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The Octofoil, August/September/October 1998

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, August/September/October 1998" (1998). *The Octofoil*. 327.

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THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXXII Number 4

Aug-Sept-Oct 1998

HYANNIS, MA - 1999

Tom Boyle, Ronnie Murphy and myself have met several times with the Sales Manager at the 1999 Reunion Hotel, Sheraton Four Points. This hotel has 261 rooms, landscaped courtyard, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a large restaurant that overlooks the courtyard, and The Toby Jug Tavern. A free shuttle van to Hyannis Airport and Tara Hyannis Hotel (Golf Course).

Cape Cod has plenty to see and enjoy, so bring the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. If they are under 10 years of age, they stay in the room free. Hyannis has whale-watching cruises, ferries to the Island's of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Tours to the outer Cape and Provincetown, are a few of the things to see.

Remember your hotel rates will hold for two days before and after the reunion date if you wish to make your stay longer.

Let's get those hotel reservations in soon.
Thank you.

Herb Olsen, Reunion Chairman

TAPS SOUNDED



Vincent Gugliemino a man truly deserving the title of "Old Reliable" passed away on October 2, 1998. "Guggie" as he was known to his close friends joined the Ninth Infantry Division at Fort Bragg in 1941 and served with the 47th's F and G Companies during the North African, Sicilian and Normandy Campaigns. He became a member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association in 1946 and for fifty-two years actively participated in all the Association's business and social proceedings. During a good portion of those fifty-two years he served as the Association's First Vice-President. Vincent didn't confine his participation to National affairs he also played an active and vocal role in the transactions of The Greater New York Chapter. While stationed at Fort Bragg Vincent met and married his wife Myrtle. After the war Vincent and Myrtle settled down on Long Island and had a daughter Franciene. They were a loving and devoted couple who actively participated in events sponsored by both the National and the New York Chapter. They never missed a convention or a New York Chapter social event. Myrtle passed away in 1984 and was sorely missed by both Vincent and her many friends in the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

"Guggie" had a lot of moxie in his being and was willing to undertake some tough assignments. During the North African Campaign when Military Intelligence had a need for men who spoke Italian "Guggie" volunteered. The M.I. didn't use the Italian speaking American soldiers as translators; they sent them to gather information from behind the enemy lines. Sometimes they wore Italian uniforms. On 10 May 1943 an officer in the Military Intelligence wrote the following Letter of Commendation to the Commanding Officer of the 47th Infantry Regiment. "Pvt. Gugliemino has been on special duty with Headquarters Company, 9th Infantry Division. During his detail to Headquarters Company he was doing Commando work under my command. I wish to commend him for his courage and determination while on hazardous missions behind enemy lines. A good soldier who set an excellent example of determined soldiering for all." George D. Rheims, Lt. M.I.U.S.A.

Participating in the affairs of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, Vincent Gugliemino's guiding light was the statement of purpose set forth in the by-laws of the Association. "This Association is formed by the Officers and Men of the Ninth Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades and to preserve the esprit de corps of the Division." He wanted nothing for himself only the best for the Association. Being an emotional individual he sometimes got into heated debates when he thought the Association was straying away from its intended purpose. Perhaps the fact that his brother Felix was killed in Normandy while serving with F Company of the 47th had something to do with "Guggie's" devotion to the statement of purpose set forth in the by-laws.

He was a good soldier, a good friend and will never be forgotten by those who knew him.

Walter O'Keeffe

Reunion dates 1999
May 23-26
Hyannis, Mass.

Reunion Hotel Reservation

PLEASE SEE PAGE 2

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:

Wanda Lelak - In memory of husband, Steve, B Co. 47th Inf.

James Popeski - In memory of fallen comrades of E Co. 60th Inf.

From the men of M Co. 60th Inf in memory of Ernest Chandler, M-60th Inf.

Mary McLaughlin - In memory of John Robbins and Curtis Weddle.

Lawrence Vinci - In memory of Lt. Berend Albers, B Co 47th

Mrs. Carl Wood - In memory of her husband, Carl, 9th Sig.

Leo Fatlan - In memory of Ken Creighton, M Co 47th Inf.

Mrs. William Brune - In memory of husband, William, and also Richard Iannone, both of B Co 15th Engr.

George Brown - In memory of Daniel Layman, 39th Inf and John Morris, 60th Inf.

