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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, May/June/July 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 3 May-June-July 1998

Friends of Father Connors to Conduct 54th Memorial Mass Services

We who call ourselves "Friends of Father Connors" will again join together in praying for our dead on Sunday, October 18, 1998, at the eleven o'clock Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Grove Street, Worcester, MA.

We will also remember in our prayers the men who wore the Octofoil, returned with us, and who have now gone to their eternal reward. A service will follow the Mass at the memorial on the church grounds dedicated to all who served wearing the Octofoil.

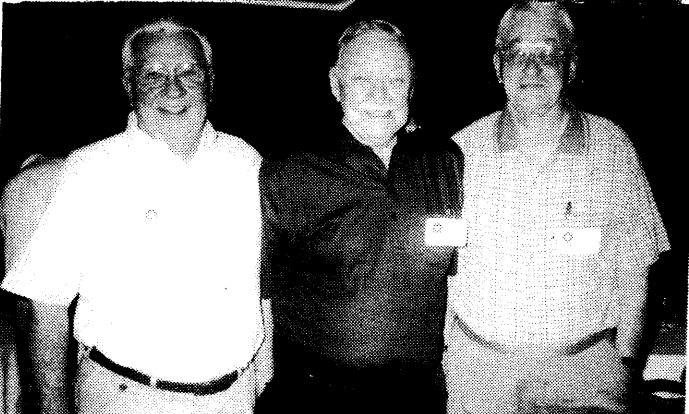
We will also sponsor a luncheon at the Holiday Inn, Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA, at 12:30 p.m. We guarantee that you will be on your way by 3:00 p.m.

We invite all members to join us as we pray for our dead.

We have reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn, Worcester. Reservations must be made by yourselves. The phone number is 1-508-852-4000. Reservations must be made by Sept. 17, 1998. Reservations for the luncheon must be made payable to "New England Chapter, Ninth Infantry Division Association," at a cost of \$17.00, and mailed to Thomas J. Boyle, 39 Hall Avenue, Somerville, MA 02144. Should you have problems, please call 1-617-625-8127.

We ask you to join us as we say a few prayers for the 4,581 men we left behind.

Friends of Father Connors
Fran Maher
Herb Olsen
Ron Murphy
Tom Boyle



"Luke" Lucas sends this photo — one taken in the Huertgen Forrest of officers of the 39th Inf Regt Company B. L-r: 1st Lt. "Luke" Lucas, Capt. Jack Dunlap and 1st Lt. Jack Jewel and the lower photo taken at the 1998 reunion in Hampton, Va. The lower picture from the reunion in Virginia shows the men as they met for the first time after 53 years. Dunlap and Jewel have since retired as Colonels. Letter appears in Mail Call.



B. General Frank Gunn (center back row) is shown at the Hampton Reunion with Men of E Company 39th Infantry.

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:

John Bonkowski — In memory of Tony Valerie, Jennie Alsgaard and Olive Maher.

Gerald Bryant — In memory of Lawrence Fredericks, 60th Inf., 9th M.P. and Div. Hdqrs.

George Connolly — In Memory of Bert Waller

Al Hasson

Mrs. John Morris — In memory of husband, John, D Co. 60th Inf.

George Hulka

Wilma Slapinski — In memory of husband, Robert.

Julia Mischler — In memory of Husband, Chesley, 26th F.A., Alice and Joe McKenzie and Harold Frantz.

Aldor Cook — In memory of Fred Dick, C Co., 9th Med. Bn

Olido Starro — In memory of John Dranchok and Angelo Ferrara, Co. G 39th Inf.

Peter Rice — In memory of E. C "Bert" Waller, Div. Arty

Mrs. George Seifert — In memory of husband, George, G Co. 39th Inf.

Willard Norris — In memory of John B. Evans, M Co. 47th Inf.

William Rybka — In memory of Bert Waller, Div. Arty., and Lyman T. Moores Hq. Btry, 84th F.A. Bn.

Alex Balough — In memory of Fred Dick and Sidney Moedel, C Co., 9th Med.

Daniel Doyle — In memory of Theodore "Red" Eckert, C Co. 47th Inf.

Ralph Palermo — In memory of All C Co. 9th Med. Bn.

Frank Kowalik — In memory of Fred Dick, C Co., 9th Med. Bn.

Patricia Becker — In memory of husband, Al, 39th Inf.

Richard Cooley — In memory of Fred Dick, C Co. 9th Med. Bn.

Lucien Lucas — In memory of Plt. Sgt. Sal Ciccone and Sgt. Al Becker.

On May 16, 1998, Marge and Tom McGinley celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations and many more years to come.

Change of Command



Jack Collier newly elect President of the Association is shown presenting a Division Plaque to retiring President Tom Hatton at the Banquet Hampton Reunion.

President's Message

I would like to thank the Board of Governors for electing me as your National President. It is a dream come true. My wife Nadine and I attended our first Reunion in 1971, Springfield, Il. and we haven't missed one since. It did not take me long to find out that there were great men in all of the Units in the 9th Inf. Div. Coming to the Reunions and seeing all the regular attendees is wonderful and meeting new ones I always look forward to also.

Al Perna and George Brown with their wives did a great job at the Reunion in Hampton, Va. Thank you. Our 1999 Reunion will be held in Cape Cod, Massachusetts under the leadership of Herb Olsen and Tom Boyle. I am sure it will be great. If any of you Old soldiers reading this have never been to one of our Reunions and can possibly make it, do it you won't be sorry.

I am very proud to have the honor of serving as your President for the coming year. Hope to see you in Worcester in Oct. The 9th Div. is the Old Reliables and WE ARE FAMILY. As I said at the Banquet I love you all, stay healthy.

Jack A. Collier
126 St. John Ave.,
St. Louis, Mo. 63119

A tentative Board of Governors has been called for this same weekend as the Memorial Mass and Service depends upon the replies received from the Board members. Board will meet at the Holiday Inn in Worcester at 4:00 p.m. on Sat. October 17th.



Brig Gen. Frank Gunn is shown as he spoke at the Banquet.

THE OCTOFOIL

THE OCTOFOIL

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

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President
Jack Collier
126 St. John Ave.
St. Louis, Mo 63119

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224 N. Grove St.
Valley Stream, NY 11580 3412

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Beverly Hills, Mi 48025

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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

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

2001
Marty Gross
Hewlett, NY
Howard Gaertner
Wauwatosa, WI
Charles Vanderpoel
Jacksonville, Fla.
Elmer Wagner
Bay City, MI
Frank Haines
Trenton, NJ

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.

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Publication #402820

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

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

Street Address.....

I was a member of:

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

I wish to sign up for the following:

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

Sustaining Member.....

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund.....

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

Life Membership.....\$75.00

Ladies Auxillary Member.....\$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 Auxillary
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.....

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.

Thomas Beers
15 Engs.

Royal Edmark

Ernest Chandler
M Co. 60th Inf.

Frederick Dick
9th Med. Co. C.

John Maak

John Drancitok
G Co. 39th Inf.

Angelo Ferrara
G Co. 39th Inf.

George H. Seifert
G Co. 39th Inf.

Parker Welch
Co. F 60th Inf.

John B. Evans
M Co. 47th Inf.

Richard Rausch
47th Inf. Co. H.

Homer Dixon
47th Inf. 49 Co. 3rd Bn

Daniel Layman
39th Inf. SJ Co.

John Panko
Co. L 39th Inf.

Roger Vuilleumier
Co. D 39th Inf.

Sidney Friedman
E Co. 47th

Syd Levinson
B Co. 15th Engr.

James Ciluffo
C Co. 47th Inf.

Clyde Benton

Delores Richardson
Wife of Wally,
Co A 47th Inf.

Hqs 3rd BN 47th Inf.
MRS. HOMER W. DIXON
206 McSwain Dr.
Greenville, SC 29615-1848

The love of my Life has gone to Heaven. He never missed a reunion when possible.

We were packed to leave for Hampton I missed him. I looked for him later, I went to the car. I found him dead by the car. I called Hampton to tell what happened. He was in good health. I could not believe it. We had a beautiful life that most people dreamed of.

Tell Chip Maness we have our same seats (40 yrs +) for the Clemson Football. He played on the team.

All of our children finished Clemson, grandchildren now our great grandchildren are there. It will be hard this fall to go to the games.

Anyone can visit if they are this way. Please remember him in the Octofoil. He loved you all.

My phone (864) 244-3925.

The 1999 Ninth Infantry Division's Association will meet in May in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Here's an early reservation form for those who may attend.

Four Points Hyannis
Rt. 132 & Bearse's Way
Hyannis, MA 02601

Ninth Infantry Division Association Reunion

Sunday, May 23, 1999 - Wednesday, May 26, 1999

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING ACCOMMODATIONS:

\$89.00 PER ROOM, PER NIGHT, SINGLE OCCUPANCY

\$89.00 PER ROOM, PER NIGHT, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

These rates will also apply two (2) days before and (2) days after reunion dates.

State tax will be added to above rates

\$15.00 Additional person (up to 2) @ \$15.00 per person (plus tax) per night.

*A limited number of non-smoking rooms are available — Please check your preference:

SMOKING_____NON SMOKING_____

(I) (We) will arrive on_____and Depart on:_____

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____State_____Zip Code_____

Day Telephone (_____)_____Today's Date:_____

All room requests have been noted on your reservation and will be honored based on availability.

