resident chaplain George Apar. Minutes of the previous meeting was read by Secretary Art Schmidt, who is back at his old post, and is on the mend from his mishap of last year. Keeper of the books, Treasurer Charlie Vandermark, gave his financial report which was readily approved and accepted by the membership.

#### Install New Officers

The next order of business was the NY Chapter Installation of Officers for 1995. George Apar, our eloquent interlocutor acknowledged the deep appreciation of the NY membership for the outgoing 1994 officers' dedication and work during the past year. George then installed the newly elected 1995 presidential board beginning with President Charlie LiBretto and wished him well for the coming year. Outgoing Prez Al Zenka ceremoniously turned over the gavel to Charlie. The Octofoil plaque, traditionally given to the outgoing president, was not immediately available and Al will receive it at the next meeting. The full 1995 NY Chapter board also includes: 1st VP Marty Gross, 2nd VP Jack Holuboff, Secretary Art Schmidt, and Treasurer Charles Vandermark. NY Board of Governors are: 39th Herminio Suarez, 47th Dan Quinn, 60th Al Zenka, Divarty Al Lipton, Special Troops Adolph Wadalavage, Sgt. of Arms Tony DeRobertis and Judge Advocate Dan Quinn. The membership wishes the 1995 board a successful year.

Following the installation of officers members discussed the upcoming New Orleans reunion and the participation of our delegates and those members who would be attending. After some old and new business reports, meeting was adjourned and we gathered at the hospitality table prepared by Al Zenka and Tony DeRobertis for a late-night repast and casual conversation.

Other members attending not mentioned above were: Anton Dietrich, Vincent Guglielmino, Bill Klaus and Marv Levy.

Remember to pay your NY Chapter dues: \$10 for 1 year, \$25 for 3 years, and \$75 for Lifetime membership. Make checks payable to "Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Association." Send to Charlie Vandermark, 38 Miller Avenue, Floral Park, NY 11001-3325.

Marv Levy, Reporter  
Co A 60th Infantry  
2044 Ellen Drive  
Merrick, N.Y. 11566

Arthur R. Schmidt,  
Secretary  
89-12 Doran Avenue  
Glendale, NY 11385

### VHS 46 Min. Video available again in March 1995! 50th Anniversary Remembrance RETURN TO THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY JUNE 1944

#### An Infantryman's Combat Sketchbook of the Cherbourg Campaign

Produced by Marvin Levy, Co A 60th Inf.

(Seen on WJSU/TV, Anniston, Alabama, during the D-Day commemoration, June 6, 1994, and private showing at the Lake Placid Reunion.)

Follow artist Marv Levy's unique, illustrated personal chronicle as an infantry replacement with the 9th Infantry Division — from basic training — onto Utah Beach — into the battle for Cherbourg — and the surprising conclusion! Produced with his 1944 wartime drawings combined with live color footage filmed in Normandy on the same battleground 40 years later. Narrated by Marv with sound effects and music. Price \$19.98 + \$3.95 S&H. Check or money order payable to Marvin Levy. Mail to same at P.O. Box 175, Bank Plaza Sta., Merrick, NY 11566. NY State residents add S/T. (One dollar of each order donated to 9th Inf. Div. Association Memorial Fund.) Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Limited Edition Hardcover Books Still Available

#### THE PAWNS OF WAR

by: William Kreye — 39th Inf.  
(now deceased)

Engrossing, personal and historical account of WWII with the 9th Inf. Div. — from Ft. Bragg to Germany. Price: \$10.95 + \$3 S&H. Send check payable to "Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf. Association (noting Pawns of War on check) to Secretary Arthur R. Schmidt, 89-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385

### NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

The fear of inclement weather has kept me from having one of our luncheon/business meeting lately. The fears have been unfounded as we have had one of the mildest winter in my memory here in Jersey. Therefore, I plan to schedule one before the middle of March so be on the lookout for my letter. If the scheduled date proves to bring snow, be sure to call me before you set out, as we don't want anybody to take any unnecessary chances at this time of our lives. We don't have much business to discuss, but it is always a pleasure to get together with guys and your captivating ladies. I have a new place in mind, not too far from our former dining hall. It is quite elegant, and the price is right. I'm sure you'll like it. See you next month!