Carl Winter - In memory of Can Co, C.O. Brooks

Gerhard Firme - In memory of his brother Wilmer Firme, 9th Signal

Joseph Killen - In memory of Karl Janes, G Co 47th Inf (K.I.A.)

P.J. Zone - In memory of Herbert Ravlin, 709 Ord.

Frank Dennis - In memory of Adam Drust, F Co 60th Inf.

Carmen Fol - In memory of her brother, Frank Fol, 39th Inf.

Dave Heller - In memory of Vincent Gugliemino and in honor of Mr. and Mrs. John Brandi

Joseph Gravino, Al Baccile, Ben Murell - In memory of Emmet Austen

Tom McGinley - In memory of Cannon Co 47th Inf.

B. Calvin Thomas - In memory of Fr. Robert Hill, 60th Personnel

Worcester Memorial



About to place a wreath at the Memorial Services in Worcester are brothers of men KIA in France: left to right Charles Regan, brother of Michael Shaughnessey 26th F.A., Herb Olson whose brother Gerald was KIA while serving with Company G 47th Inf. and Charles McLhinney, brother of Walter KIA while serving with Company E 47th Inf. Time has taken its toll with the attendance at the "gatherings" of the "Old Reliatives" but the spirit is still there for those who can attend. Let's we forget.

LADIES CORNER

Hello Strangers! or perhaps you say that to me, since I completely missed (forgot!) the April column, and I sent in the July column, apparently too late for publication. Anyway, here I am, on time, and contrite, willing to continue as your "Ladies Corner" columnist (if you still want me to be). Since I have not heard from anyone in so long, I must make my own News. OK? As you must all remember Joe and I did not make the May Reunion in Virginia. From the Octofoil I know that you had a great time. I hope someone writes and lets me know how the 47th Regiment's Company B made out in attendance, etc. Please don't make us wait until 1999's Hyannis Reunion to find out! A Post Card will do. Any other information on 98's Reunion, Veterans' Awards, etc. will make us happy.

Kenneth C. Thompson

Frank Cancelino

Frederick Talarico - In memory of Maurice Callahan, C Btry 84 F.A.

Charles McLhinney - in memory of his brother, Walter (K.I.A.), John Trevelise, Frank Petty, Bill Mooty, Bob Colflesh, Bill Larson, all E Co. 47th Inf. and Fr. Anthony DeLaura, 47th Inf.

Edward Lange - In memory of his cousin - Alfred Lauren Co K, 60 Inf - KIA

Dan Quinn - In memory of Vincent Gugliemino, Co. F, G 47th Inf.

Our trip in May to see #1 granddaughter Diana's commencement at Vanderbilt University, and the 3 days we spent in Nashville, was a blast! We partied and celebrated, courtesy of our daughter Susan and son-in-law Carlos (even learned how to play Billiards with a photo to prove it). We were the oldest in our group of 10, and we kept right up there with them, but collapsed with fatigue when we arrived home however! But, I tell you Joe and I both couldn't look at a Beer by the last night. Those pint-sized glasses they give you down there almost undid us! Aside from the fun, it was a beautiful and momentous affair; Diana graduated "Cum Laude" as did her brother in 1997. So proud to watch grandchildren graduate from college! They are both employed down there now in a Computer firm.

Here's a brief run-down on the rest of our 1998 activities: A March 29th trip to Cincinnati for a great-Niece's wedding, lots of fun! Then a week-long beautiful visit to Orion and Etsie Shockley in, Gustavus, Alaska, from July 15th to July 22nd, with a stopover in Seattle. They built a lovely home on the Salmon River, and from our huge bedroom window, we could see eagles in the trees on the river. Absolutely breathtaking! And we woke up to that scene each morning.

Since we had already made the Tourist Trip to Alaska in 1990, we just visited this time, played games, took a trip to nearby Glacier National Park, and were treated to a Whale Watch. Continued on page 5

THE OCTOFOIL

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to
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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, pho-
tographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every
effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condi-
tion.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry
Division Association read: "This Association is formed by the officers
and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the mem-
ory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the
Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusiv-
ely 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 I.J. 07087, and additional
offices.

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

Volume XLXXIII Number Aug-Sept-Oct 1998

Publication #402820
NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn. 41.
Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

Enclosed please find dues for:

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

Street Address.....

I was a member of:

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

I wish to sign up for the following:

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

Sustaining Member.....

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund.....