A deposit of \$100.00 or a credit card guarantee is required per room.

Please enclose check (made payable to the Four Points Hyannis), or, for those using credit cards as a guarantee, please complete the section below. Your deposit will be applied to the last night of your room reservation. A block of guest rooms is being held at your group rate until April 23, 1999. Please note that the number of rooms being held may be sold out prior to this date. Please make reservations early to ensure group rate and availability.

Credit Card Type:_____

Credit Card Number:_____

Expiration Date:_____Signature:_____

NO REFUND GIVEN IF:

- A. Reservation is cancelled or changed within 72 hours prior to arrival.
B. If guest does not arrive on date specified, room is cancelled and reinstatement at group rate is subject to availability.
C. Early departure. Deposit is applied to the last night of your above reservation.

CHECK-IN TIME AFTER 4:00 P.M.

CHECK-OUT TIME BY 11:00 A.M.

Please complete and send with your deposit to our Reservations Department or Fax to (508) 778-6039. This form must be received prior to APRIL 23, 1999.

POT-SHOTS AND OTHER OBSERVATIONS FROM
THE DUGOUT

If you missed the 53rd Annual Reunion at Hampton, Virginia, you missed seeing:

Past President AL PERNA being escorted from the pool by two beautiful young ladies, his bodyguards, his grand-daughters. It looked like a mutual admiration society.

Lt. Col. ABRAMSON'S Carolina face lights up when we told him that MIKE GATTO was on his way to the reunion. He said that he hadn't seen MIKE in a long time and was looking forward to their meeting. Later, we were all sad to learn that MIKE had to terminate his journey by entering John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. MIKE did further time in the NYU Medical Center in New York City and is now on the mend. Maybe next year they will meet.

JOE KILLACKEY enjoying himself at the Reunion; but not as much as his two grand-daughters, who delighted everyone with their expressive dance routines in the ball-room. That is when and if those two mermaids weren't splashing around in the pool.

HARRY KENNEY all the way from Sun Lakes, Arizona. Without his mustache HARRY doesn't look as formidable as he did when he was chewing me out 53 years ago.

An always crowded hospitality room (CP) set-up by GEORGE and JANET BROWN with 47th men hanging off the chandeliers day and night. A fantastic place to hang-out and rehash old times.

BEN MURELL reminding our guest speaker, Brigadier General FRANK L. GUNN that without BEN and the 39th Medics General GUNN wouldn't have lived to be a 1st Lt. when they were in Africa.

BILL MULDOON trying to batter open the banquet-room doors with ARTHUR SCHMIDT's prosthesis leg.

WALTER O'KEEFFEE making excuses so that he didn't have to ride North with my driving. Who warned him?

The "Daily Deluge" — rain by the bucketful usually in the evening. Those people in attendance can attest to the soundness of the Hampton Center the evening that the hail pelted us. All of the rain could not dampen our spirits.

Everyone enjoying the camaraderie of the Ninth Infantry Division Association "esprit de corps."

If you missed this year, make it a point to attend next year.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Joe Killen
Co G 47th Inf.
224 N Grove St.
Valley Stream, NY 11580-3412

Set Record Straight

Dear Dan,

Sorry I wasn't able to make roll call at Hampton this past May as I happened to be just out of hospital at the time. Enclosed are dues.

I was very glad to see in the Octofoil that Jack R. Blann, Company E. 47th Infantry also noted that many errors and discrepancies in Stephen Ambrose's book "Citizen Soldiers."

Last March I wrote to Mr. Ambrose, a copy of my letter is enclosed. Just yesterday I received a letter from Melissa L. Smith, a staff member at the Eisenhower Center for American Studies, a copy of which is also enclosed. I was pleased to note that there was some reaction to my earlier letter, that I received a response and that "mistakes have been corrected."

May I suggest that other members of the Old Reliables drop Stephen Ambrose a line calling his attention to events that they might remember of those days. We should set the record straight.

Best regards,

Charles W. Fisher
Originally K. Co. 60th Inf.
later Division SSO

At Fort Bragg, before the landings in North Africa, I was originally a member of K Company, 60th Infantry, later Service Company as Special Service Officer and still later 9th Division Special Service Officer.

Enclosed are dues of \$10.00 for one year membership.

Charles W. Fisher 0-1290921
132 Trout Run
Arlington, VT 05250-8862

Mr. Stephen E. Ambrose
c/o Simon & Schuster
Rockefeller Center
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Dear Stephen Ambrose:

I just finished reading your new book "Citizen Soldiers," and, while I found it very interesting and in most cases informative, I was greatly disappointed to discern an apparent overuse of the involvement of some units and interviews with a few individual soldiers for their remembrances of the dogface life on the front during those miserable days in the ETO, especially during the Bulge.

I was also surprised at not seeing more mention of my outfit, the 9th Infantry Division, which only appears a mere handful of times in your book. It was as if this unit was never even present, although your statistical table of casualties states the 9th was in combat a total of 264 days, exceeded only by six other infantry divisions with a total battle casualties of 18,631, exceeded only by the 4th and 29th divisions, both of whom were D-day units with high rates of casualties.

With the second highest percentage of turnover of both infantry and armored divisions, it would seem we did see more than the average action and contributed to the eventual victory.

Among the few references to the 9th is on pages 430/431 in which you state that Colonel William Westmoreland (USMA 1936) was chief of staff of the 9th Armored Division. Any staff officer and even some junior line officers in the 9th was well aware that Westy was Chief of Staff of the 9th Infantry Division.

I note in your extensive bibliography and numerous footnotes that much information was obtained from some unit histories and the memoirs of individuals. Perhaps if you had also consulted the 9th Division history, "Eight Stars to Victory," which recounted its various units' participation from the landings in North Africa in 1942 to the capture of Bizerte, followed by the campaign in Sicily and from Normandy, through France, the Hurtgen, the Bulge and the crossing of the Rhine at Remagen and on to VE Day on the Elbe River, your information might have been more in depth and you would have better appreciated the 9th's contribution in World War II, and why our code name "Notorious" was well-deserved and we were known as the "Old Reliables."

The 9th was always a highly respected regular army division, though we really did not see action as a division until Normandy, having been committed as Regimental Combat Teams. In the landings in North Africa the 39th CT landed at Algiers, the 47th CT at Safi and the 60th CT at Port Lyautey. We never did receive the same amount of press attention that the "Big Red One" did.

I was proud to have served in the 9th from my first day of action as a brand new ninety-day wonder infantry platoon leader out of Benning's OCS, landing via a Higgins boat in the first wave at Port Lyautey, French Morocco, on November 8th, 1942, to the final days in 1945. Though not always assigned to front line duty, I experienced enough time in combat to fully appreciate what life was like in forward fox holes during unimaginable conditions you have so accurately described, and was fortunate in being one of the few who made it through from that date to VE Day in 1945 unscratched.

Sincerely,
Charles W. Fisher,
Major (AUS) Ret.

84th F.A. Bn. Hq. Btry

PETE RICE, JR.
504 West Grove St.
Kaufman, Texas 75142

Dear Dan,

Sorry that I missed the Hampton, VA Reunion ... understand it was a great one.

Here is a check for the Memorial Fund in Honor of E.C. ("Bert or Chief") Waller ... Divarty (Communications Expert) C.O. of its Hdq. Battery. I really enjoyed our friendship.

In the Jan.-Feb. '98 issue are letters from two of my favorite Leaders in the 84th F.A. Bn. ... Bill Mauser, C.O. of "B" Battery and John Van Dermeided, one of the all time great Liaison Artillery Officers.

I came to France as a replacement Aug. '44 - an Artillery "Ass't Communications Officer." Did some work subbing for a Signal Corps officer before joining the 9th and the 84th in Northern France. Immediately became Capt. Bill Rybka (C.O. of Hq. Btry 84th) Asst. ... and was that until after the Bridge of Remagen. When 1st Lt. Charley Scott - Liaison Officer to Col. "Chip" Maness - 2nd Bn. 47th C.O. - was killed at ? - Erpel - or whatever town E. of the Rhine. Major Cattle told "Rip" that Col. Lange wanted me to replace Scott. I was pleased with the assignment but asked Maj. Cattle - "What the hell do I do - I've had no liaison training."

Major Cattle: "Just stick with Colonel Maness and give us Coordinates of where he wants Artillery fire."

So - after meeting Sgt. Wilson Strong and his group I observed Col. Maness get on a Tank Destroyer to move forward. So I got on the 2nd T.D. and followed. We had an easy day and with some stops, rode the TDS until late afternoon. Of course I should have gone to my jeep at different stops and radioed back to the 84th. Strong and the others had not checked in and Maj. Cattle chewed me out - "Where the Hell are you ... and you should check in every hour."

So - from his post with another Inf. Battalion of the 47th came this tall, athletic black haired Captain to give me "on the job training." The 2nd Bn 47th was attacking the town of Oberkirchen and Capt. Van Dermeided quickly covered the basics - "most of the time you need to stay close to Maness, but right now he's too close to town and you need to find the highest point so you can see all around that town." Then he pointed to my excellent map and made me choose the highest hill, etc. I was able to choose points on roads leading to Oberkirchen so that the 84th could deliver fire on those pre-arranged targets when needed. After Strong and the others and I had done this - adjusting fire on actual targets - and adjusting on the traffics spots for ? - 1 or 2 days - then Capt. "Van" came back at night to show me how to direct fire at German Artillery flashes.