39th Inf. 3rd Bn. Hq.  
MAXWELL KATZ  
2571 Aragon Blvd.  
Sunrise, Fl. 33322

Ed Hoppie Hopkins  
110 Hollywood Ave.  
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

### 1995 Reunion New Orleans May 25-28

I'm sorry I take so long to communicate, but as we grow older we have health problems. I'm happy to say that all is well now. I'd like to send my wishes for a healthy and happy New Year to everyone of the 9th Div., although belated.

### SEEKING

Enclosed is a review of my sister's recently published book, *Uncertain Seasons*. It is a creative nonfiction account based on the unedited letters from our beloved uncle, 1st Lt. William Howard Shelfer, for whom I am named. He was in the 60th Infantry, 9th Division, Company B. He served from 1941-1944 and was killed in France on August 11, 1944.

If it seems appropriate, please include information about this book in your upcoming newsletter. Our family is hopeful that this book will reach veterans and their families who experienced similar struggles 50 years ago. We are keenly interested in locating anyone who may have known our uncle.

While helping my sister with details for this book, many questions have surfaced that we cannot answer. Perhaps you could assist us. Is there a book specifically about military battles and missions of the 9th Division? Was the chaplain that was killed (8-11-44) along with my uncle the Jewish Chaplain, Tepper? Are there any special commemoration ceremonies planned by your association for this 50th Anniversary of D-Day? Is there anyone or a resource that may help me find more information about men Howard mentioned in his letters — such as the orderly, Holly, from South Carolina that was reclassified because my uncle thought he couldn't stand another battle?

Thank you so much for your assistance. It is truly amazing to locate someone who was there and has such a wealth of information and experience to share with others. Please add me to your newsletter subscribers and bill me accordingly.

Thanks again for your help!

Sincerely,  
Mary Howard Shelfer  
Morgan  
(Mrs.)

3440 Valley Creek Dr.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

### Ninth Signal Reunion - 1995

All of us Division Guys have spent a lot of time on ships, like between the U.S.A., North Africa, Sicily, England, Normandy and Finally Home, but the Navy's attention getter, "NOW HEAR THIS," is just what this letter means. The 9th Signal Company will hold its 8th Annual Reunion at the "Day's-Inn, Kenner, Louisiana on May 25-26-27, 1995. We will not be too far away from National's Activities, so this is another chance to combine the best of both worlds, the Signal Company and National. . . . Remember Fort Bragg?????. Plans are in the works for another enjoyable time with old Buddies and their lovely wives. The "Hole-in-The-Wall" will be in full swing so all you Signalmen get your "A" & "B" Bags packed and make plans to attend, and I assure you that your Committee Chairmen, Bill Miller, 507 Eskridge Dr., Wilmington, DE, 19809, and Dick Craig, 10 Whitney Street, White Plains, N.Y. 10606 will see to it that you enjoy our get-together's.

"OVER & OUT"

Raymond M. Connolly Jr.  
11 Dunstable Road,  
Southampton, N.J. 08088

### K Company 47th Inf.

#### C.P.

RED PHILLIPS has agreed to expand C.P. ownership to the entire 3rd. Btn. It will mean BYOB but the room rent will be picked up by the volunteers of M and K Co.'s. It's been only fifty years and you have already forgotten about volunteering.

As each of you know, when you are on the down-hill drag, time goes by like over-the-hill climaxes, so you had better start packing for the SIN CITY SHINDIG. May 25-28 is just around the corner and if you want to contribute to the BILL McKINNEY enrichment fund, you'll have to be there on the 24th. for an early tee time.

#### SPEAKING OF GOLF

JOE KILLACKY (the Papist Viper) says that the weather in the frozen north has been so benign that he has gotten extra licks with the sticks and is a force to be reckoned with.

BILL can feel free to register because the TOURING PRO, Sgt. KARNACK, refuses to leave Pittsburgh just to give him a lesson.

My Better Three Quarters, the ADORABLE ALICE gave me a BIG BERTHA driver for Christmas. You wouldn't expect great things of a club that just cost \$270.00, but I am here to tell you, I'm getting drives of 150 yds. pretty regular now. This club, along with Jordan's Rule of GROUND RULES DOUBLE, is getting me pretty close to BOGEY golf.

GROUND RULES DOUBLE means that once you hit the putting surface, the second putt is a gimme, no matter where it is. I realized that the only thing in golf that made me mad was three putting, so I eliminated three putts and golfed happily ever after. Since it doesn't matter anymore, it is surprising how many of your second putts would be gimmies under anyone's rules.

