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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, January/February 1998

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXXIII Number 1

Jan-Feb 1998

1998 REUNION PROGRAM HAMPTON, VA.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

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
8:00 P.M. — 11:30 P.M. Opening Night Reception

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

9:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M. Registration — Lobby
9:30 A.M. — Men's General Meeting
9:00 A.M. — Ladies Auxiliary Meeting & Breakfast
12:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M. Banquet Table Reservations
3:00 P.M. — Board of Governors Meeting
8:00 P.M. — Get-Together Party/Dance

THURSDAY, MAY 7

9:00 A.M. — 5:00 P.M. Registration — Lobby
10:00 A.M. — Memorial Service
4:00 P.M. — Catholic Mass
6:00 P.M. — Cocktails
7:00 P.M. — Banquet

TOUR REGISTRATION FORM 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION MAY 4 - MAY 7, 1998, HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

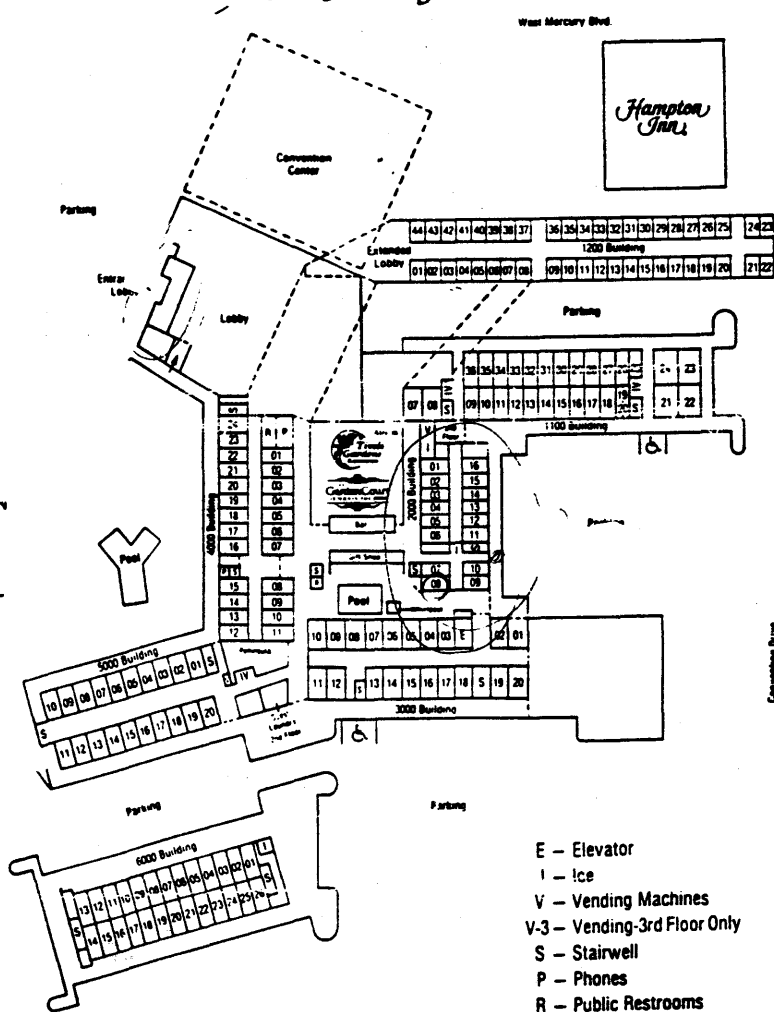
	Number	Total
Tour A - War Memorial & Mariners Museum Mon. May 4 -11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	_____ @ \$26.00 ea.	_____
Tour B - Williamsburg & Yorktown Tues. May 5 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	_____ @ \$29.00 ea.	_____
Tour C - Miss Hampton II Harbor Cruise Wed. May 6 - 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. LIMITED TO 135 PEOPLE	_____ @ \$27.00 ea.	_____
Tour D - Virginia Air & Space Center Wed. May 6 - 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	_____ @ \$24.00 ea.	_____
Tour E - Fort Monroe & Casemate Museum Thurs. May 7 - 12 noon - 3:30 p.m.	_____ @ \$20.00 ea.	_____

Continued on page 4

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Holiday Inn — Hampton — Coliseum
Hotel & Conference Center Virginia

Property Layout



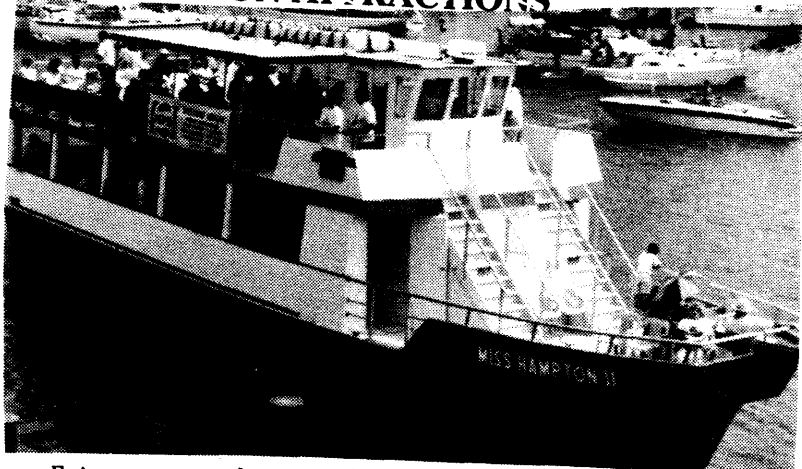
LADIES CORNER

Hi again — this will, for all intent and purposes be the last edition you will receive before the Hampton Reunion. Therefore, I shall try to get everything of importance in this. OK? Phyllis Perna actually should be listed as Co-Columnist, as she provided me via telephone, most of the information you will read here. Her husband is the chairman of the Reunion Committee and she is in charge of the Breakfast/Program the Ladies Auxiliary is holding on Wednesday, May 6, 1998 in the Regency I Room on the first floor of the Hampton Hotel. Please write these notes down, so you don't forget: 1) Be there by 8:30 a.m., when the doors will open for the Breakfast, which will start at 9:00 a.m. 2) Have your ticket in your hand, which you obtained by sending \$9.00 to: Mrs. Phyllis Perna, 2642 So. Juniper St., Philadelphia, Penna. 19148. (her telephone # is (215) 467-2159 if any difficulty ensues.) 3) You must also enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your money, and in which Phyllis will mail back your ticket to the Breakfast. **Do not forget this ticket** when you pack to leave for the Reunion! It has happened **before** Ladies, so heed my admonition please! 4) Pack a Pollyanna gift in the same bag as your ticket and clothes. If you don't know what a Pollyanna gift is, it is a gift, large or small, wrapped, pretty or plain, inexpensive, and something you might like to give yourself. OK? After the Breakfast, the official meeting follows. Then you will be treated to a Mary Kay Demonstration by Janet Brown, wife of George Brown of the 47th's Company B. Our Pollyanna follows, and at about 1:00 p.m. it will be all over.

If you are not a member of the Auxiliary you may join at the meeting. Dues are \$3.00 per year and please see Treasurer Clara Scott about that. If you are a first-timer, or relatively new at these Reunions, I would like to give you some advice on having a good time there: 1) Don't be shy and wait for someone to talk to you, they may be as shy as you; 2) Join the Auxiliary, it only costs \$3.00, gives you the privilege of voting on important matters, and has the nicest ladies who try to do good by raising money to give away to worthy Veterans' Hospitals/Organizations; 3) Try not to hang around **only** with your husband's buddies' wives, etc. — mix with others. I have done that when Company B's attendance dropped

Continued on next page

HAMPTON ATTRACTIONS



Enjoy a narrated cruise of the Hampton Roads Harbor on the new 65 foot double decker, *Miss Hampton II*, departing from historic downtown Hampton. Cruise past Blackbeard's Point, Old Point Comfort and the Norfolk Naval Base, where you will get a close-up look at the mighty ships and submarines berthed at the world's largest naval base. A highlight of the cruise is a stop at Fort Wool, an island fortress that dates to 1819. Used to guard the entrance of the harbor during the Civil War, World War I and World War II, Fort Wool has been an area landmark since the early 1800's.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

TOUR C — MISS HAMPTON II HARBOR CRUISE, 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Package Price: \$27.00 per person, inclusive. LIMITED TO 135 PEOPLE.

"OLD RELIABLES"

Dear Members,

We are quite pleased with the progress that we are making with our plans for the upcoming 53rd Annual 9th Infantry Division Reunion.

Al Perna and George Brown, reunion co-chairmen, and their wives Felice and Janet just returned from a trip to Hampton, VA. We met with Anne Phillips, the tour coordinator, Sandy Greene, tourism center coordinator, and Antoine Holley, hotel coordinator to finalize our plans for the reunion.

George and I are very grateful to our wives, Felice and Janet, who have been a tremendous help to us by adding the "woman's touch."