I'll always be grateful for the intense, detailed, and yes inspiring direction he gave me - John "Van" from Michigan.

Of course I had long months of coaching from close friend and boss Bill Rybka... and Bill Mauser became my mentor toward the very end of the war ... but that's another story.

As Mauser just wrote - we all are so grateful to you and Marie. Stay well!

M Co. 60th Inf.

BILL ZIMMERMAN
3331 Orlando Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21234

Enclosed my check for three years to continue my Octofoil. Really enjoy reading the news of everyone.

I have missed two years of our Co. M Mini Reunion and my wife and I sent a big hello to all of them.

Regards to all.

Co. L 60 Inf.

KENNETH POWELL
Sweetwater, Texas 79556
Phone 915-235-4438

I would like to hear from any one from Co. L. 60th Inf. 3rd Plt. that served from 1944 to 1946 and if they plan to go on the E.T.O. tour in Sept. '98.

C. W. Fisher
Box 3542 River Road
Arlington, Vermont 05250

Dear Mr. Fisher,

On behalf of Stephen Ambrose, I would like to thank you for your letter and for your insightful criticisms regarding Citizen Soldiers. It will be a tremendous addition to our archives here at the Eisenhower Center. Dr. Ambrose is currently not available, but he wanted me to convey to you his sincerest regards and that the mistakes have been corrected.

Again, thank you for your letter and please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,
Melissa L. Smith
Eisenhower Center Staff

9 Medics 139th Med. Hqts.

PETER A. RADICHIO
P.O. Box 1541
Momosassa Spgr., FL
3447-1541

Report of the 9th Medical Battalion from Pigeon Forge, Tenn. The area is a great place for a reunion of the 9th Division probably best ever, it has everything you possibly want and see building up to another Nashville Opry.

The following people were present Denton and his wife, mother and daughter. Cochran and wife, Don Hyde and wife, Peter Radichio and friend, there were seven other people I don't remember their names and apologize for that. Joe Media and wife broke down and they didn't make it. Lt. Col. Richard Cooley couldn't make it as he didn't recover fully yet, he is still under his lovely brides tender, loving care. Congratulations you did it. Marge and I went to the National Reunion and we saw Aldo Cook and wife, Gus Agostinelli, Mrs. Corson. I saw Dr. Butler and friend Goodman. I just received information about Dick or Fred Dick passed away early May. We pray that he rests in peace. Do please add this name to the sound of the taps.

I would like to remind my friends that I met the Division Reunion 9th Medics is your Battalion. You all participated when John Lewis was alive lets pick up where you left off. Cheerio! I hope to see you all next year, time is running out. I'm not giving up.

15th Engrs.

CLEM PRZYBYLSKI
810 Bridle Wreath Ct.
St. Joseph, Mo. 64506

You guys are doing a great job. Thanks kindly. I've enjoyed the paper very much, looking for it to come always. Again thanks and God bless all the fellas in the Div. Sorry I can't help in some way.

Take care and stay with us. Lifetime Member -D.A.V.

47th Inf.

BOARDMAN F. (WOODY)
LOCKWOOD
275 Steele Rd., B-119
West Hartford, CT 06117

Citizens, Soldiers by Stephen E. Androse is a "must-read" for those of us who served in the ETO from 10 June 44 to 8 May 45 as it depicts the life and times of the combat infantry soldier with some asides on the activities and qualifications of the leadership above Balstalin level including Eisenhower, Montgomery, Bradley, Patten and the War Department.

I was astonished to read on page 79 about Randy Bryant, S-2 47th and of the death of Capt. Chuck Minten, CO B Co beside him. So far no other personal connection. The casualty court by Division is interesting as is the record of days in combat where we rank fifth behind 1st, 2nd, 4th and 8th.

My activities diminish and I am sorry not to attend our Memorial Mass in Worcester. Best wishes to all and especially to you and Marie.

Business Conducted at Reunion

Minutes of 186th Meeting of the National Board of Governors — The Ninth Infantry Division Association

The meeting took place in the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Hampton, Virginia, on May 5th, 1998 at the 54th annual meeting of the association. President Hatton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and asked the members present to stand for a moment of Silence in memory of our departed comrades. Attending the meeting were Jack Collier, Al Zenka, Al Perna, Richard Boudouy, Larry McLaughlin, Richard Starr, Charles Libretto, Owen Salle, John Miller, Judge Advocate Dave Heller, Treasurer Tom Boyle, 3rd VP Pat DeColli. Also present were Walter O'Keeffe, Joe Killen, Marty Gross, George Brown, Emil Langer, Adolph Wadalavage, Marv Levy, Gene Magidsen, Emil Wagner, Roger Alsgaard, Billie Martin, Mike Belmonte.

Secretary Quinn read the minutes of last board meeting at the Kentucky reunion and upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by John Miller it was voted to: Accept the reading of that meeting.

Tom Boyle gave his Treasurer's report of the spending and income of the association and upon a motion made by Richard Boudouy and seconded by Larry McLaughlin it as voted to: Accept the Treasurer's report.

Larry McLaughlin Chairman of the Veterans Awards Committee reported that the committee received two requests for awards or gifts but as it is the policy of this committee to have a paying member of the association

— make the request on their behalf one request was denied. The other from the New Hampshire Veterans home for tables was acknowledged for the sum of \$439.00 to be awarded to their facility. Upon a motion made by Jack Collier and seconded by John Miller it was voted to: Accept the report of the Veterans Committee.

Frank Haines, Chairman of the Committee to study the future of the Association, reported that he was searching for volunteers from members of various chapters and members at large for suggestions or ideas on the closing of the Association. Haines stated that he was hoping to obtain the ideas of our chapter members and some "input" from members at large at the suggestion of Walter O'Keeffe.

President Hatton then named the following Board members to act as Chairperson for the Committee meetings that will be held before the General meeting; Frank Haines Chairman of the Finance Committee, Al Zenka to head the By-laws committee, Newspaper Editor John Miller. The committee will meet prior to the General meeting on Wednesday.

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by John Miller it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn,
National Secretary

53rd Annual Reunion

The 53rd Reunion Meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place at the Holiday Inn, Hampton, Va. on May 6, 1998 and at 9:35 a.m. President Tom Hatton called the meeting to order with 134 members present and asked the members to rise for a moment of silence in memory of our departed comrades. He then asked for a recess for an hour so that the various committees could meet. At 10:30 a.m. President Hatton reopened the meeting and asked those present to join with him saluting the flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Quinn then read the minutes of the 52nd meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky and upon a motion made by Joe Killen and seconded by Emil Langer it was voted to: Accept the reading of the previous meeting and to have the secretary place copy of the same on file.

The treasurer Tom Boyle when called upon for his report gave a detailed report of the financial conditions of the association. President Hatton thanked Boyle for his report and upon a motion made by Lou Gray and seconded by Mike Belmonte it was voted to: Accept the Treasurer's report.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

President Hatton then called upon Al Zenka Chairman of the Bylaws Committee. Zenka then named the following members who served with him on this committee: Jack R. Blann, Texas Chapter; Pat DeColli, Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter; Morris Gray, Florida Chapter; Dave Heller, Illinois Chapter, Adolph Wadalavage, New York Chapter.

The Committee, with a copy of the Bylaws printed May 21, 1997, notes the following:

- Sec. 14 — One-year dues for regular members now read \$5.00. Should be \$10.
- Sec. 15 — Three-year dues of members now read \$13.00. Should be \$25.00
- Sec. 16 — Who is a sustaining member? Any change in dues payment?
- Sec. 17 — Dues for Life Membership now read \$50.00. Should be \$75.
- Sec. 18 — Dues of Ladies Auxiliary now read \$2.00. Should be \$3.00.
- Sec. 24 — Chapter deduction of dues now reads: Regular — \$1.00 — Should be \$2.00. 3-year reads \$3.00 — Should be \$5.00. Sustaining? Life now read: \$12.50 — Should be ? . Ladies Auxiliary — .50 — Should be \$1.00.

Sec. 44c — Committee notes that (1) and (2) in the 1988 Bylaws are not in 1989 Bylaws. Such deletion apparently was by amendment in 1989.

Adolph Wadalavage notes that he will propose to amend Section 27b by adding "Alternate membership on the Board of Governors shall preclude the future election of such Alternate as a regular member of the Board after the expiration of the term of the Board member for whom he was an Alternate."

President Hatton thanked Zenka and his committee for their report and upon a motion made by Adolph Wadalavage and seconded by Mike Belmonte it was voted to accept the Bylaws committee report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Frank Haines chairman for the Finance Committee named the following members who served with him on this committee: Gordon Anderson - Illinois Chapter, Ed - Gill - NJ Chapter, Bill Canary - NJ Chapter, Tony Sporano - Philly-Delaware Chapter, Al Bruchac, Marty Gross, and Charles Libretto - New York Chapter, Walter O'Keeffe - NY Chapter, Dick Granberry - Texas Gr. S. West Chapter, Howard Gaertner - Ill. Chapter. Thomas Boyle attended to respond to questions about the Financial Statement and explain accounting terms and procedures.

The chairman expressed apologies to the President and members for the time spend by the committee for its financial briefing and preparation of the 1998-99 Budget. The committee has recommendation to submit later in their report relative to future functioning of the committee. The committee commended, Treasurer Tom Boyle for his continuing dedicated effort to maintain the soundness of the association's finances and secretary in frugal effective manner in which he manages the organization.

