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The Octofoil, March/April 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 Mar-April 1998

Revisit the ETO

To Fellow Members of the 9th Inf Div Assn:

The following are definitely booked and are going on our "9th Infantry Division Association" tours to Europe in September, 1998: Richard Walter Martin of Hartford, Connecticut; Neil W. Aberegg and Michael I. Koontz, Hundred, West Virginia; Frank P. Cericola and Mark A. Koss, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Victor A. Larson, Sea Bright, New Jersey; Dr. George and Kate Nicklin, Garden City, NY; George and Lola Booth, Jefferson, Iowa; Nancy, Anthony H., James V., and Jason C. Ciluffo, from Grand Rapids, Michigan; William F. "Bill" Crain, of Ashland, Ohio; Paul Schumacher, Selmer, Tennessee; Orion and Esther Shockley, Highlands Ranch, Colorado; William M. "Bill" Doty, of Baden, Pennsylvania; and John W. and Jean Miller, from Arlington, Texas.

June 30th is the target date for final payments in full for the tours. Actually, there are three tours, all in September of 1998. Tour #1, from September 11th thru 20th, will retrace, as much as possible, the route our division followed as it advanced from landing at Utah Beach, thru France to Paris. Tour #2, September 19th thru 28th, is labeled "The Battle of The Bulge Tour" and concentrates on an extensive and detailed tour of those parts of Belgium and Germany in which the 9th Infantry Division was engaged. Tour #3 (September 11-18) is a combination of tour #1 and #2.

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 round trip airfare from New York City. 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 tours #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 final balance in full, will be due on or before June 30, 1998, and may be paid by VISA, Mastercard or American Express Card.

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.

A strong effort is being made to arrange for residents of both France and Germany to visit with tour participants. 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.

Tour #1, departs the USA on September 11th 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 in 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

Continued on page 3

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation and The NASA Alumni League Florida Chapter

hereby certify that the name of

B/GEN LEWIS MANESS

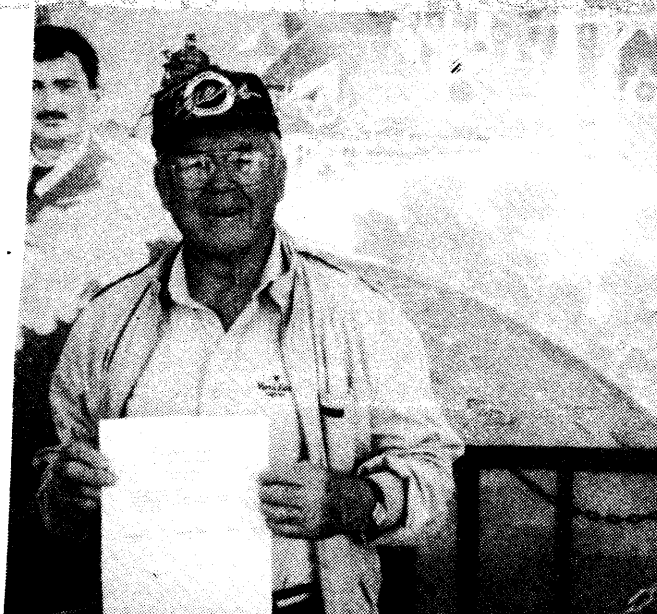
is inscribed on

SPACEWALK OF HONOR at the John F. Kennedy Space Center

in recognition of support
of the American Space Program



Certificate No. 01252



"Chip" Maness is pictured (recently) at the John F. Kennedy Space Center when he was honored by the American Space Program. He commanded the 2nd Bn 47th Infantry when nearing the end of WW 2. His Battalion captured eight (8) Missiles near the Hartz Mountains in Germany. These Missiles were shipped to the USA for study.

53rd Annual Reunion May 5, 6, 7, 1998 9th Inf Div Assn

To All Members of the Ninth:

Well the H day (Hampton) will soon be upon us. All the preparations are now being fine tuned and coming together.

We have (what we think) will be a very good program laid out for all you.

We are all excited about our reunion. There are a few pleasant surprises that we hope you will enjoy.

Our Tour Director Marjorie Phillips will be in the lobby of the hotel near the registration tables. If any one wants to go on any of the five tours she will be very happy to accommodate you. If you already have made reservations she will have your tickets ready.

We deeply appreciated all the members who sent in their money for the Strip Tickets. It will help us expedite the process of getting your envelopes with all you need to have a happy reunion (FAST).

When you walk into the lobby there will be four or five men or women to hand you your envelopes. The envelopes will be in alphabetical order. In it you will find your program book, your name tags, your strip tickets, your name that you will put on the board to identify your outfit you were in, etc.

I want to thank my co-chairman George Brown and his lovely wife (Janet) — who live in that area — for their cooperation. They were very instrumental when we were down there twice. They drove us to all the places to make all the arrangements needed to finalize our program. This plus the fact that they sat down at table with the tour director, the hotel coordinator, and with the convention service manager. They helped us to ask them all the questions needing an answer.

Continued on next page

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

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Published five times yearly. May, June, July - Aug., Sept., Oct., - Nov., Dec. - Jan., Feb., - Mar, April by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, 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 2

Mar-April 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 Auxiliary Member.....\$300 ☐

Decals.....50 each

Philly-Delaware Valley

Illinois

New England

Florida

Texas C & South West

☐ Greater New York☐ Washington, D.C.☐ Michigan☐ New Jersey☐ California Chapter

Ladies Auxiliary

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.....

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:

Helen Holmes - In memory of Joe Lagatutta and Bill Stokan and all deceased men of K Co. 47th Inf.

Boris Raynes - In memory of E.C. Waller, Div. Arty. Hdqs. Btry.

Boris Raynes - In memory of Corp. Rolph, Btry C, 26th F.A. Bn.

George Brown - In memory of Bert Waller, Ray Schmader, Peggy Wadavage and Bob Colflesh.

Steve Urbanyi - In memory of Alex Hubbard.

Samuel Robinson - In memory of Olive Maher and Jack Kargir.

Robert E. Arnold

Edward McNamara

Edward Stokan - In memory of brother Bill Stokan, K Co., 47th Inf.

Beulah Floyd - In memory of her husband, Dr. Anderson Floyd, Dr. Walter Sperling and John H. Lewis.

Pete Rice - In memory of E.C. Bert Waller.

Hal C. Saum - In memory of Robert Poulson, 26th F.A. Bn.

Richard McGrath

Paul Giarraputo - In memory of Jennie Alsgaard and Louis Slatnick.

James Droney - In memory of Ellis Huffman and John C. Eisenhower, both KIA.

Chester Mikus - In memory of the 84th F.A. and Fr. Connors.

Donald Lavender - In memory of Nick Chipura

Mrs. J.C. Dawson - In memory of Nick Chipura.

George I. Connolly - In memory of Bert Waller - a great soldier and friend.

K Co. 60th Inf.

JAMES DRONEY
502 Christopher Cir.
Pittsburgh, Pa 15205

I am enclosing my dues for 3 years and a little extra for the Memorial Fund in honor of Ellis T. Huffman and John C. Eisenhower, both of whom were killed in action. Ellis, our runner, was killed in Hofen, Germany and like our company commander, was killed in the Huertgen Forest. Both were fine men, real good friends.

You do a superb job as secretary.

Continued from page 1

53rd Annual Reunion
9th Inf Div Assn
May 5, 6, 7, 1998

Our hotel coordinator (Antouine) has been very cooperative in that our tour cut off date for the \$69.00 a day rooms has been extended past April 4. They are still honoring that price.

Our hearts go to the few members who had to cancel out for various reasons. Our prayers go out to you.

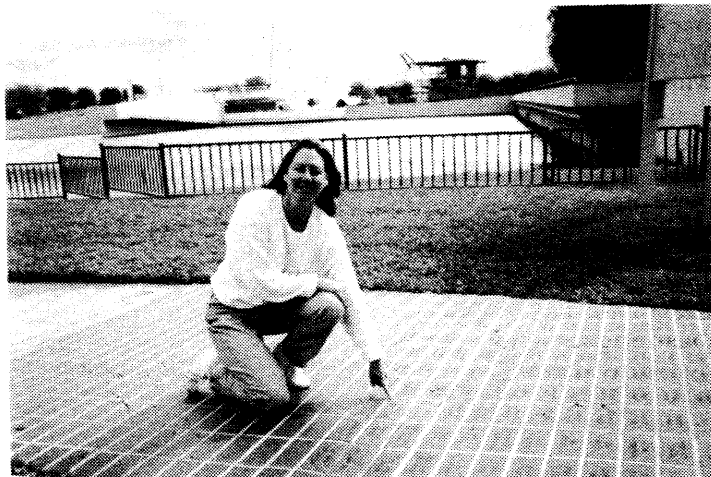
The main thing is for all of you to get here safe and sound.

A great many of you wrote or called to tell the committee thank you for all the hard work in making a happy reunion.

