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The Octofoil, March/April 1997

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Volume XLXXII Number 2

Mar-Apr 1997



LTC JOSEPH H. WILLIAMS

SPEAKER AT REUNION BANQUET

To many of us, our guest speaker at the banquet, needs no introduction — but to those of you unfortunate enough not to have rubbed shoulders with the under aged young man who fast-talked his way into the army in 1936, well before WW-2, quickly rising to become a soldier's soldier, leader and counselor attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel after receiving a battlefield commission for his proven leadership in combat and in peacetime as well, are in for a memorable treat, as guest speakers go.

Joe, as he likes to be called, has authored several books with his popular (most popular) CAPTOR-CAPTIVE, enshrined in the HOLOCAUST MUSEUM in Washington, D.C. We predict there won't be many weak kidneys showing up during Joe's most interesting delivery.

An overview of Joe's service with the Ninth Division — Joined the division ten days after he was called to active duty, August 1, 1940 — was platoon Sgt. Co. "A" 47th Infantry Regiment through the battle of El Guettar, was transferred to Co. "E" 47th, promoted Plt. Sgt./1st Sgt. received a battle-commission October 20, 1943 and transferred to the 78th Division returning to his first love, the Ninth Division at the end of WW-2 in Germany as commander of Co. "L", and was present to furl the colors of the 47th on December 31, 1946.

Joe, being what Joe is, wasn't satisfied with his life after he retired???? from the military and went on to earn degree after degree in the field of education for many years in Jacksonville, Florida, RETIRING AGAIN???? In 1984 after ORGANIZING THE FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, AND HE'S STILL NOT RETIRED, JUST ASK HIS "Georgia Peach" "Bride," their lovely children, Joe Jr., Linda and grandchildrep Haley and Patrick.

Now a word to the wise and I hope you are all wise enough to heed my advice — If his eyes start to sparkle, and big grin starts to show — RUN FAST, and releave your kidneys because he's got you concerned and you all know how all grandparents get their second wind. You've been warned.

1997 REUNION PROGRAM LOUISVILLE, KY

THURSDAY, MAY 22

8:00 A.M. — Golfers, Meet — Lobby
9:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M. Registration — Lobby
3:00 P.M. — Board of Governors Meeting
5:45 P.M. (SHARP) Belle of Louisville — Ohio River

FRIDAY, MAY 23

9:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M. Registration — Lobby
9:30 A.M. — Men's General Meeting — Cochran Room
10:00 A.M. — Ladies Auxiliary Meeting — Water Poet Room
3:00 P.M. — Board of Governors Meeting
7:00 P.M. — Get-Together Party/Dance — Cochran Room

SATURDAY, MAY 24

9:00 A.M. — 5:00 P.M. Registration — Lobby
10:00 A.M. — Memorial Service — Cochran Room
5:00 P.M. — Catholic Church Service — Cochran Room
7:00 P.M. — Banquet, (East Tower) — Grand Ballroom
(Please note, all functions except banquet are in the west tower.)

LADIES CORNER

Upon request from our Editor, here is an early but very brief column. Fortunately no more Buddies have left us since our last edition. Joe and I, along with Joe and Stella Cichocki (from Company B, 47th Regiment) joined Art Stenzel's widow, Grace, and her daughter Gertrude and husband Jim Allen, and some family friends in Beverley National Cemetery, for his burial. It was simple and poignant in the beautiful old (1863) Cemetery on a warm, Spring day. So we said "Good-By" to an old friend. As for present news, if I am not mistaken, we also have our 2-year elections for Officers at our May meeting. See you there?

Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

Seeking

A Co. 60th Inf.

ALLEN C. OWEN

My first cousin, Allen C. Owen was in the 60th Inf. Regt. 9th Inf. Div. 1st Batt. A. Co. of 12th Army Gp., 2nd platoon under Gen. Hodge.

He was killed in WWII near Thale, Germany, 17 Apr., 1945.

I have a letter stating he is buried in the Netherlands in the American Cemetery in Margraten.

He was recommended for the Silver Star and since his mother and father, sisters and brother are deceased — I don't know if the Silver Star was ever awarded. He went in front of his men so they could withdraw and was a constant target. He continued without regard to his own safety and lost his life. I have a letter from his commanding officer Clyde S. Harris pertaining to all this.

My question is — did you by any chance know him? We called him "Pete." I would love to find some of his company who were with him on the day he died.

His mother and my father were brother and sister.

Also, is there any way to get a picture of his grave over there? He is in plot 1, Row 2, Grave 7.

We (a cousin and I) have written letters everywhere and your name came up. I hope you can help me to know more about his company, exactly where he died etc.

Thank you in advance.
Della Andrews Yerby
5603 C.R. 371
Enterprise, Ms. 39330



1997 52nd Annual Reunion

Louisville ready to greet Ninth

EMOTIONS SURELY TO FLY HIGH

After meeting for fifty one years one would think that only the "OLD FAITHFULS" would be attending the FIFTY SECOND ANNUAL REUNION! Not so!!!

Anyone who's worked over the years at chapter and national reunions have always been excited over "FINDING" new "FIRST TIMERS" and now the rewards are finding their way home.

I'm sure others, too many to mention, have experienced the "goose pimple" feeling of a phone call or letter from a "lost NINTH DIVISION FAMILY MEMBER" so full of excitement over finding his family long lost.

At least seven or eight FIRST TIMERS are expected to be with us in Louisville TO ANSWER ROLL CALL if at all possible.

Suddenly, for reasons unknown to this writer, the children of "The Old Reliables" seem to be interested in what, where, how and when the dads, uncles, etc. did in fighting WORLD WAR TWO to its conclusion. A most heart warming scenario is expected at this, "the last hurrah" for a few who will surely answer their final call before the fifty third annual reunion.

There's still time, for anyone who had planned to "sit this one out" to make that 800 call, reserve a room and join the over 500 "Old Reliables" who will be breaking bread together for "one more time."

Henry R. Santos
9811 N Connechusett Rd.
Tampa, FL 33617-4517

"STRIP TICKET" APOLOGY

Because we have used "STRIP TICKETS" for reunion functions for so many years the assumption was that all members of our association knew what the "STRIP TICKET" was, and for that we apologize, because many members are now attending reunions who for various reasons missed these memorable get togethers, so we'll try to clear the air.

The name comes from exactly what it is, a strip of tickets on a perforated strip of heavy paper that are removed as one attends each function such as "the welcoming party" usually the first evening of the usual three day event. Then they follow in order till the usual banquet on the last evening.

Each of the individual tickets usually lists a price for that function and when added together the total is usually considerably more than the "STRIP TICKET" price. In addition to that we usually discount a few dollars to induce members to pay in advance which makes it easier for the committee than to have everybody lined up waiting to register while various snags (and "snags" often occur, no matter how hard we try), hold up the line. . add up each function's total and it comes to **\$95.00 for each person attending**. Save \$25.00, buy in advance.



ATTENTION GOLFERS

We are sorry to report that the Hidden Creek Golf Course will not be available to us on May 22nd. We are in the process of finding a new course. All those who responded will be contacted with any further information.

LEST WE FORGET

The annual Memorial Mass and Service in Worcester begun by the late Rev. Father Connors and now continued by "Friends of Father Connors" will be held this October 19th. More information will appear in the next issue of the Octofoil.

Mike Belmonte
1161 S. Lombard Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60304
708-386-7865

1997 Reunion

9th Inf Div Assn
Thur May 22
Fri May 23
Sat May 24
Sun May 25 Break Camp
Galt House
Louisville, Kentucky

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

Al Perna
2642 S. Juniper St.
Philadelphia, Pa.19148

Vincent Guglielmino, 1st V.P.
114 Charles Street
Floral Park, NY 11001

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

Ronald Murphy, 3rd V.P.
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, MA 02066

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

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Board of Governors

1997
Nicholas D'Agostine
Cherry Hill, NJ
Michael Belmonte
Oak Park, IL
James P. Driscoll
Holiday, FL
Herb Olsen
Marson Mills, MA
1998
Ed Hopkins
Metchuen, NJ
Ken Meyer
Belton, TX
Phil Bermani
Daytona, FL
Owen Salle
Decatur, IL
Al Zenka
Bellrose, NY
Floyd Hennessey
Lambertville, MI

1999
Al Perna
Philadelphia, PA

Charles LiBretto
Paramus, NJ

Thomas Hutton
Saginaw, MI
William Shea
Scarboro, ME
John Miller
Arlington, TX

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.

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offices.

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

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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.....\$30.00

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 ☐ California Chapter ☐

Ladies Auxiliary

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Membership Application

Carol Saunders, Treasurer, Ladies Auxiliary

P.O. Box 1584, Greenfield, Tn 37744

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My spouse (Brother or relative)

Served with _____

One year _____ \$3.00

Credit Chapter _____

Tip of the Hat

Remembering the Memorial
Fund and their buddies who
have answered their last roll
call we thank the following
members and friends:

C. J. Terricola - In memory of
Robert McGoldrich, Roland
"Frenchy" Phenix and Jack
Kargir, 84th F.A. Hq. Bty.

Joseph A. Mayer - 47th Inf. I
Co.

Rosemarie Werkman - In
memory of husband Henry
Werkman, 39th Inf.

Helen Lagattuta Holmes - In
memory of Joseph Lagattuta,
K Co. 47th Inf.

John Miller - In memory of
Herb Brasington, F Co. 60th
Inf.

Orion Shockley - In memory
of Art Stenzel, Stan Adowski,
Leland Merriam and John
Compagone, all B Co. 47th
Inf.

Irene Phenix - In memory of
her husband, Albert, 84th F.A.
B. Btry.