After the meeting, we took a ride to the florist and made arrangements for our flowers for the Memorial Service on Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. Then we drove to Langley Air Force Base and made plans for our color guard. Sandy Greene is arranging for a priest to say Mass at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday. Specific locations for these services will be posted at the hotel.

Also, posted in the hotel will be the locations for the following meetings: General Membership Meeting, Board of Governors Meetings, and Ladies Auxiliary Breakfast and Meeting.

GOLF CORNER. We've set up tee times on Tuesday, May 5, starting at 9:42 a.m. We have made arrangements for 28 golfers. Do not send any money for the golf outing yet. Final arrangements will be made Monday and Tuesday. The price will be \$8.00 for the cart and \$6.00 for green fees. **WHAT A DEAL!!!** You can find more details about the golf tournament in this issue of the Octofoil.

We have received notification from the Holiday Inn with a report that many reservations have already been made for our reunion. We are very pleased and enthusiastic at the tremendous response.

However, we have noticed that there are several people who have signed up for room reservations but have not ordered or paid for their strip tickets. The ticket price is \$70.00 per person. It includes the get togethers on Tuesday and Wednesday nights with entertainment and Thursday evening's banquet in which there will be a cocktail hour preceding the banquet. The ticket also includes all the additional expenses that we incur to make our reunion a success. Please note — for Tuesday and Wednesday's get together, your strip ticket will entitle you to one free cocktail.

In comparing our records of those who have already purchased strip tickets with the hotel's reservation list, we have noticed that several of you have not made hotel reservations to date. This is just a friendly reminder to reserve your room as soon as possible so that you will be able to have the convenience to stay at the same hotel where all the fun and activities will be held.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (215) 467-2159.

See you on May 5, 6, and 7

ALBERT PERNA
2642 South Juniper Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148

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
Thomas Hatton
10 Northlawn Ct.
Saginaw, Michigan 48602

Billie Martin, 1st V.P.
31991 Carleider St
Beverly Hills, Mi 48025

Ronald Murphy, 2nd V.P.
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, MA 02068

Pat DeColli, 3rd V.P.
1017 Jackson Street
Philadelphia, PA 18148

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
1998

Ed Hopkins
Metuchen, NJ
Ken Meyer
Belton, TX
Phil Berman
Daytona, FL
Owen Salle
Decatur, IL
Al Zenka
Bellrose, NY
Floyd Hennessy
Lambertville, MI

1999
Al Perna
Philadelphia, PA
Charles LiBretto
Paramus, NJ
Thomas Hatton
Saginaw, MI
William Shea
Scarboro, ME

2000
Richard Baudouy
Altamonte Springs, FL
Jack Collier
St. Louis, MO
Larry McLaughlin
Wakefield, MA
Richard Starr
Philadelphia, PA
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, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

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 memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively 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 XLXXIII Number 1 Jan-Feb 1998

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 Auxilliary Member.....\$300

Decals.....50 each

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

Ladies Auxilliary
Ninth Infantry Division Association
Membership Application
Clara Scott, Treasurer
1517 Shields St.
Sherman, Tx. 75092
Tel. #903-893-8696

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My spouse (Brother or relative)

Served with _____

One year _____ \$3.00

Credit Chapter _____

Continued from page 1

LADIES CORNER

from highs of over 30 down to 5 last year, due to illness, age, and lack of energy to travel. I have become friends with the nicest ladies I have ever known, not just at Reunions, but also during the year. Of course, it helps to have a mouth like mine, and to like all people, but if you don't have it, just wing it!!! Well, I have just about "winged" it, so I will end with a wish for a great meeting and a great Reunion, as I shall not be there. Sorry but Granddaughter Diane graduates on May 8, 1998 from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. and we must be there!! Take care and I shall be with you in the next edition. Also in mind and spirit, if not in body.

Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

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:

Jack McDaniel

John A. Caughey

Joseph P. Kscenaitis

Philip Lones

Floyd Sheriff — In memory of Vincent Mitchell and Thomas Smith.

William Doty — In memory of Peter Durniak, 15th Engrs.

Jerome Sypnieski

J.E. Eddy

Jack Dunlap — A dedication to Ed McLaughlin, B Co. 39th Inf.

Mrs. Pat Morano — In memory of Anna Edie, widow of Bob Edie, B Co. 47th Inf.

Mrs. Perry Langston — In memory of Mrs. Mike Kauffman.

Mrs. Helen Simpking — In memory of husband, Warren, Hqs. Co. 47th and 39th Inf.

Herbert Stern — In memory of Bill Larson, Dr. Anthony Sordill and Dr. Jay P. Roller.

Everett Tapp — In memory of Betty Sinare

Benjamin Kovacs — In memory of Julius Andrasi, A.T. 47th, Capt. John Wille and Max Schwartz, 3 Bn Hqs. Co. 47th.

John Compel



Remember the Dates
May 5, 6, 7, 1998
53rd Reunion
Hampton, Va.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Holiday Inn

HAMPTON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
1815 West Mercury Boulevard
Hampton, VA 23666
Phone (575) 838-0200/ (800) 842-9370
Fax: (575) 838-4964
E-Mail: holiday@cvent.net

RATES: \$69.00 Single Group Name: 9th Infantry Division
\$69.00 Double Group Code: DIV
_____ Triple Dates: May 4-7, 1998
_____ Quads Cut-Off Date: April 4, 1998
_____ Suite
Upgrade to our Executive Level for an additional \$10.00 per room/ per night* (Y/N)
*Rates are subject to local tax, currently 10%. Rates honored two days before/after, if available.
Guest Name(s) _____

Telephone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE GUARANTEED WITH A CREDIT CARD NUMBER OR DEPOSIT IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE NIGHT'S ROOM AND TAX (CURRENTLY 10%) BY RESERVATION POLICY/CUT-OFF:

The cut-off date is April 4, 1998, at which time the hotel will release the guest rooms not reserved. Reservations received after the cut-off date will be accepted on a space available basis at the prevailing room rate.

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
CHECK-IN TIME IS 4:00 P.M. AND CHECK-OUT TIME IS 11:00 A.M.
SPECIAL REQUESTS: _____

(EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR REQUESTS — HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT GUARANTEED.)

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:
Holiday Inn Hampton Hotel & Conference Center
1815 West Mercury Boulevard
Hampton, VA 23666
ATTN: Reservations Dept.

We remind the members that when they make reservations at the hotel, to tell the clerk if they are going by train or plane. They will be picked up by the hotel people and brought to the hotel. They have 2 airports — but they will only pick people up at the Williamsburg Airport.

This will give the hotel ample notice so they can provide the transportation. People will also be picked up by Amtrak. If you have already made reservations, call the hotel and ask to be picked up at your point of arrival and your time. Call 1-800-842-9370.

Don't wait to Purchase
Strip Tickets

If for any reason you cannot attend the reunion your deposit will be returned. For those who do not know about the strip tickets used at the reunion, the first night there will be a dance with refreshments, the 2nd night another gathering of the same nature and the third and last day the Memorial Service in the morning with the Banquet and Cocktail party that evening.

Please note: When you send in your money for your strip tickets, include your Regular Battalion and Company name — for example, military police, artillery, medic, etc. Also include the name of any other outfit you were with in order that we may include this on your name tag. Include your wife's name or guest that you may wish to bring.

Mail Strip money \$70. per person to:
9th Infantry Division Reunion
Please use the form below to make your payment and send to Albert Perna, 2642 South Juniper Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148. I may be contacted at (215) 467-2159.

Name of Member	_____
Address	_____
Street	_____
City	_____
State	_____
Zip	_____
Phone Number	_____
Company	_____
Battalion	_____
Regiment	_____
Unit	_____
Wife/Guest's Name	_____
Strip Ticket	Amount Enclosed _____

Reminder from the Awards Committee

The awards committee has yet to receive a request for funds from any VA Hospital or nursing home for items not supplied by the government.

Whether or not you use a VA facility for your health care you can do other veterans a favor at no cost to you by simply going to the Chief of Volunteers, ask for a "wish list" or an item needed for patient comfort or need other than toilet articles, socks etc. as they are constantly supplied by various groups.

This would be one way to PERPETUATE our Ninth Infantry Division of World War two for years to come. Just give our name and address to the Chief of Volunteers and he/she can send the needed list to any of the following or better yet to each of the three committee members.

Lawrence McLaughlin - 5915 - 18th St. N (Coral #6) - St. Petersburg, FL - 33614.

Adolph Wadalavage - 94-30 96 St. - Ozone Park, NY 11416-1609.

Joseph Williams, 1800 Hollyoak Lake Rd. E. Jacksonville, FL 32225

Larry McLaughlin, Chairman

To Fellow Members of the 9th Inf Div Assn:

The June 30th target date for final payments in full for the previously announced tours to Europe in September of 1998 is rapidly approaching. These tours have been developed to retrace, as much as possible, the route our division followed as it advanced from Utah Beach, through France and Belgium, into Germany.