To all of you, I say it was a labor of love and we enjoyed every minute of it. We hope you will enjoy your stay. Please forgive us for any shortcomings or failings that may occur. We will try to keep them at a minimum.

See you on May 5, 6, and 7

ALBERT PERNA
2642 South Juniper Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148



General Maness's daughter Ruthie Ann Propper is shown pointing out the Brick on the spacewalk of Honor at JFK Space Center honoring her dad and the men of the 2nd Bn 47th Inf. General Maness tried to have the name of the 2nd Bn 47th placed on the brick but was told that they only honor individuals.

HELP NEEDED

Looking for details on former 9th Div. Chaplain, Lt. Col. William C. Phillips and, in particular, information on a burial he conducted for the deceased of the ill-fated Div. Hq. quartering party which was ambushed by the Germans near Barneville on 17 June 1944.

What was Phillips denomination? Home town? Any information would be appreciated.

Red Phillips
14002 Hemlock Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946
(530) 432-1409

P.S.: The only bit of information the Secretary's office can supply was the Chaplain's last address in this office files was back in 1970. The last of contact we had with the Chaplain and at that time he lived at 420 S. Highland St., Memphis, Tenn 38111.

CAMP ELSENBORN MUSEUM

Veterans of the Ninth Division who fought during the months of September 1944 to February 1945 will remember Camp Elsenborn near the border of Belgium and Germany.

The camp was established in 1894 by the Prussian Army when that area was German territory. Following WW I, the area was ceded to Belgium as part of war reparations. For about a year from 1919 to 1920, Elsenborn was occupied by British and Scottish troops. In 1920, it was taken over by Belgian troops.

Elements of the 9th Division captured Camp Elsenborn in September of 1944 and from that time until the push eastward after the bulge, the 9th was always nearby. For part of that time, 9th Division Headquarters occupied that area.

Elsenborn was subsequently the headquarters area for the 2nd Division and the 99th Division. During the

Bulge, elements of the 9th held a line from Kalterherberg to near Camp Elsenborn and prior to that in November, units of the division rested in what was known as Elsenborn Woods.

A new museum is to be opened in September 1998 at Camp Elsenborn to illustrate the history of that installation which has been occupied by elements of four different countries since it was established. They are seeking material of all types- war relics, uniforms, photographs, maps and related paraphernalia.

The 99th Division Association is cooperating and other U.S. Division Associations are being contacted for assistance. Jean-Louis Seel, a Belgian citizen, is on the board of the museum and may be contacted for further details. Seel has spent a number of years digging up war time artifacts in that area and in the Hurtgen Forest. Seel's address is Clos des Beguines 67, 4800 Ensival, Belgium. His E mail address is: digger@skynet.be and is accessible from most U.S. computers.

Revisit the ETO

Continued from page 1

at Arromanches; the Walled City of St. Malo; and Mont Saint Michel. The city of Orleans, via tours and Amboise, is visited on 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 departs the USA by air on September 19th and 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 River to Cologne. One highlight of day #3 will be the coach trip, via the Hurtgen Forest, to visit the Remagen Bridge War Museum. Wetzlar, 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 #4 a most enjoyable one. Days #6, #7 and #8 include visits to: the U.S. cemetery at Magaraten; 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. A gala farewell dinner will be held the final night.

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.

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

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Not much happening with the Illinois Chapter. By the time you read this, we will have attended the Reunion in Hampton. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again. We will give a detailed report in the next issue of the Octofoil.

Our congratulations to Howard (47th Inf. Reg. M. Co.) and Grace Gaertner who will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 17, 1998. The Gaertners were instrumental in making the Milwaukee Reunion a huge success. Our best wishes to them for many more years of wedded bliss. They also will be hosting a cook-out in their back yard on July 30, 1998. More information to follow.

We also wish to report that Lorraine Clark (wife of Paul Clark 60th - D Co.) has undergone hip surgery. We are happy to advise that all went well and hopefully they will be at the reunion if the doctor consents to their traveling.

No plans have been made for Memorial Services this year. We will discuss this at the reunion and inform the Illinois Chapter Members about any decision.

Hoping to see a lot of our buddies in Hampton.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Belmonte
1161 South Lombard
Oak Park, IL 60304

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

Deadline for next issue July 20th

K Company 47th Inf.

SHOW BIZ, AGAIN!

Last month there was another TV drama starring a Ninth Division General. It was called "TERROR IN THE WHITE HOUSE", or something like that. The terror was caused by the Ninth General capturing the President and forcing him to give him the codes so he could launch a nuclear war. He made the mistake of missing the great looking blond Vice-President who had majored in the martial arts and minored in ass kicking. She immediately begins to take the terror apart, eventually forcing the BIG BAD OLD UNRELIABLE to commit suicide.

All old Ninth men knew right away that the General didn't have the right stuff. His patch was on the left shoulder, but it was upside down. The blue was on top.

I expect they attracted a lot of viewers, with their title, who probably expected to see WILLIE chasing interns around the White House. RUN TO THE OVAL OFFICE NELLIE, HE CAN'T CORNER YOU THERE.

ROLL CALL

RED is still in fine fettle, but has decided that he couldn't break the bank in Las Vegas and has adopted some local casinos to receive his largess. He says, at this time, he is not going to Virginia, but you know how flighty these octogenarians are, he might show up just to prove he can.

AL and HELEN HOLMES say that if they can get a breath in their body they are going to Virginia. AL is having trouble getting over his emphysema and HELEN has bronchitis and a sinus infection.

JOE KILLACKY sent me a clipping about the brouhaha between the Air Force and the Marine Corps. The Chairman of the monument committee called the Marine Flag Raising a piece of KITSCH and wants to let the flyboys build a monument just 500 ft. away. I tend to agree with the Chairman's assessment, but they shouldn't let the FB's build within a mile of a unit that fought in the war.

EL NINO has screwed JOE'S golf but perhaps in the spring, it will spring back.

FLICKS

Need a 9th. movie? I have an ad that says "FORCE AFLOAT; US 9th INFANTRY and the GREAT GREEN FLEET of VIETNAM". Storm the Mekong with the Mobile Riverine Force in Vietnam in this action packed video. Striking from floating bases and a military complex dredged from the bottom of the muddy Mekong delta, 9th. Infantry grunts were ferried into some of the heaviest combat in the Vietnam war. #12543 (60 minutes) \$29.98. It'll let you know what kind of SWABBIE a GRUNT makes.

Chester H. Jordan
1058 West Lakeview Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA
70810-4641

— A man just supposes that he proposes.

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.

Lyman T. Moores#
84th F.A.

William Bongiorno, Jr.
Son of Ellie and
Bill Bongiorno

Mrs. Jos. McKenzie
Wife of the late
Joseph McKenzie, 84th FA

John A. Caughey
L Co. 47th Inf.

Robert J. Lynch
9th Recon

William Stokan
K Co. 47th Inf.

Joseph Perella
60th Inf.

Robert Poulson
26th F.A.

Robert Slapinski
9th QM & MP's

Nick Chipura
I Co. 39th Inf.

Clyde Benton
60th Inf. K Co.

Ed Koneski
Co. I, 39th Inf.

John Morris
Co. D 60th Inf.

Joseph Boudreau
9th Med.

Walter Mikurski
84th F.A.



Nick Chipura, veteran non commissioned officer of I Company, 39th passed away on April 8. Nick was one of the few who made it all the way having joined the Company in July 1943 prior to the landing in Sicily.

He was wounded in France in July of 1944. In October of that same year, he was awarded the Silver Star for action in the Hurtgen Forest. He subsequently received an oak leaf cluster for that Silver Star.

Chipura lived in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. Before his health failed, he traveled extensively visiting areas where I Company fought and where the Company did occupation duty in Bavaria. On one occasion, he accompanied a young man who searches our old battlefields for paraphernalia lost by combat soldiers and witnessed the discovery of several items in and around former fox holes.

He was a regular in attendance at mini reunions of I Company having last met with his old friends at Galesburg, Illinois in July of 1997. Chipura was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on April 16 with full military honors.

In Memory of E.C. "Bert" Waller July 2, 1922 - January 5, 1998

E.C. "Bert" Waller, Lt. Col. US Army Retired, a World War II and Korean War veteran and staff officer, business executive and author died Monday, January 5, 1998 in Poway, CA after a 6 month battle with Esophageal Cancer.

Born in Claremore, Oklahoma on July 2, 1922, Bert joined the U.S. Army in June 1939 at sixteen. He graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1941 and in the spring of 1942 requested a combat assignment, joining the 9th Infantry Division Artillery as a 2nd Lt. He served as a commander with this Division in eight campaigns including North Africa, Sicily, Normandy and Northern France, Belgium and Germany.

In 1946 he met Helen E. Schonebaum in Germany where she had been serving with the American Red Cross which she had joined in 1944. They were married in Fulda Germany in 1947.

Following the war, Bert obtained his bachelors degree from the University of Oklahoma while serving as a Major in the Oklahoma National Guard. He was reappointed to the Regular Army when his national guard unit was activated and sent to Korea. There he was promoted to Lt. Colonel, then the youngest Lt. Colonel in the US Army. He remained in the army until his retirement in 1961.