#### ANONYMITY

JOE KILLACKY sent me some clippings from his local paper, entitled "Fifty years ago in WWII." Most of these are from the Normandy era but the NINTH comes up sucking hind tit, as always. The NINTH was a better kept secret than the atomic bomb.

The most anonymous unit in the most anonymous Division was K Co., 47th.

RED PHILLIPS sent me some maps he will be using in his RAMAGEN BRIDGE book, and sure enough, OHLENBERG was captured by the 3rd. Btn. We didn't even have all of K Company there that night, much less any other unit. I expect the people that got run out of UNTER ERL will be called K. If you stick around long enough somebody is bound to notice you.

#### CHRISTMAS CARD EVALUATION

I have a tradition of trivializing Christmas by rendering unto Caesar on my Christmas card. Some enjoy them, others, I am sure, do not, but they don't ask to be stricken from the list but this year SCOOP GILLESPIE, erstwhile platoon leader and CO of K, felt compelled to grade the effort. I got an A- on form but he couldn't find a letter lower than Z for content. I could say LIBERAL PRESS but that is as redundant as RICH DOCTOR, or LOQUACIOUS LAWYER.

My oldest son, who rang door-bells for McCARTHY in his youth, is now fond of quoting — "He who is not liberal at twenty, has no heart. He who is not conservative at forty, is without brains." Maybe Ole SCOOP got stuck on twenty.

#### PAY RAISE

My 20% disability pension had a cost of living increase to \$170.00/mo. in December. This brings it almost up to my salary as a SHAVETAIL, \$180.00.

Actually I'm getting more money now because I had to pay \$30.00 for C Rations and almost the same for income tax. Disability pensions are tax and ration free. The best thing of all, no one tells you what to do, or when to do it and people seldom shoot at you. If the Army had dickered, I would have paid them \$170.00/mo to get out.

CHESTER H. JORDAN  
1058 West Lakeview Drive  
Baton Rouge, La., 70810

### 50th Annual Reunion May 25-28, 1995 New Orleans



Pete Rice sends this photo taken about a week after VE Day in Germany of members of C Bty-84th FA: Left to right: Capt Bill Mauser, Lt. John Bridges, Lt. Craig, (not ID) and Pete Rice.

**Deadline for next issue April 20th**



**60th Infantry**  
**RONALD M.A. HIRST**  
**Mathildenstr. 4**  
**D-65189 Wiesbaden Germany**

On Tuesday, 7 March 1995 ceremonies will be held in both REMAGEN and ERPEL, Germany marking the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Army's capture of the Ludendorff railroad bridge. For your information I am enclosing copy of the official program which I assisted in coordinating between the Germans and the Americans. You will note the conspicuous absence of a person presenting comments for our 9th Division!

Among the US-contingents I've been in contact with is the 'Bridge of Remagen Reunion Committee'. It is led by Elvin F. Martin (Box 8573, South Charleston, WV 25303). Elvin was with Co D/47th Infantry. He has gone through great pains to gather up people to join him in coming over for the anniversary. I would believe he is the person who should represent OUR division at this gathering.

I would wish to have your sentiments on this point, Mr. O'Grady. I would wish that you, as our President, would provide Mr. Martin with representative comments that Mr. Martin could present both in Remagen and in Erpel. I will arrange for his presence on the program if you BOTH accept. I feel you, Sir, would be remiss if OUR division were not represented under these circumstances. Of all divisions present, we are the senior!

Our division sent the FIRST regiment across the Rhine - 8 March. Our division assumed the FIRST command of the bridgehead when General CRAIG established his command post in ERPEL at 0235 hours 9 March. Our division was the FIRST division to have all three infantry regiments across the Rhine. It would seem proper, Mr. President, that we too be represented on the podium and speak a few simple words.

I was and remain opposed to our division placing a plaque on the railroad bridge embankment on the west bank of the Rhine river. I do NOT support the peace museum of the town of Remagen. But, I do feel this is the moment, among this host of American veterans, when we should finally make our presence known. Over the years we have stood behind. I agreed. Deeds speak greater than words. We have most certainly expressed our deeds.

I trust you and our Directors will take my request under advisement. I would be privileged with its approval. I would assist Mr. Martin in his presence here. Thank you.