A strong effort is being made to arrange for residents of both France and Germany to visit with tour participants. For example, the authorities in Cherbourg and St. Lo are being contacted and requested to assemble persons to gather together with our tour members and informally discuss the World War II historical events in this area where the 9th Infantry Division is famed for its having "cut off the Cherbourg Peninsula". In Germany, an attempt is being made to have German military veterans meet with our tour members to exchange thoughts and memories. Although these meetings with both the French and German citizens cannot be guaranteed as a part of these tours, every possible effort is being made to arrange such events.

Some may desire to consider staying in Europe for some additional days of touring, on their own, upon completion of the guided tours. This can definitely be arranged. For example, those on tour #2 or #3 will be in Wiesbaden, Germany for the final day of their guided tour and Frankfurt would be the normal departure airport for the return trip to the USA. But, for a resultant additional charge, the day for the return trip can be delayed and the return trip may depart from other desired locations (even from such cities as Rome, or Madrid, or London or any other desired city with a major airport). Requests for deviations such as this should be mailed to Bruce Murphy Travel, 3214 Edgerstoune Lane, Little Rock, AR 72205 and should include, as a minimum: specific desired alternate return date and the alternate city from which the departure is desired.

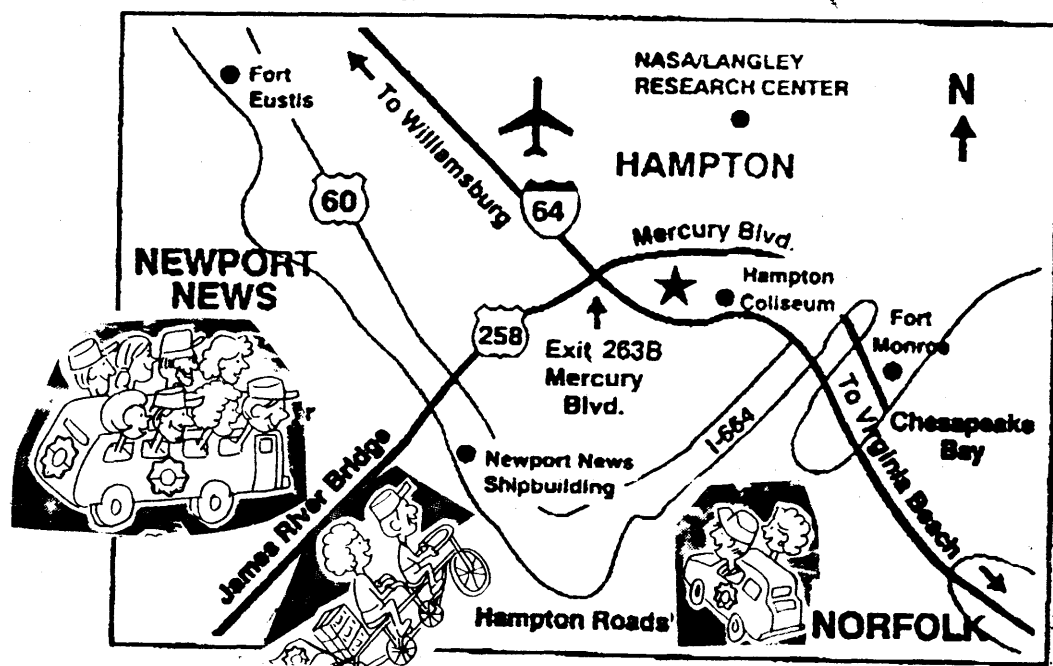
There are three tours. Tour #1, from September 11th thru 20th, 1998 will be in France from the Normandy Beaches to Paris. Tour #2, from September 19th thru 28th, will focus on Belgium and Germany. Tour #3, September 11-28, will be a combination of both Tour #1 and #2. At least 15 persons must sign up and pay the initial \$200.00 per person booking deposit or the tours will not be conducted. The \$200.00 per person booking deposit should be paid as soon as possible as air travel space cannot be reserved until this is paid. If the required number of persons (15 per tour) do not sign up for the tour, the full \$200.00 per person booking deposit will be refunded.

Tour #1, from September 11th thru 20th, 1998, will cover, in depth, the Normandy beaches and Paris. On day #1 you will depart the USA on your overnight flight to Paris. Meals and entertainment will be enjoyed enroute. You arrive in Paris on the morning of day #2 and are met by your tour escort and driver and transferred to your hotel. You will enjoy a special welcome dinner that evening. The tour of Paris on day #3 includes all the best of Paris, including the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysees, the Eiffel Tower and the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Enroute to Normandy on day #4 you will stop in the fascinating town of Rouen and visit the site where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. One of the highlights of day #5 is the visit to, and orientation tour of, the famous city of Dieppe. Dinner will be enjoyed that night in your hotel in Honfleur. Days #6, #7 and #8 will be filled with visits to: Utah, Omaha, Juno and Gold Beaches; The American Cemetery of St. Laurent; the Invasion Landings Museum at Arromanches; the Walled City of St. Malo; and Mont Saint Michel. The City of Orleans, via tours and amboise, is visited day #9, with dinner that night at the famous Troglodyte Restaurant. The transfer to the airport on day #10 visits Etampes and Arpajon enroute. The tour provides overnight stops, in first class hotels, for two nights in Paris and Honfleur and for one night in Rouen, Mont Saint Michel, St. Malo and Orleans.

Tour #2, from September 19th thru 28th, 1998, will visit the area in which the "Battle of the Bulge" was fought. This tour will provide overnight hotel stops for four nights in Cologne, three nights in Luxembourg and the final night in the beautiful city of Wiesbaden. Days #1 and #2 feature the overnight flight to and arrival in Frankfurt. You will board a special train for the trip along the Rhine

Continued on page 5

Traveling to Hampton, Va.



Taps Sounded

Call out our 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.

Arthur Van Blarcum

Jennie Alsgaard, U.S.M.W.R.
wife of Rodger Alsgaard,
F Co. 47th Inf.

E.C. "Bert" Waller
Hq. and Hq. Bty Div. Arty

Harry Rockstral,
M.P.'s

Peter Durniak
15th Engrs.

Warren Simpkins
Hqs. Co. 47th Inf. and
39th Inf.

Tony Valerie
Co. A 15th Engrs.

John Bass, Jr.
Hq. 3rd Bn Co. Inf.

Betty Sinare
Wife of Angelo Sinare,
9th O.M.

Olive Maher
Wife of Francis Maher,
15th Engrs.

Max Schwartz
3rd Bn. Hqs. Co. 47th Inf.



Hdqs. Btry. 26th F.A.
W. DONALD ROLAR
105 Oak Lane
Shippensburg, PA 17257
Enclosed is a check for 3 years dues.

I hope to see you in May at the reunion.

K Co. 60th Inf.
WILLIAM DOBBINS
78 Rogers Ave.
Lockport, N.Y. 14094
Enclosed is a check for 3 years dues. I always look forward to receiving and reading The Octofoil. Thank you for all your hard work. Not too many old buddies left.

Remember the Dates
May 5, 6, 7, 1998
53rd Reunion
Hampton, Va.

President's Message

Memories pressed between the pages of our minds.

From those who formed the 9th Division at Fort Bragg to most of us who came in as replacements at different times, and different places. Each has their own memories.

A letter from Uncle Sam saying "Greetings, Uncle Sam Wants You" Your physical, induction center (Fort Custer Michigan), basic training (Camp Wheeler, Georgia) P.O.E. (Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia). Shipped to Africa (Casablanca to Oran). Assigned to C. Co. 60th Inf. of the 9th Division and sent to the Sicilian Campaign. Memory of the weeks after in Sicily and the 9th Division gathering at the Palermo Airport to hear General Patton's speech. Off to England, each regiment settling in a different location. Mine was in the Winchester Barracks. The review with General Bradley presenting the 2nd Battalion of the 60th with a Distinguish Unit Citation. The service at Winchester Cathedral as part of Allied Day of Prayer. A 9th Division Review by Churchill, Eisenhower, Bradley, Flint, Collins, Eddy and Stroh. Training for the invasion at South Hampton, Weymouth, and other locations.

June D+4 9th to land on the Beaches in France. Each Regiment covering a different part as we crossed France, Belgium and Germany, Cherbourg, St. Lo, Marigny, Falaise Gap, across France, across Belgium into Germany. Monschau, Huertgen Forest, Battle of the Bulge, Rhinlands, Ruhr Pocket, Harz Mountains, Elbe River and meeting the Russians.

May 1945, Germany Unconditionally surrenders to General Eisenhower.

Lest we forget all those who served during these times and the 4,581 dead, 16,961 wounded, 750 missing, 22,292 total.

The 9th Division served with the occupational forces after the war. Many will remember these days.

Fill in your own memories, come to the 53rd Division Reunion at Hampton V.A. May 4th to May 7th. Meet our old Buddies and Friends.

God Bless,
Tom Hatton
President 9th Division Association.
10 Northlawn Ct.
Saginaw, Mi. 48602.

On October 1, 1997, the Department of Veterans Affairs implemented an interim national system of rolling enrollment. This is in preparation for the Congressionally mandated national enrollment that begins on October 1, 1998.