He was decorated for his nine campaigns in World War II and Korea, receiving the Bronze Star with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, various unit citations, and the Belgium Fourragere.

After retirement Bert continued his interest in military history contributing to several books on World War II. In 1992 he published **Commanders We Knew**, a history of the commanders of the Ninth Infantry Division during World War II. He was also an Ombudsman for Aging-Family. He was a member of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Poway, CA.

He is survived by his wife, Helen; sister Leona Bree of Paso Robles, CA; sons Jonathan of Berwyn, PA, Joseph of Kenosha, WI, James of Monterey, CA and Robert of Poway, CA and a daughter Ann W. Hartman of Exton, PA; and twelve grandchildren. Final resting place is at Fort Rosecrans National Military Cemetery, Point Loma, CA.

We, the family of Bert want to thank all of you for your support and kind words through this very difficult time. We will miss our father very much and are proud to be part of his family. As most of you know, Helen suffers from Alzheimer's, and is now living with son Robert at 13723 Janette Lane, Poway, CA 92064. (619-748-6470) She is adapting well to her new environment and she has a lot of love and support from her children. God Bless.

Bob Rucker

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

CONTRACT SIGNED: The contract to hold the September 17, 18, 19 Florida Chapter Mini-Reunion has been signed and sent to Ms. Mini Vielhauser, Sales Manager of the DOUBLE TREE RESORT (formerly the INN AT MAINGATE) in Kissimmee, Florida. The Reunion Committee continues to work on other details to make our reunions a success ... so remember to mark your calendar, attend this meeting and stay tuned for further news.

ROSTER UPDATE

Please make the following changes, deletions and additions on your copy of the Florida Chapter Membership Roster dated December 15, 1997.

- Berry, William — Add "Hqts 15th Eng."
- Braune, Chester — Substitute "Mountain Brook, AL 35223" for Birmingham.
- Clark, Walter — Add "9th Recon" in addition to "M Co 39th Inf."
- De Donato, Emil — Change "904" to "352" new area phone code.
- Dodd, Wilbur — Add "9th Signal Co."
- Elich, John — Summer address "204 Memosa, Whiting, N.J. 08759."
- Esteva, Carlos — Add phone number "890/878-3191".
- Furber, George — Deceased
- Gowen, Edward — Correct zip code to "34472".
- Gronseth, Coleman — Moved to 7535 W Tennessee, Tallahassee FL 32340 Lot 232, Phone: 850/504-0034.
- Hynes, J.P. — Add "c/o Karen Schmitz" to his address.
- Katz, Maxwell — New address: "2571 Aragon Blvd Apt 313 Sunrise, FL 33322."
- Kearns, Joe — Moved to: "2324 41st St Apt 102 Wilmington, NC 28403."
- King, Irving — Change "904" to "850" New area phone code.
- Megla, William — Add "Co C 47th Inf."
- Slapinski, Robt A. — Deceased March 11, 1998 (See write up elsewhere).
- Stansell, H.F. — Name mis-spelled. Substitute "n" for "u".
- Thompson, Herbert L — New Member. 2988 Beal St. Deltona, FL 32738 Co. A 47th Inf.
- Varcoe, William — Moved to: 54 Lakeview Ter Dr Altoona, FL 34749.
- Wood, Hershel — Add phone number "407/295-1590."

LETTERS, NOTES & NEWS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS

FRED DICK wrote saying that his attendance at both the Florida Chapter and the National Reunions have been poor due to health reasons. However he is going to make an effort to be at the Florida Chapter Meeting in September if only for a few hours. (We hope and pray to see you).

JORDAN BIERMAN: A 9th Infantry Division license plate on his car caught the attention of Jack Freides who served in the 39th Infantry Regiment. Jack did not know about the 9th Infantry Division Association and expressed a willingness to join. Phil Berman, who received this news together with dues from Jordan, has been in contact with Mr. Freides and hopefully Jack will join ranks with us.

WALLACE RICHARDSON: Wally wrote saying that his wife is gravely ill which accounted for his absence from our Chapter Meetings. However, he has hopes to be with us some time in the future. Wally and his wife live in Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751 Box 1722.

LESTER SCHWEAR: We salute Lester for his active roll in the different Service Organizations. He served as Commander of Post 46 American Legion, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7526 in Tipton, Indiana. Lester is perhaps the farthest dues paying member of the Florida Chapter. We are proud to learn of his activities and we extend a cordial invitation to him and his family to visit us here in Florida to attend our Chapter meeting in September.

ED GRAY: Ed and his wife Ruth seem to be away during the time we have our Meetings. They sent their regrets for having missed our last one after learning about the good time everyone had. Ed promised to make it to our Kissimmee Meeting in September.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

ROSEMARY COONEY: We received a note from her husband Bill stating that Rosemary was hospitalized at Shands Hospital in Gainesville last July. We were happy to learn that Rosemary is feeling much better ... hopefully well enough to attend our September meeting. Bill and Rosemary live at 729 Luna Drive in Ormond Beach, FL 32176.

DOLORES VAN DER POEL suffered a slight heart attack but we are grateful to learn that she made a speedy recovery. Chuck and Dolores will be treated by their son to a trip to Las Vegas in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary which happened on February 21st. Hopefully, we will hear that they hit the jackpot in Vegas.

BERTHA CARSON wrote saying she spent six weeks in New Jersey over the Christmas and New Years' visiting with her family and also some time with Bill's sister in Pennsylvania. Since her return to her Florida home, Bertha has been extremely busy getting her late husband's things in order. Like her, we all miss and pray for God's assistance to give Bertha the strength and courage to go on with her life. Bertha hopes to make the September Meeting providing she remains in Florida.

Texas & The Greater Southwest Chapter

In late January I had a very pleasant phone visit with Robert Rucker. He and Frieda, like many of us, are living with the residuals of advancing age. Bob is no longer able to travel and after all these years since North Africa, is still nursing from three operations on his missing leg. Bob has always been very up-beat and I'm sure he misses the comradeship of the Division's reunions.

After a phone call to Ray Inzer, he followed up with a letter explaining why he had to resign as the Honorary Colonel of the 47th Infantry Association. Ray has developed Macular Degeneration, which to us lay people, is loss of central vision in the right eye. So technically, the eye doctor states Ray is legally blind and can no longer drive an automobile. Standing by Ray, as she has since they first met when he was wounded, and she was his nurse in England, is his wife Cokie.

Limited vision has not hampered Ray in reading and corresponding, as he has a device, manufactured by Telesensory, a Xerox Strategic Partner, which magnifies a variety of printed materials.

Have also heard from Charles Scheffel, who has moved from Oklahoma City to 1 Towers Parklane — USAA Towers, San Antonio, Texas 78209-6413. Charles, who served with the 1st Bn 39th Inf. gave his new phone number as (210) 930-2561. Being right next to Fort Sam Houston, there should be a number of recreational opportunities as well as an outstanding medical facility.

Locally, John W. Miller, William "Dub" Lynch, and others as available, get together about once a month for lunch. We would like to have any other Association members, in the area, let us know and we'll put you on the phone list.

Gordon A. Schneider
4001 Fort Branch Drive
Arlington, Texas
76016-3212
Phone (817) 457-5757



Shown at the Infantry Mens Ball held at Fort Leavenworth are 1r Unknown member of 2/47 Inf., Jack Collier, Willard Norris (WW2) Ed Thurmand, Hon. Colonel of Regiment, Ed Luht and Ken Meyer (Viet Nam).

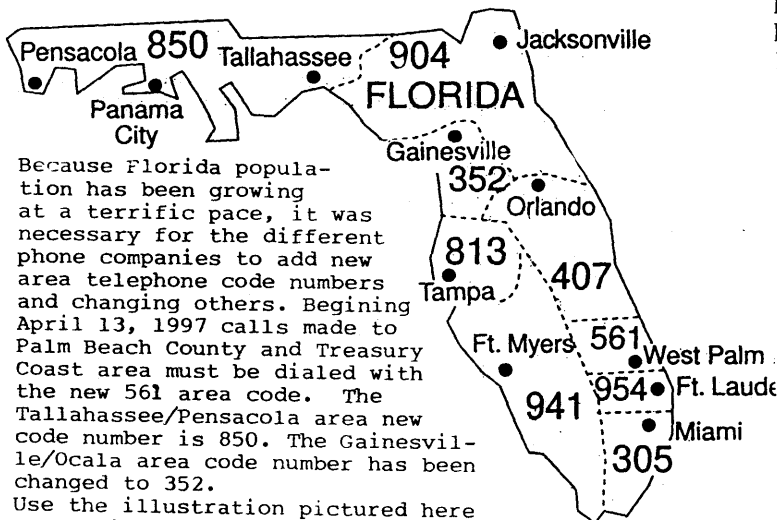
TAPS

Robert Albert Slapinski
9th MP's & QM

Mrs. Wilma Slapinski sent a note to the Florida Chapter stating that her husband Robert passed away on March 11th after suffering a stroke. He was born on June 21, 1918 and served with the 9th Military Police also with the Quartermasters. He was an active member of the Florida Chapter. May his soul dwell in the House of the Lord forever. Mrs. Slapinski resides at 325 W. Brannen Rd. in Lakeland, FL 33813.