**Hq, 47th Inf**  
**F Co 60th Inf**  
**DAVID D. SILBERBERG**  
**100 North Main Bld.**  
**Memphis, Tenn 38100**

It's been a while since I made a letter contribution to the OCTOFOIL, so here is one that I think is kind of special because I am including a picture of my granddaughter and me showing off my new "9TH DIV" auto tag

Only a couple of days after I had attached the new plate to my car there was the enclosed unsigned note under the windshield wiper. Wish he had signed his name, and now hope to make it a "recruiting" device to get more notes like it but with names, etc.

All the best to our OCTOFOILERS everywhere.



**Phil Emmons of the 15th Engineers sends this photo taken last summer when they visited Normandy. Shown is the French Memorial at St Lo being erected (kind of late) where all hell broke loose when the 3300 bombers of the US Airforce dropped their bombs on the enemy and a lot fell short and hit the 9th. Story of the event is in another section.**

### COBRA

#### UNFINISHED NEW MEMORIAL

The above name on the French Memorial will bring back memories to every man who was serving with the 9th Infantry Division that July 25th day, 1944, West of St Lo in Normandy.

John Hoyt and I came across this memorial after leaving Utah Beach's Commemorative events on June 6th, 1994. Cutting across the lush green country, in a rented car, we were on a straight road between the villages of St Lo and Periers. Driving East to St Lo the unfinished memorial was seen just off the road on the South side. We had driven by it but recognized the large letters COBRA cut into the stone; turned around to take a picture of the gray granite marker, placed on a concrete base, in reddish muddy soil.

25 JULET 1944

JULY

COBRA

GENERAL O N BRADLEY

GENERAL J L COLLINS

et

AUX GLOREUX

COMBATTANTS

du

VII CORPS

U S

AND

TO THE GLORIOUS

FIGHTERS

OF

That 25th day in July as many as 3,300 bombers from the U.S. Air Force carried out the heaviest concentration of bombs ever dropped on enemy front lines — this included P-47, B-24, and B-17 fighter, medium, and heavy bombers. This saturation bombing assisted three American Divisions — 4th, 9th, and 30th to break-through tough enemy defenses. Waiting to follow up on the breakout were other American Divisions and General Patton's Tank Divisions. The push was on.

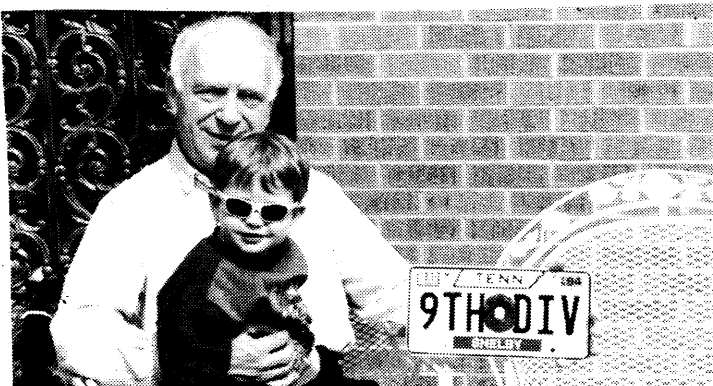
Those there can recall that this strike precipitated large volumes of smoke, dirt, and dust that filled the air. South winds blowing the dust and smoke into American ranks obscuring the colored markers. This caused several of our Division Units to be hard hit by bombs being dropped short. However, the largest weight of the bombs struck their target where they were intended.

The Newsweek May 23, 1994, Magazine reported — the commander of a front line division, the Panzer Lehr, recalled being carpet-bombed by American B-17's: "It was hell — the planes kept coming overhead like a conveyor belt — the fields were burning and smoldering — my front lines looked like a landscape on the moon, and at least 70 percent of my personnel were out of action — dead, wounded, crazed, or numbed."