VA medical care facilities are now accepting applications for enrollment from any veteran who has never used the VA medical care system or from veterans who have not used the system since October 1, 1996. Veterans who have used the system since October 1, 1996, do not have to apply for enrollment; an application will automatically be processed for them.

Although enrollment does not apply to all groups of veterans, all veterans are encouraged to enroll as soon as they are able. Veterans who are not required to enroll are veterans with service-connected disabilities that are 50 percent or greater, veterans requiring treatment for a service-connected disability, or veterans who were discharged or released from active duty for a compensable disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during the 12-month period following separation.

Currently, there are 29 million veterans. Only 4 million have registered with the VA at this time. To apply for enrollment, a veteran must take one of the following steps:

- 1) Complete VA Form 10-10, Application for Medical Benefits. Pages 1 through 4 must be completed and mailed or returned to the nearest VA medical care facility, or
- 2) Report to your nearest VA medical care facility and apply for enrollment.

If you report to a VA medical care facility to enroll, the process will take up to 30 minutes to complete. This time will vary from facility to facility.

VA Form 10-10, Application for Medical Benefits, may be obtained from any local veterans' service organization or from your nearest VA medical care facility.

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

Installation of 1998 Officers

The NY chapter's monthly meeting was held at its usual command post in Masonic Hall, 71 W 23rd Street, New York City, on Friday, January 16, 1998. President Al Lipton opened the meeting.

Installation of Officers for 1998 was the main order of business. The elected officers are: President - Emil Langer; 1st VP - Joe Killen and 2nd VP - Antoine Dietrich. Secretary Arthur Schmidt, Treasurer Al Zenka and Chaplain George Apar retain their previous positions. Board of Governors are: Charlie LiBretto - 60th; Dan Quinn - 47th; Herminio Suarez - 39th; Al Lipton - Divarty; Adolph Wadalavage - Special Troops and Al Lubrano - Sgt. of Arms.

Newly elected 1st VP Joe Killen (in absence of President Emil Langer) received the gavel of office from outgoing prez Al Lipton. Killen expressed the sentiments of the chapter for the excellent job Lipton did in 1997. The past president was presented a beautiful walnut plaque with his engraved name plate and raised enameled tricolor Octofoil. Lipton thanked all for the honor of having served our Chapter and the 9th Inf. Division Association.

Killen then got down to the business at hand. Secretary Art Schmidt read the minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer Al Zenka gave the financial report. Schmidt noted that there was no member correspondence at this time.

May 16 Memorial Service

Plans were discussed for the upcoming annual NY Chapter Memorial Day ceremony at the VA LI National Cemetery in Farmingdale, Long Island. Saturday, May 16 (Armed Forces Day) was decided upon. The Friday, May 15 regular meeting would be suspended and held, instead, during our picnic in Bethpage State Park following the cemetery memorial service. This would obviate the usual late Friday night travel after the meeting, so that attending members would be more rested for the early morning Saturday journey to the memorial service. This scribe was directed to send a letter to cemetery officials reserving the date and the necessary accommodation for our service. The letter has since been sent. The chapter hopes members will make a special effort to attend this memorial for our 4,581 deceased 9th buddies of WWII, and those who have since gone to their eternal reward. We will meet in the cemetery parking lot at 10:30 a.m. and march down Flagstaff Boulevard to the main flag pole assembly area where services will be held. Following the ceremony we will go by car to nearby Bethpage State Park for our picnic. All NY Chapter area members and their families are invited.

Dan Quinn reported on the latest information regarding our upcoming 53rd national reunion in Hampton, VA,

COMPANY F 47TH INFANTRY REPORTS

Lucy and I are looking forward to the upcoming reunion in Hampton Roads. We plan to bring Paul Giarraputo with us. It will be good to see our group of warriors, even though the ranks are thinning.

I received a letter from Felton Jones last month. It was good to hear from the old First Soldier, but I was saddened by the news he sent. Both Felton and Wilma have serious eye problems, so serious that neither of them can drive any more. I fear that it will be some time till we see them at a reunion ... that is unless their lovely daughter can drive them. I know that it would do the ole sarge a world of good to hear from one of the troops. Many of us owe our lives to him. His address is P.O. Box #7, Alapaha, Georgia 31662. Maybe one of you coming to the reunion from Georgia or Florida would like to enjoy the company of these fine people. Felton served with F Company from the Tent City days at Fort Bragg in 1940 until the meeting with the Russians at the Elbe in 1945.

Dorothe Smader, widow of one of our courageous company commanders, wrote me a warm note thanking me for the nice things I had to say about Ray in The Octofoil's last edition. How could anyone say anything but nice things about Ray? It was a sad day that I learned of his demise. Thanks to you, Dorothe for contributing to his happiness all those years.

Shortly after the last edition of The Octofoil was published, I learned of the death of Jenny Alsgaard who had been ill many years. Not only had she been the wife of a brave veteran, she was a brave veteran herself, having served with the Marines during WWII. She was accorded a full Marine funeral. Our condolences go to Roger.

I learned that Irma Koskie, widow of Chuck, passed away back in August of 1997. Irma used to come to reunions even after Chuck's premature demise. It was always good to see her smiling face. As I look back through the years I can't help but think of how fortunate the men of F Company were with their choices of mates. I guess the gods had decided to be beneficent and smile on us after frowning on us during the forties. I always felt that things would even out.

I understand that Herb Hoepfner and his lovely bride just returned from an extended stay in Florida. June retired in June, and they have been on the move ever since. Herb even has her out on the inks whacking that little white ball around. I bet she'll soon be beating Herb.

Paul Giarraputo called me last month to get Joe Bergin's phone number. Paul tells me that his health is holding up fine in his eighty-second year in this vale of tears. He better not brag too loud or they'll draft him again. Paul and I were wounded by the same shell along with Sidney Glick at El Guettar; then Paul was wounded again with Glick at Normandy. I believe I'd steer clear of Glick ... although it would be great to see him after all these years. His humor did much to bolster the morale. He was a funny man.

I'm on the horn with George King a couple times a month. He has been having some health problems lately. He attributes these problems to the fact that he gave up drinking recently. Come to think of it, most of my health problems started shortly after I gave up the juice. Maybe George has something there.

I've been in touch with Smig Tokarchek's daughter via E-mail these past couple weeks. Janet is a nurse in Hershey, Pennsylvania. She and Marie were supposed to come to Jersey early this week, and we were going to do lunch with them, but then Janet was ill for a few days and it threw their schedule off. We'll get together with them in the near future.

Jack Finnigan had a bad day with Carribran Poker at Atlantic City recently. Maybe he quit gambling, but I doubt it. I haven't seen much of Jack lately. I've been trying to take him and Rose to dinner for about eight months. I guess I'll just have to change my deodorant.

I'm on the phone with Bob DeSandy occasionally. He seems to be enjoying his retirement on the golf courses of Southern Pines and Pinehurst.

I understand that George Brown has arranged for the CP in Hampton Roads. He's a good man. I'm glad we adopted him. I hope you are all striving to make it to Virginia in May. Also, I hope my health holds up so I won't have to cancel out again. All the best to some of the best.

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

which appears to be going well. After some general discussion meeting was adjourned and we devoured the hospitality table, while sharing our usual retold WWII stories, remembering events, and unforgettable personalities we served with in the 9th.

Other attending members, not mentioned above: Joe Brody, Tony DeRobertis, Anton Dietrich, Jack Holaboff, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, Gene Magidson, Joe Rzesniowicki and Adolph Wadalavage.

NY area chapter members reminder: if you haven't paid your dues this is the time to catch up for 1998 - \$10 for 1 year, \$25 for 3 years, and \$75 for Lifetime Membership. Make checks payable to the Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf Div. Association and send to Arthur R. Schmidt, Secretary, 9-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385. Marv Levy Co A 60th 2044 Ellen Drive Merrick, NY 11566-5404

Continued from page 1

TOURS FOR THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION 1998 REUNION

Presented by Marjorie Phillips
Military Reunion Services

MONDAY, MAY 4

TOUR A - WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM, MARINER'S MUSEUM & FORT EUSTIS ARMY TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM* (Time permitting) 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Visit the War Memorial Museum of Virginia which studies U.S. Military history from 1775 to the present with a special emphasis on World War II. The collection contains more than 30,000 artifacts, including uniforms, weapons, documents, posters, aircraft and vehicles. Next, visit the Mariner's Museum which preserves and interprets 3,000 years of maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings and other maritime artifacts. Lunch on your own as directed by your tour guide. Time permitting, visit the Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, where more than 2000 years of army transportation history is depicted through models, dioramas and life size displays of actual vehicles, trains and marine craft.