George Brown - In memory of
Doris Gunn wife of U.S. Army
Ret. Brig. Gen. Frank Gunn.

Sam Robinson - In memory of
Jack Kargir, 84th F.A. B Btry.

Russell Pugh - In memory of
Lt. Woodrow Jones, K. Co.
60th Inf.

Mrs. Pat Morano - In memory
of Art Stenzel, B. Co., 47th Inf.

Peter Carmeci - In memory of
his father, Anthony "Tony"
Carmeci, M Co., 39th Inf.

Olido Starro - In memory of
Angelo Ferrara G Co. 39th
Inf., Frank Buzanoski and
Mrs. Bob Smith, wife of Bob
Smith, G Co. 39th Inf.

Carl Winter - In memory of
60th Inf. Can. Co. 2nd Pl.
K.I.A.

George Michalec an old
timer from the 2nd Bn 47th
Inf. and at one time "the
jeep driver" for Colonels
Johnston and Bailey (both
K.I.A.) passed away April
19th. His family requested
that in lieu of flowers dona-
tions be made to the Ninth
Infantry Memorial Fund.
This Fund was greatly
enriched by the many
donations of family and
friends.

Richard Martin - In memory of
George Michalec, 47th Inf.

William Elau - In memory of
George Michalec, 47th Inf.

James Shattleroe - In memory
of George Michalec, 47th Inf.

John Soukup - In memory of
George Michalec, 47th Inf.

James Hutton - In memory of
George Michalec, 47th Inf.

Francis Barcaleau - In memo-
ry of George Michalec, 47th
Inf.

William Koniar - In memory
of George Michalec, 47th Inf.

Bernice Borowski - In memo-
ry of George Michalec, 47th
Inf.

Lou Barbagallo - In memory
of George Michalec, 47th Inf.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

RESERVATION FORM• FOR RESERVATIONS OR
CANCELLATIONS CALL (502) 589-5200

THE GALT HOUSE
WELCOMES
NINTH INFANTRY
DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MAY 22- 24, 1997

ARRIVAL DATE _____
TIME: _____ ☐AM ☐PM

DEPARTURE DATE: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE _____

REPRESENTING _____ CITY/STATE _____

NAME(S) OF ROOM OCCUPANTS _____

HANDICAP FACILITIES NEEDED: YES ☐ NO ☐
CHECK ENCLOSED FOR DEPOSIT: ☐ AMOUNT \$ _____

MAXIMUM 4 PEOPLE PER ROOM. ROLLAWAYS NOT AVAILABLE.
NO PETS PLEASE!

CREDIT CARD FOR DEPOSIT: ☐AmEx ☐M/C ☐VISA ☐DC/CB
CARDHOLDER'S NAME: _____

NO.: _____ EXP.: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

ROOM DESCRIPTION (Please indicate choice of accommodation)

2 DBL BEDS: # of Persons: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4
\$67 \$67 \$77 \$87

KING BED: # of Persons: ☐ 1 ☐ 2
\$67 \$67

RIVER SUITES: (Parlor/1 BR/2 BEDS) \$200

Rates are subject to state and local taxes.

Complete Information Above:

Return With DEPOSIT

Send reservations to:

The Galt House
140 N 4th Street
Louisville, Ky 40202-9210

TO PHONE IN RESERVATIONS, CALL:

1-800-843-4258 (outside Kentucky)

1-800-633-1561 (inside Kentucky)

FOR RESERVATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS CALL:
(502) 589-5200

CHECK IN TIME: 3:00 P.M. CHECK OUT TIME : 12:00 NOON

To guarantee your reservation we require one night's deposit
(using either an ENCLOSED CHECK, a MONEY ORDER or a
MAJOR CREDIT CARD with expiration date and signature.
"DEPOSIT WILL BE CHARGED TO YOUR CREDIT CARD AT
THE TIME THE RESERVATION IS CONFIRMED.

We regret that we cannot hold reservations after 6:00 p.m. on
the date of arrival without guaranteeing the reservation with
one of the above methods. Deposits will be refunded only if can-
cellation notification is received at least 48 hours prior to
arrival.

We will make every effort to honor requests for specific types
and locations of rooms; however, on occasion, we cannot meet
such requests and reserve the right to provide alternate accom-
modations.

Reservations requested after DATE SHOWN ABOVE or after
the room block has been filled are subject to availability and
may not be available at the convention rate.

Strip Ticket Deadline!!

In order for the reunion committee to complete its
work and pack up for the trip to Louisville, all orders for
"Strip Tickets" must be received by May 10, 1997. No
exceptions. All mail addressed to 9811 N. Connechusett
Rd., Tampa, FL. 33617 will be held at the Post Office after
that date, to be picked up after we return from a mini-
vacation sometime in June at which time any late or
strayed orders will be returned to sender.
Procrastinators will not lose their money, nor will the
committee be responsible for late arrival of "Strip Ticket
Orders."

We're in the homestretch fellers and gals, we need a
few more to go over five hundred (500) "Old Reliables,"
and thirty three (33) states represented as of April 12,
1997.

John Hanley - In memory of Lynn Anderson - In memory
George Michalec, 47th Inf. of George Michalec, 47th Inf.

Maureen DeCamp - In memo- Carol Stocks Prandy Family -
ry of George Michalec, 47th In memory of George
Inf. Michalec, 47th Inf.

Alton Minter - In memory of Nancy Cleary - In memory of
George Michalec, 47th Inf. George Michalec, 47th Inf.

Candy Ammarito - In memory
of George Michalec, 47th Inf.

James Michalec - In memory
of George Michalec, 47th Inf.



TEXAS & THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting was held March 26, 1997, at the Tropical Hideaway, Granite Shoals, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Willard Norris.

Sergeant At Arms Ken Meyer led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Bill "Dub" Lynch gave the invocation. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The financial report was read and approved.

Willard Norris then turned the meeting over to the incoming President, Ernest Botella. Ernie expressed his appreciation for the honor of serving as the Chapter's President for the next two years.

The Ladies Auxiliary reported the gift of \$150.00 to the Veterans Hospital in Houston, Texas.

It was brought to the attention of the members that a Chapter can request to the National for a donation to specific V.A. Hospitals. A motion was made and passed to request a donation from National for the V.A. Hospital in Temple, Texas. The donation would be in honor of Bob Rucker, who has been a patient there over the years while being outfitted with some twenty-five artificial limbs.

A motion was made and approved to acknowledge each Chapter members death with a \$50.00 donation to the National's Memorial fund and a sympathy card sent the deceased member's family. Flowers will be sent to the funeral or the family, which ever is appropriate, and the cost will be borne 60 percent by the Chapter and 40 percent by the Ladies Auxiliary.

It was suggested the National Board of Governors consider having a meeting, or at least an organized tour in Europe. Considering the distances and the time served on the European Continent, perhaps the tour(s) be segregated by campaigns (i.e. Normandy, Northern France, and then Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe). John Miller will bring to the attention of the Board of Governors at their next meeting.

Outgoing President Willard Norris was thanked for arranging the meeting.

Attending the meeting were Ernie and Rose Botella, Mr. and Mrs. Sammie Goodwin, Dick and Alice Granbery, Don and Helen Lewis, Dub and Betty Lynch, Ken Meyer, John and Jean Miller, Charles Newton, Willard and Mable Norris, Pete Rice, Bill and Clara Scott, Roscoe Shields and his new bride, Audrey, and Herb Stern.

After the meeting, many of the attendees toured the countryside to view the magnificent fields of Blue Bonnet, Indian Paintbrush, and other wildflowers which were in prolific bloom in the fields and hills near the meeting site.

As I was unable to attend the meeting, because my wife is now on oxygen, I want to thank Dick Granbery, Ken Meyer, and John Miller, for providing the above information.

Gordon A. Schneider
4001 Fort Branch Drive
Arlington, Texas 76016-3212

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the Midwest. While we still do not have the typical Spring weather — we have been fortunate compared to other parts of the United States.

There has been a change in the dates for Madison. Last issue we reported August dates. It has now been changed to July 29th and 30th. We will still be at the Ramada Limited of Madison, 3841 E. Washington, Madison, Wisconsin. Phone 1-608-244-2481. Please make reservations direct to the Ramada and mention the 9th Division.

Our reservations are in for Louisville and we are looking forward to a good turnout.

Everyone in the Illinois Chapter is holding their own these days and we expect to have a good showing at the Galtin Louisville.

Keep in mind our October Mini Reunion will be in Angola, Indiana on October 14th and 15th. Room rates are \$59.00 plus tax. Reservations are to be made directly with the hotel at 3855 N. State Road 127, Angola, Indiana, 46703 — Phone 1-291-665-9471. Cut off date for making reservations is September 30th.

See you all soon. Stay well.

Mike Belmonte
1161 S. Lombard
Oak Park, IL 60304-2245

Company F 47th and New Jersey Chapter

Ed "Hoppy" Hopkins has been on sick call for some time and his latest setback occurred March 19th when he was hospitalized with pneumonia and not released till several weeks later. He is now at home and apologized for not being up to par with his usual contributions to these columns. Ed's address - 110 Hollywood Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840- Tel- (908) 549-4121.

Grateful

Just a note to inform you that my deceased husband since 5/29/95 has been a lifetime member since 1979. His member code is #31023L30830. Since his demise, I have enjoyed receiving the magazine.

Thank you for all the copies I have received.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Peter Mastrangelo

He was in B Co. 47th Inf.