FLORIDA AREA CODES

If you don't know the area code, call Directory Assistance at 411.



Emil De Donato 352/489-4070

Greater New York Area Chapter

NY area chapter members met for its monthly meeting on Friday, March 20 at its usual command post in the Masonic Hall, 71 W. 23rd Street, NYC.

1st VP Joe Killen presided over the meeting, starting with the members pledge of allegiance to the flag, followed by resident chaplain George Apar's convocation and moment of silence for our departed comrades.

Killen and the members proudly welcomed new member Ed Harris. We hope Ed will become an active participant in the Ninth family.

Secretary Art Schmidt read the minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer Al Zenka presented the chapter's financial report, which appears sound. The secretary reported no correspondence from members were received. He did note the VA National Cemetery's letter acknowledging the chapter's request for cooperation at our Memorial Service on May 16.

The upcoming 53 annual reunion at Hampton, VA was then discussed and delegates were nominated to the various committees. The NY chapter delegates are: for NOMINATION — Joe Killen and Emil Langer; BYLAWS — Adolph Wadalavage and Al Zenka; FINANCE — Charles LiBretto and Walter O'Keefe; NEWSPAPER — Art Schmidt and Marv Levy; MISCELLANEOUS — Tony DeRobertis. Also nominated to the BOARD OF GOVERNORS, Marty Gross.

Last minute details were covered for the 9th Inf Div Assn NY Area Chapter Memorial Service at the VA National Cemetery, Farmingdale, Long Island, which will be held on Armed Forces Day, the week before the Memorial Day observance.

Meeting was adjourned and we partook of the hospitality table. Members attending not mentioned above: Joe Brody, Anton Dietrich, Jack Holuboff, Marv Levy, Al Lipton, Al Lubrano, Dan Quinn, Joe Rzeniowicki, and Adolph Wadalavage.

NY Chapter reminder: if you haven't paid your dues for 1998 now is the time to catch up — \$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, 9-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385.

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

39th Inf. F Co.
ED McNAMARA
Box 219
Brookfield, NY 13314

Was going to mail my dues in Jan. but had a real bout with pneumonia and then forgot it. Lost 8 lbs.

Wife asked me if I'd mailed dues to you or it would have been a while longer.

So enclosed find check for 3 years dues plus a little something for memorial fund.

P.S. Got first great grandchild, boy 10 lbs. 6 oz., 22" long.

M COMPANY (47TH) CHRONICLER

Red Phillips
14002 Hemlock Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946

The Making of a Professional, my Eddy biography, is done and now making the rounds of various publishing houses. But, if one of them decides to go with it, it will still be another year before the finished product sees the light of day. Then, when I look at "Taps" and wonder whether anyone will be left to enjoy it, I want to pull it back and self-publish. But greed reasserts itself. It's a good read, I think. A little sophisticated PR ought to do wonders — maybe even attack Hollywood. I can see Karl Malden in the title role. He's probably still got his combat boots in the closet.

Meanwhile, an event is coming up shortly that may be of interest to Octofoilers. June 17th will be the 54th anniversary of an incident occurring on the road between St. Maurice-en-Contentin and Barneville-sur-Mer, the latter being that place on the west shore of the Cherbourg Peninsula where the 60th Infantry lopped off the port from the rest of Normandy. After the 60th had pushed past some German infantry trying to block their approach to Barneville, a serious defect in the leadership of an officer from 9th Division Headquarters had fatal consequences for himself and others of his party. The following TMP excerpt describes what happened:

"Returning to the division command post, General Eddy sat down in his caravan to review what had gone wrong with the party sent out June 17th to reconnoiter and lay out a new command post site. The headquarters commandant, Major Richard E. Buchanan, had led the group of five jeep loads of personnel right into a German position. Buchanan, Major Basil Shirley from Division Artillery, and Captain Henry N. Blanchard, the division signal officer, along with two enlisted men, were killed. Lieutenant Daniel W. Hancock, Blanchard's executive officer, was wounded and captured but later escaped.

"First Lieutenant John J. Wessmiller, the headquarters defense platoon leader, who had been riding in the lead jeep with Major Buchanan, recalled he sensed they were too far west. Wessmiller spoke to the major about this but was ignored. At the end they were moving too fast to observe much, and the jeeps had bunched up, "like cows headed for the barn," he remembered.

Suddenly Wessmiller could make out field gray uniforms to the left. He yelled to stop but they were already under automatic weapon fire. As the jeep skidded to a halt, the lieutenant dove into the right hand roadside ditch.

"Wessmiller escaped using great imagination and nerve. Returning to the 9th's command post that night he was interviewed at once by General Eddy. He remembers the general was angry and upset not only at losing three staff officers but possibly copies of classified division and corps operations orders.

"Later meeting with his intelligence chief, Eddy learned that, contrary to what had first been thought, no classified documents were missing and VII Corps had been so informed. Lt. Colonel Robb continued:

"I examined the bodies before they were moved and nothing had been disturbed. Their maps and other papers were intact. Weapons, jewelry and money had not been taken. If there had been copies of current plans taken along, I think they would have been there as well. Also, the regular issue of those plans is accounted for.

"As near as I can tell, General, those Germans were part of the same party that Mike Kauffman ran into at about the same place a few hours earlier. They pushed those Germans off to the south and kept headed west toward their objective. I figure that at least a hundred of the Germans came back and were reestablishing their road-block when Buchanan came along."

Eddy growled, "The man should have known better simply by looking at the map. They were clearly past the place where the operations officer told them to stake out, west of Blandamour. But it's water over the dam now. I'm glad we don't have to report any missing plans. Thank God, Wessmiller and Bradley's bunch got out of there. Hancock escaped capture and is back so it wasn't as bad as it could have been.

"Those Germans were probably part of their 77th Division which was ordered to get out to the south rather than be backed into Cherbourg. I think they were just milling around looking for secondary roads out of there, while waiting for more of their guys to come south. A few minutes later, they might have been gone for good."

As mentioned, one of those of Major Buchanan's quartermaster party who were killed in the German ambush was Captain Henry N. Blanchard, commander of the division signal company. His job was to oversee the reestablishment of communications to the division units and to higher headquarters as the new command post opened and the old one closed. Blanchard was a sharp, West Point graduate, well-liked by his men and General Eddy. He had married an English girl from Winchester and she was expecting. Eddy had agreed to serve as the baby's godfather.

General Eddy took his godfatherly duties seriously. He called on the widow and met Capt. Blanchard's son while on leave in Winchester before Christmas, 1944. Again, after VE Day, before returning to the States, he saw them again. Soon after that, Mrs. Blanchard remarried and moved from Winchester. Contact ceased.

Young Henry, now renamed Goodall, became a medical doctor in the postwar years. His paternal American grandparents maintained contact until their deaths. When Henry married and brought a bride to America he decided to explore his father's roots. Ultimately, he met the former defense platoon leader, now Col. (Ret.) John J. Wessmiller, and learned the details of his father's death. He went to Normandy and explored the terrain, ultimately pin-pointing the ambush site with the help of an eyewitness, then a child. Now, after more visits to France and negotiation with officials there, at his personal expense, and honoring all who died in the ambush as well as the 9th as a whole, on next June 17th Dr. Henry Goodall will be unveiling a beautiful stone bench-memorial overlooking the site. It will bear the chiseled names of Majors Richard E. Buchanan and Basil Shirley, Capt. Henry N. Blanchard, PFC Valentine H. Fose and Pvt. Cecil M. Barnes, as well as an Octofoil. Dr. Goodall urges that anyone from the 9th who drops by that corner of France on June 17th will be welcome to attend the ceremony. He can be reached for details at Treewendoc, Bramshaw, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7 JL (Tel. 01794 322535).

Co. K 60th Inf.

JOE RAPIZZINI
249991 Sherman
Oak Park, MI 48237

The site is the Sedjananes, that mountainous terrain, which I am sure in the minds of all remains. There are memories of all kinds of the war that remain, and for certain one of them is the Sedjananes. 'Twas the opening chapter in a series of such, that indelible memories remain, and which mean so much. Knowing that they're shared is an enduring trust and always adds to the sentiments and memories that are ever-present and often enlivened, and especially when "The Octofoil" is received!

'Tis with pride that we acclaim that from the very start, the ninth played a vital part in the world's effort to sustain peace by inflicting on the enemy a crushing defeat, which hopefully, will cause anyone with the same intent, to reconsider, so as to prevent another such tragedy which history fully records. 'Tis through such terrible trial that man often learns, and hopefully, such suffering and terror will ever again return. Historically, it appears it may not be, yet spiritually, one can see!

With sincere thanks and countless fond and warm memories.