Proposed Budget for fiscal years 1998-99:

The committee proposed a budget for the ensuing fiscal year in the amount of \$19,485, to be financed by an estimate of \$13,200 of recurring revenue (68 percent of total budget and 32% \$6285 of total Budget from balances in other funds.

Details of Estimated Revenues and Proposed Expenditures follows:

Income		Expenses	
Dues	\$7,500.00	Sec. Sal	\$1,000.00
Dividends		Clerical Help	1,000.00
Funds	3,400.00	Utilities	1,330.00
Sales	200.00	Postage	3,420.00
Reunion	1,500.00	Misc.	480.00
Donations	500.00	Supplies	720.00
Total	\$13,200.00	Sec. Expense	1,000.00
		Treasurers Exp	400.00
From other		Editors Exp	500.00
Funds	6,285.00	Octofoil	8,500.00
		Acct.	300.00
		Memorial Wreath	135.00
		Donation Vets	500.00
		Bank Charges	200.00
		Total	\$19,485.00

The Committee offered the following four recommendations for consideration by the membership:

1. The Secretary, Treasurer and First Vice-President should be authorized to approve payment of any amounts needed to exceed of recurring budget revenues from any available funds adequate to pay for authorized expenditures.

2. The Treasurer is urged to clarify the language of any account which are vague or unclear.

3. The President should select the chairman of the Finance Committee in advance of the day of the annual Business meeting to permit the Committee to meet in advance of the day set for the annual business meeting and begin its deliberation of the finance and preparatory of the annual budget. The Treasurer is urged to make a copy of the most recent Financial report available to the Chairman in advance of the date which the annual business meeting takes place.

4. The Treasurer is authorized to discuss with the Bank depository of the Association Memorial Fund the availability of investing a major portion of the Funds in which we will provide increased income of that fund.

The undersigner Frank Haines Committee Chairman moved to adopt the Committee report, a budget of \$19,485 and four additional recommendations relating to the Financial procedures.

President Hatton thanked the committee for their report and upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Len Tomassone it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendation of the Committee.

NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

Jack Collier Chairman of The Newspaper Committee named the following men who served with him on this committee: Billie Martin, Emil DeDonato, Nick Dogostino, Brayton Willis, Marvin Levy, Lou Gray. The committee congratulated the Editor on a fine job in getting our Octofoil out all these years especially the last issue in time for this reunion. The committee is in agreement that they like the Octofoil as published and to continue with that format. President Hatton thanked Jack Collier and his committee for their report and upon a motion duly made by Everett Tapp and seconded by Gene Magidsen it was voted to accept the Newspaper committee report.

Continued on next page

K Company 47th Inf.

REUNION

JOE KILLACKEY, his daughter and grandchildren, FRANK CORVINO and is wife Edith, and the two BILL McKINNEYS from West Virginia, are the only K COM-PATRIOTS who made the Reunion this year. JOE and BILL have reported to editorial headquarters, said they had a good time, and provided the photos published herein. Why wouldn't BILL? He shot an 82. My score card won't record anything less than a hundred.

ROLL CALL

As far as I know, K Co. may be down to three men and one lady. JOE, RED THOMPSON, and HELEN HOLMES are the only ones who keep in touch. JOE has to keep up my golf lessons, RED gives me tips on gambling, when to hold, when to fold, and HELEN keeps me up to date on hospice care.

HELEN said she will see BASTEDO at their high school reunion on the 27th of June. We can find out if his heart still has that synco-nated beat.

LET US PRAY

THE REVEREND'S WIFE

The other day I went to the local religious book store where I saw a "Honk if you love JESUS" bumper sticker. I bought it and put in on the back bumper of my car, and I'm really glad I did. What an uplifting experience followed.

I stopped at the light of a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord, and didn't notice the light had changed. That bumper sticker really worked! I found lots of people who love Jesus. Why, the guy behind me started to honk like crazy. He must love the Lord, because pretty soon he leaned out his window and yelled, "Jesus Christ!" as loud as he could. It was like a football game with him shouting, "Go, Jesus Christ, GO!" Everyone else started honking too, so I leaned out my window and waved and smiled to all those loving people. There must have been a guy from Florida back there because I could hear him yelling something about a sunny beach, and I saw him waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air. I had recently asked my two kids what that meant. They kind of squirmed, looked at each other, giggled and told me that was the Hawaiian Good Luck Sign... So I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign back.

A couple of people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and were walking toward me. I bet they wanted to pray, but just then I noticed the light had changed and I stepped on the gas. It's a good thing I did, because I was the only car to get across the intersection. I looked back at them standing there. I leaned out the window, give them a big smile and held up the Hawaiian Good Luck Sign as I drove away. Praise the Lord for such wonderful people.

Co. K 47th Inf.

CHESTER H. JORDAN
1058 West Lakeview Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70810-4641

Deadline for next issue Oct. 20th

Continued from last page

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE

When called upon for his report Chairman of the Miscellaneous Committee Owen Salle named the following members who served with him on this committee: Anthony DeRobertis, Rodger Algaard, Michael Wengryn, Richard Starr, Lawrence Kaufman, they agreed that the group was satisfied with the Octofoil, as is. They didn't think there was enough time allowed for the Committee meetings. They should be set enough in advance to give the members who will serve on them to get together for a meeting. The stereo system for the entertainment could have been better but that is the Hotel's fault.

President Hatton thanked Salle and his committee for their efforts and upon a motion made by Gordon Anderson and seconded by Art Schmidt it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of this committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

John Miller Chairman of the Nominating Committee named the following members who served with him on this committee: Art Doring - Michigan Chapter, Joe Killen - NY Chapter, Bill Scott - Tex. Chapter, Richard Baudouy - Florida Chapter, Mike Belmonte - Illinois Chapter, and Frank Haines - NJ Chapter. These members were named to replace out going Board members from their Chapters — Elmer Wagner to replace Floyd Hennessy, Marty Gross to replace Al Zenka, Ernie Botella to replace Ken Meyer - Tex. Chapter, Charles Vanderpoel to replace Phil Berman - Fla. Chapter, Howard Gartner to replace Owen Salle, Frank Haines to replace Ed Hopkins of NJ, Chapter Alternates for Mich. Chapter - Roger Alsgaard, Art Doring from the NY Chapter, Al Lipton and Walter O'Keeffe, William Scott and Richard Baudouy, Paul Clark and Lou Gray for the Illinois Chapter, Paul Garaputo and Herb Hoeffner for the NJ Chapter, for the Florida Chapter Alternates Anthony Bolognesse and Arnold Tomanek. President Hatton called for any nominations from the Floor and upon a motion from Bob DeSandy to close the nominations and have the Secretary cast one ballot for unanimous vote for the entire slate proposed by the Committee. This motion was seconded by Elmer Wagner and so voted.

VETS AWARDS

Larry McLaughlin, Chairman of the Veterans Awards Committee, briefed the membership on the replacement of Henry Santos who is recovering from an illness. He was replaced on the committee by Joe Williams of the Florida Chapter and along with the third member of the Committee Adolph Wadalavage had recommended to the Board of Governors of the Association that the New Hampshire Veterans Home be granted the sum of \$439.80 for their use at their facility. This was approved by the Board of Governors at yesterday's meeting.

Revisit the ETO

John Miller spoke of the trip to the ETO that was planned by him and that there was several openings for those who would like to make the trip. The first tour will leave on September 11, 1998 overnight flight to Paris with meals and entertainment to be enjoyed enroute. Trips to include visit to Champs Elysees, Eiffel Tower, Cathedral of Notre Dame enroute to Normandy visits to Utah, Omaha, Juno and Gold Beaches. The American Cemetery of St. Laurent etc. The #2 Tour will depart Sept. 19 and visit the area in which the "Battle of the Bulge" was fought with stops at Cologne, three nights in Luxembourg after spending four nights in Cologne, special train trip along the Rhine River to Cologne, visits to the Huertgen Forest, Remagen Bridge etc. For those interested they may contact Bruce Murphy of Bruce Murphy Travel, Little Rock, Arkansas. Phone toll free 1-(888) 988-8844 — Miller can be reached at 1511 Cochise Drive, Arlington, Texas 76012. Tel 817-274-2773.

Memorial Mass Services

Thomas Boyle spoke of the Annual Memorial Mass and Service begun in 1945 and being conducted by "Friends of Father Connors" on October 18, 1998. Details of this Memorial Service will appear in the next issue of the Octofoil.

Report on Reunion

Al Perna of the Reunion Committee announced the attendance at this year's reunion and hoped that the members were enjoying their stay at the Hampton Holiday Inn. He announced that table reservations were being handled by Emil DeDonato and Mike Deresh in the Lobby at the registration desk.

There being no other business to come before this group and upon a motion made by Frank Haines and seconded by Mike Belmonte it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn,
National Secretary

Deadline for next Octofoil Oct. 20th

Minutes of the 187 Meeting of the National Board of Governors The Ninth Infantry Division Association

This meeting took place at the Holiday Inn Motel in Hampton, Virginia at the 53rd Annual Reunion of the Association. At 4:00 p.m. President Hatton called the meeting to order with the following members present: Jack Collier, Richard Baudouy, John Miller, Al Perna, Frank Haines, Larry McLaughlin, Charles Libretto, Richard Starr, Elmer Wagner, Mike Belmonte, Marty Gross, Ernie Botella, Judge Advocate Dave Heller, Treasurer Tom Boyle. Also in attendance were: Ed Gill, Paul Garraputo, Art Schmidt, Roger Alsgaard, Richard Starr, Lou Gray, Nick D'Agostino, Emil Langer, George Brown, Adolph Wadalavage, Len Tomasone, Billie Martin.