Taps Sounded

**Call out or names
as the years go by-
Remember us-
and we will never die**

**With deep remorse we announce the passing of these friends and comrades.
May they rest in peace.
To their loved ones we extend our deepest sympathy.**

*Maryagnes Szuba and son
Wife and son of Matt Szuba,
84th F.A.*

*Michael Ford
A.T. & Can. 39th Inf.*

*William DeGrasse
L Co. 47th Inf.*

*Edward Boyle
A Co. 15th Engrs.*

*Jack Kargir
84th F.A. B-Btry.*

*Otis Reed Everage
L Co. 60th Inf.*

*William Larson
A, E & F. Co. 47th Inf.*

*Albert "Frenchy" Phenix
B Btry. 84th F.A.*

*Torino (Terry) Gaeta
39th Inf.*

*Come, fill the cup, and the
fire of Spring
The Winter Garment of
Repentance Fling.
The bird of Time has but a little
way to fly-and Lo. The bird
is on the Wing.
(From Elizabeth Sheller
Morgan's book "Uncertain
Seasons" a quote from a reciting
by her Grandfather when
she was a young girl during
the War II Years.*

**84th F.A. B Btry
ALBERT "FRENCHY" PHENIX
6280 N. W. 15 ST.
MARGATE, FL 33063**

It is with great sorrow that I write this letter to inform you of the death of my beloved husband Albert (Frenchy) Phenix on Feb. 20, 1997 after a long illness.

He was medically discharged May 14, 1945 after serving in the African and European campaign with the 84th Field Artillery Battery B. He entered the Army Feb. 1941.

We did attend the Fort Bragg and Lake Placid reunions where he met many of his buddies that he had not seen in many years and it brought him much joy.

I'm sending a donation in his memory to the Memorial Fund.

I was saddened to hear of the death of his Army buddy Jack Kaiger who passed away shortly after Frenchy. My deepest sympathy goes to his wife Ruth.

My best to all of the 9th Div.

Irene M. Phenix

**ROBIN NEEDHAM
21 Conklin Rd.
Stafford Springs. Ct. 06076
George J. Michalec,**

We would like to thank you for mailing us the Ninth Infantry decal (enclosed check for shipping and handling). It was important to my father that he have one on his casket. It was his only request. Thank you for getting it to us so quickly.

GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER REPORT

February Meeting

Well, folks, the NY Area chapter finally held a meeting in February without snowstorms or frigid temperatures. Members showed up early on Feb. 21, 1997 at our usual headquarters in the Masonic Hall, 71 W 23rd St., NYC. Our newly installed president Al Lipton opened the meeting with our pledge of allegiance to the flag, and resident chaplain George Apar gave the convocation. Secretary Art Schmidt read the previous minutes and Al gave the financial report (since treasurer Al Zenka was away in Florida).

Art read correspondence from absent members. We were saddened by the news that Joe Rzesniowicki's wife had passed away. We were also notified that Art Stenzel had passed on. Charlie LiBretto wasn't at the meeting due to a funeral for his sister. Mrs. Mastrangelo informed us of the passing of her husband Peter. To all grieving families the chapter sends heartfelt condolences.

On sick call: Herminio Suarez was recuperating from back surgery for a herniated disc. Harry Wax who has Parkinson's disease was very ill after suffering a stroke. We wish our stricken comrades a speedy recovery and better health.

We also heard from Frank DiGasio, George Grossman, Frank Hodak, Ernie Micke and John Smith. In error, this scribe omitted from the previous report, that Al Eisen had donated his Christmas 50-50 Raffle winnings back to the chapter welfare fund. Good or bad news, we want to hear from Ninthmen — wherever you are.

After general discussion of the upcoming Louisville Reunion and other business we adjourned and partook of the hospitality table topped with Marv Levy's birthday cake, while batting the breeze about old times with long-gone Bragg buddies and long-haul battles to WW II victory.

Attending members not mentioned above: Tony DeRobertis, Anton Dietrich, Marty Gross, Vincent Guglielmino, Jack Holuboff, Joe Killen, George Nicklin and Dan Quinn.

March Meeting

March winds swept up NY Area Chapter members from various points and funneled us into the doorway of our command post at Masonic Hall on March 21 for our monthly Friday eve get-together. Prez Al Lipton opened the meeting with a resounding whack of his gavel and the boisterous ensemble came to attention for the opening ceremonies. Secretary Art Schmidt then read the minutes. Treasurer Al Zenka (back from his sojourn in Florida) gave the financial report.

The NY Chapter annual May Memorial Service and Picnic preparations were discussed. On May 17, (Armed Forces Day) we will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Long Island National Cemetery on Wellwood Avenue, in Farmingdale. At 10:30 a.m. the honor guard carrying the Octofoil floral wreath will lead the march down the Boulevard of Flags to the main flag pole where services will be held. Services will commence with President Al Lipton opening remarks and convocation by George Apar. Members will be invited, if they wish, to say a few words of remembrance for our 4,581 lost buddies of WW II and since. The service will conclude with the sounding of taps. Those members who have family or friends interred in the cemetery can visit grave sites before traveling to our barbecue picnic lunch in Bethpage State Park a few miles away.

Members, families and friends are invited to our always-popular picnic. The chapter will supply all the food and utensils. All you need to supply is **yourself!** Other than the annual Worchester Memorial Pilgrimage and reunions this is the only time NY Area Ninthmen can come together to remember our departed buddies. If you have never attended a 9th Inf. Div. Memorial Service or haven't attended for a few years, make the effort to join us for this pre-Memorial Day weekend remembrance — before you head for the Louisville reunion the following week.

After finalizing details of the Memorial Service, meeting was adjourned and we had beer, soda, sandwiches and birthday cake for Art Schmidt, before heading home. With Spring weather and longer daylight we hope more NY Chapter members will come to our May and June meetings before the summer hiatus.

Members attending March meeting not mentioned before: Joe Brody, Vincent Guglielmino, Jack Holuboff, Joe Killen, Marv Levy, Al Lubrano, George Nicklin and Dan Quinn.

Remember your dues NY Area members! \$10 for 1 year, \$25 for 3 years, and \$75 for Lifetime membership. Make checks payable to the Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assn. and send to Arthur R. Schmidt, Secretary, 89-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385.

Marv Levy
Co A 60th
2044 Ellen Drive
Merrick, NY 11566-5404

**Remember the Reunion Dates May 22-25
Louisville Kentucky**

Deadline for next issue July 20th

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

KISSIMMEE IN SEPTEMBER: The 1997 Florida Chapter Mini-Reunion will be held at "The Inn at Maingate" hotel located on U. S. 192 in Kissimmee, Florida on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, September 18, 19 and 20 with check-out on Sunday, September 21st. The Inn at Maingate got its name because it is located one mile from the main road leading into Disney. Not only is this a beautiful hotel but it fits our needs. We will have a large Hospitality Room with kitchen facilities. The Inn at Maingate guest rooms are comfortable, clean and are decorated in Florida colors of lavender, mauve, and beige.

The price of the rooms will be under \$50.00 per night providing we meet our quota of renting 30 rooms for 3 nights. Because we are a tax exempt organization, there will not be any sales tax. The deadline for us to submit a rooming list of attendees is August 10, 1997. This means that all members planning to attend must send in their completed order sheet and money immediately after receiving their copy of the membership mailing. This mailing is scheduled to be mailed on or about June 30, 1997. Cancellations and other pertinent information will all be spelled out in our direct mailing to members. The Inn at Maingate has several restaurants and a lounge located throughout the lobby floor where you may buy a sandwich or a full meal. This hotel is designed with two seven-story guest room towers, joined by a beautiful garden courtyard pool area. All hotel areas, including guest room corridors, are enclosed and connect through the lobby. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check-out time is 12 noon.

The Reunion Committee is making plans to have a Thursday Night Dinner at a well known restaurant in the area. Friday Night's plan calls for dinner and show at the Wild Bill attraction located located minutes away from the hotel. There will be a Men's and Women's Business Meeting on Saturday morning followed by a banquet style dinner at the hotel on Saturday evening.

Chapter President, Richard Baudouy is the Chairman with Emil De Donato as Co-Chairman and Phil Berman as Treasurer and helper. This committee is joined and being helped by their wives to insure you of a good time. They urge you to make every effort to attend which is only their reward for all the hard work that goes into the preparation of these meetings.

Any National Association member and/or guest are welcome to attend the Florida Chapter mini-reunion. To receive the information kit, contact Emil De Donato.

STANSELLS CELEBRATE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY: 50 years may seem like eternity to some people but for Lila and H. F. Stansell it seemed like a short time. That's because they will be celebrating their 50th year as man and wife on June 12, 1997.

Celebrations started early . . . on April 19th they left for a week's cruise to Bermuda. During the month of May, they entertained company at their Ormond Beach home. Then in June and for their 50th anniversary, they will be in Rome, Georgia where their family will honor the occasion with a big party. Lila's great nephew will be married toward the end of June and the Stansells may attend that wedding in Connecticut.

Lila and H. F. have been outstanding members of the Florida Chapter. Lila has been and presently is the President of the Women's Auxiliary while H. F. served as Vice President of the Florida Chapter from 1993 to 1996. They have been willing and hard workers of the Chapter and never hesitated to do their share in the many functions and especially during the meetings. As the spokesperson for the entire Florida Chapter Membership, we wish Lila and H. F. Stansell many more years of health and happiness. May God Bless and look over them always.

ROSTER UPDATE: Please make the following changes on your Membership Roster:

Gaeta, Torino (Terry) — deceased January 16, 1997
Geyer, Otto (Bud) — deceased September 13, 1996
Pernokas, Evangelus (Gil) — moved to 1174 N E Pine Hill Ter., Jensen Beach, FL 34957
Shankman, Martin — Moved — address unknown. Marty please reply.
Watts, Robert — Remove from roster. Dues delinquent.