Co. A & B 15th Engrs.  
 Phillip B. Emmons  
 125 Southfield Rd.  
 Shreveport, LA 71105



**Emerson Gross, Co D 47th supplies us with this photo taken at Monchau, Germany during the Bulge. L-R Ronald Frank, Emerson, Perry and Owens.**



**Dave Silberberg of Memphis, Tn. former member of F Co. 60th Inf and Hq 47th Inf is shown with granddaughter showing off his new 9th Div Auto tag. Letter in Mail Call.**

### SEEKING INFO

I am seeking information on my uncle who was killed in action on the 28th of February, 1945. His name and outfit are as follows:

Pfc. Paul J. Mutschler,  
 33424416

Company A, 1st Battalion (Lt-Col. Oscar Thompson)

39th Infantry Regiment- (Col. Van H. Bond)

9th Division, 1st Army

He was a replacement who arrived in Europe and joined his outfit in early September 1944. I have requested a copy of his 201 file but his record along with others was burned in a 1972 fire was the reply. He was reported first as missing and later as killed. Other soldiers in his company reported the same way were:

Pfc. Charles A. Tice Jr.,  
 35586253

Pfc. Mario Camello, 31369747

Pfc. William C. Belke,  
 16105751

All from Company A and reported missing on the 28th of February and killed in the March 1945 regimental (39th) report.

I also know that his outfit crossed the Roer River on the 27th of February and was about 3 kilometers east of Nideggen, Germany on the 28th. Company A and B (up from Berg, Germany) were pinned down by small arms fire from Thuir (directly east) were reported to have taken Thuir, Germany on the 1st of March.

Please ask anyone to write me who may have been in his outfit and can give more details. My address is:

John J. Nilles  
 280 S. Howard Avenue  
 Gettysburg, PA 17325

I enjoyed talking with you and your wife today. I hope you can get something in your paper this time. If not the next edition.

Thank you very much for your trouble.

P.S. I am doing this research for our family history. My uncle Paul was a big brother to me. He was part of a large family. Six brothers and seven sisters, a large number of which are passed away. But I have many cousins who will be very interested. Enclosed is a check to help with expenses.

### SEEKING

I was given your address on Prodigy's Veteran's Bulletin Board as a possible source for information on the 39th Inf Regt, 9th Inf Div.

My Uncle, Joseph Alexander Keels, was an enlisted man in Echo Company from some time in 1942 until 1945. I am not sure if he shipped with the 39th in September 1942 or if he joined the Regiment in North Africa.

I have applied for his military records and feel relatively certain that I can determine the exact dates that he was in the unit. What I am after is any references or information that you might have concerning the unit's involvement in WWII.

Specific information relating to Echo Company and its missions would be especially valuable to me.

I would be greatly appreciative of any and all help that you could give me in my attempt at documenting my Uncle's experiences.

Sincerely,  
 Harry Keels  
 SFC, USA  
 USAOMMCS, REDSTONE  
 ARSENAL, AL.

**60th Inf. F. Co.**  
**JOSEPH CHMIEL**  
**32418 Columbus Dr.**  
**Warren MI. 48093**

I am a new member in the 9th Division Association. I joined up with the Association about two months ago. I was with Company F. 2nd Battalion 60th Reg. 9th Infantry since North Africa. My company commanders were Chan Capt. Urban and Lt. Galio, and Capt. Fallent. I stayed with F. Company until I got wounded on July 19th 1944. I got hit in the chest. And that laid me up for about a year. And the chest wound sent me back to the States. So I did not last too long after the invasion of Normandy.

I did make a lot of friends while I was with Company F. Next year in June it will be 50 years since the invasion. I'd like to meet some of the guys again. I keep in touch with some of the guys. We are all getting a little older now while there are some of us still around. I'm going to be 78 years old this coming July. So I don't have too much time left to meet the old boys'.

I received my first Octofoil. And enjoyed reading it. I keep in touch with Lt. Col. Urban. And I'd like to get the addresses of Lt. Galio and Captain Fallent if you can send them to me. I'd like to drop them a line.

When I get my next Octofoil, I'll be making my next reservation for the reunion. So if everything goes alright I'll be seeing you there.

### YANK TALKS 85 NAZIS OUT OF WAR

**By Bruce Grant**

**(Times Staff Correspondent)**  
 With the American Forces in France, June 18 — **1st Lt. Joseph L. Rappazini of Negaunee, Mich., is a persuasive guy.**

He got guts, too. On the drive toward Barneville when he spotted nearly 100 Germans in a field, he ordered his company, not to fire.

The lieutenant walked toward the Germans alone, showing he had no weapon in his hand.

The Jerries were too amazed to shoot.

He asked if anyone spoke English and one man stepped forward.

Then he sat down with the group beneath a hedgerow and through the interpreter told them the futility of fighting, that they were almost encircled and outnumbered.