Many thanks Joe

P.S. We've got our reservations in for the reunion in Hampton and are looking forward to seeing you again. I'm sure you never receive so many letters from anyone else.

Love Shirley

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

— Give a woman an inch, and right away the whole family's on a diet.

9TH DIVISION LICENSE PLATES

9th Division aluminum license plates are available for a total cost of \$8.00 each which includes postage. These plates are white with blue lettering and border. A large red, white and blue Octofoil, is at the center. The lettering is 9th In. Div. Assn. Across the bottom are the 8 battle stars and invasion arrowhead like on our newspaper masthead. Send all orders made payable to: Elmer Wagner, 2833 Hotchkiss Rd., Bay City, MI 48706.

SEEKING

ROBERT SINGELSTAD
403 Valerie Lane
North Mankato, MN 56003

I was going over some genealogy stuff for our family and I got the urge to try to learn more about my uncle Alton Singelstad. He was a favorite uncle of mine as I was growing up.

My uncle, S.Sgt. Alton Singelstad was in the Battle of Normandy and was perhaps killed by a sniper on August 6, 1944. He is buried at Normandy, France. Company "K" of the 47th Infantry Division went in on the fifth day of the invasion, according to another person that I talked to who was in "K" Company.

The last V-Mail letter that my father got from Alton was dated July 28, 1944. In this letter he stated: "...Not much to say about this affair yet, only that this is the most machine gun fire and rifle fire that I have been in and it is close fighting, close enough to throw hand grenades at times... This type of fighting is a lot different than Africa or Sicily."

I would appreciate hearing from someone in "K" Company who knew him and may know about the circumstances of his death. I would presume that he was killed before the Falaise Pocket and sometime after St. Lo.

My wife and I visited Normandy in '91 and we went to the National Cemetery in St. James where he was buried. We also got a sense of the difficulties in fighting among hedge rows and stone fences which we saw as we drove through the countryside. On the other hand it was difficult to imagine that such horrific conditions existed in this peaceful countryside some 48 years previous to our visit.

Any information that someone may be able to offer this request will be greatly appreciated.

CLINTON A. DALEY
R.R. #1 Box 2704
Sabattus, Me. 04280-9747
SEEKING

Dear Mr. Quinn:

I am writing this letter asking you if you would please publish this letter in our next issue of the Octofoil. I have tried every way I can think of to locate or find out what happened to my men in the Huertgen Forest Germany the night of Sept. 25th, 1944. If anyone that reads this letter can help me I would be grateful to them the rest of my life.

I was the squad leader of the 1st. squad, 1st. platoon co. A 60th Regt. 9th Inf. Div. On the night of question, three of my men and I were separated from the rest of the squad during a shelling and counter attack. My three men and I volunteered to help the medic with the wounded. Two of my men, the medic and I carried one wounded GI in a blanket to a pill box we had taken that afternoon but was retaken by the Germans in the counter attack. My other man helped one or two wounded GI's that could walk back to the pill box. We were all taken POW's.

I never knew the names of my men due to the hurt one gets when one of your men gets hurt or killed. I think some of you readers of this letter know what I mean. I do know that the three of my men, myself and the medic spent eight months in POW camps but what happened to them after they were freed in April 23, 1945 I can't find out. If anyone can help me relieve my feelings and my anguish let me know by phone or letter. My phone number is 1-207-375-8726. I will gladly accept the cost of the call if you have information that will help me find my men.

GOD bless you all.
"GO DEVILS" and "OLD RELIABLES".

84th F.A. Bn.

WILLIAM C. MAUSER
2721 N. Garden Dr. #310
Lake Worth, FL 33461

Dear Dan:

This is a PS to my recent letter and dues enclosure. Heard from Col. George Connolly of 34 FA BN that E. C. "Bert" Waller passed away Jan. 5, 1998. Since then the family of Bert sent me the details of Bert's passing. I am including a copy of the statement the family put together. I'm certain Bert's passing will be of interest to the many friends he had in 9th Div.

Incidentally, George Connolly's call came as a surprise. Turns out he and lovely wife Kay live down here during the season only half hour from our home. We had a delightful visit and lunch at their home in North Palm Beach at Lost Tree Village.

Sorry to be the informant of the sad news but it was a real experience to know Bert Waller.

Shalom to you, Marie and the "Great Gang."

— There's a heap big difference between giving advice and lending a hand.

Thank You, Lord; and Good Morning World:

Yet another year has gone by and I'm still here to honor this day. This morning as I have been doing every March 13th for a good many years, I raised the colors to the top of the mast and then solemnly lowered them to the position of half-mast for the remainder of the day as a silent tribute to salute the memory of my buddies of the first platoon, G company, 47th Infantry who made the ultimate sacrifice and did not see the sun set on March 13th 1945. It was not a good time to be a member of the 47th Infantry.

Friends, family members, and neighbors, all ask me why my flag is at half-mast today. "Who died; somebody important?", they ask. And I reply, "A lot of good men died on this day in 1945, and it is in their memory that the flag is at half-mast. Yes, they were important at that time."

At first light on March 13th, 1945, we left a small village and entered a woods and moved forward parallel to the road until we came to a deserted sawmill. We kept the sawmill between us and the group of houses ahead. We went into the sawmill to look over that village to our front. We weren't in there five minutes when a Jerry tank laid in a round thru a broken window and hit a circular saw. The round exploded, the saw shattered and there was too much hot metal flying around inside of that building for everyone to escape unscathed. Our B.A.R. man got hit with a piece of the saw in the back. We pulled back out of the sawmill to a small clearing nearby to dig in.

My foxhole-mate Allen Kelley and I were given the location closest to the sawmill to dig the hole. We had dug down only about seven or eight inches when we hit ground water. We looked around and saw that everyone else had dug down much lower with no water problem. It seemed too late for us to start digging another hole, and besides, the only direction that we could move was closer to that sawmill. We stayed where we were with the ooze. I figured I could line the bottom of the hole with boards from the sawmill.

Meanwhile, the weather cleared, the sun came out and we had a spring day that lulled us to disregard our dangerous plight. As I was on my first trip to the sawmill for boards, I looked up and saw a fighter plane diving out of the clouds and thought, "That Jerry tank will get plastered now." The plane was a P-47 Republic Thunderbolt. "Goodbye Jerry!"

The pilot dove lower. He wasn't aiming at the Jerry tank. He was aiming at us! I had halted at the sawmill door to watch the Air Corps in action, and he dropped a 500 pounder just short and a little bit right of our platoon holes. The debris shower of earth, rocks, and tree branches seemed to rain down for a good two minutes after the explosion. I waited inside of the mill until no more debris was hitting the roof. The bombing was our fault they said. We hadn't put out our recognition panels. The pilot thought that we were German soldiers. However, he had given our position away to the real German soldiers.

I was on my way back to the hole with my second bunch of boards when the Jerry tank started slamming in rounds on us one after another. Flat trajectory high explosive; all we heard was whoosh-bam, whoosh-bam. No warning; when you heard it, it was too late. I hit the ground. The first two hit to my right and long. The gunner must have lowered the gun a click because the next rounds landed to my front, but still a little right. As we, Kelley and me, were on the left end of the platoon position that Jerry was hitting the center perfectly. I tried to squirm up the hole and I was almost there when a piece of the fifth round caught me.

One more round came in our position and then the Jerry tank found another target. Kelley yelled, "Medic, Medic"; but "Doc" Hillagus was busy with other casualties at that time. In the lull that followed Joe Leone, the bazooka man, came over, took my sulpha powder, put it on and bandaged up my wound. I said, "From now on your name is Momma Leone because you're mothering the children." He offered to put a tourniquet around my neck if I didn't shut up. I was feeling sheepish because I felt that I was letting them down by getting hit and having to leave them in a fix.

I had the option of waiting for the litter bearers or to try to walk out. The litter bearers were very busy and had a few trips to make before they would get to me, so I opted to try to walk out. I was told to go around the bomb crater and meet with the litter bearers and then follow them out of the line. We walked down to another road behind the wood, and there was a waiting jeep with special racks for stretchers. They loaded two litters on the hood and one off of the back and us two walking wounded in the back while a medic rode up front with the driver. The litter bearers went back up to the platoon for more wounded.

We had no sooner started our trip to the Aid Station when we heard the sounds of a "Screaming Mimi" being fired. The driver stopped and yelled for everyone to get into the ditch alongside of the road. "What about the guys that can't move?" "Too bad, but they'll have to stay where they are." I put myself in a position where I could have a little cover but still watch the jeep, and the litter cases on it. Six times I was lifted up and slammed back down by the concussion of the "Mimis". The jeep bounced around with each explosion, and I wondered how those guys up there felt. Right after the sixth one hit and died away we got back into the jeep and headed for an isolated farmhouse which was being used as the 2nd. Bn. Aid Station.