COLE GRONSETH — Capt. M Co. 60th INF. Ret.: The Florida Chapter has its share of outstanding soldiers who fought during WW II but for whatever reason, we never hear their stories. One of these soldiers is Ret. Captain Cole Gronseth. As a 23 year old second lieutenant, he crossed the English Channel and landed on Utah Beach on D plus 2 as a replacement officer. 9 days later on D plus 11, 2nd Lt. Gronseth was assigned to Co. M 60th Infantry Regiment. He joined the 9th Division just west of Ste Mere Eglise as the Division was cutting cross the Cotentin Peninsula. On July 13, 1944, Lt. Gronseth was wounded for the first time. Born of tough Norwegian ancestry, and being a good fighter, Cole was back on the front lines in a matter of days. On July 19th he was hit the second time. The Medics removed a piece of shell fragment from his neck and Gronseth went back to his machine gun platoon as a 1st Lieutenant. On July 23, 1994, a German machine gun bullet caught Cole's right leg and as a result, he was flown to England to recuperate.

Jack Blann's Book — A Private's Diary Now Available

Jack Blann's new book, A Private Diary — The Battle of Germany as Seen Through the Eyes of an 18 Year Old Infantry Rifleman, has been received from the printer's and is available to all members of the Ninth Division at a reduced price.

In May of 1945, at the conclusion of the war in Europe, PFC. Blann was still only eighteen years old. But even at that young age he realized the enormity of the events that he had just witnessed as a member of the Second Platoon, E Company, 47th Infantry Regiment of the Ninth Infantry Division. With the experience still dominating his thoughts, he sat down and wrote a detailed account of each day of the battle of Germany, as he and the other members of the second platoon had lived it.

This is a beautifully hardbound, limited edition, with many photographs by the author and other members of E Company. Publisher's list price is \$24.95, but the special price of Ninth Division members is \$19.95, plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Orders from Texas should include \$1.90 for state sales tax. Order your copy now to insure delivery before the Louisville Meeting. The author will bring a limited number of books to Louisville, but the supply may not be sufficient.

For immediate delivery, order from J&L Publishing, 11303 Valley Stream Drive, Houston, Texas 77043.

Death of Private Wilson

In late January or early February of 1945, I was working as a medic in the Second Platoon of "K" Company, 47th Regiment. The Battle of the Bulge had ended and we were in the next phase of battle — the battle of Germany.

I had been a medic for about six weeks (two weeks beyond normal life expectancy of medics). I remember the death of one of my people that I was to care for very clearly although I do not remember his name, but I will call him Private Wilson.

Wilson was an extremely good looking young man probably about nineteen years old and he had been on the front line only for about four days. At the time that his death occurred, we were making what seemed like a not very difficult advance into German territory.

Suddenly he was shot and I was called as medic. He had been shot through the neck and while the wound itself did not seem very impressive, it was clear that it was a very, very serious wound. He could not speak. I held him in my arms and could see the wound in his neck. He did not seem to be in any special pain and he was conscious and he was aware that he could not move. I put a bandage on the wound area and then I gave him a shot of morphine. Medics carried small morphine syrettes, which would have one dose all ready made for injection.

But I realized, as I was holding him, that he really was not going to live. While I was holding him in my arms, he stopped breathing. I do not recall attempting artificial respiration because I felt that he really was dead. When I tried to check for heartbeat there was none. I felt a rush of sadness go through me, which I still feel even as I write this.

He was a handsome, healthy seemingly responsible person. I am sure that his course was not unlike many of those who had been with our company and our division from the beginning of the landings in Africa, but it was a personal experience for me and I would like to share it with you.

George Nicklin
Medic, 'K' Co. 47th Reg't.
6 Butler Place
Garden City, N.Y. 11530-4603.

From his hospital bed in England, he heard many stories of the 9th casualties and couldn't wait for the October date in 1944 when he was released to go back to his Co. M.

He was promoted to Captain in February 1945 and fought as its Company Commander throughout all the battles until the end of the war.

Cole Gronseth was discharged in February, 1946 and went on to a teaching career until his retirement. He married Eileen Burke on December 13, 1943. They have three sons and one daughter ranging in ages of 40 to 50. Eileen and Cole make their home in a prestigious sub-division 3 miles north of Dunnellon, Florida. In a recent conversation with Cole, I learned that he and his wife would like to sell their 2 bedroom, 2 bath home on a corner 1/4 acre lot so that they may help their daughter Colleen who lives in Tallahassee. Anyone who wishes to see the property or wants further information, may do so by contacting Cole Gronseth, P.O. Box 1904, Dunnellon, FL 34430, or phone 352/489-0557.

TORINO GAETA. A note from his wife Mary stated that Terry passed away on January 16, 1997. He was in a nursing home for two and a half years and according to his wife, he suffered a long time. Torino Gaeta served with the 39th Infantry and also C Btry of the 60th Field Artillery. Our deepest sympathy to his family. Torino was a member of the Florida Chapter.

Emil J. De Donato
3650 S W Mosswood St.
Dunnellon, FL 34431
352/489-4070

a prayer for those
who wander the earth-

Heavenly Father, look down on us, your humble, obedient tourist servants who are doomed to travel this earth taking photographs, mailing postal cards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

We beseech you oh Lord, to see that our plane is not hijacked, our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed.

Protect us from surly and unscrupulous taxi drivers and English speaking guides.

Give us this day divine guidance in the selection of our hotels, that we may find our reservations honoured, our rooms made up and hot water running from the hot water faucet and cold water running from the cold water faucet.

We pray that the telephones work and that operators speak our tongue and that no mail awaits us from our children which would force us to cancel the rest of our trip.

Lead us, Dear Lord, to good, inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb and the waiters friendly and the wine is included in the price of the meal.

Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand. Forgive us for undertipping out of ignorance and overtipping out of fear. Make the natives love us for what we are and not for what we can contribute to their worldly goods.

Grant us the strength to visit the museums, the cathedrals, the palaces and the castles listed as "must" in the guide books.

And if perchance, we skip a historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us for our flesh is weak.

[This part is for husbands.] Dear God, keep our wives from shopping sprees and protect them from "bargains" they do not need nor can afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

[This part is for the wives.] Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them to us and save them from making fools of themselves in cafes and night clubs. **Above all, please do not** forgive them their trespasses for they know **exactly** what they do.

[Together now.] And when our voyage is over and we return to our loved ones, grant us the favour of finding someone who will look at our home movies and listen to our stories, so that our lives as tourists will not have been in vain.

This we ask in Your Name . . . Amen.

Hqs. 9th M.P. Co.
EDWARD HOFFMAN
2434 Brownsville Rd.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15210

I'm sending you my dues for 1996. Enjoy reading the Octofoil. Since I am receiving the Octofoil I have written to some of the men I served with and the men answered my letters. It's

Where am I on Easter Sunday
My memories are always
Recalling:
North Africa
APRIL 23, 1943 - APRIL 27, 1943

After Co. F 60th Inf. - 9th Inf. Division took its objective, Djebel Mrota, on the morning of April 23, 1943, we were ordered to proceed and attack Djebel Dardye. After a long night's march over treacherous terrain, we arrived at our objective and began organizing our position.

It was a very foggy morning; we didn't take time to dig in. We found a low spot in the terrain and laid down. 1st Sgt. John Miller, S/Sgt. Joseph Boylan and Pfc. William Nichols occupied a position on the right flank of Co. F. They had just covered themselves with their blankets or whatever, and were catching a few winks when all hell broke loose. Miller's position was on the reverse side of the hill so the enemy had to expose themselves to fire on them.

About 5:30-6:00 a.m. machine gun fire whistled over their heads. Sgt. Boylan said, "What's going on?" Nichols crawled for better cover. Sgt. Miller looked up and saw three Germans (M.G. Squad) spraying the area with machine gun fire. They didn't see Miller. He grabbed his Thompson submachine gun and cut loose on the enemy; they never moved again. Without hesitation he picked up the German M.G. and fired from the hip with several blurts from the machine gun. He crawled forward about 20 feet in order to observe the enemy better. Manning the enemy M.G. he stayed in position all day. The Germans sent wave after wave trying to take our position. Miller fired continuously mowing them down. Later Pfc. Nichols described the action as a scene from a John Wayne movie with Miller firing from the hip yelling at the top of his voice.

Just forward to his left was a high pile of rock which the enemy used as an aiming point. Enemy artillery and mortars tried to take Miller out but with no success. I saw a soldier move up to Miller's position only to be blown to bits by an artillery shell a few minutes later. Later in the afternoon a soldier crawled up to the rock pile and climbed up on the top. Miller yelled for him to get down but it was too late. The top of his head came rolling down. Night came and Miller was almost in no-man's land, out of ammo. He yelled back, "Cover me while I go out and get ammo and grenades." He moved slowly into German lines always aware of booby traps. It seemed like hours as he crawled out in enemy territory stripping the dead of ammunition, grenade and rifles. Slowly he returned with the needed ammunition which was primarily for rifles. This necessitated working all night to clip the rifle ammunition together to form a machine gun belt to be used in his captured gun.

25 April

He was ready for the attack. At 0500 on April 25 the Germans attacked. Wave after wave were sent in. Artillery and mortar fire were extremely heavy. Miller stayed in his position, firing constantly as the enemy attacked. Observing that our mortars were not firing directly in front of our position he called for mortar section to drop range another twenty-five yards. Replying from the mortar section Sgt. Preston said, "If we fire any closer, we'll fire on you." "Fire anyway," Miller yelled.

In the afternoon a German approached waving a white flag. Miller stopped firing for a second, not realizing the German had a machine gun strapped on his back and a gunner to man it. They approached slowly; all of a sudden they fell to a prone position. The enemy was trying to eliminate Miller's M.G. position, but instead, the instant they fell, Miller fired and eliminated a desperate German charge.