He told them how the Americans were running up prisoners all along the line and just sending them to the rear without hardly any guards.

One lieutenant, he said, had swung over the hedgerow by grabbing the limb of a tree in trying to keep up with the fast progress of the advancing tanks and landed in the midst of Germans.

All surrendered. This group should do likewise.

The German officers were angry but the men began to argue.

This went on for two a half hours. Finally the lieutenant gave them 15 minutes to decide.

The Germans took a vote. Eighty-five agreed to surrender. The others disappeared into the woods.

The lieutenant marched the prisoners out, rejoined his outfit and went on to the front.

1st Lt. Joseph L. Rappazini was awarded a Silver Star for Bravery.

Reprint from Stars & Stripes  
 3rd Bn. 60th



## MAIL CALL

Jack E. Ward  
9015 E. Lehigh Ave., #64  
Denver, CO 80237

I am a friend of Mr. O.C. Shockley, a member of the 9th Div. Assoc.

And I would like to share with you what I did for him, in receiving his Foreign Awards from W.W. II. from the countries of Belgium and France.

This may be something that the Officers of the Association might consider doing for the other members of the Association. And even so far as holding an Award Meeting, or have it included with your annual meeting, inviting the Military Attache's from their Embassies to hand out the awards.

The first thing I did was to get the information of Foreign Awards for the 47th Inf. Rgmt. from the published book for Regiment Linage. After obtaining the Gen. Order No's. I wrote to U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Bldg. 22, Carlisle, PA 17013-5008 to get copies of the General Orders.

Then I contacted the Military Attache's at the Belgium and French Embassy, providing copies of the General Orders and a copy of Mr. Shockleys DD 214 Form.

In reference to GO 43 in regards to a French Award the 2nd Battalion of the 47th was cited twice, so it would be eligible for the French Fourragere, where as the rest of the Regmt. is entitled to the Collective Citation.

It appears that the 47th as a Regmt, had earned the Belgian Fourragere as part of the 9th Infantry Division.

Since this is the anniversary year, 1944 - 1994 (50 years), I just thought I would pass this on to you, since Mr. Shockley has received his. As you can tell from the included letters that I have sent along, I thought it might be nice if the other members also received theirs.

**Hq. B Co. 15th Engrs.**  
RICHARD C. McGRATH  
2856 West 85th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60652.

Among the Christmas cards was one from Phil Emmons who told of him and John Hoyt (C.Co.) going to Normandy for the 50th reunion of the invasion. I look forward to hearing more about their trip through France, Belgium, and Germany at our 50th reunion in New Orleans.

Although I couldn't make the Lake Placid reunion I was glad to hear from so many buddies who told me of the event and how the 15th Engineers were well represented, especially with Officers and notably Holt Rost who is a late comer to the reunions.

Another good news letter in the Octofoil from Henry Santos, after all his misfortunes its heart warming to see him bouncing back.

Henry is good at putting words together.

Our best for a good recovery to Ron Murphy, Jerry Shea and anyone else that has felt the sting of a medical problem. Part of aging.

Enclosed is donation to Memorial Fund in memory of Father Connors and Father De Laura, the two great "Padres" who kept the troops loose when things got tight. They'll always be in our prayers.

47th Inf  
RAY INZER  
818 Harwell  
Abilene, Texas 79601

For some time now I have considered writing this letter, but I put it off because I thought that some might interpret it as an exercise in egotism. Believe me, that is not the motivation; members of the 9th Division who have known me will agree, I think that egotism is not part of my character.

The problem is a question of who and what I am. The 47th Infantry at Fort Lewis sent me a certificate which identified me as a distinguished member of the Regiment. They erroneously identified me as Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Raymond L. Inzer. I chose not to say anything about the error; now I wish I had spoken out.

Recently someone was foolish enough to nominate me to replace BG (Ret) Chip Maness as the honorary colonel. I gratefully accepted the nomination. Then I learned that the Regiment went through an administrative hassle to get my nomination approved. Army policy specifies that the honorary regimental commander must have retired in the grade of colonel or higher. They requested, and got, an exception to policy so they could appoint a lieutenant colonel.

What the Regiment didn't know is that in the Army records my name is Ray. My mother would be pleased to know about the mix-up because she named me Raymond; I made the change when I enlisted in the Michigan National Guard many years ago. Records also show that I was promoted to Colonel in August, 1956 - four years before I retired.