President Hatton asked the members present to stand for a moment of silent prayer for our departed Comrades of WW2 and for those who have since joined those who did not return from the Battle Field.

Upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Ernie Botella it was voted to dispense with reading of the last minutes of the last Board meeting.

Upon a motion by Larry McLaughlin and seconded by Jack Collier it was voted to: Dispense with the Treasurer's report.

election

President Hatton called for the Election of Officers for the coming year: Elected President - Jack Collier; 1st Vice President - Joe Killen; 2nd Vice President - Billie Martin; 3rd Vice President - Pat DeColli; Judge Advocate - Dave Heller; Treasurer - Thomas Boyle, Secretary - Daniel Quinn.

President Hatton while turning over the power of authority to the newly Elected President Jack Collier thanked the members for their cooperation for this past year and wished Jack Collier all the best for the coming year.

President Collier then called for bids for the 1999 reunion and the New England Chapter's bid was accepted, with the reunion to be held in the Cape Cod area in May the week before the Memorial weekend.

There being no further business to come before this body and upon a motion by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Larry McLaughlin it was voted to close the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn,
National Secretary

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

39th Inf.
PAUL CALLAHAN
716 Jackson Rd.,
Shavertown, Pa. 18708

I am enclosing my dues for one year. I look forward for each edition, hoping I will see a lost member of our Platoon.

M COMPANY (47TH) CHRONICLER

Red Phillips
14002 Hemlock Dr.
Penn Valley, CA, 95946

News from Normandy is that on June 17th Dr. Henry N. Goodall, son of one-time Div. Signal Officer Capt. Henry N. Blanchard, Jr., with local French officials, brought off the ceremony at St. Maurice-Cotentin which memorialized the final sacrifice of five 9th Inf. Div. soldiers fifty-four years earlier (I wrote of this in the last issue). Dr. and Mrs. Goodall have underwritten the expense of constructing and erecting a fine stone edifice which was unveiled at the ceremony. It supports plaques listing Lt. Col. Richard E. Buchanan (C.O., 9th Div. Special Troops); Maj. Basil Shirley (Divarty liaison officer); Capt. Blanchard; PFC Valentine H. Fose (Div. Hq. Co.) and Pvt. Cecil M. Barnes (9th Sig. Co.), and telling the story of their ill-fated reconnaissance of the Cherbourg Peninsula that day. (See accompanying photos.)

Dr. Goodall is anxious that families of the other 9th soldiers who were killed with his father be informed of the memorial's existence. He noted the presence at the ceremony of Mr. Ray Wessmiller, the son of Col. (Ret.) John J. Wessmiller, once of the 60th Inf. and Hq. 9th Inf. Div., who narrowly escaped death or capture in the German ambush of the reconnaissance party.

My personal involvement in this splendid project has been to help Dr. Goodall locate individuals who might be interested in his quest as I am interested in details of Gen. Eddy's reaction to the episode. This has turned up a couple of the recon party's survivors: Col. (Ret.) John D. Bradley, Jr., then a major and div. provost marshal; and Bernard D. Spicer, then staff sergeant of the division headquarters defense platoon. Bradley can be reached at Box No. 248, Glennville, GA, 30427, and Spicer at 9705 Rosaryville Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772. They would be happy to hear from old compatriots, I'm sure.

So far, I have mentioned eight of the 14 division personnel who sailed forth on June 17th to locate and layout a new command post for Gen. Eddy. We know of others who survived but have subsequently died. Still unknown are the following two men and any information about where they were from originally, or what has become of them, will be appreciated: 1st Sgt. Willie F. Unsell, 9th MP Plt., who accompanied Maj. Bradley on the recon then later transferred to XII Corps MPs, and Pvt. William J. Toland, Hq. Co. 9th Inf. Div., Col. Buchanan's driver who was WIA but later escaped.

What has impressed me deeply about this affair has been Dr. Goodall's positively noble effort to honor a father he never knew, and who was even of a different nationality. I can appreciate the considerable amount of time, effort and no little cash that the Goodalls have dedicated to this effort. I especially like it that their structure includes a good-sized, eye catching Octofoil. For years to come it will call to the attention of passers-by that the U.S. 9th Infantry Division once passed this way, making its substantial contribution to Europe's freedom. For this, I believe, we owe the Goodalls the thanks of our Association.

P.S. Herb Clark of 60th suffered a stroke in the course of surgery for a blocked carotid artery on May 15. He's been released from the hospital and is home again at Box 271, Tipton IA 52772, and would enjoy having the "get well" wishes of his friends as he undertakes an expected long session of therapy.

TO BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dear Dan,

Peter Radichio informed me that he inquired about using the Association's non profit number in our effort to replace Lt. Col. Matt Urban's G.I. grave stone with a new monument. Since this request is up to the Board of Governors to decide, he asked me to address our concern to be presented to the Officers and the Board for their consideration.

First of all, we understand that such a request cannot be approved without the Board's consent. We are also aware that the Association does not assume any responsibility in any individual involvements.

Our appeal is for permission to use the Association's non profit number to open a "Matt Urban Monument Fund." All contributions would be deposited in a special account for that purpose only. The deposits would be made at Peter Radichio or John Bonkowski's local bank. It would be one or the other.

If our request is granted, the term of this arrangement would expire with the withdrawal of all deposits and closing of the account. Hopefully this would be a short period when the funds will cover the cost of the monument.

At this point we don't know the final cost because the response will decide that factor. Our hope is to present a monument that the Family and the Association will be proud of.

Danny, kindly present this entire statement to the Ninth Infantry Division Association's Officers and Board of Governor's for their consideration. Any suggestions and their decision will be respected.

Sincerely,
John Bonkowski
19241 Angela Crt.
Roseville, Mi. 48066
(810) 296-1239
and Peter Radichio

Greater New York Area Chapter

The last meeting of the NY Chapter, before the summer hiatus, was held at our usual command post at the Masonic Lodge building, 71 W 23rd St., New York, on July 19. President Emil Langer, our sno-bird from Florida, presided over the meeting, which had been ably chaired by 1st VP Joe Killen during the preceding months.

Prez Langer opened the meeting with members Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, and resident chaplain George Apar's invocation. A moment of silence was observed by the members for the 4,581 buddies who did not return from WW II, and those who have since expired.

Minutes of the last meeting (which was held outdoors at our Bethpage Park picnic, following a Memorial Day service at the Long Island VA National Cemetery on May 16) was read by Secretary Art Schmidt. (Nineteen members, including six ladies were present at the memorial service and picnic). Treasurer Al Zenka then gave the financial report.

Business of the June meeting was initiated with Prez Langer's recommendation that members consider ideas for the disbursement of 9th Inf. Div. Assn. funds when the organization eventually will cease to exist. Many recommendations were forthcoming, stimulating a lively discussion, which of course, went nowhere — since the day of reckoning is in denial by many of the "Old Reliables."

The 53rd Reunion in Hampton, VA

A discussion followed, regarding our 53rd Reunion at Hampton, VA., May 5, 6 and 7. From what this reporter heard and observed at the reunion most 9th men and the ladies had a good time. Many of us took in the local attractions such as historic Civil War Fort Monroe/Casemate Museum, where Confederate President Jefferson Davis was imprisoned after the war, and the Virginia Air & Space Center with the adjacent 1920 merry-go-round. Some rode the free, quaint wooden "trolley car" bus to various attractions and shopping locations. A few even got up early enough to take a cruise around Hampton Harbor or visit the Norfolk Naval Station. A 30-mile car ride could take you to Williamsburg.

Adventures in dining took us to fine eateries like the Grate Steak where you could cook your own steak on an indoor grill, or Captain George's Seafood Restaurant "all you can eat" buffet. Darryl's 1862 Restaurant, and other fine restaurants around town, including the Holiday Inn's own, delighted the palate.

Above all, meeting old buddies again was the most gratifying. They chatted in lobby chairs, or sat on benches in Holiday Inn's landscaped walkways. Above the din of conversation at the bar or the clusters of 9th men and their ladies at small tables, shrieks of laughter would suddenly rent the air as memories brought back some funny incident that they had experienced during wartime.

An unexpected meeting of the "Old Reliables" and the new "Young Lions" was an army finance conference of present-day servicemen and servicewomen at the hotel conference center. Although these young spit-and-polish career officers — captains, majors and colonels had not been "bloodied" in war it was nice to know that these intelligent and personable men and women were dedicated to armed forces today.

The Business of the Reunion

Delegates to the various committees tackled their own agendas and presented thoughtful recommendations for the association's consideration at the General Membership meeting. The NY Chapter delegation was represented on every committee: NOMINATIONS — Joe Killen and Emil Langer, BYLAWS — Adolph Wadalavage and Al Zenka, FINANCE — Charles LiBretto and Walter O'Keefe, NEWSPAPER — Art Schmidt and Marv Levy, and MISCELLANEOUS — Tony DeRobertis. Nominated to the Board of Governors was NY Chapter past-president Marty Gross.