That night Miller again crawled out in enemy territory and brought back more ammo as well as German food as we had not eaten since the attack started.

The next morning was quiet; we had held our position. Later in the day I told the Whip, Miller's nickname, that the BnC.O., Lt. Col. Kauffman wanted a count of the enemy dead. We went out in front of our position and counted 116 enemy dead. The vast majority was in front of 1st Sgt. Miller's position.

Co. F. stayed in position until the 27th of April. The enemy had withdrawn but every night Miller could hear a wounded German soldier calling for help. After he heard this for two nights, early on the morning of the 27th Miller told our C.P. personnel he was going out to get the wounded German soldier. Miller walked out a couple of hundred yards, always aware of booby traps. He saw the wounded soldier and approached him with caution. The wounded man was hit in the right thigh, his leg twisted under him. He had been lying there for at least four days. Miller picked him up and carried him back to the C.P. He thanked Miller very much and wanted to give him his watch and wallet which Miller refused. When I arrived, I was mad as hell and said a few curse words. I told Miller he should have left him out there to die. Later he was put on a stretcher and was soon evacuated.

1st Sgt. Miller is credited with killing at least 50% of the enemy, personally saved the lives of S/Sgt. Boylan and Pfc. Nichols and numerous other American soldiers.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, 1st

M Company (47th) Chronicler

M Co. 47th Inf.
HENRY G. PHILLIPS
Lt. Col USA (Ret.)
14002 Hemlock Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946

Got my Octofoil a couple of days back. The letter from the son of Moseley made my day. I have been tracking this guy for years. (S2, S3 and XOg 39th) and finally learned Moseley was a VMI grad. Pete Rice found out there that he became an MD after the war and practiced in Port Orange, FL but was deceased. I then had one of our guys there ringing doorbells to locate family and boom! Here's this letter from the son in the Octofoil. Now maybe the son has a diary that the old man kept which tells a story or two about the 39th — I'm dreaming! But some- times ----.

Just back from trip to Phila. where I interviewed Frank Veale former 9th of XII Corp GI under Eddy. Nothing earthshaking there but it was good to be back in old haunts. Frank took us to dinner at one of the old Irish rawbar/sea food places on Samson St. It brought tears to my eyes, slipping those gooey things down without (today) a beer to chase it with. Happy days!

All best.

Red

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 80th Area Support Group (NSSG)
CMR 45 Public Affairs Office
APO AE 09708

Dear Mr. Quinn:

Your name was provided to me by a very good friend of mine, Colonel Phil Noto of the Pennsylvania National Guard. He said you may have information concerning the 9th Infantry Division during World War II.

I am researching the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment for a Belgian-American Foundation headed by Dr. Paul Delahaye. The first 12 Americans to die liberating Belgium fell near the village of Monceau-Imbrechies on 2 September 1944. Most were from the 60th but several were from other units.

Dr. Delahaye's group has constructed a memorial for these soldiers but cannot find all the names to complete the inscriptions. Some of the records from St. Louis are incomplete so we ask you to search your files to see if any more information can be found concerning these brave men.

See the attached documents for reference. I hope you can assist us further. Anything additional you can furnish will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
Thomas H. Larscheid
Command Information Officer
HQ 80th ASG
CMR 451, Public Affairs Office
APO AE 09708

HERE-N-THERE
RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING, AND LOUNGES
THE GALT HOUSE HOTEL offers a wide variety of restaurants and lounges throughout the complex.

- * The original Flagship Revolving Rooftop Restaurant offers a spectacular view of the Ohio River and Louisville.
- * The Fountain Room, Informal Dining Room, offers an "all you can eat" buffet luncheon for only \$6.50.
- * River Grill Coffee Shop offers three meals a day with a \$5.50 luncheon special.

These restaurants choices, combined with our three lounges —

- * the Lobby Bar with piano entertainment,
 - * D'Marie Lounge with entertainment and
 - * the English Tavern Pub with pool table and juke box
- make for quite an adventure in the art of being "wined and dined."

The Village Mall on the second floor of THE GALT HOUSE TOWER offers the following shops:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Gift Shop | Beauty Salon |
| Men's Wear Shop | Ladies' Wear Shop |
| Flower Shop | Novelty Shop |
| Photography Shop | Berea College Craft Shop |
| Barber Shop, Shoe Repair & Shoe Shine Shop | |

Sgt. Miller distinguished himself during the battle at Djebel Dardye. He exposed himself to both friendly and enemy fire, manned a machine gun position with an enemy M.G. for a period of two nights and three days, saving the lives of numerous American soldiers and killing approximately 50 enemy soldiers.

For this heroic action Miller was awarded the Silver Star.

Note: If this had been 1944-45 he could have received CMH.

If you were with 2nd Bn 60th Infantry I know you'll remember this.

Submitted on March 24, 1987
for inclusion in the Matt Urban Story:
John W. Miller
Lt. Col. Ret.
1511 Cochise Dr.
Arlington, TX 76012

Anthony Andriola of the 9th Meds and a very active Vet in his home town area (Nutley, NJ) was recently honored at a reception at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ.

Recipient
of the Membership
into the Chapel
of the Four Chaplains
Legion of Honor

ANTHONY ANDRIOLA

Anthony Andriola, a WWII Veteran, has volunteered his time and talent to organize local veteran units and to assist with the design and building of Post Homes in Nutley for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus. He served as Commander of the AMVETS Post 30, Commander of Father Glosback Post Catholic War Veterans, President of the New Jersey Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge Veterans and President of the Veterans Council of Nutley. Currently, he now serves as Commander of AMVETS Post 30. Commander Andriola helped to organize the Special Young Adults (SYA) organization in the early 1950s and continues to serve as Chairman of SYA committees. He also served as trustee and fund raiser for major scholarship programs for Nutley High School graduates.

9th Meds
& 47th Inf.
Anthony W. Andriola
33 Clover St.
Nutley, NJ 07110-2238

SEEKING HELP

I am in the process of getting awards, decorations, etc. for my deceased brother Howard E. Lillegard ASN 37 283 935. He was a member of Company D 47th Infantry Regiment. He passed away 23 November 1980 and at the time he was a member of the 9th Division Society.

So far I have been fortunate to receive medals from the Army Records Center in St. Louis.

He was with the 9th Division when they set sail for the African Campaign on 19 Oct. 1942 and continued thru the eighth campaigns that the 47th Regiment participated in. He was discharged 23 Sept. 1945.

I read with interest the letter by Jack E. Ward in the Jan-Feb. 1995 edition of the Octofoil about awards by the Belgianand French Governments to some units of the 47th Regiment.

What would be the procedure to determine if my brother was entitled to any of these awards. I imagine you will be swamped with letters from members of the Division in regards to this procedure.

Any help or information you could provide would be appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kermit Lillegard
1650 3rd Ave.
Windom, Mn 56101

MEETING THE RUSSIANS

I still wonder to this day if the "Ninth Division" met the Russians before the 69th Inf. Division did. Let me tell you my story of meeting four Russian soldiers, one of whom was a woman.

Our 3rd platoon of Co. B "15th Engrs" with the 3rd Bn. of the "47th Inf." pulled into Dessau on the Elbe River in late April. We took over a building that seemed like a health spa.

On the second day Lt. Gaspari told me to take one of the guys and cross the bridge into the main part of Dessau and see if I could get a barrel of beer. I took Bob Apel with me in the jeep I was driving and started out.

When we came to the bridge that crossed the Elbe River into the city, we found an M.P. guarding it. I don't remember if he was one of the 9th M.P.'s or not. He stopped us and said no one was allowed to cross the bridge. I told him we wanted to find a brewery and get a barrel of beer. After convincing him we wouldn't be very long, he let us proceed.

We rode into the main part of town without seeing any people anywhere. After a short-time, we saw two large smokestacks and figured it was a brewery. We pulled up and hollered as loud as we could to attract attention.

Finally, a man came out to the platform and we told him we wanted a barrel of beer. He didn't seem to understand until we made gestures like we were drinking with our hands and pointing toward the brewery. He went inside and in a few minutes came back out rolling the largest barrel of beer I had ever seen. We loaded it into the jeep and gave him a note saying "one barrel of beer to be paid by the U.S. Army."

We were about half-way back to the bridge when I looked up one of the side streets and saw four people. I said "Let's see who they are" to Bob and turned up the street where they were.

When we approached them we saw that they were soldiers and could be none other than "Russians!" The shortest one was an officer with at least four medals hanging from his jacket. He had a pistol at his side and an officer's cap on his head. Two others were enlisted men with what looked like burp guns. The other one was a gal soldier and she also had a burp gun. None of them wore helmets. All four saluted us and we saluted back.

The captains said "Sprechen mit Amerikans officer?" Not knowing any German or Russian I made a gesture to get in the jeep. Bob straddled the barrel of beer and I told the gal to sit in front with me. She made a "no" gesture to the captain, wanting him to sit in front.

When we crossed the bridge, I waved at the same M.P. and instead of waving back, he made a motion like "What in the world is going on?" A little way up from the bridge was a bunch of trucks that weren't there when we passed before. I looked at the bumper on one of them and knew it was the 104th Division who had just pulled in.

As I came into a road junction, I slowed down and saw these three officers and an idea hit me. I would tell them whom I picked up on the other side of the river and see what they would do.

I stopped a little way up from them and told the Russians to wait. I didn't get ten feet from the jeep when I was surrounded by 104th G.I.'s. It took me at least five minutes to reach the corner where the officers were standing. When I told them I was with the 9th Division and that I had four Russian soldiers with me, they were dumfounded. I said I didn't know what to do with them. They told me to bring them to them and they would take care of them. I fought my way back to the Jeep and saw the Russians were showing the G.I.'s their weapons. The gal was getting the most attention though. I took them back to the 104th officers and said good-bye to them with a salute.