The jeep pulled up in the front of the house and I got out and walked down to a door that I had noticed as we drove up. I entered into a room where men who were slightly wounded were waiting for the doctor to look them over and then the medics would patch them up. I recognized some as friends from F company and a couple of "G-men" were there also. The litter cases went in thru the front door so that the doctor could see them first and then they were put on the floor at the far end of the house. Strange, of our three litters, only two were inside. I asked the medic about it and he only shook his head from side to side, that man didn't survive so he was outside against the wall out of sight.

I wandered over to the litters on the floor and saw that one man was a close pal from the platoon, George Keller, who had earned for no particular reason the nickname of "Combat" Keller. He said that he had caught shrapnel from the fifth round right in the stomach. We joked about the same shell getting both of us, and we cursed that s.o.b. P-47 pilot. He wanted a cigarette, so I lit one and passed it to him. We were of the same age, give or take a month either way; we had come over on the same boat; and had had similar experiences and so on. Up to this time I hadn't been seen by any of the medical personnel at the Aid Station; but I understood. They were having a very busy day.

But about ten minutes later, "Combat" Keller sighed his last sigh and just died. I was furious, it wasn't supposed to happen that way. Just about then a P-47 dropped a bomb in the field behind the house, far enough away not to damage anybody, but everyone flinched when it happened. I guessed that he didn't want to carry it back to his "home".

The Pennsylvania coal miner who always dug deep was the other litter who had died before we reached the Aid Station, and again it was shrapnel in the stomach. The sun was just about going down when the shock to my system set in and they put me on a litter to be evacuated back to the rear. I vaguely remember the 9th Clearing Station and switching ambulances, crossing the Rhine on a pontoon bridge, and then I was out. I woke up in the 35th General Hospital in Liege. And I have no idea at all of how I arrived in the hospital outside Paris.

Much later, after I had time to think about it, I rationalized that the medics knew that they couldn't save "Combat" so they gave their time to other guys who were not as bad and who had a better chance of being saved. But, I still felt that it wasn't right to stick him over in the corner and just leave him to die. I'm eternally grateful that I was there to be with him in his last minutes; he didn't die all alone. "There but for the grace of God go I."

Whether or not the Ninth Infantry Division Association decides to call it quits; as long as I'm breathing on any future March 13th, the flag will be displayed at half-mast. At least, now you will know why it is at half-mast.

GOD BLESS AMERICA and again thank You, Lord, for these extra years.

A survivor of a very hectic week

Joe Killen

Co G 47th Inf.

224 N Grove St.

Valley Stream, NY 11580-3412

60th Inf. G Co.

EDWARD McLAUGHLIN

1296 B. Zinfandel

Gardnerville, NV 89410

I did not realize that my membership was due now until I received the last Octofoil. My check for \$25.00 will extend my membership for 3 years.

I wrote an article in the Aug., Sept & Oct. 1997 edition of the Octofoil.

I received several nice letters from members of the 60 Reg. and enjoyed every one. They brought back many memories.

I would like so much to go to the reunion this year, but it's so far. I will be next July and in fair health, but such a long trip is a little too much for me.

After that article I wrote I received a phone call and later a Christmas card from Robert Glans of Henderson, Nevada. He was in E. Co. 60 Reg.

I hope some day I can go down to Henderson and visit him.

Thank you again

60th Inf. L. Co.

39th Inf. A. Co.

OREN M. HELLE

P.O. Box 125

Mariposa, CA 95338

Hi:

Sorry I forgot to pay for Octofoil.

Can't make the reunion in Hampton, VA. Hate to fly, driving is O.K., but not that far. How about a reunion on the West Coast next year?

60th Inf. K Co.

EDWARD STOKAN

4747 Plummer Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15201

I am sending a check for three years of dues.

I am also sending something for Memorial Fund for my brother, Bill Stokan. Bill was with K Company, 47th Infantry. He passed away last September, as I think you know.

I fear there may be a number of Octofoil readers that knew Bill but are not aware of his death. If at all possible, I would like to see another notice on his passing in the Octofoil.

Bill was a good B.A.R. man and a great guy. We really miss him.

Thanks a lot.

B Co. 15th Engr.

R.C. McGRATH

2856 West 85th Street

Chicago, Illinois 60652

Receiving the Octofoil is a gift like we got, "letters from home" when we were overseas. When I got home from the hospital it was a disappointment to see I missed an issue, probably lost, the issue Nov-Dec. 1997. Would you see if you could send me that Octofoil? I would be ever grateful. The Octofoil means more to me than words can tell. You and your staff mean so much to all of us, "Old Reliables." You do so much for our morale. I was in the hospital from Dec. 10 till Feb. 5 so you can see it was a long stretch. The other day the latest issue, Jan. and Feb. 1998 came and I devoured that right away.

Many thanks to you, Marie, and all your staff who make the Octofoil.

P.S. Happy and Healthy St. Patrick's Day, to all of you.

39th Inf. C Co.

CARLOS WARD

10280 Eaton Pike

New Lebanon, OH 45345

Sending my dues for the year but not able to attend the reunion this year, but wish the best of time in Hampton, Va. I have been there and it is nice.

I have to have a valve changed the first of May or give it all up, so I guess I will try to make the next one in 1999. Give my best to all and God bless all and stay healthy.

P.S. Will have the operation the last of April with the help of the Med. Dr. I will make it.

84th F.A.

CHESTER MIKUS

11154 Summers Cove

Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Enclosed find check for dues and the balance to the Memorial Fund in memory of all the deceased members of the 84th F.A. and of course, our beloved Father Connors, may their souls rest in peace.

I regret writing this. I don't think we'll be making this reunion which is only less than 100 miles away since we moved from New Jersey to Virginia to be close to our daughter. My wife had her second stroke, I don't think she will be able to make this reunion, perhaps the next one I hope.

Best of health to you and your lovely wife. Both of you are doing an excellent job. Best regards.

THE OCTOFOIL

F & E COMPANIES 47th INFANTRY CP

Dear Dan & Walter,

I thought I would send this along to give you a short report on E Company 47th. It looks like we are going to have a very good turnout at the reunion and we may see some faces that have been absent the last couple of years. Harry and Jo Kenny have had plans to attend for sometime. They have a grandson stationed in the Hampton area. and will be able to get a visit in with him as well as attend the 9th Division activities. Harry is one of the last surviving company commanders in the 2nd Battalion 47th and it is always great to have him around the CP. Harry commanded G Company at the end of the war but I fondly remember him from his days with E Company as Captain Petty's exec. I dare say that Petty and Kenny were one of the best company leadership teams in the ETO. They kept E Company moving through some very rough days. Looking back on it now, I don't know how they did it with all of the replacements that kept flooding in and flooding out. The line companies of the 2nd Battalion were in pretty bad shape toward the end of the fighting at Remagen and it took superior leadership to keep them moving forward.

I spoke to Hamp and Maxine Ward yesterday and they plan on being at the reunion. Hamp has been pretty sick for the last few weeks but expects to be up and around by the time of the reunion. Hamp says that Bill and Arlene Roberson also plan to be at the meeting. Hamp was my squad leader in Germany and Bill Roberson was the assistant squad leader. Bill and I shared a big foxhole for several days at Schmidt, Germany. We were all together in the same squad of the 2nd Platoon of E Company for several weeks during the Rineland battles. We were all wounded in March of 1945 and didn't get back together till just before the war ended. We were reunited in New Orleans for the first time in 1995 and felt we were somewhat unusual since all three of us fought together in the same squad.

I spoke to Charles and Mary McLhinny this week and they both are planning to be at the reunion. Charlie and Mary haven't missed many reunions and they have been sorely missed when they did. I knew Charlie's brother Walter, who was the radio operator for Captain Petty at Oberkirchen, and remember very vividly when he was killed, although I was not near the CP when the panzerfouist was fired into it.

We are all sorry to lose Bob Colflesh. He was always one of the cornerstones of the reunions and will certainly be missed. I was also very sorry to hear of the passing of Ray Schmader of F Company. I have spent many interesting hours with Ray at the CP and have always valued his opinions very highly. Ray is another of the 2nd Battalion officers that I knew during the fighting in Germany and admired from personal observation. It was always interesting to get Ray's opinion on some event that we both recalled, such as the fighting at Remagen.

I have had a lot of praise for my book, *A Privates Diary*, from people whose opinions I really value, including Andy Rooney of CBS. I have not sold it at any stores and have relied on word of mouth for promotion. Consequently I still have quite a few left so I will bring a few to the meeting in case there are others in the Division who would like to have a copy. To those of you who are not familiar with the book, it gives a very detailed account of the life of a combat infantryman fighting in E Company 47th from February through May of 1945. So far as I know, there is not another book that gives the true picture of combat in such detail as this one does. Andy Rooney said it was these small details that made it such a good story. There is not a lot of the heroic type action that most war books are famous for. As far as I was concerned we were all heroes, every time we took a step toward the German lines.