The Memorial Service for our departed WW II comrades began with the opening welcome by George Brown. Posting of Colors was led by Col. John Rawley. The attending Air Force Color Guard was from the Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance and Tom Boyle and Dave Heller delivered the Invocation. A Candle Light Ceremony by Col. Rawley was followed by the "Resolute Ensemble" from Fort Eustis, Va. singing Amazing Grace. George Brown then presided over the Recognition of Widows and the solemn march of the Floral Tributes. Another song by the "Resolute Ensemble" followed. The Benediction was made by Dave Heller. Battle Hymn of the Republic was sung by the Ensemble, finishing with the Retiring of Colors by Col. Rawley. This Memorial Service was, arguably, one of the most beautiful and emotional services this reporter had seen.

The Closing Moments

The last evening of the reunion was the banquet which was delicious and the service was excellent. Honored speaker was Brig. Gen. Frank Gunn who regaled us with his personal experiences. Presentations and award winners for the golf tournament and Ladies Auxiliary raffles wound up the festivities. Reunion Chairman Al Perna who recommended the Hampton reunion site and followed through with co-chairman George Brown and their better halves, deserve accolades for their efforts. The 53rd Reunion was truly memorable. We look forward to the 54th Reunion in Cape Cod next year.

Back to the June 16 meeting, meeting was adjourned to partake of Art Schmidt's (age unknown) birthday cake.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Our thanks to the Committee for another successful reunion in Hampton this year. Each year we have fewer and fewer members in attendance but enjoyed by all who are present. The hotel accommodations were excellent and the staff very helpful. After driving 910 miles, it was a relief to have a bus outside the hotel to take us around for a quarter a trip. Hampton had many interesting points of interest to offer. Wish we had taken more time to see more of the attractions.

The entertainment for the Welcome Party and the following night was very good.

We were very impressed with the Memorial Services. It not only included the presentation of a flower by members of each chapter, but also the recognition of the wives of the deceased members. The ladies were included in the Candlelight Ceremony representing the 8 stars of Victory. The ceremony was very moving. We were treated to a Cocktail Hour in the Atrium before the banquet on Thursday evening. It was enjoyed by all as well as the excellent banquet.

At this time we would like to congratulate the new President of the Ninth Infantry Division Association — Mr. Jack Collier. Our best wishes to you for a successful year.

Missing at the reunion this year was Paul and Lorraine Clark. They had full intentions of coming but on doctor's order Lorraine was restricted from traveling. This was the first reunion in thirty-three years that she has missed. Hope to see you next year.

The golfers had about sixteen people at the Langley Air Force Base. They allowed us Army men on base!

We visited with the Baumans recently in their new home in Plainfield. They enjoy living in the retirement community. Dolores has been having some health problems and on July 8th will be having a hip replacement. We hope all goes well and wish her the best for a speedy recovery.

Lonnie Greco (Dom's widow) called me from Florida. She enjoys being there as she is near her son and family. She misses coming to the reunions and would like to join the Florida Chapter Reunions some day.

On July 30th we will be at a cookout at the Gaertners in Wisconsin in their backyard. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again.

ANGOLA OUTSTATE MEETING

It's not too early to be thinking about our Mini Reunion in October, at Angola, Indiana. Michigan Chapter will host this year and we look forward to seeing a lot of our buddies there. It will be October 13th and 14th at the Holiday Inn. We do not have the rates yet but will report more in the next issue.

Hope everyone has a great summer. Keep cool.

Michael Belmonte
1161 South Lombard
Oak Park, IL 60304

Co. G. 39th Inf. 9th Inf. Div.
MRS. INEZ SEIFERT
Rt. 1 Box 755
Cochise, AZ 85606

Re: George H. Seifert

George passed away on May 14, 1998, at home, under Hospice care, after chemo and radiation became too painful to continue. He was 80 years old. Please continue to send the Octofoil until his subscription runs out — I enjoy it also. George enjoyed reading it to keep in touch.

Enclosed is a contribution for the Memorial Fund in his memory.

LEONARD A. BARBER
6384 County Road 222
Fire Points, AL 36855-2502

Thanks for returning my picture. It's the only one I have with the helmet on that saved my life in Germany.

I'm still enjoying reading the Octofoil. Keep up the good work.

Mini Reunion

New York Chapter will again hold a Reunion at Friar Tuck, Catskill, N.Y. Oct. 5th. Those interested contact Al Zenka, 718-479-9341, or write Al at 82-36 234 St., Bellerose Manor, N.Y. 11427.

Those attending, not mentioned earlier: Tony DeRobertis, Anton Dietrich, Marty Gross, Jack Holobuff, Joe Killen, (50 lb. less) Bill Klaus, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, Al Lubrano, Dan Quinn and Adolph Wadalavage. We wish usual-attending regulars Joe Brody, Al Lipton, Mike Gatto, Vincent Guglielmino and Tony Varone who are on sick call, good health, and hope to see them in the fall.

NY chapter reminder: if you haven't paid for 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. Co. B
PATRICIA BECKER
410 Berkshire Road
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Thank you for continuing to send me the Octofoil. I read Mail Call and always on the watch for letters from the 39th Regiment from men Al and I met at mini-reunions. Lt. Luke Lucas, Capt. Jack Dunlap, Sergeant Joe Gravino ... where are you??

Many servicemen never repeated war experiences with family upon return from World War II. So I've heard. Al, however, did tell me of some of his experiences for which I'm forever grateful. One of these was running across the Bridge at Remagen. A bridge shot full of holes and only God knew when it would collapse (which it did on March 17, 1945).

A dear friend and neighbor, Joe Vrana, was with the 78th Division and recently let me read his April 1998 Newsletter which contained the most interesting story of the taking and crossing of this Ludendorff Bridge — from March 7th to March 17th. This is an armored school publication and is not the official Dept. of the Army history of the Remagen Operation. I have already read the story in Al's EIGHT STARS TO VICTORY.

It reads like a John Wayne (our era) thriller but is not fiction. It runs 16 pages in the telling; couldn't put it down until the conclusion. I'm sending copies of the pages to you and perhaps you would print some of it.

The 78th, 9th and the 99th Divisions fought alongside one another and appear frequently throughout the telling. The 47th and the 60th Regiments as well as my Al's 39th Regiment are mentioned again and again. Of course, many others partook but I always see letters from men of the 47th and 60th. Lots of armored infantry battalions and tank destroyer battalions, etc. appear but someone else must speak for them. I only know of the NINTH INFANTRY.

Taking this bridge made a big difference in shortening World War II. Surmise what would have happened if the operation had failed. If the bridge had gone down from time bombs, air bombs or direct artillery fire??? Those troops already across would have been lost. What decisions those commanders had to make... go or not to go... It must have been the confidence they had in their men to do this job, that led to "Yes... do it."

A doctor with the 78th writes this land battle was part of war that enveloped each and every soldier in his warwork in sounds, sights and accomplishments so that his day and night was surrounding him with death, injuries, miseries, rain, snow and mud all unending.

I just had to share my feelings on this with you. You men were so brave. God Bless you all and He will.

Al Becker served with 39th Regiment, Co. B

P.S. Al received the Silver Star on March 17th, 1945 outside town of Hallenbach.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MINI-REUNION PLANS FINALIZED: Chairman Chuck Van der Poel and Co-Chairman Richard Baudouy made the final arrangements for our next mini-reunion. The dates again are Thursday, Friday, Saturday, September 17, 18, 19 with departure on Sunday, September 20th. PLEASE MARK YOUR DATE CALENDAR NOW!

The hotel is the same one as last year except it will be known as the DOUBLE TREE RESORT (TM) instead of THE INN AT MAINGATE. Single or double occupancy per night rate is \$61.00.

A brief itinerary of activities is as follows:

Thursday - Dinner at Landry's Seafood House.

Friday - Dinner/Theatre at Sleuth's Mystery Show House.

Saturday - Men's & Women's Auxiliary Meetings at 10:00 a.m. Banquet plus live entertainment starting at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday - Group breakfast at the hotel (Time to be posted).

Steve Champagne last year's dynamic entertainer, promises to deliver another enjoyable performance. A FACT SHEET with costs, directions and specific information together with an ORDER FORM will be sent out to the membership approximately 5 weeks prior to the September 17th date. Please make every effort to attend as our room rate is based on a minimum occupancy of 25 rooms per night. Guests and National Organization members are cordially invited. For further information, contact Emil J. De Donato, 3650 S.W. Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431 PH: 352/489-4070

ROSTER UPDATE

Please make the following changes on your Membership Roster:

Benton, Clyde - Deceased 3/18/98; Boisky, John - Eliminate. Delinquent dues; Caplan, Morris - Eliminate. Delinquent dues; Dick, Fred - Deceased 5/5/98; Green, Herman - Eliminate; Gowen, Edward - Summer address: 29 Hoyt T P Rd., Brant Lake, N.Y. 12815; Herrin, Fred - New zip code is 33767; Hodge, Albert - Eliminate. Failed to answer delinquent dues notice; King, Ray - (St. Petersburg) Eliminate. Delinquent dues; Kovacs, Benjamin - Moved to Conn. Address unknown. Eliminate; Leopold, James E. - Moved to 100 E. Bellvue Pl., Apt. 24E, Chicago, Ill. 60611. Retain as he is a Life Member; Nix, Norman - Eliminate. Failed to answer delinquent notices; Norwood, Spencer - Eliminate. Failed to answer delinquent notices; Tucker, Price - Eliminate. Failed to answer delinquent dues notices; Vasser, Reed - Eliminate. Failed to answer delinquent dues notices.