After leaving them I felt bad about not finding out how they got to where we met them since they had no vehicle, also what outfit they were from.

When we got back to our platoon and related our story, I was on the S list for at least a week. They all wanted to meet the Russians, especially the gal soldier. The barrel of beer helped some but not that much!

Getting back to my opening statement, I wonder if we met the Russians before the 69th Division. I can't remember the exact date but maybe someone who was in the area can remember and let me know. The only clue may be if someone remembers when the 104th-Division pulled into our area.

If anyone has any information on this event, I would appreciate hearing from them. I always felt our 9th Division should have been the first troops to meet the Russians.

Dear Dan,

It's the 52nd anniversary of this event so thought it would be a good idea to repeat it again.

It still puzzles me as to the exact date when this happened. My big mistake was not taking the Russians to Division Headquarters. Along with the barrel of beer.

CHARLIE HOFFMANN
Co. B 15th Engr. Bn.
91-43 81 St.

Woodhaven, New York 11421

Seeking

Dear Friends,

I am writing to request your organization's help in my efforts in obtaining information on my grandfather, Henry E. Moderacki, who served in World War II.

I have already contacted the National Archives for general information, but what I hope to find with your assistance is one or more individuals who: may have served with grandfather, knows something about the unit he served with, or may have been a friend of his. My reasons for obtaining this information is solely for the purpose of a family history project that I have undertaken and my interest in discovering personal accounts that pertain to my grandfather's service in the Army.

Some thoughts I had about making my request known to your members who could help was to: post my letter upon a members bulletin board, print my request in a newsletter that is distributed to Veterans, contact me directly with the name of an individual who I could write to, etc.

To follow is what information I have on my grandfather so far:

Service Date; June 29, 1942 (Fort Meade) to September 23, 1945 (Fort Dix).

Unit: US Army, 60th Infantry, 9th Division, Rifleman 745. (I know he served in Algiers, Italy, Africa, Normandy, and Berlin.)

Address at time of entry into service: 139 Sixth Avenue, N. Tonawanda, NY 14120.

Of the few photos my grandfather has of fellow soldiers, only one has a person's last name written on the back. It reads "Chirico" or "Cirico."

I greatly appreciate any time you can give to my letter.

Sincerely,
Michael LaManna
421 Bennett Street
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

39th H Co.
GEORGE TALLEY
RR 2 Box 466-A
Centre, AL. 35960

I didn't know the Octofoil paper existed, I met this guy who was in the 60th Inf. 9th Div. and I've been trying to get information on the 9th Div.

I got wounded around St. Lo and sent back to England. When I was on my way back to join my 9th Div. the Germans made the Belgium break thru. I was put in the 134 Inf. Div. wounded again, sent back to England and back home. I was a machine gunner in Co H 39th. I would like to know if any of my friends made it back.

I'm sending money to subscribe for Octofoil paper. I had a brain injury and lot of my memory was blocked out.

Thank you.



39th Inf.
PETER D. CARMECI
Son of Pete
1-0-39th St.
Union City, NJ 07087
Gentlemen:

Please accept my donation of \$100.00 to the Ninth Infantry Division Memorial Fund in memory of my deceased father, Anthony (Tony) J. Carmeci, Sr. who was a lifetime member until his passing on November 12, 1993. Our dad served proudly in Europe and in North Africa with Company M and the 39th Infantry from 1942 to 1945. When dad retired in 1976, he made it a point to attend all of the reunions. He loved to be with his old buddies and talk about old times. I would like to thank one of dad's old wartime buddies, Mr. Arthur Clark for his generous contributions in keeping our dad's memory alive along with many others of his comrades who had also served bravely with Artie and dad.

I might add that Mr. Clark is doing well and retired in Boynton Beach, Florida. We all wish him and his family well and God bless them and bless all who have survived in World War II and all wars. We as Americans must never forget those brave men and women who gave their country the ultimate sacrifice, their lives so that we may all prosper and enjoy the freedom that we know in this great country today. The sacrifices of all past wars must be handed down from generation to generation, so that we never lose sight of it.

We must also take the time to visit and write to our disabled veterans who also gave so much for freedom. They shouldn't be forgotten either because some of them today are still suffering the scars of past wars. They are really the truly brave Americans. May God Bless them all. With many thanks, I remain ...

Peter D. Carmeci,

Co. D - 60th Inf.
ALEXANDER SMITH
108 Rogosin St.
Rockingham, N.C. 28379
Hello to all of you,

It's been some time since I last dropped you a few lines. So here I am again. My wife and I are doing ver well, don't feel as young as I use to be, but happy to still be here. My friend Charles T. Pop Walker called me on my birthday, mine was Mar. 14th turned 78. Pop and I call each other on our birthdays and write each other once in a while. Oh, Pop's July 9th. In the last issue I read a letter that Alfred J. Kongslied had written he named about 10 members of Co. D 47th I happen to know one of them, his name was William Steen. He and I was boys together. I know his brother see him often. He and his wife paid us a visit last Friday night, he was always close to us in another Div. William Steen passed away several years ago, it's always good to get the Octofoil and catch up on the news, keep up the good work.

15th Engrs.
ROBERT MANDLE
184 Danbury Rd.
New Milford, CT 06776

I just returned from an extended trip overseas and was saddened to receive a letter from my former company commander James Otts informing me of the passing of Phillip Emmons.

I am so happy that I was fortunate enough to have been able to spend a few days with this fine gentleman at the last reunion at the Concord.

I am certain Phillip will be sorely missed by all who knew him and by all whose lives he touched.

My condolences to his family and please accept the enclosed check in his memory.

47th Inf. Co. D
IRWIN J. DUPUY
12233 N. Yorkdale, Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA.
70811-1240

I wonder how many of my buddies are left, that were with me on that fateful Higgins boat that landed at Safi, North Africa on the morning of November 8th, 1942 early in the morning on Sunday. I am speaking of the boat that the ramp that failed to come down, and the coastal artillery and all guns were aimed at us. It was scary indeed being 20 and have never been shot at. To prepare us our ship cooked up the cheapest steaks they could find. When we climbed down the net to get in the Higgins boat a soldier slipped and fell between the net and the Higgins boat.

Before I left the ship I took a couple of flashlights — because it was not daylight yet. They came in handy, later on. On shore I could barely make out an old locomotive that was probably junked, but it made a small cover for a few of us.

After all the shelling had stopped we slipped in to Safi, and found a bunch of Arabs talking and paid no attention we were there!

To add sorrow to the fact that ignorance somehow overcome this youths reason, he picked up a live grenade and ran with it and yes, it did kill him. We took the city and found that the officers ran to Marrakech. Then we started on the famous march to Port Lyautey.

WILLIAM RING
P.O. Box 597
Dover Plains, NY 12522

I received the cards you sent me some time ago. I was in the process of moving from Ct. to N.Y. so I could not answer and thank you for sending them. I do not know how I mislaid them and I did not miss them until they arrived in the mail.

I have finally completed the move. I am now a New Yorker after 77 years in Ct.

I have made arrangements for the reunion in Ky. I hope the weather there is better than the Worcester weather. I know that it could not be worse. But that's New England. If you don't like it now, wait a minute. It will change.

Thanks again. Have a nice holiday season and we'll meet again in May.

Deadline for next issue July 20th

B Co. 47th Inf.

GEORGE W. BENTLEY, JR.
39 Landola Dr. N.W.
Conyers, Ga. 30207

Dear Dan Quinn & wife Marie,

This is Jane Bentley, wife of George Jr. How many times I've thought about writing, but I start, and get half way written and then lose the letter and months later I find a half written letter. So maybe this one will get finished.

George has just become 100% on disability. Our Conyers Dept. of Veterans Serviceman, Tommy Clack, has never given up on George's health and disabilities. So now he went from 80% to 100%. The VA Medical Hospital, Clairmont Rd., Decatur, Atlanta, Ga. is really super. They keep George hopping. So he has hearing aids, both eyes had cataracts removed and now lenses put in. He also gets regular glasses and sun glasses, telephone for hearing impaired and all medicines. If they could only keep up with cholesterol in check and also has diabetes. But they'd have to keep him 24 hours a day. Also had triple bypass July 10th, 1990. Oh, we are falling apart year by year, but he keeps busy.

He also is my cook, as I'm lazy as I hate to eat. He's still sending "Peg Boards" that he makes to all VA Hospitals, nursing homes. Also builds bird houses, Log Cabins, Piggy Banks, and also has made 8 "Dulcimers", old time musical instruments. Our son George III plays them at church and nursing homes, plus banjo and mandolin. George does only have patience to sit and work on things of hobbies.

George and I attend Ga. War Veteran Home in Milledge, Ga. about 6 to 8 times a year for parties or cookouts for the patients. We've tried to go to Penna., outside Pgh., to see my mom (96 May 15, 1997), and other relatives and friends. Have to go to a graduation of my favorite niece Diana Adams around June 97. But we will check all phases out, to maybe get to the reunion this year.

So sorry to hear of the passing of Robert Edie, John Campagnone, Stanley Adowski, Pat Morano and Art Stenzel. The numbers are shrinking for sure. We've only been to two reunions (Ft. Bragg, N.C. and Nashville, Tenn.) and remember quite a few, but if I spotted Ed and Helen Sarnocinski, also Joe and Rose Harvilla (I believe he's from near Uniontown, Pa.). I was born and raised in Somerset Co. between Somerset and Uniontown, really called Harnedsville, 2 miles from Conference. I congratulate them on their 50th wedding anniversary. If George can stand me until June 21st, we will celebrate 52 years. Our son Geo. III sent us on The Big Red Boat for 3 days and 2 nights to the Bahamas for our 50th anniversary. It was super. We sure appreciate all the Xmas cards we've received from folks from the 9th Division.