Package Price: \$26.00 per person, inclusive.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

TOUR B - COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG OVERVIEW & YORKTOWN, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Step into the 18th century while strolling through the streets of Colonial Williamsburg. Your historical interpreter will guide you through the past and the events that helped shape America's history, as you enjoy a leisurely walking tour through the restored area of this lovely colonial capital city. Following your overview tour, enjoy free time to shop and browse in the many unique specialty shops in Merchants Square. High quality apparel, gifts, jewelry, unusual quilts, beautiful furniture, fine porcelain, pewter and Christmas decorations are but a few of the offerings found in this quaint, picturesque shopping area. Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the Colonial Taverns or in Merchants Square. Board the bus and admire the view as your ride along the scenic Colonial Parkway to the quaint village of Yorktown. Visit the National Park Service Visitors Center and view the exhibits relating to the Battle of Yorktown, a 12 minute film, and a rooftop view of the battlefields.

Package Price: \$29.00 per person, inclusive.

TOUR D - RIDING HAMPTON TOUR & VIRGINIA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM, 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ride through historic downtown Hampton, see old St. John's Church, the quaint waterfront area and the restored 1920's wooden carousel. Visit the Virginia Air and Space Center, official visitor center for NASA Langley Research Center. This world class facility located on Hampton's downtown waterfront holds more than 100 aeronautic and space exhibits. Some of the permanent exhibits include the Apollo 12 Command Module, interactive exhibits, suspended aircraft, the space gallery and historical displays of Hampton Roads. Enjoy the exciting movie in the 300 seat IMAX theater, and shop for unique gifts in the Museum Shop.

Package Price: \$24.00 per person, inclusive.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

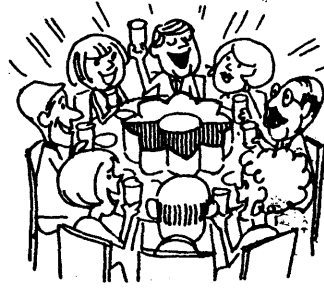
TOUR E - FORT MONROE & THE CASEMATE MUSEUM, 12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m.

Visit historic Fort Monroe, constructed between 1819 and 1834. Fort Monroe is the third oldest continuously occupied military installation in the country, and the largest stone fort ever built in the United States. Today it is the Army headquarters for Training and Doctrine. Tour the Casemate Museum, located within the old moated area of the fort. Exhibits here depict the history of the fort, Civil War history and the prison cell of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy. Visit the beautiful Centurion Chapel on base, and enjoy lunch (on your own) at the Fort Monroe Officer's Club, overlooking the beautiful Chesapeake Bay and the Hampton Roads Harbor.

Package Price: \$20.00 per person, inclusive.

All tours will depart from The Holiday Inn Hampton. Boarding time will be 15 minutes prior to printed departure time. Package price includes 46 passenger buses, admissions as listed, guide services, and taxes. Gratuities for guide and driver are not included, and are at the discretion of the individual. Tours are designed for minimal walking. Full payment must be submitted no later than April 20, 1998. No refunds after April 27, 1998. EARLY REGISTRATION IS ADVISED, Last minute participants will be accommodated on site on a space available basis only. Tickets will be held in your name at the Tour Desk, these tickets must be presented upon boarding the bus. Any tour that does not meet the minimum number of thirty people will be canceled. The Tour Desk will open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday one hour prior to tour departure time.

Retain this portion for future reference



COMPANY K
47th INFANTRY

ROLL CALL

Got a phone call from FRANK CORVINO, so I know he is alive, but it almost shocked me to death. He was heading for Vegas and couldn't wait for the reunion in Virginia.

JOE KILLACKY calls and writes frequently, I guess that is what you would expect of a Communications Sergeant. Bad weather has kept him off the Lemont golf courses and money has kept him off the Arizona ones. I don't know what has kept him off the Baton Rouge courses.

Got a Christmas card from DR. NICKLIN. I believe he is still couching the head cases, if they can afford it.

GEORGE BASTEDO got himself a pacemaker implanted into his fragile body and has put in for retirement. Anyone want to be First Sergeant? When I had the first of my heart by-passes, my former students said they were completely dumfounded, they never realized I had a heart. GEORGE, on the other hand is all heart, so he has to have a king sized ticker.

HELEN and AL HOLMES had a bad accident. They were putting in a light bulb, Al was on a ladder holding the bulb and Helen was turning the ladder when Al fell off. It doesn't do much for their illumination or travel plans, but it does give nurse Helen someone to push around.

RED and ETHYL spend half their time in Vegas and half in Indiana. At Red's advanced age, they have to get rid of all the dough he can't take with him, and they sure don't want it backing up on them. Red does keep in touch, like Joe.

If I am not mistaken, BILL McKINNEY said, on his Christmas card, that he was planning to go to the reunion. Why not? It's all downhill from Martinsburg.

SCOOP GILLESPIE said my Christmas card, this year, is the first one he has allowed into the house. No RIGHT WING DRIVEL about the ZIPPER in the White House.

I guess I have a lot to learn about character. It is a cinch I'll never have a holiday in my name. I haven't the stamina. It takes a village to satisfy Ole Willie.

STEALTH DIVISION AGAIN

I was watching a TV movie, "THE THIRD TWIN," when lo and behold, one of the twins foster fathers wore a Ninth Division patch on his right sleeve.

The only thing I can think of, in this belated recognition, is that one of our old supply sergeants got a job as Wardrobe Master at some film studio, and puts nothing but OCTOFOILS on military sleeves. I hope he doesn't outfit an SS unit for the History Channel and puts us in the Kraut army.

SHOW BIZ

ED MILLER, Who wrote a "DARK AND BLOODY GROUND" about the Hurtgen Forest fiasco, is acting as a professional consultant to someone who is making a documentary on that battle. He has asked me to appear and answer questions from a platoon leaders' standpoint.

I told him I would, but they would be well advised to blur my face (as they do for whores and dope fiends) to keep my beauty from detracting from the serious matter of combat.

K Company is the only American outfit in the Hurtgen that had the same advantage as the Krauts; we held the forest around Schevenhutte. After two weeks of disastrous attacks, the Germans decided that they had better ways of losing men, and quit attacking. If the American Generals had that much sense we wouldn't have lost all those good men in the 39th and 60th regiments plus the 4th, 8th, and 28th divisions. I bet there are monuments to those dumb bastards who thought there was nothing lovelier than a tree. Trees had to be their objective, because there was not one iota of anything of military value in those woods.

LITERATURE

I bought "CITIZEN SOLDIER," by Stephen Ambrose for my oldest son as a Christmas present. I glanced through the index and saw no mention of the 9th or Jordan, so I didn't read it. Christmas morning I found that he had given me a copy of the same book. You are honor bound to read a present.

It wasn't too bad, he did give credit where credit was due, but he was a little confused about infantrymen and their footwear and the armament of the Panther tank. He thinks that Infantrymen take off their shoes at night and that the Panzer V, had an 88.

My son sent him a copy of BULL SESSIONS and received a prompt and complimentary reply. Since he was receptive, I sent him a copy of my updated "BATTLE FOR FRENZERBURG CASTLE with a twist on DISRALI'S ranking of truth — LIES, DAMNED LIES, and MILITARY HISTORY.

Joe called and said he had read a great book called the HURTGEN FOREST. I don't remember the author's name, but he said he found it in his library. Evidently the 9th was mentioned several times.

NEWS PRESS

I have purchased a new computer that is as fast as greased lightning. It is a MAC G3 with 266mhz. It doesn't help with the writing, but it sure speeds up the printing.

Deadline for next issue April 20th

C.Co. 899 Div. TD Bn
FRANCIS H. WOLMAN
22 North Goodwin Avenue
Kingston, PA 18704

Dear Dan,

It has been a longtime since I've written to you. I guess about the time I organized the Wilkes Barre-Scranton Chapter of the 9th. We got a great start but when the Korean War started everyone quit coming to the meetings.

When we called a halt we had intentions of starting up again but there were many circumstances that got in the way. The big one was the flood of '72, called the U.S.'s greatest natural disaster up to that time; we even lost the Charter.

Since then the three people who helped me have all died. Chappie Lynch, Frank Wyandt and Leo Blaum.

The reason I'm writing now is to report the death of three members of C-Co. 899th T.D. DeWayne Kendall of Idaho, Carl Ross of Kansas and Hershel Briles of Iowa who won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I'm also enclosing a photo of 7 men from K-Co. 3rd Bat. 47th Reg. This was taken by me in Nov. '44 in Shevenhutti, Ger. Please print it and if anyone writes let the first person have the print. I was told later during the war that all 7 had been killed. They rode our T.D.'s many times, I hope it's not true.

You continue to do a terrific job best of everything to you and yours.

Seeking

G Co. 2nd Bn. 60th
EMMETT BUTLER
1251 Oswego St.
Colo. Spgs. Co. 80904

Enclosed is my check for 3 more years dues.

The wife and I had a good time at the reunion in Louisville, but I didn't see anyone I knew from G Co. 60th Inf.

We won't be able to make the reunion in Virginia this year.

I always look forward to the Octofoil. If any of the men of 2nd Squad, 3rd platoon, G Co. of the 60th, from Sept. 1944 until Dec. 1945 are still around. I would enjoy seeing something from them in the Octofoil.