I have recently finished Stephen Ambrose's book "Citizen Soldiers" and although it was a very interesting story and Ambrose is probably the best historical writer of today, I don't believe half of those tales that the soldiers told him. Where I knew the facts, I know he was wrong. To describe the Rhine crossing he quotes a Captain Roland of the 99th Division who claims he was crossing into the Remagen Bridgehead on the night of the 7th or 8th of March with shells splashing all around. Those of you who were there know this is not true. In his book *Remagen, Springboard to Victory*, Red Phillips includes notes from the USA Armor school that indicate that as late as the 9th of March, the only divisional units fighting in the bridgehead were from the 9th Armored, 9th Infantry, and 78th Infantry. In *The Last Offensive*, The official U.S. Army History of World War II by Charles B. MacDonald doesn't mention the 99th Division until 18 March when it mentions them together with the 9th Infantry. However a map in the book shows the 99th on the line beside the 9th on 13 March. Incidentally, I think Red Phillip's book gives a very accurate and informative account of the fighting at Remagen, obviously Ambrose hadn't read it when he wrote his book. Ambrose also identifies General Westmoreland as being Chief of Staff of the 9th Armored Division and never mentions the 9th Infantry. Possibly he didn't know the difference.

Ambrose's book contains many quotes from 99th Division infantrymen during the battle of the bulge. This seems strange to members of the 9th who remember how they panicked and without Colonel Smythe's quick action would have fled the battlefield altogether. I have a dear

SEEKING RE: DAVID HILL CO'S B & F - 60TH INF

Dear Mr. Quinn:

Your name was given to me by Nancy Monsom at the VBOB office as a possible source of information about the 9th Infantry Division. For several months I have been trying to locate information concerning the death of my uncle who was KIA during WW II. Enclosed are some basic facts as I know them. It is unknown if Pvt. Hill was a regular member of the 9th or a replacement. He was a rifleman.

I was unable to obtain any information or records from St. Louis as they were destroyed in the fire. I do have his burial records from TAPC. I was also able to obtain a copy of the 2nd Battalion journal from National Archives but I can locate no information about the 1st Battalion.

The 2nd Battalion was in the Simmerath, GM area from 24 DEC 44 until 30 JAN 45 when they moved to Kesternick. Huppenbroic is slightly south east of Simmerath, close enough that they could hear friendly fire and tanks in that area. (Huppenbroic was eventually absorbed by Simmerath and is now known as Simmerath-Rursee, population 321).

Can you provide me with any information as to what happened in Huppenbroic on 9 FEB 45, or at least refer me to some other source for this type of information.

Sometime ago my father ran a small note in the VBOB Bulge Bugle looking for anyone who may have known his brother but did not receive any positive replies. Since I have uncovered further information that he did not have at the time I am also requesting information from VBOB members via the Readers Speak Out section of the Bugle.

Any information or direction that you could provide will be greatly appreciated by myself and my father.

Respectfully,
Ervin Hill Jr.

PRIVATE DAVID B. HILL: ID# 31400590. DOB 11 JULY 1923, LEEDS, MAINE. INDUCTED INTO ARMY 26 JAN 1944. TRAINED AT CAMP WHEELER, GA., SENT TO ENGLAND JULY 1944. SERVED WITH COMPANY B (OR CO. F), 1st BATTALION, 60th INFANTRY DIVISION, 1st ARMY. KILLED IN ACTION, HUPPENBROIC, GERMANY 9 FEB 45.

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

old friend that commanded an artillery target selection unit in the battle of the bulge and he has always been active in the Battle of the Bulge veteran's organization. He says today that he is disgusted with stories that he hears and reads. He says that he knows for a fact that many of the men telling the stories were nowhere near the action. According to him, you would think that the 106th and 99th Divisions won the war. I would like to get someone to explain this phenomena to me. In fact, someone could write a good paper on combat psychology.

I hope to see everyone at the 53rd Reunion.

With my best regards,

Jack R. Blann
Company E,
47th Infantry

11303 Valley Stream Drive
Houston, Texas 77043

9th Recon

JOHN BONKOWSKI
19241 Angela Crt.
Roseville, MI 48066

With the April 20th Deadline fast approaching, I've decided to drop a few lines.

Sad to see all those on the "Taps Sounded List," especially Tony Valerie, Jennie Alsgaard and Olive Maher whom we have known personally. Eternal rest grant them all, O'Lord.

Haven't given up on naming that Facility after Matt Urban although we haven't made much progress. Seems like those politicians in Washington are too busy with something else right now.

You may recall, in the Nov-Dec. '97 Octofoil, Peter Radichio expressed his concern about Matty Urban's grave stone. He was convinced that it should be replaced with a new monument, similar to the one that was dedicated in a Park named after Matty in Holland, Michigan. I've offered to work with him on this very worthy endeavour. We already have Mrs. Jennie Urban's gracious permission and upon her suggestion, Peter will be checking with the Arlington Cemetery officials about the procedure on replacing monuments. Joe Chmiel, F Co. 60th who served under Matty and has an impressive service history of his own, has already pledged a generous donation. Pete Radichio and I are confident that there will be ample support once all the details are completed.

Sorry to say, we'll be missing the Reunion this year. Some with Joe Chmiel with whom we attended the last one in Louisville. His wife is ill and we just learned that his younger brother has the same dreaded ailment. Our prayers are with them.

Although Rose and I won't make it to Hampton, our thoughts will be there wishing everyone a grand time and a successful Convention.

P.S. Dan and Marie, keep up your good work. We are grateful.

60th Inf. L. Co.

EDWIN E. BREWER

8427 Mastin, Apt. A

Overland Pk., KS 66212

Enclosed is check for membership plus 4 decals. I did not intend waiting this long to send a check.

I have been ill for about 6 weeks but am ok now.

I'll be 88-years-old on April 25 - born 1910 and was 32-years-old when I was drafted in 1942. I spent 6 1/2 months in hospitals before being discharged in January 1945 with a 50% disability.

I have all the membership cards, starting with 1946 and have attended 10 or 11 reunions.

My best to you.

SEEKING

ED LANGE

4510 Tamaron Drive
Greensboro, NC 27410

Many thanks for sending me a copy of your OCTOFOIL publication!! I enjoyed reading it very much.

Noted that there was a letter from a Joseph Rappazini, 60th Infantry, K Company, and have written him a note regarding any information he might have concerning my cousin, since it appears that they were both in K Company.

Also noted that a letter on the last page of the OCTOFOIL, 9th Signal Company, was from C.T. Earles, who lives here in Greensboro. I had talked with Mr. Earles several months ago, and plan to contact him again regarding those books written by Red Phillips about the 9th Infantry. Should be interesting.

Congratulations on a fine publication!! Hope that you have a great reunion!! Many thanks again for your consideration.

With Best Regards.

Co. L. 47th Inf.

WILLIAM L. BAUER

Hardin, Montana 59034

Greetings From Montana

Enclosed dues for next 3 years. I'll be 80 years young in the spring and still going "strong". But health is still pretty good. My wife just had a hip replacement. Happy to say all went well and she's on the road to recovery.

It's been a very mild winter here, little snow and so far not much rain. Look forward to receiving the Octofoil, keep up the good work.

Stay Cool!

PETER FORTUNATO

39 Woodbury Street

Beverly, MA 01915

I was embarrassed to note that Peter's Octofoil subscription was paid only until 1995. Enclosed check will cover '95, '96 and '97 (\$25) and 1998 and 1999 (\$10 each year). Please excuse the oversight!

You may be interested to know that Peter is an Alzheimer's patient at the VA in Bedford, Massachusetts.

I have him home with a male nurse's care, from Sunday morning till Thursday night each week. It's just great to have him home, and my children are such a wonderful help.

All the best to you and the 9th. Division always!!

Sincerely
Gert Fortunato

Co. I 39th Inf.

MRS. J.C. DAWSON

Box 622

Decatur, TX 76234

Enclosed find check for Memorial Fund. In memory of Nicholas Chipura of Fair Lawn, N.J.

A good friend that will be missed. Co. I 39th mini reunion will be in Nashville, Tenn. in July.

I enjoy reading the Octofoil and look forward to each copy as an Honorary member.

— There's nothing like hard work, and I'm glad of it.

MAIL CALL

39th Inf. G Co.
WILLARD HAYES
3441 Lynn Dr.
Franklin, OH 45005

I probably am in arrears on my dues. So will try to get with it. Time goes by so fast anymore, but apply this to my dues for now. Don't know how much more I'll need. I am enclosing a poem I wrote while I was recuperating from bypass surgery. P.S. I'll try to get to Va this year.

Friends are for Free

Another year has come and gone
but they seem so short as
the days pass on.
How many more can I
foretell
as I stand by the wishing
well.
Now that I think about the
past
and what means the most to
me at last,
I finally realize and can tell
it's all my friends I love so
well.

It's not my earthly goods I
have today
but the friends I've made
along the way.
there's one more wish I
hope to keep
before the book is closed
so deep.

To see again my friends
both old and new
but now the days they seem
so few.

As the circle closes for me
at last
and I can think about the
past.