LETTERS, NOTES & NEWS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS:

BILL FLEMING sent in an interesting newspaper article regarding a Road Post Sign that marked the path of the Allied Forces when they liberated France. It is the latest exhibit at Camp Blanding Museum which is located on FL Hwy 16 about 10 miles east of Starke. Bill recommends to anyone traveling U.S. Hwy 301 to detour a few miles and take the time to visit this interesting museum at Camp Blanding.

DON WRIGHT of Key Biscayne, FL sent photos and a detailed account of a trip that his son took throughout Europe visiting many sights of WWII. Don Wright fought with Co. L 60th Infantry. He was wounded in Hofen, Germany. Don has 9 children...5 sons and 4 daughters. Because his story is too lengthy to include in this Newsletter, it will be on display in the Hospitality Room at our September reunion. Don was recently remarried and promised to attend our mini-reunion with his new bride.

WALLY RICHARDSON sent us an "in memoriam" card stating that his wife Delores passed away on April 13, 1998 after a long illness. Her final resting place is at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood, Indiana. Phil & Barbara Berman sent condolences in the name of the FL Chapter.

FRED HERRIN and his wife Marge wrote saying that they have not been to several of the last National Reunions because the distances are too far for them to travel. Hopefully they will consider coming to our September mini-reunion in Kissimmee as it is not too far from their home in Clearwater.

PHIL BERMAN reported that he has received numerous paid dues from members as a result of his mailing out Delinquent Dues notices. However, there are some who have not paid dues nor have they responded stating the cause of their delinquency. We would greatly appreciate hearing from past members so that we may up-date our Membership Roster. Please cooperate.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

RUTH KING Our congratulations to Irv & Ruth who were recently blessed with a 9 lb. 9 oz. grandson named Jason King. Ruth wrote a nice note stating that both she and her husband enjoyed the last National Reunion in Hampton, VA. They are also planning to attend our September get-together this coming September 17th to the 20th in Kissimmee. Irv and Ruth live at Box 517, Monticello, FL 32345.

ANN ELICHKO wrote saying that her hip surgery did not heal well as she is suffering from constant hip and back pain. Her Doctor doesn't recommend another operation. Her husband John is experiencing some pain in his leg but with a change in medication he is doing much better. Despite their illness, they are planning to attend our September meeting. Our prayers are with you...we look forward to seeing you again.

MICHIGAN NEWS

Looking back at things past:

The 53rd Annual Reunion at Hampton, Va. a five star event with many familiar faces and featuring ten men from F. Co. 47th Infantry.

To Al Perna and his staff for running a good show and a top of the hat to George Brown for his hospitality in the E and F Co. C. P.

Next on the agenda was our chapter Annual Memorial Day Service. This year we met at the grave site of James Ciluffo C Co. 47th Infantry.

A large turn-out of family and friends met in Grand Rapids, Mi. to remember one of our own.

After brunch at a local restaurant (during which time it started to rain) we motored to the cemetery. On arrival we found the gods smiling on us for the rain stopped.

A very impressive ceremony followed. After remarks by Tom Hatton, our Past National President, a wreath was placed at the grave by Jim and Nancy, son and daughter of the honored deceased.

Following prayers Taps was sounded by Walter McVeigh a friend and member of the Carl A. Johnson American Legion Post #2.

We parted with a resolve not to forget those who rest in the peace of the Lord.

Now we look to the future. The first Fall gathering is the picnic at the home of Art and Mary Doering, 6300 Whitneyville Rd. in Alto, Mi. on Aug. 8th. Bring a dish to pass. Art informs me that dinner will be ready at 1:00 p.m.

Then follows our Out State Meeting at Holiday Inn in Angola, In. The date this year is Tuesday and Wednesday, October, 13th and 14th. This location has drawn the troops from Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Mark your calendar and get ready to join in the fun. For those not on my chapter mailing list the cost per room is \$62.00 plus 8% tax a night. The banquet is \$11.00 per person. To get this rate call (219) 665-9471 and ask for Kris Chandler. Identify yourself as a 9th Div. Member.

We end the year at our Christmas Party/Meeting on Wednesday, December 9th at 12:00 Noon at Fischers Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Mi.

Price of the Family Style Chicken Dinner or your choice is \$19.00.

That brings us to the end of our activities for 1998.

We hold hope in our hearts for a bigger and better 1999.

Rodger E. Alsgaard, Sec'y
Mich. Chapter 9th Infantry Div. Assoc.
2834 Wynes Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48602-3730



Photo taken by Cliff Painter of Henry Santos, 15th Eng. Chairman of the 52nd Annual Reunion held at the GALT HOUSE in Louisville, KY (June 1997)

EVA SANTOS: in a phone conversation with Richard Baudouy, Eva said that Henry is able to walk a few steps with the aid of a walker. His speech is coming back and that he wants to go home. We continue to pray for Henry's complete recovery.

VIRGINIA DRISCOLL and her husband Jimmy had more than their share of illness during this year. Virginia had a heart by-pass operation in March followed by hip surgery in June. Jimmy is recovering nicely from a heart operation the early part of this year. Their daughter Loretta came down to help with the chores during their convalescence period. Both Virginia and Jimmy sounded up-beat during the phone conversation with Audrey and I and are looking forward to attending our meeting.

DOLORES VAN DER POEL had cataracts removed in both eyes and says that she may not require eyeglasses anymore. Her husband Chuck had one cataract removed and is scheduled to have the other one done about the middle of July. Dolores and Chuck are in good spirits and are looking forward to hosting an enjoyable mini-reunion.

NOTE: Please consult your Membership Roster for addresses or phone numbers when contacting their members.

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

Btry. A. 26th F.A.
MRS. JOHN L. BABBITT
738 Berkley St. RFD 1
Berkley, MA 02779-1907

No where in the Octofoil did I see an invitation or mention to your 53rd reunion in Virginia for the widows of the men of the 9th Div. I will call us the "unsung heroes." I waited 2 1/2 years for John to come home, 1942-1945. He was the most patriotic and bravest man I ever knew. He went from Africa to France D+4. We were married 53 years (1942-1996). We went to many reunions in Worcester hosted by Father Connors.

Lois Babbitt
wife of T5 John Babbitt

Co. F, 47th Inf.
CHARLES ROCHELLE
6419 NC 86
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

We returned from the Reunion safe and sound. We really had a good time, and enjoyed seeing everyone again, especially Angelo and Lucille Memoli, Jack and Lavonne Blann, Bob and Flo DeSandy, and numerous others, too many to name. We all missed Herb and June Hoepfner and upset to learn about his illness. He had to have a pacemaker and is receiving radiation therapy. We heard from him recently and he seems to be making a lot of progress. Hope he makes it to the next reunion.

Shortly after my return home I had to have a cataract removed (already scheduled before our trip). It went very well. As soon as I get my new glasses, I'll be able to see better than ever.

We are really looking forward to next year at Cape Cod.

P.S. Here are dues for a year.

Co. K 60th Inf.
ALPHONSE J. ZENKA
82-36 234th Street
Bellerose Manor, NY
11427-2118

In 1990, I fortuitously discovered the New York chapter of the 9th Infantry Division Association.

Since then, I've been able to attend every Reunion and renewed acquaintances with Bob Rucker, among others, and enjoyed making new friendships.

Thanks for all your diligent efforts in keeping us all in touch with one another.

Find enclosed photo, circa mid-1941, at Ft. Bragg, 60th Inf., K Co. Left to right Top: John Eisenhower, Al Zenka, Isadore Feldman, Albert Beckman, Jack Brodsky. Bottom: ??, Lou Horowitz. Perhaps Abe Strom, Frank Pacific, Bob Rucker, Al Bruchac, Lou Horowitz or other 60th K men can identify the two question marks.

9th MP

GEORGE VIX
7373 E 29 St. N.
Wichita, Ks. 67226

Dues enclosed, sorry for tardiness. I enjoy receiving the Octofoil. Please pass on my regards to all the M.P.s.

If you can't think of good things to say about your friends, you have the wrong friends.

MAIL CALL

Co. L 60th Inf.
LEONARD A. MANICCIA
110 Erie Street
Oswego, N.Y. 13126

I am writing in regard to Combat Infantry man's badge on March 7, 1945. I was assigned to the Ninth Infantry Div. 60 Infantry Regiment Co. L 3rd Platoon, 3rd Squad, 3rd Battalion (Go Devils). P.F.C. #32847383 Soc. Sec. 122-22-1016.

As a rifle man about a week later most of the bazooka men were killed or wounded on area we called 3 Time Hill.

The first Sgt. came over to my fox hole and gave me a bazooka and said I was a bazooka man till wars end.

I noticed on my discharge I had two battle stars, Central Europe and Rhine Land.

But some how or another they have me down as a radio operator M.O.S 776, which I did not serve as with the 9th Div.

They claim that I am not entitled to the C.I.B. because of the M.O.S.

I wonder if any of the men I served with are still registered with you.

I could send a list of the names to you.

Any help I can receive from you would be gratefully appreciated.

By the way upon wars ends we were in Garrison in Ingolstadt, Germany and the whole company was issued the combat infantry mans badge, which I still have. But I do not have it on my discharge.

I have been trying to get this straightened out since July 13, 1993.