There are not many, if any, 9th men around Colorado Springs. I would like to hear from any who are.

I joined the 9th at Hürtgen Forest and made it until March 6th of 45 when I got hit at Wilhiem.

The shooting had ended by the time I got out of the hospital and back to G Co. Discharged Mar. 1946. Went on the local Police Dept. and stayed until I retired, 18 years ago.

If there are any survivors of the family of William "Bill" Gustin still alive and who may receive the Octofoil, I would like to hear from them.

He was my buddy and was killed while I was in the hospital. I don't remember where his home was. Well Dan, keep up the good work and live long and prosper. Best regards

Continued from page 3

Revisit the ETO

River to Cologne. One highlight of day #3 will be the coach trip, via the Hurtgen Forest, to visit the Remagen Bridge War Museum. Wetzler, Markburg and Kassel will also be visited prior to returning to Cologne for dinner. A beautiful cruise on a Rhine River Steamer, plus a visit to a local winery for a "wine tasting" will make day #4 a most enjoyable one. Days #6, #7 and #8 include visits to: the US Cemetery at Margaraten; Bastogne, Kirchberg; and General Patton's grave. On day #9 you will journey back to Germany. Enroute to your overnight hotel in Wiesbaden, you will have a detailed tour of Heidelberg, where you will see the Town Hall, the church of the Holy Spirit, the famous students' Red Ox Inn and the impressive 16th century castle, overlooking the Neckar Valley. That night you will be treated to a gala farewell dinner party in a typical local restaurant in Wiesbaden.

For those who desire to take in both tours, a tour #3 is available which includes both tour #1 and #2. Tour #3 will begin on September 12th and will end on September 28th. Those on this tour will travel from Paris to Cologne, Germany by train on September 19th to join up with those beginning tour #2. The approximate six hour train ride, from Paris to Cologne, will give the travelers many closeup and varied views of the beautiful European countryside.

The following are included in the reasonable tour prices (which are special reduced group rates): full breakfast daily; dinner each evening; English speaking tour escort throughout; guided sightseeing with English speaking guides; and roundtrip airfare from New York or Chicago for tours #1 & #2. Add on fares are available from all major airports.

Per person prices for tours #1 and #2 vary from \$1,953 to \$2,195, depending on the number of paying passengers. Prices for tour #3 (which combines tours #1 and #2) range from \$3,185 to \$3,625 per person, again, depending on how many go on the tours. The extra, per person, charge for a single supplement for tours #1 & #2 is \$435 and \$760 for tour #3. The "initial booking deposit" of \$200.00 per person is payable only by check and should be paid immediately. The booking deposit is fully refundable if the required number of passengers (at least 15 per tour) do not sign up for the tour. The final full balance, will be due on or before June 30, 1998, and may be paid by VISA, Mastercard or American Express card. Family members or relatives can accompany you if you so desire.

A "Tal Tours Package insurance plan", which covers pre-existing conditions, is available with a per person price of \$129.00 per person. This coverage, which must be purchased at the time of making the final payment in full for the tour, provides various medical, emergency medical evacuation, baggage and accidental death benefits as described in a brochure which is available for mailing to you.

Full details and complete printed information by mail may be obtained by calling: Bruce Murphy of Bruce Murphy Travel, Little Rock, Arkansas — Phone, toll free — #1 (888) 988-8844.

Most Sincerely,
John W. Miller
1511 Cochise Drive
Arlington, TX 76012
Phone: (817) 274-2773



Francis Wolman of the 899 T.D. outfit sends this photo of men of Company K 47th in Schevenhutte, Germany, November of 1944. His letter appears in Mail Call, and contains the sad news of the demise of several men of the 899th TD including the Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel Briles.

39th Inf. Co I
CECIL JENKINS
9100 Hwy 1247
Stamford, KY 40484

Enclosed is dues for 98. I look forward to the Octofoil, enjoy every word of it. I would like to hear from anyone from I Co. 39th reg. Co. I

will be having a mini reunion July 98. Seems like our members get smaller each year. This year we will meet in Nashville, Tenn. Anyone wanting information contact Dan Garvey, 231 W. Prospect Ave., Appleton, WI 54911. Hope to see a lot of friends there. Dan, keep up the good work.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FLORIDA CHAPTER REUNION COMMITTEE AT WORK: On January 8, 1998, the Florida Chapter Reunion Committee consisting of Chairman Charles Van der Poel, Richard Baudouy, Co-Chairman, Emil De Donato, Advertising and Promotion, and Philip Berman, Treasurer, met in Altamonte Springs to search for a hotel for the Chapter's Fall Mini-Reunion. They viewed the facilities of several hotels and spoke to their sales personnel. In evaluating their findings, it was decided to go back to the INN AT MAINGATE located on US 192 in Kissimmee ... the same site as last year's gathering. Although a contract with the hotel has not been signed as of this writing, Chairman Van der Poel and Co-Chairman Baudouy have had several meetings with Sales Manager Mini Vielhauser who has assured our Committee that the dates for our group will be Thursday, Friday, Saturday, September 17, 18, 19 with a departure date of Sunday, September 20, 1998.

Ms. Vielhauser informed us that the hotel is going through a name change and a multi-million dollar renovation ... which are scheduled to be completed by May 31, 1998. The new name will be DOUBLE TREE RESORT. The room rate has tentatively been set at \$61.00 per night double occupancy providing we meet our quota of rooms rented for each night. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Invite a friend ... take along a family member ... members of the National Organization are welcomed. We must reach our quota or else we will be penalized for the difference. For further information, contact Emil De Donato, 3650 S. W. Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431 or phone 352/489-4070.

MEMBER NEWS

ANTHONY BOLOGNESE: Florida Chapter Member Tony Bolognese represented our Chapter in presenting a donation to Timothy L. Cobb, Chief Volunteer Service, of the West Palm Beach V.A. Medical Center. A letter acknowledging this donation was received by Phil Berman. (See photo).

JOSEPH F. KEARNS: Chapter President Richard Baudouy spoke with Joe's daughter who revealed that her father was not feeling well and that a move was being anticipated. This fact was confirmed by a postcard received from Bill Fleming stating that Joe Kearns' new address is now 2324 41st St. Apt. 102; Wilmington, N.C. 28403. Anyone having further information regarding Joe Kearns is asked to send it to Emil De Donato.

JIMMY DRISCOLL: We were happy to learn that Jimmy is feeling much better after his surgery and making a good recovery. In fact, Jimmy is able to drive his car and is active in his church's choir. Jimmy is the Florida Chapter Chaplain. "The Lord Be With You Jim."

PETER RADICHIO: After 15 years and 7500 hours of volunteer service, Pete Radichio retired from his Bay Pines V.A. Medical Center duty where he served many disabled veterans including some of the 9th Division. We salute Pete for the giving of himself to those less fortunate than most of us and for such a long time. Pete hasn't quite given up on his good deeds ... he is presently volunteering 3 hours on Saturdays at a Winn Dixie store located in Inverness checking the elderly with their Vital Signs. Pete had some work done on his eye lids and reported that all is fine. Atta boy Pete!

HENRY SANTOS: In a phone conversation with Richard Baudouy, Eva stated that Henry is now responding to Physical Therapy in a nursing home. Henry is making slow but steady progress in his battle to get well. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery. Eva can be reached at home usually after hours at 813/985-5444.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

DOLORES VAN DER POEL: Congratulations ... 50th Wedding Anniversary! On February 21, 1948, Charles and Dolores were joined in Holy Matrimony in the beautiful city of St. Petersburg, FL. Soon after their marriage, they moved to a little town in Pennsylvania known as Monongahila. After 9 winters in the cold country, Chuck and Dolores returned to Florida and made their home in Jacksonville. They have two children. Howard Al Van der Poel, 45 years old and a daughter Dorene Van der Poel Dey, 44 years old. Our congratulations and wishes for many more years together.

AUDREY AND EMIL DE DONATO: Married on February 4, 1951 at St. Leo's Catholic Church in East Paterson, New Jersey, Emil and Audrey celebrated their 47th anniversary. They lived in Totowa, N. J. until their move to Rainbow Lakes Estates, Florida in 1974. Audrey and Emil have three sons and 6 grandchildren. 4 of the 6 grandchildren live in Salt Springs, Florida with their parents Ralph and Rosemary De Donato. Emil and Audrey hope to make it to their Golden Anniversary in the year 2001.

VIRGINIA DRISCOLL: We first learned that Virginia was scheduled to have a hip replacement in February but during a physical examination it was discovered that Virginia had a blockage in her heart arteries which will require surgery. According to her husband Jimmy, she will first undergo by-pass surgery in March. After complete recovery, a date will be scheduled for a hip replacement. All members, men and women alike are asked to pray for a successful surgery and a speedy recovery. As stated in the Men's Member News, Jimmy Driscoll recently had by-pass surgery and is recovering nicely.

(Please send Women's Auxiliary News to Audrey De Donato).