ROSEMARIE WERKMAN

3 Felter Hill Road
Monroe, NY 10950-9806

Dear Mr. Quinn:

Re: Enclosures

Along with my membership renewal, please find enclosed a copy of LOVE, WAR & REMEMBRANCE by Rosemarie Werkman ... I speak, lovingly, of the main character, my husband, Henry J. Werkman (#32040905) who was one of your own ... who walked across Europe with many of you during World War II.

Hank lost his right leg as a result of shrapnel wounds sustained in battle ... and seven years before his death on June 26, 1979, he lost his remaining leg.

Hank, as with many of you, served his country well in war and in peace.

I would be pleased if you would add my memoir, LOVE, WAR & REMEMBRANCE, to the memorabilia that you have regarding the mighty 39th Infantry, 9th Division.

Thank you ... best wishes to all the good men and women of the 39th.

If there are those among you would like a copy of LOVE, WAR & REMEMBRANCE, the price is \$10.00 and can be obtained at the following address:

Rosemarie Werkman
3 Felter Hill Road,
Monroe, NY 10950-9806

A Btry 15th Engrs.

JAMES G. DE LEO
27 Hollis St.
Cambridge, MA 02140

Dues for another three years.

See you at the reunion in Louisville, Ky. My check is enclosed.

Now Dan, you know why no one gets any letters as I write a long gabby letter and could be boring to a lot of folks. I know I carried an autograph book to each reunion. In December 10, 1992 a Deputy of our county turned in front of me and totaled my 90 Chevrolet car and almost George and I. I ended up with mild concussion, 2 fractured knee caps, black and blue all over. I walk okay but live with that ol' friend arthritis. I was 70 in December and George will be 77 October 4.

So we are both falling apart, and super glue doesn't help anymore. Ha, Ha. I'm not to have peanut butter but right now I'm having a rye sandwich of butter and peanut butter. Does Marie still like that combination? We think of all of you often. Perhaps we may be able to get to Louisville, Ky. George doesn't smoke, but I still do, so I hate to go anywhere where I can't smoke. We're having pollen season, today was 539, but before it is over it will go to near 2000.

Just wanted at least to let you and yours and others know that we are still around kicking but not too high. Ha, Ha.

Your friends from
Conyers, Ga.
Jane & George W.
Bentley, Jr.

SEEKING

I have a very big favor to ask of you. I saw your 'in search of' in the Purple Heart magazine and your inquiry of 9th Infantry Division vets immediately caught my eye.

My older brother Pvt. Billy C. Rhoads, 16001304, was in the 9th Infantry Division during WW II. Before going to North Africa he was in Btry A 60th F.A. I believe sometime between North Africa and Sicily he was reassigned to Co. C. 83rd Cml. Bn.

I have tried for years (without success) to determine if the 60th F.A. was part of the 9th Division and, if so, which division did the 83rd Cml Bn. belong to? Also, what does Cml. Bn. stand for?

After Sicily Bill was killed in action in the invasion of Anzio 22 January, 1944. I still have several of his letters mailed home but he never talked about his unit. Realizing it's a lot of years since the war, I'm still very curious about his military unit, campaigns, and hopefully some survivors of the 9th who would be willing to share their experiences.

John, if you have knowledge or know of someone I could contact for information regarding the 9th, I'd be eternally grateful to hear from you. Also, if any of the 9th vets attending the reunion would contribute I'd appreciate it.

Kindest regards,

George Rhoads
2008 Western Rd.
Iowa City, Iowa 52240
319-351-5983

39th Inf. K Co.

SAMUEL LEDFORD
4418 Happy Valley Rd.
Flintstone, Ga. 30725

Enclosed is a check to cover my three year renewal and a little more for Memorial Fund.

I look forward to each issue of the OCTOFOIL — to see if any one from K Company 39th has written to Mail Call and if I recall their names.

I have gotten reacquainted with several Co. K men by seeing their names and address in Octofoil. O.G. Giles and John McGill — especially since we took basic training at Camp Wheeler-Macon, Ga. and into Co. K 39th at the same time. By the way if any men from the 9th Division of WW II want more or any information about 9th Division action — they should contact Archival Research International, 1539 Fox Hall Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 2007-2067. The man claims he can furnish any information. He does so for a price.

That's it for now. Thanks again for a good paper and job you do.

9th Infantry Div. Band

STEVE D'ANGELI

15 Granite Rd.
Medford, MA 02155

Enclosed is my check for another three years dues.

Having been with the 9th Division from Ft. Bragg all the way to Ingolstadt, Germany, I'm sure I wasn't the only G.I. to find the "Blue Danube" was anything but Blue. Then again I'm sure no one cared about the color of the Danube because now we had just one thing in mind ... take me home!

D Co. 47th Inf.

JOHN WILSON
1936 E. Glenrosa Ave.
Phoenix, Az. 85016

Enclosed my check for 3 years dues. I'm sorry I can't make it to any of the 9th conventions. We go back to Milwaukee, Wi. in late August then we go to Sarasota, Fla. (Lido Key) leave there 1st part of Nov. and return to Milwaukee where my five children live and grandchildren. Then we return to Phoenix mid November by way of Missouri, where my wife's mother and family live, Clinton and K.C., Mo. then back her to Phoenix. So we travel a lot. I was in the Reserves (Army) had air bourne training at Ft. Benning. Wrestled professionally for 33 years, in the 50, 60s and 70s. Wrestled in Madison Sq. Garden, Jersey City, Newark. Also in Japan, Canada and Europe so I have had a pretty full life Dan. Have had all my joints replaced. Both hips, both knees, both shoulders and a "young" 61 year old wife Jeanne.

The weather here is very good right now 9:30 a.m. it's 75° and sunny. So Dan my best to all in the 9th.

Yours in comradeship.

P.S. Also was under contract under Curly Famleau of the Green Bay Packers, Before service (43) \$135.00 a game and 35 a week expenses.

How about that?

**CALL OR WRITE A
FRIEND -
ENCOURAGE HIM
TO JOIN THE
ASSOCIATION**

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. Div. Assn'n (noting Pawns of War on check) to Secretary Arthur R. Schmidt, 89-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385.

B Co. 9th Medics

GEORGE STEIN
7755 E. Quincy A-3-108
Denver, Co. 80237

Still here in Denver, I doubt if I can make the 9th reunion as I've been crippled with arthritis in my hands and legs. We all are getting medical problems as we enter our 80s. I'll be 82 in June.

Hope you and Marie are doing O.K.

60th Inf. F. Co.

DONALD CRASS
2295 Strong Rd.
Phelps, Wi 54554

I received the 60th Reg. books. I am enclosing a small check for the books and postage. I am thankful for going that extra mile for me, digging them out.

I have been thinking about that memorial they are planning on in Washington for WW II. I was thinking the Ninth Division Association should set up a committee for this. I think the Ninth wasn't given the credit it was entitled to throughout WW II.

Maybe by having some one representing the Ninth this could be done. This is only a thought to be kicked around in the future. We had a lot of great men and leaders in the Ninth and I am proud to have been a part of it.

Thanks again Dan. Hope to see you all at Louisville in May.

47th Inf. K Co.

IRA MOSER
5064 Baux Mountain Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

To let you know our intentions about joining the 9th Division Association and attending the reunion in May. Enclosed is application and check for three years dues. Also we have reservations for May 21, 22 and 23 in Louisville, Ky.

Also enclosed is a citation we received which reminds me which battalion I was in, but I don't remember the Co.

The first we knew about the 9th Division Association was in the last issue of D.A.V. Magazine. I was a member of the 9th Division from England (June '44) to Germany of (Dec '44).

Look forward to seeing you in Louisville in May.

E Co. 47th Regt.

JOE W. HASENFUS
3570 Union Ave. Rear
Pennsauken, NJ 08109-3008

Rec'd my 1997 member card #0299.

Have not rec'd a copy of Octofoil in 6 months??? Why?? Please send. Thanks.

Just got out of hospital, went in Nov. '96. I was paralyzed from waist down. Doctors said I would never walk again! I fooled them. Now get about on crutches — caused by no blood supply to brain — Neuro doctor stated - due to WWII gun shot wounds. Still under his care at Outpatient. May operate. He said I should get my comp increased? Ha! VA never did anything for me. I wish to say hello to all — trusting '97 will be a good year for all. Best regards, God bless. Thanks.

MAIL CALL

Co K 60th Inf.

JOE RAPPENZINI
24001 Sherman
Oak Park, Mich. 48237
Poet Laureate
Dear Dan,

There are times when one stops and intently ponders on many of life's wonders — and

Again I've scanned "The Octofoil," and there are tear drops that fall onto the soil.

In sadness, yes, as names are scanned and memories flow.

When recalled are "Buddies" of long ago.

Oh! Just to return once more and join hands with them!

To exchange thoughts all over again!

Yet, blessed are we to be able to recall and envision names, dates and events related to the Ninth Division!

The warmth and pride each shared as part of the "Octofoil,"

Can by each member be readily envisioned without any toil.

What a treasure of memories each 9th G.I. must hold.

For being part of a unit proud, valiant, bold!

Warmest regards.

Co. K 60th Infantry

BILL CLEMENTS
P.O. Box 315
Hillsboro, Texas 76645

This is my first time to write to Octofoil. I am not sure when my dues are to be renewed, but I am sending \$25.00 for 3 more years. I read and enjoy the paper very much.