Yesterday I got a letter addressed to me as a retired lieutenant colonel. That motivated me to speak out and set the record straight. I have nothing against lieutenant colonels - I was one for ten years, as are some of the guys I respect the most - but maybe I can help someone avoid another administrative hassle like the one our good friends at Fort Lewis went through.

60th Inf. 39th Inf.  
COL. RICHARD F. KENT RET.  
2592 Woodley Rd.  
Montgomery, AL. 36111

I was a member of the 9th Div. from about 10 Aug. 1940 - a few days before it was officially organized till Dec. 1946 when the 39th Inf. was reorganized. I served as a member of Div. Hq. Aug. to Oct. 40. Co of Co K 60th Inf then Co Col, 60th then Adj. 3rd Bn, 60th Inf. then CO Hq Co 60th Inf, then S-3 3rd Bn 60th Inf thru Feb. 43. Then staff officer, S-3 9th Div. Hq. S-3 39th Inf Regt. July 43 to June 44 then Exec. officer 3rd Bn 39th Inf to Jan. 44, then CO 3rd Bn 39th Inf till deactivation Dec. 46.

If you have any copies of the last Octofoil please back date me and send me a copy.

Also please send me forms to register for fifty years reunion.

60th Inf M. Co  
BONIFACIO CAMPOS  
1307 Montoya St.  
Albuquerque, N.M. 87104

Time to pay dues for '95. Hoping you and Marie and family had nice holidays. Keep up the good work on sending us The Octofoil. Always waiting for it to arrive to see if any of my old buddies are in it.

See you.

Co. C. 9th Med. Bn  
RALPH PALERMO  
223 Barbara Dr.  
McKees Rocks, PA. 15136

Since I last wrote you, I was able to make a trip to Houston, Tx. to visit my son and his family. While there, I talked to Herb Stern and he brought me up to date about the San Antonio Reunion. It was an enjoyable reunion.

I have been elected Pa. State Commander of the Italian American War Veterans, and my Adjutant is Louis LaCivita who was a member of M Co. 47th Inf. Our Division is represented here in Pa. Lou is doing a great job for the Veterans of Pa. We both put in a lot of time for the Veterans.

We are both planning to attend the New Orleans reunion. Hope all goes well.

I keep in touch with my buddy Alex Balough who lives here in Pittsburgh and he is doing well.

Right now the weather here is very cold. Oh, for the South, this time of year. You're having yourself, a bad winter. Stay well.

I wish to say hello to all my buddies from the medics and all the others that I have made friends with at the different reunions.

Enclosed is my check for 1995 dues.

E. Co. 60th Inf.  
CHARLES SNYDER  
597 Riverside Dr.  
Battle Creek, Mi. 49015

Just a few lines to wish you and all members and other buddies who served in the old reliable division a happy and prosperous new year. May all enjoy the best of health that the passing years can bring.

In attending a recent Michigan chapter meeting in December (the first for me in all too many years), I noticed that several buddies were wearing 9th division Octofoil either tie clasps or label buttons. Upon inquiring of Elmer Wagner, he sent me the address of Calvin Daniels of 9612 Madison, St. Helen, Michigan (former member of 26th F.A.) who might have these for sale. But on contacting Mr. Daniels, whose health is not good, he does not have any left. Elmer also said that Art Schmidt of the New York chapter had some for sale at one time. I have not corresponded with Art as yet, but hope to do so in the near future. If any other person, or organization has anything on this other, I would surely like to have such information.

I hope to attend the New Orleans reunion next May, and maybe renew some old friendships if any E 60th are there. I have been reluctant to attend such reunions because of a misguided idea that I was too young, 70, and would not find anybody in my age bracket, but in attending the chapter meeting in December, I found out that Elmer Wagner is younger than me. So much for that misconception.

Hoping to renew our conversation we ended in Detroit several years ago.

60th Inf. M Co.  
JAMES SNYDER  
1815 Sample Rd.  
Allison Park, Pa. 15101

Please renew my membership for the next 3 years.

I enjoy reading the Octofoil. The wife and I attend our Mini Reunions and make a National now and then. It's always great to see old buddies and friends.

Thank you.

47th Hq 2nd Bn.  
MRS. PERCY F. RISHEL  
106 Laney St.  
Mifflinburg, PA 17844

I trust you both enjoyed a wonderful holiday season.