BILOXI/GULFPORT BUS TRIP, PROPOSED

In past years, the Florida Chapter held two mini-reunions per year ... one in the Spring, the other in the Fall. Because the National Reunions were being held in the early part of the year, the Florida Chapter Spring Meeting was eliminated.

At the January 8th, 1998 Florida Chapter Reunion Committee Meeting, Emil De Donato proposed to have a chartered bus trip to the gambling casinos located in Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi. THIS PROPOSED TRIP WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR FALL MINI REUNION. Before this proposed bus tour becomes a reality, we need to know whether there is an interest on the part of the members. Briefly, here are some of the facts:

1. We must have a minimum of 44 committed passengers and a maximum of 50 in order to charter a bus.
2. It will be for 4 days and 3 nights tentatively scheduled for sometime in January or February, 1999.
3. The departure to be from the Ocala/Dunnellon area.
4. The tour includes bus transportation; Lodging (3 nights); Casino hopping; 8 meals (buffet style); breakfast at the hotel; a Las Vegas Show; and perhaps some gambling money from a casino.
5. Every room is either a King or Queen suite with a Micro-wave Oven; Refrigerator; and a VCR. The Crystal Inn Hotel has an Indoor Pool, Hot Tub and an Exercise Room.

6. The packaged price for this proposed bus tour is estimated to be \$118.00 per person. A REAL BARGAIN! There are cheaper packaged tours to the Biloxi area advertised but this Crystal Inn Hotel deal has features that appeal to our age group.

Our objective at this time is to find out how many persons are interested. An invitation is hereby extended to any National Organization member to join the Florida Chapter members, including friends and relatives.

If you are interested, please contact Emil J. DeDonato, 3650 S W Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431, phone 352/489-4070

ADOLPH WADALAVAGE
94-30 96th Street.

Ozone Park,
New York 11416-1604

John W. Miller

In the recent issue of the "Octofoil," you gave a pretty good run down of the upcoming trips back to Europe and including Germany in the Remagen area. I've got a few suggestions, take them for what they are worth, being you've been in Cologne, Remagen area.

First off, Bad Godisberg, right near Bonn, this area is where the 9th Division was engaged in some nasty fighting, when all over, didn't find any PW's at Stalag VI when the fighting was over — a few hours later you were headed to the Remagen Bridge, in Bad Godisberg, in the park where Hitler held some rallies when in his prime — the so called PW camp (Stalag VI) is now a chemical plant.

In the Remagen — Erpel area, there is the Adenour estate quite a place to see a few miles before Erpel from Bonn.

Once again in the area of Bastogne, you read about in many times the Malmedy Massacre area. This spot you must visit if you're going to Bastogne and it's only a few miles from the Elsenborn Ridge and Monchau. That area I don't have to tell you what took place and of course Monchau which you have to see now and is a real tourist trap. Camp Elsenborn is in the immediate area of Monchau and is an active military base.

Not far from Remagen — a sight you have to see to really believe — the 2nd world largest telescope, I can't recall the village it is near, the town people could have it in their information.

Being the second part of the trip will be in the Remagen area — if you don't take the people making the trip, down along side the Mosel River, mid-September is grape picking time.

I can tell you, I saw it, mile after mile of grape vineyards on the side of the mountains every place. You'll never run out of grape vineyards, ask anyone who ever made the trip. As usual they celebrate the harvesting of the grapes in a big, big way. Every town and village has some kind of festival — during the harvest — it is a scene you'll never forget and regret if you don't make it.

I was fortunate to be driving down along the Mosel at harvest time on one of my trips and promised I would do it again. If the tour will go down ask them to stop by a working vineyard and see how they work, they are glad to talk to you of the labor, even offer you work picking grapes.

No doubt, you'll be at the Hampton reunion, see if we can get together, I'll be with Ken Meyer from your chapter.

I won't make the trip but I will notify some people I keep in touch with of your dates at both Remagen and Erpel, they will be glad to talk to you. The people both from Remagen and Erpel visited us here in the states and I was their guest, that is how I was driven around the countryside for five days just sitting back and taking it all in.

I've got a tape made when the 9th Armored Division unveiled the plaque on the west tower, I made the trip. If you'd like to see the tape let me know or if they had a video done at Hampton — a bit of information about the plaque put up by the 9th Armored, a few months after it was placed, it was torn off the wall and found in a lake near Bonn, gives you an idea of some hot heads still around.

O.K. John that's it and if I helped drop me a line.

All the best to you and yours.

15th Engrs. A. Co.

FRANCIS BENJAMIN
4327 Womack Dr.

Colo. Springs, Co. 80915

Please excuse the writing paper, the penmanship, and whatever else you find wrong.

It was on this date 57 years ago that I enlisted, the Germans had just gotten thru kicking the crap out of France, I knew we would get involved sooner or later so I quit my job, went down to the Terminal Tower in Cleveland, Ohio and enlisted.

We were shipped to Fort Hayes in Columbus and after a few days was sent to Ft. Bragg, which is where I chose to go rather than for "Ben" in Indiana and the E 11th Engrs., in Panama.

We arrived in Fayetteville late at night, were bussed out to Bragg and slept on the floor in an old WWI single story barrack. We were awakened at around 4 the next morning and marched off to a cold shower.

We went to the main post and were assigned to our particular companies.

We arrived just at lunch time, I had to go to the supply tent to draw my mess equipment. I took it to the place where you washed your mess kits, I stuck mine in the hot soapy water, when I was descended upon by the wreath of God (Sgt. Bill Confer).

For about ten days they could have shoved the Army, I gradually got used to things and thought of becoming a 30 year man.

I liked the Saturday morning inspections Lt. Milne was the company commander and it was because of him I have always had undying loyalty to West Pointers.

The day I was promoted to PFC was one of my proudest days. I went back to my tent sewed it on my sleeve and got on my first bus to Fayetteville. I walked in front of the store with large glass windows so I could see my lonely little stripe.

There was First Sergeant Dave Morton, S/Sgt. Karl Palmer who became 1st when Morton left and then there was Bill Confer who became 1st when Palmer left. I was disappointed in San Antonio when none of them showed up.

I left "A" company of the 15th Engrs. 9th, and became 1st Sgt. of "A" of the 318th Engr. Bn of the 88th Infantry Div.

I hadn't seen or heard from anyone of the 9th until San Antonio. That was a span of 52 years, a longtime, and the first person I saw was Lt. Emmons. It was with a heavy heart that I read of the passing of Lt. Emmons, was a gentleman.

I see that I am in arrears on my dues. I will catch up with them and enlist for a short hitch. Please use the remainder of the check, for a final salute to Lt. Emmons.

Find out what's wrong with the rest of "A" Company, why do they not drop a line to the Octofoil.

I will have been retired from the Army on 1 Sept. '97 37 years.



Tony Bolognese, (l) shown presenting a donation check from the Association to Timothy L. Cobb, Chief, Volunteer Service at the West Palm Beach Medical Center. Florida Chapter Member Tony Bolognese is a volunteer at this V.A. Hospital.

Co. M. 60th Inf.
9th Inf. Div.
BONIFACIO CAMPOS
Hi Dan,

Writing in regard on how I can get the Normandy Medal. I did not get the issue of the May, June and July of the Octofoil, so I didn't know about it until I read about it in this last issue. I don't belong to the V.F.W. I do belong to the American Legion, D.A.V. and Legion of the Purple Heart.

So if I can get any information on how I can go about it, I'd sure be thankful.

Thank you and keep up the good work.

A friend.

Can. Co. 47th
LOUIS T. MARINES
4802 Jasper Rd.
EMMAUS, Pa 18049-5213
Dear Dan,

It's been almost 10 years since my buddy Joe Brotzman died on Feb. 12, 1988. He had written a history of Service Co. and also a record of when he went in service June 1941 and the beginning of the 47th Regt. 9th Division. He was in all 8 campaigns. Lucky for me I was only in the last campaign is where I met Joe when he came to Cannon Co. We remained close buddies after the war because I lived in Paterson NJ and Joe in Emmaus Pa. which was near by. Then for many years we lost contact. Then I called and found he had "Mad Cow disease." Then I use to call his widow Betty to find out how she was doing. I had lost my wife 4 years before and had moved to Waynesville N.C. and built a home next door to my daughter. But when I saw Betty I knew she was the one and we were married Dec. 23, 1988 in Emmaus, Pa. I enjoy reading the Octofoil very much and look forward to receiving it. Last year four of us guys went out to Carlisle Military History Institute. I met the Col. in charge and he was with the 9th Div. 47th Regt. in Vietnam. He was platoon leader of 1st Platoon Co. B 2nd Battalion 47th Inf.

His name is:
Col. Tom Vossler
U.S. Army Military Institute
Carlisle Barracks, Penn.
17013

Former Raider
"P.S. Betty gets mad because" Hitler brought us together."