Now I'm ready to go home
to meet old friends that
have been gone.
I now know what life is all
about

to do your best without
a doubt.

by W.C. Hayes

60th Inf. F. Co.
REID BENNETT
34464 U.S. Hwy #29
Gretna, Va. 24557

Here are my dues for 3 years. 73 years old now and in good health. Was with Co. F. 60th. Hit on Dec. 10, '44 and March 10, '45, after crossing the Rhine. The 9th was the best. Got with the 9th right after landing in France. Hope to see you in Hampton. Only about 250 miles away.

Keep up the good work. Thanks.

84th F.A. B Btry.
SAMUEL D. ROBINSON
Madrid Bldg. 1D
400 Paradise Rd.
Swampscott, MA 01907

Just received the Octofoil in Florida, where Belle and I spend a few months every year. Just read John Vandermeidan's letter, so I called him. Denny says he is doing as well as he can with the LG disease. We last saw him at the Ft. Bragg reunion. He is a great guy!!

Taps have been blown for many of the 9th men and enclosing a check for my dues (3 yrs) plus a donation in memory for Olive Maher, Jack Kargir.

Hope all the rest of you are well. I have my doubts whether we will attend the convention in Hampton. But I hope you have a good time.

Co. B. 9th Med. BN
LEONARD MORRIS
453 Richmond Ave.
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Enclosed is 3 years dues. Thank you for the fine job you are doing to keep the memories of our combat days alive.

If you have an address for Walter Hood (he used to live in Staten Island), Irv Fergelman (formerly of Brooklyn) and Bill Feeley (formerly of Queens) please send same. All served with me in Company B 9th Medical Battalion from Sage to the Elbe.

Incidentally, a good way to relive our days in France is to take an Elderhostel that includes Normandy, Brittany and Paris. My wife and I did the 3-week Elderhostel last year and had a memorable stop at the Beaches. Among our lectures in Cain was a former member of the French resistance.

Again, it was a pleasure to receive your latest copy of the Octofoil.

CO.D 47th Inf.
The Raiders Reg't.
IRWIN J. DUPUY
12233 N. Yorkdale Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70811

Since I can't get a rise out of my 9th Division friends I have to assume two things, either I had no friends, or I was the only one in the 47th, to come back, and that makes me sorry to hear.

Honestly, I hate to keep repeating this request, but I say to myself, I am down in Baton Rouge, and my friends used to joke I was down in the swamps. From what I see on T.V., and read in the papers most of the country is in the swamps. I am in fine shape thanks, but my ailments are too much to mention. I keep trying to get all of my citations that I read about from time to time, and I like all good soldiers would like to leave all I deserved in a war that I volunteered for and was proud to join my comrades at Camp Wheeler, GA. for basic training.

At the end of the war I was asked to take over a squad by my favorite Sergeant Matlock. I think he is deceased, along with Sgt. Torba, Capt. Nivens. I think Duhamel. etc. etc. I wanted to come home. When I joined I had no furlough, so home I came.

Like I said I have been sick a long time and could not make all meetings. Take care, write and I will do the same.

60 th. Inf. K Co.
JAMES HART
10 Nenagh Dr.
Wilm., DE 19803

Sorry I am running a bit late this year but we have been snowbirding and just returned home.

Many thanks to you and your good spouse for taking such good care of the association. I doubt if we would still be functioning if you two had not been so faithful.

Best of luck for this year and I hope the Reunion will be its usual great success.

60th. Inf. Co. G.
KENNETH ROGERS
112 Township Rd 791
Nova, OH 44859

Please find enclosed my check for three more years. I, as the other men look forward to the Octofoil.

Every so often I see John Kluoz of the Medical Detachment. I see by the last issue the letter from Emmett Butler. We must have been in the company at the same time, but I don't remember him. I got out of the hospital and rejoined the outfit about Oct. 1, 1944, but was hit again on Oct. 9, 1944. I was in the first platoon. I don't remember the Squad. Tony Orstead was squad leader.

Does anybody know about Elmer Hill of Michigan. He was in Co. B. 60th. I know he was killed but I'd like to know when and where.

Btry. "C" 26th FA Bn & Div. Arty.
BORIS RAYNES
2532 Chelsea Road
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

Enclosed is an obituary notice I just received from Robert Waller, the son of E.C. "Bert" Waller. As you will note, his death occurred on January 5, 1998.

I was worried about him since I did not get a return Christmas card this last year.

We served together in Division Artillery where he was Captain of Headquarters Battery.

Many of your Octofoil readers knew him and he was active in Association activities for a number of years.

Please publish the loving tribute to him from his family. I fondly remember Father Connors in occupation in Germany rhyming Bert's name in referring to him as "E.C. the B.C."

My wife Jean and I visited him and his gracious wife Helen at his lovely home in Poway in North San Diego County. We will miss him as will many of your readers. Also enclosed is a contribution in his memory to the Memorial Fund.

With a separate contribution I would also like "The Tip of the Hat" to go to Corporal Rolph (I do not remember his first name) of Btry "C" 26th FA Bn.

I was an F.O. (Forward Observer) and he was my jeep driver on April 12, 1945. We entered a partially taken town (Alsleben). We saw no sign of troops and instantly knew we stumbled into the wrong part of town. We ran for cover in a doorway shelter and discussed the situation.

Rolph volunteered to turn the jeep around and my O.P. crew and I would then hop on to escape. He was killed by a sniper in a church tower as he kicked the starter and before he could maneuver. (My crew and I were prisoners for 3 days and released on their surrender).

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

Co. F 60th. Inf.
TOM SAUNDERS
P.O. Box 1584
Greeneville, TN 37744-1584

I was inspired to write after reading the nice letter in the Nov.-Dec. Octofoil about Al Baccile's trip to Europe with his son. Quite by surprise my son David said for a Father's Day gift he would like to follow my footsteps during WWII. When asked if he would like to start in Africa I was pleased to hear NO!

Due to taking off from separate locations we met in Heathrow Airport in London. We toured London that night and the next day. Like all things London changed from the war years, no more sand bags at doors or barrage balloons overhead.

The next day found us in Winchester, with a rented car. Driving in England is a real experience. We drove to Bushfield Barracks where we had partially trained prior to D-day. The entrance was blocked with rubble and in the distance were dilapidated barracks.

We continued on to Colden Common where my girlfriend and her family lived. I was surprised to be able to drive directly to her house. After much investigation I found, and was sad to hear, she died four years earlier. We did find her Aunt and girlfriend. Dave and I were both surprised that they both immediately remembered me after so long a time.

The next day we drove to Omaha Beach and St. Laurent the American Cemetery for the 51st. Anniversary of D-Day. I was amazed to see how many crosses bore the names of men from the 9th. division. Seeing these thousands of crosses of all young men was very sad but I was pleased to see how well the grounds and monuments were kept.

At this point I must revert back in time. Years ago our house was broken into and my medals were torn from the boxes and taken. I never bothered to replace them. Unbeknownst to me my son David, along with his wife Lori and my wife Carol, got together and through much effort got my medals replaced and framed. While standing in the midst of these crosses Dave handed me a flat box. Upon opening it I found this beautiful and thoughtful gift. I am not ashamed to say that I was so touched that the tears flowed freely.

As the days passed we covered areas of the battle of the Bulge, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Remagen Bridge, that I ran across, and the now blocked off tunnel on the east side of the Rhine River from there on through Germany to Berchtesgaden (Hitler's Eagles Nest), Dacha prison camp and ended our trip by flying home out of beautiful Switzerland. This great Father's Day gift is one of the highlights of my life. Words cannot express how grateful I am to my son and his wife for their thoughtfulness to me.

SEEKING

112 Acorn Street
Millis, MA 02054-1455

Good day, and how are you? I was wondering if you would be able to help me.

I would like a small press release printed in the next edition of your alumni newsletter. Here it is:

The family of Louis C. Constantine 84 F.A. is having a surprise 80th birthday party for him on June 21, 1998. It will be held in East Freetown, Massachusetts. If anyone reading this remembers our Dad and would like to attend his party, we will gladly send you an invitation. Please contact us at the following address:

Michelle Constantine
112 Acorn Street
Millis, MA 02054-1455
(508) 376-2829

What do you think?

Will you be able to help us? Please let me know either way. And let me know if I owe you anything for printing this.

Thank you for your time.

Co. I. 39th Inf.
DONALD E. LAVENDER
2913 49th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310
E Mail Donlav@Juno.com

I was a member of I Company of the 39th from the Hurtgen to the end. I recently had E mail contact with a friend in Europe who informs me of a new museum at Camp Elsenborn.

The attached information concerns that museum and may be of interest to former members of the 9th.

Incidentally, my wife and I are planning to attend that convention of the German 3rd parachute division in May. We fought against them on the Cologne plain in November and December of 1944.

Not long ago, I read the last interview with German Air Ace Johannes Steinhoff in which he described his many visits with English and American Air Aces. He said: "We are all old men, wiser and appreciative that no one holds anyone to blame for anything. We are a small fraternity, and we are all good friends."

Perhaps some will wonder why I have an interest in meeting with our former enemy and I guess Steinhoff's observation is as good an explanation as any.