I realize I missed the Dec. 20 deadline, but hope you can use this article in the succeeding issue.

Since "Hambone, Jr." was an item in a previous issue, thought perhaps the group would appreciate knowing what Joe and George did in his honor.

This clipping and many more articles about the D-Day reunion appearing in the Alresford Times and Hampshire Chronicle were sent to me by Doc's friends in Alresford. We have been in contact with the Pay family since the war; visited them in 1970, remember?

Alresford had this big celebration on June 5, 1994. The widow Pay wrote that she had never seen so many people in town. Her grandson played his piano accordion for the hymn singing. Four generations of the family attended the celebration in memory of Doc.

On a more somber note I received word of the death of Paula Bako, widow of George, on Nov. 22nd of cancer. Also Austin Kaepfel, 47th man passed away Oct. 7 from a stroke. Also Myron (Mite) Carpenter passed away early December of cancer.

Keep up the splendid work and hope to see you in New Orleans.

Have a happy and healthy New Year!

39th Inf. C. Co.  
WALTER SMITH  
1035 Terrace Blvd.  
Trenton, N.J. 08618

Three years dues are in the mail with this note.

Nov. 11, '94 our township had a Memorial Service for the Purple Hearters of the services, which included back to the War of 1917-18 to present date. There were about 50 men just from our Township of Ewing, N.J.

On Dec. 18th of '94 there was a service at Ft. Dix for members of the Battle of the Bulge. The theatre was almost full. The service was very good. Had a thank you from a member of the 82nd Airborne thanking our Div. after he and others were trapped until we got there.

All for now, Happy New Year to all.

"G" Co. 60th. Inf.  
WILLIAM CORNELISSE  
1228 Laurel Blvd.  
Lanoka Harbor, N.J. 08734

Would like to get in touch with anyone of the old gang who started in Fort Bragg, N.C. back in Jan. 1941. Would also like to get in touch with my commanding officer Spencer E. Nurkin, Lt. (A good friend).

I tried to get information as to his whereabouts but the records people in St. Louis refused to give me this information.

Just celebrated my 48th wedding anniversary. We are sure getting old.

Co. B 60th Inf.  
OWAL H. RIGGLEMAN  
415 Jackson Ave.  
Moorefield, W. Va. 26836

Here is my dues for another three years. Enjoy the paper a lot. Keep up the good work. Would like to hear from some of the gang.

THE OCTOFOIL  
412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087  
Publication No. 402820  
Standard Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1993

## SEEKING INFO

Gronsveld,

Dear Mr. Daniel Quinn:

Please let me introduce myself before I start writing this letter to you. My name is Pierre Bongers and I'm living in a small village called Gronsveld. In the year 1992 my wife and I adopted a grave from an American soldier called: John McIntyre. This soldier was killed during battle At the 1st of April 1945. Where he was killed we don't know but we were told that it should be somewhere near the Hurtengwald in Germany.

We were hoping that maybe you or friends of yours could help us out. We are looking for any kind of information about this soldier, because we don't have any of it. We only know where he maybe was killed. We don't have a date of birth, if was married, if there are people who knew him (buddies) all that kind of information who's important to us. We know that it's almost 50 years ago but to know a soldier whose grave is adopted to know better should be something special and can hopefully be realized. We sincerely hope that you or maybe friends of yours can spare some time and give us some information. We would appreciate it very very much. You will find all information we have about this soldier in this letter.

Name: John T. McIntyre, 39th Inf. 9th Div., Pvt. Mississippi A.S.N. 44047859. Died: 1-April 1945, Reburied: 25-August 1945.

In the meantime we wait for an answer with great admiration.

Sincerely yours,  
Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Bongers  
Rijksweg 150  
6247 A.M. Gronsveld  
Zuid-Limburg  
The Netherlands

## L Co. 47th Inf.

JOHN A. CAUGHEY  
2016 Stonelea Street  
Pittsburgh, PA. 15212

Enclosed find my dues for three years plus a little for the memorial fund.

My wife passed away Oct. 31, 1994 and I haven't gotten over it. We were married shortly after the war and had a wonderful forty-eight years together.

Thanks Danny and Marie for doing such a good job with the Octofoil. Take good care of each other.

1995 Reunion  
New Orleans  
May 25-28

Deadline for next issue April 20th