H Co 47th Inf
CECIL OVERTON
1612 Iowa St.
Mission, TX 78572

Dear Comrades - It's been a long time. Went to Fort Bragg 50th reunion. Saw about three people we knew! but met wonderful new members and enjoyed their company. Exchanged stories of grand and great grandchildren. 9 for us! After service worked in machine shop a couple yrs — telephone Co. for a couple more yrs then to P.O. for 39 yrs. Married, had two daughters, seven grandkids and 9 great grand. Now live in best spot on earth with original gal Elizabeth.

34th F.A.
LESLIE DAIL
Rt 1, Box 515
Candler, N.C. 28715

I was sending my check to Albert for the strip tickets. I realized that I hadn't sent in my dues. So here they are.

We from the 34th are very fortunate to have a man of Leon Birum's caliber. He has gone beyond all expectations to get a newsletter out for the last several years. It was with sorrow to learn of the death of Vaughn Willey, Frank Personnette, Lester Nichols and in the last Octofoil Micky Bruno.

We enjoyed the Louisville reunion. All had a great time. Looking forward to the Hampton Reunion.

Got caught in a snowstorm in Greensboro, N.C. Spent the night with Albert Willingham and lovely wife. He had some of his Christmas spirits left. So naturally we bent our elbows a few times. So glad the snow stopped us.

CO. E. 39th Inf.
WILLY (SNUFFY) GOLDSMITH
7848 Maynard Ave.
West Hills, Co. 91304
Hi Guys,

I was thinking about what is going on in Washington. I like everyone else started judging our president, and came up with this conclusion.

1. He is doing a good job.
 2. He likes to smoke and has an occasional drink.
 3. He is a fighter.
 4. He does like his woman.
- He would have made a good 9th Division man.
Hope this gets a few laughs. See you in May.

M.P.
JOHN MALONEY
337 Dewey St.
Bennington, VT. 05201

Please find the sum of \$25.00 for three years dues. Being 81, I'm being quite the optimist. I'll be trying in golf to shoot my age with either a golf club or carbine. Reservation has been made for reunion in May.

Without a beer or two I don't say much.

To you Dan and Marie God Bless, Good Luck.

60th Inf. M Co.
BONIFACIO CAMPOS
420 Santa Fe Ave., S.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87102
Hi Dan and Marie.

Well another year has passed us by and I hope that you, Marie and family had a very wonderful and happy Xmas. Let's hope that our good Lord will give us another happy and healthy year. Sending dues for 1998. Hello to all Co M. men of the 60th.

Hq. Co. 47th Inf.
LAURENCE MELANSON
1515 W 28 St. Apt. 313
Loveland, CO 80538

I was a member of HQ Co., 47th Inf., 9th Div. (Also 2nd BN HQ before Tunisia).

Received the Nov.-Dec. Octofoil on Ground Hogs Day, looked in Taps Sounded first, didn't see my name listed, so am optimistically sending 3 years dues. Did see Duane Olson listed, a friend I am glad to have known. Recall one evening in 1944. Duane, a couple of other midwesterners, and myself were shooting the breeze with a few of the fellows from the East coast. One asked if all of us from the midwest were so big. Duane replied "You should have seen the guys on our Draft Boards. They were BIG."

Charlotte and I are living in a Retirement complex, don't do much travelling anymore, but read the account of the Memorial Mass, also those of past and future Reunions.

Best wishes for 1998, and keep up the good work!

G. Co. 39th Inf.
GARLAND B. GLOVIER
R.R. 3 Box 341
Lebanon, Va. 24266

Received the Octofoil for Nov. & Dec.

Enjoyed reading about all the men in the 9th.

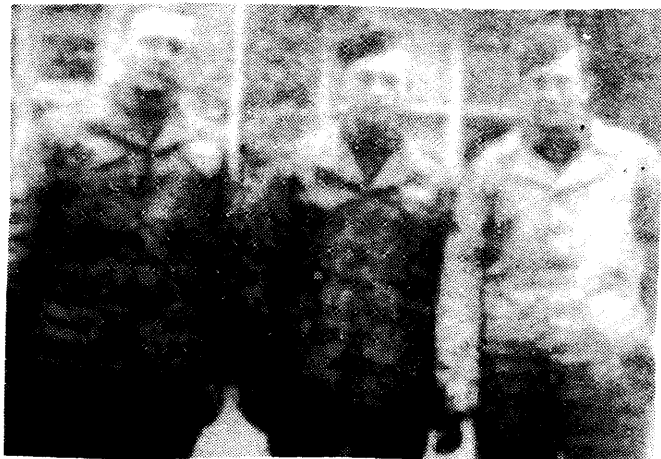
Sorry to hear about so many of our buddies passing. Enclosed is check for my dues for 3 yrs.

Hope to see many of our men of the 9th in May.

3rd Bn Hdq. Co 60th
CHARLES J. WRIGHT
5458 W. Dodge Rd.
Clio, Mich. 48420

Well here I am 81 yrs. old and still going strong. It's dues time again, so here is \$25. I'm going for 3 more years. My health is good. I play golf about four times a week. It's that club house that kills me. Ha Ha. I see Capt. John O'Rouck's name in the last Octofoil. I was with him from Port Lybutey, Africa, to the Elbe river. He was a good company commander. Hope he is still with us. Would like to hear from anybody from 3rd Bn Hdq. Must sign off. The best to all.

Deadline for copy of the next issue of the Octofoil will be APRIL 20th



Three former F Company 47th Inf. are pictured in 1945 when they were drill instructors for surplus Air Force personnel, somewhere in France. They were on their way back to their old outfit in Germany when they were selected to be instructors. All had been wounded in France and the Gods shone down on them when they got the break of a lifetime. Pictured (l-r) Roger Alsgaard, George King and Chuck Koskie. Roger sent the photo when he recently wrote informing us of the demise of his beloved wife Jennie.

SEEKING

Thomas D. Renihan
34 Rolfe Avenue
Shrewsbury, MA
01545-3728
508-753-8395
508-795-1327 (Fax)
9th Infantry Div. Assoc.
Dear Mr. Quinn,

Perhaps you can help me. I am seeking information about my father's unit during World War II. My father had a hard cover yearbook type book which was mailed to him after the war. I remember seeing it as a child, but it was lost long ago. It provided both a written and pictorial record of the unit's activities. I believe they liberated one or more of the concentration camps in central Europe. I would like to get a copy of it.

I am enclosing a photocopy of a photostat of my father's Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge Certificate. As you can see he was separated from active service at Fort Devens on 21 February 1946, having served with Co B 15th Engineer Battalion, 9th Infantry Division. He had been a member of the Massachusetts National Guard, having joined in the late 1930's, and entered active service on 28 August 1944 at Boston, Massachusetts.

Your efforts in pursuing this request will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Thomas D. Renihan, Jr.

Co. A 47th Inf. 9th Div.
EDDIE BLECK
16870 Bardbury Ave.
Middleburg Hts., Ohio 44130
(440) 234-6633

First I would like to say how nice it is to receive the "Octofoil," also a big thanks to all you guys for keeping our Association together.

Not too long ago, there appeared an article in the Octofoil about the family and friends who were seeking information about one of our members nicknamed "Hambone." If he was the truck driver for our kitchen crew of 'A' Company, 47th I can help. "Hambone" and I were pretty close. If you have the Octofoil or the address of his family I will contact them, or they can call or write to me.

My last name was changed from Blecharzyk to Bleck.

SEEKING

ROBERT J. ADLET
8601 N.W. 3 St.
Pembroke Pines, Fl. 33024
Mr. Quinn:

I'm writing trying to find info/photos or writings/letters on my late father, Tech Sgt Robert F. Whitaker. Before he died in 1993 he fought for many years to get his service medals. Finally with the help of Senator Graham he was able to get all his service medals replaced. He constantly talked about the war and the individual battles. He was in the First Army under General Bradley. 60th Infantry Regiment. 9th Infantry Division. F Company (weapons company). 2nd Battalion. 2nd Platoon as Platoon sgt.

He was from Jersey City, NJ and entered the Army April 3, 1944 at Ft. Dix, NJ. He completed basic training at Camp Wheeler, Macon, GA. He entered WWII at Normandy Bch D-day plus 6. He fought for 13 months with F company in the following battles: 1) Aachen Forest 2) Bonn 3) Remagen Bridge 4) Battle of the Bulge 5) Hesse.

he was honorably discharged on Oct. 24, 1945.

I'm attempting to complete some family research but it has been slow going. Any help you could give would be greatly appreciated. I would also appreciate if you could tell me some other places to check for any info on my father's military service.

60th Inf.
FLOYD SHERIFF
445 Bonita Dr.
Easley, S.C. 29642

I forgot to send my dues. I am sending them for 3 years and the rest for the memorial for Vincent Mitchell and Thomas D. Smith. I am sure I was with them across France, Belgium and into Germany. I was always closer to Mitch. He drove the jeep that I was with most of the time. I still get a little weak when I think of some of the things we went through. I often wonder what happened to the medics with us that were taken prisoner when we went into Germany.

Dan you are doing a great job and I wish you and your family much happiness.
P.S. We recently had a tornado in our neighborhood. It did much damage but no one was hurt. We had no damage.