I joined K Company in October 1941 and was with them all the way to approximately 15 miles from Berlin. As you all know, a lot of K Company did not get home, or were wounded and were sent home a long time before the rest of us.

I would like to hear from someone who was with our company, especially a guy named Hudel (first name unknown). He was from the Laredo area and a guy named Frytag from the Austin area.

After 48 years of asking people and looking I finally located my Company Commander, Capt. Robert Rucker, who lost his leg by a mine explosion in Mknassy. We were glad to see each other and now call or write occasionally. Our homes were fairly close, Hillsboro and Franklin, Texas. Then I found out he would be at the 9th Division Reunion in San Antonio and after 48 years we met again. I was really happy to see him and have a good talk. He lives in The Woodlands, north of Houston.

If there is anyone who remembers me from the 9th Division, please contact me at P.O. Box 316, Hillsboro, Texas 76645.

1997 Reunion

9th Inf Div Assn
Thur May 22
Fri May 23
Sat May 24
Sun May 25 Break Camp
Galt House
Louisville, Kentucky

47th Inf M Co
BOLES LAW 'BILL'
KOWALCZYK
30 Marlborough St.
Chicopee, Ma 01020

Now that many of us are septuagenarians we may be thinking that the average longevity of the U.S. male is 75 years and how to postpone the sound of celestial klaxons or excruciating heat down below. Personally, I've always been a moaner and a groaner so probably it will be the purgatory for me. —Yet, as long as I'm top-side on this vale of tears I will do everything in my power to valiantly fight off old age and to extend my miserable stay here on earth.

A few weeks ago I had an appointment with the cardiologist at the HMO. After waiting an eternity, the nurse finally came out and asked for a Boryslav, —or something similar. After her fourth try I asked if the name happened to be Boleslaw (my legal name). I told her that it's pronounced Boles' law, — like Murphy's law, except Boleslaw means 'Do unto others, — then split'. — With a blank look on her face, she just said, 'Walk this way.' I tried, all the way to the examining room. Again I waited an eternity for the doctor to arrive, just to tell me that he is sending me to the hospital for extensive tests.

At the hospital 75¢ words were bandied about, —like paroxysmal tachycardia, bradycardia, premature ventricular contractions, plus a few words which I understood, like slow pulse and pace-maker. I must say that the staff at the cardiac ward were true professionals and knew their jobs, except for one 'klamka' (Polish for doorknob) who woke me up in the middle of the night just to tell me that my pulse went down to 32 beats per minute. 'Try to awaken me when you see a straight line across the screen', I told her gently, knowing that she could be very trying.

After 7 days of tests, the doctors decided that a pace-maker wasn't called for (yet); a change in medication brought my pulse up to a safe level. —I used to wonder how people could write pages and pages of stuff without saying anything —I'm beginning to find out how they do it.

MP's

CARL PALERMO
2105 S. Riverside Dr.
Edgewater, FL. 32141

I am enclosing a check for 3 years dues. I am very happy to receive the Octofoil newspaper.

After spending nearly 4 years in the Army 9th Div. I feel I left part of me with the 9th Div. and the only way I can keep up what's happening is with the Octofoil. I do want to give you, and fellows who help putting the paper together much credit. I want to wish all you and families the best in the coming holidays. Thanks.

Grateful

Enjoy reading all the news of the Ninth Infantry Division in "The Octofoil". Thanks so much.

VIVIENNE KUERT
(George A. Morgan's sister
and Ed Egan's friend)
221 Rush Creek Dr.
Heath, TX 75087

SEEKING

39th Inf. Co. A
JOHN NILLES
280 S. Howard Ave.
Gettysburg, Pa. 17325

I am seeking information about my uncle. I am hoping that you can help me. He was killed in action, near Nideggen, Germany, on the 28th of February 1945. His name and outfit are as follows:

Pfc. Paul J. Mutschler, 33424416.

Company A (Lt. Robert Antony (deceased) was his platoon Lt.) Sgt. Robert Shoenekase was his platoon Sergeant).

1st Battalion (Lt-Col. Oscar Thompson) 39th Infantry Regiment (Col. Van H. Bond).

He was a replacement who joined Company A in mid October 1944. Men of Company A who were wounded February 28th, or March 1st 1945 are as follows:

Sgt. Seved R. Cederborg, 39266118; Pfc. Chester Quinton, 39925910; Pfc. Jack K. Terrel, 36889303; Pfc. Merle A. Davis, 36477950; Pfc. George W. Murray, 13185709.

In a letter to my grandmother dated May 6, 1945 from 1st the Battalion Chaplin I have learned that Sgt. Charles Blakeslee was a good friend of my uncle and would know what happened to him. If anyone can help with Charles Blakeslee's address or the men above or even the state they live in I would very much appreciate it.

His company crossed the Roer River on the 27th of February and Company A was about 2 kilometers east of Thuir on the morning of the 28th. They were to take Thuir (a small German village) but were pinned down by small arms fire and there were many casualties.

Please ask anyone to write me who might have been in his outfit or can give me more details. My address is: John J. Nilles, 280 S. Howard Avenue, Gettysburg, PA 17325-2409.

I enjoyed talking with Mrs. Quinn today. As I told her, I have been fortunate. I wrote about two years ago and you were able to put something in The Octofoil spring 1995 issue. From that article, a man in uncle's outfit who knew him responded. He gave me a lot of good, valuable information. However, he could not fill in detail on what happened to my Uncle Paul on the 28th. He was seriously wounded and taken back on the evening of the 27th of February 1945.

I am hoping you can get something in your paper to help me again with my research. The soldiers names above are new and perhaps this will help someone remember. I am doing this research for our family history. My uncle was only a few years older and sort of like a big brother to me. He is part of a large family, many of whom will be interested in any news of what happened to him and his company on the 28th of February 1945.



Co M - 39th Inf
ALBERT FIALKA
1263 Woodnoll Drive
Flint, MI 48507-4715

I joined Company M at the camp near Andover, England about the last week of December, 1943. I was a 2nd Lt. at that time. I still remember how lucky I was to join an outfit that had fought in combat and were very experienced. For six months before the war started, I made many friends who I will never forget because I was only 21 years old and I didn't know much about combat. I remember landing on Omaha Beach just 4 days after D-Day, and then as we moved toward Cerborg, I was injured with shrapnel on the upper part of my body. They flew me back to England to recuperate, and after a few weeks I returned and joined my outfit in France. I will always remember the wonderful support that we got from all of our buddies, including the officers, especially the Lt. Colonel who carried the heavy duty machine gun for one of the soldiers who was having some trouble.

I will never forget the cold, winter days that we spent during the battle of the Bulge, and how some of us slept together in the snow in order not to freeze. I would like to thank every one who I fought with because it was their support and understanding that got me through this war. I was the observer for the 81 mm mortar squad but I was attached to the L company infantry group. I wish I could remember some of the names of the people that were in our outfit. I do remember Captain Dickey, Sergeant Reynolds, and I think Mortimer Elin. I realize that so many in our outfit were wounded or killed, but I wish that I could come in contact with some of my old buddies. I always tell my friends that good feelings always come after you have endured some of the bad feelings.

I live in Flint, Michigan and in the winter, before going to sleep, I always put on the heating blanket on my bed, and when I crawl in, I reflect on the number of cold days and nights that we almost froze while fighting during the winter time. It brings me so much joy. I have lived in Flint all my life. I am married for 48 years and we have 4 children and 6 grandchildren. I graduated from the University of Michigan and worked for Buick Motor Division in the Financial Department, retiring in 1980. Since then I have been writing a newspaper column entitled "Observations on Life" for about 12 years for various papers in Michigan.

I would really enjoy hearing from some of the people who we fought with together. I was not aware of the newsletter "Octofoil", so if you would write to me at my home address I would enjoy hearing from you. I was always proud of our 39th motto — Triple A — Bar Nothing.

Best wishes to all of you, and Thanks again for helping me return home to my loved ones.

THE OCTOFOIL
412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087.
Publication No. 402920
Known-Class Periodicals and at Union City, N. J. Publications as of October 1, 1997

47th Inf

ROGER J. GARTLAND
255 Charles St.,
Watertown, N.Y., 13601

As my stay in Fla. is nearly over for this season, here's my summer address.

At least twice a week, I've been playing golf and it has been enjoyable.

A friend of mine for many years has been spending three months with me. He and I have been delivering meals to shut-ins in nearby Lake Alfred. We have been working out of the Winter Haven office each Monday.

During spring training we saw the Yankees play against the Tigers and the Indians. In Winter Haven we saw the Indians defeat the Blue Jays by a single run.

The big reunion is only a few weeks away but I will not be able to attend it. For the few of my old buddies who will be present, give them my best regards.

If Bill Randall is there please extend best wishes.

Thanks for all favors and give my regards to Marie.

The Soldier
by Karen Ferguson

He waits,
In the cold dark night,
He waits.
The terrified boy,
inside the MAN,
family at heart,
and war on his mind,
So he waits

In the cold, lonely night,
He waits
His mind wanders home.
to his kids and his wife
to the last time he held
them,
They were his whole life,
Now he waits.
In the cold endless night.
He waits.
Now he fights for his
country,
the land of the FREE
He is over there now,
So he can protect me.
SO HE WAITS.

SEEKING

The town of Zulpich, Germany requests information from the 9th Inf. Div. (60th Inf. Ret.) members who secured the city in WW II. They are interested in names, rank, position. (Sqd. Ldr. Platoon Ldr. etc.) and activities. Personal accounts are requested. Hand-written accounts are acceptable as they will be typed before forwarding.

Respond to: Walter J. Klepeis, 139-52 86th Rd., Jamaica, N.Y. 11435, Ph - 718-739-3821.