Thank you very much.

Co. C "47th Inf.
DANIEL J. DOYLE
7921 Brous Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19152

Enclosed find my check for the next three years dues. Please apply the balance to the Memorial Fund in memory of Theodore F. (Red) Eckert. Anyone who served with or met him enjoyed his company.

Sorry I couldn't make the Reunion, but as R.C. McGrath said "Receiving the Octofoil is like receiving a letter or package from home." Dan, I want to thank you for the outstanding job you did all these years.

I have a question, if I may, is it possible to post all the names and addresses of all Co. C 47th you have on file in the Octofoil.

I would sure like to hear from anyone of Co. C 47th Inf.

1999 Reunion
Hyannis, MA
May 23, May 26,

A crotchety old inebriate failed to get immediate service at his favorite bar and motioned for the bartender. "Have you the faintest idea who I am?" he hicoughed.

"No, sir," replied the newly-hired bartender, "but you sit right where you are and I'll try and find out for you."

Merode-Veterans Assoc.
ALBERT TROSTORF
Chairman and President
Schloss-strasse 12
52379 Langerwehe-Merode
Fed. Rep. of Germany
Phone natl.: 0 24 23 - 63 69
Phone int.: 0049-24 23 - 63 69
Dear Mr. Quinn,

Enclosed you will find a photo, showing four members of the 9th Infantry Division Assn. The photo was taken at May 23, 1998 during our "Reunion" with the Merode Vets. Assn. On this day, we visited the relicts of the former Rhine River Bridge at Remagen and a guide showed and explained the history of the Bridge of Remagen to our American guests. After we were finished with the sight-seeing of the Museum, we had time to make this photo. It showed from left to right:

George D. Nicklin, K-Company 47th Infantry; Victor A. Larson, L-Company 39th Infantry; Donald E. Lavender, I-Company, 39th Infantry and Dan J. Garvey, 1st Bn. 39th Infantry.

I will ask you, if you can print this short article in your coming issue of the Octofoil, with the photo. Our association is very anxious to invite more members of the 9th Infantry Division Association to our coming reunion in May 1999.

We will answer every letter from your Association members, which will contact me. Please, give also a short note and ask for Veterans of the 9th Infantry Division, which had fought during the Battle of the Huertgen Forest in the towns of Schevenhuetten,

ROSEMARIE WERKMAN
3 Felter Hill Road
Monroe, NY 10950

Re.: "The AAA - O" of the 39th Infantry Regiment:

It was during the Sicilian Campaign that the regiment adopted the slogan coined by its commander, Colonel Harry A. (Paddy) Flint: "AAA - O" which was painted on equipment and stood for "Anything, Anyhow, Anytime, Bar Nothing".

Among other successful attacks and captures the regiment participated in the capture of Cherbourg and the subsequent mopping-up operations. It was at this time, the 39th lost its colorful commander, Colonel "Paddy" Flint. He died near Aarigay, France while leading an attack.

My late husband Sgt. Hank Werkman, was proud of his affiliation with the "AAA - O". I've enclosed this picture of a group of the men who were part of this prestigious group, and I would enjoy hearing from any of them, if they care to write.

I've written a book, "LOVE, WAR AND REMEMBRANCE", part of which speaks of these fine men in uniform and am planning another story regarding the "AAA - O".

TEXAS AND THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Ernie Botella, Chapter President, has scheduled the annual meeting of the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter for November 10, 1998, at the Stagecoach Inn, Salado, Texas.

Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-732-8994, or writing to: Stagecoach Inn, P.O. Box 97, Salado, TX, 76571. Their local phone number is (254) 947-5111.

When making your reservation, identify yourself with the 9th Infantry Division group. The room rate is the AAA rate of \$59.00 single, \$66.00 double, plus tax.

We are extending an invitation to members of other Chapters, who are in the area, to attend our meeting. If there are any "Snow Birds" heading south for the winter and coming down Interstate Highway 35, the Stagecoach Inn is a stonethrow away. Coming South on I 35, you would take exits 284 or 285. Cross the Interstate and follow the signs of the access road. If you are traveling North on I 35, exit at 283, and follow the signs on the access road.

The meeting itself will start on November 10, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. in the Club/Bar Building, adjacent to the Inn registration office.

There will be no organized food functions, but we can avail ourselves of the Coffee Shop adjacent to the Inn, or walk over to the Stagecoach Restaurant for a memorable lunch or dinner.

For those who can come early, rooms can be reserved for November 9, 1998, and for those who can stay over, the night of the 10th.

John W. Miller reporting on the National Convention was very complimentary on the job George Brown and Al Perna in organizing the Reunion. It was well planned and the tours were apparently very well received by the attendees.

Attending from the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter were M/M Jack Blann, M/M Ernie Botella, M/M Dick Granbery, M/M Don Lewis, M/M John W. Miller, Ken Meyer, M/M Roscoe Shields, M/M Dick Solar, and Ray White.

Gordon A. Schneider
4001 Fort Branch Drive
Arlington, TX 76016-3212
Phone (817) 457-0226

Company C 9th Med Bn.
RALPH PALERMO
223 Barbara Dr.
McKees Rocks, Pa. 15136

Enclosed you will find my check for my 1998 dues. Also am enclosing a contribution to the Memorial Fund for our deceased buddies. See where Sidney Moidel and Fred Dick passed away.

Talked to Alex Balough today and he brought me up to date about our Mini Reunion. He said the ranks are shrinking. I guess age is catching up to us.

We had a tornado come through parts of the Pittsburgh area on Tuesday, June 2, 1998. Made quite a mess. Fortunately many lives were spared. Our weather right now is cool.

I like to say hello to all our fellow soldiers. Sorry I was unable to be at the latest Reunions. Maybe next year — God willing.

The best to you Dan and your family and all the members of the 9th Division.

9th Med. Bn. C Co.
ALEX BALOUGH
4138 Delavan St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Enclosed is a check for the Memorial, to the memory of Fred Dick Co. C., and Sidney Moidel Co. C.

I also want to say, that I and my friend Lucell enjoyed our recent trip to Peglon Forge for the reunion of the 9th Med Bn.

It was good to see all our friends again, and hopefully at the next reunion we will have a larger turnout. I hope that Cooley's back will be in the best and in good health. Thanks to Chalmers, and his lovely wife, Greta, the meeting was realized. Thanks to all.

FRED GRENA
RR 6 Box 489A
Uniontown, PA 15401

SEEKING

I don't know if you can help me but I am writing to see if I can find any information on a great uncle who was with the 47th and died in France.

His name was Sergeant Joseph T. Book, Ser. #13010363 #175 A Company. He served from Aug. 28, 1940 to July 11, 1944 when he was killed in action.

He had a brother Andrew Book who received the Silver Star and died while in service in Korea, but not too much is known about Joe. He sent some letters to my mother and grandmother, also some medals and souvenirs that some how disappeared except for his Purple Heart received during the African Campaign, and some pictures of him and some buddies in Africa. We have his last letter before D-Day but that's the last that was ever sent.

If you can be of any help or give me any names or addresses of someone who may have served with Joe it would be most appreciated. I now have a daughter and would like to pass on as much of the family history as possible. We tried the Personnel Center but they said all his records were destroyed in the 1973 fire. We do have the picture of his grave in St. Laurent Military Cemetery in France. My dad was in the Army and the Navy and said it's tough to get any information through the government. I got your name through the American Legion he belongs to. Thanks again.

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Co. L 47th Inf.
RICHARD L. STOLTZ
5908 Algoma St.
Dayton, Oh 45415-2407

After reading the article in the Nov.-Dec. Octofoil on what Sergeant Laverne Riddell wrote on the Normandy Medal from France, which he sent for and got, his wife (Mae) sent me the information on how to apply for it. I followed her instructions and sent for it, which I also got one. I guess I overlooked it in the Octofoil. Thanks Laverne and the better half (Mae). If you still got the May-June-July Octofoil read Riddell's article.

Laverne Riddell and I were in the same 60mm mortar squad. Riddell said he was lucky to come out with no injuries, but one of his many close calls was getting his steel helmet sliced open with shrapnel, oh yes he had it on his head.

Clarence Ray and I was in Tent City in England and we went in as a replacement at Utah beach, joining the 9th Div. I got hit with shrapnel at St. Lo. — Henry Geary also got hit at St. Lo. Willie Muldoon replaced me at St. Lo. I was flown back to England, healed up, rehabilitated and sent back to the 9th Div. which was by then in Germany. I went on fighting till close to the end of the war, is when I got hit with a bullet in the neck and shoulder. Once again back to England, then sent back to the 9th Div. which was on occupation duty in Germany.

I am 72 years young and in very good health. I'm working on being the last one to close the door.

I will be going to the reunion in Va. in May, if the Lord is willing. Look me up, we'll have a lot to talk about.

With all my love, God bless you all.

84th FA Hq's Bty.
WILLIAM RYBKA
5203 Sweetbriar St.
Raleigh, N.C. 27609

My wife and I really enjoyed our visit with u-all at the Hampton reunion. We especially were touched by the Memorial Service. Having the widows involved in the candle lighting, representing our 8 battles, was an outstanding idea.

Many thanks to the Pernas for a lot of hard work, which paid-off in an outstanding reunion.

Enclosed is a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of: Bert Waller, Div. Arty. and Lyman T. Moores, Hq. Btry, 84th FA Bn.