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

Life Membership.....\$75.00

Ladies Auxilliary Member.....\$300

Decals.....50 each

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

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My spouse (Brother or relative)

Served with _____

One year _____ \$3.00

Credit Chapter _____

Taps Sounded

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

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

John Robbins
Cannon Co 47th.

Curtis Weddle
C Co 47th

Willard Adams
9th Recon

Carl Wood
9th Signal

Wilmer Firme
9th Signal

Kenneth Creighton
M Co 47th Inf

Richard Iannone
B Co 15h Engrs

William Brune
B Co 15th Engrs

Allen Thompson
Serv Co 60th Inf

Merle Becraft
39th Inf K Co

Edward McCaffrey
47th Med Dst

Ernest Chandler
M Co 60th Inf

Joseph Boudreau
Co A 9th Med Bn

Herbert Ravlin
709 Ord

Vincent Guglielmino
47th Inf F & G Co

Hermon P. Rahn
E & G Co 47th Inf

Robert Miles
Med Det 39th Inf

Michael Deresh
60th Inf Can Co

Frank Fol
39th Inf
Emmet Austin
B Co 39th Inf

Maurice Callahan
C Btry, 84 FA Bn

A PROUD MAN
We gather together
To speak of a man
A proud man -
A mechanic by trade
A woodsman at heart
A Mercedes, a combine,
An axe, a truck -
No matter
This man took pride in his
craft -
A work ethic that can't be
undone
Age and stamina took its toll
But not his will to do his
part or make his mark
This proud man with such a
big heart -
A proud veteran - not a man
to discuss medals unless you
inquired
But books could be written on
what his eyes have seen.
From dawn to dusk
Day in
Day out
He displayed this country's
flag
His flag
For all to see

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.

DIRECTIONS TO HYANNIS

1. FROM NEW YORK CITY.

Take Rte 95 to 195 (Providence R.I.) Take Rte 195 to
Rte 25 (also Rte 495) Go South to ramp before Bourne
Bridge to Rte 6 East along Cape Cod Canal to the
Sagamore Bridge. Continue on Rte 6 over the bridge to
exit 6 onto Rte 132 toward Hyannis until the second
set of traffic lights (approx 2.5 miles) from exit 6. Hotel
is on the right as you approach the traffic lights.

2. FROM WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

Take Rte 90 (Mass. Turnpike) East to Rte 495 South,
Exit 11-A. Take Rte 495 South which becomes Rte 495
and Rte 25. See directions #1 for rest of trip.

3. FROM NORTH OF BOSTON (N.H. MAINE, VERMONT)

Take Rte 495 South. See directions #1 for rest of trip.

4. FROM BOSTON.

Take Rte 3 South to the Sagamore Bridge. Go over the
bridge onto Rte 6. See #1 for directions for rest of trip.

5. BY AIR.

Fly into Logan Airport, Boston. Take U.S. Air Express
to Barnstable Airport, (Hyannis). U.S. Air Express also
flies into Barnstable Airport from LaGuardia Airport,
N.Y. There is a bus service (Brockton/Plymouth Bus)
that will take you down to Hyannis Bus Terminal. It
stops at all terminals at Logan Airport. Contact Herb
Olsen at P.O. Box 845, Marstons Mills, MA 02648 and
we will send you the bus schedule. Round-trip on the
bus from Logan to Hyannis is approx. \$34.00
Call Four Points Hotel for Van to Hotel Shuttle. 1-508-
771-3000 or take a taxi which is a short ride (ten min-
utes).

TRAINS.

Sorry the train from New York City was not operating
in 1998 and it's not too sure it will be operating in
1999.

Strong willed some would say
Stubborn wg say
Always there when you need-
ed him to lend a helping
hand

Like the time in our teen
years,
when he rescued a friends
car from a precarious ledge
Mama and his girls were his
focus for years

As time edged on the son in
laws, grandchildren and great
grandchildren
gave him reason to smile
He loved the Yankees,

Whitey Ford, Mickey.
- Mattie, Maris and the boys

He thought they were special
And that rival with the "A's"
Those were the days
This man was no saint I
would have you believe
He sprinkled his language
with some salt now and then
But more to get our atten-
tion

Than to offend.
So lord, if you could see fit to
give him an axe to shine,
And a patch of good ground
He'll grow you tomatoes the
likes of few you've seen

Continued on page 5

M COMPANY (47TH) CHRONICLER

Red Phillips
14002 Hemlock Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946

My search for survivors (or next-of-kin) of the ill-fated 17 June '44 Buchanan party has taken an interesting twist. Though wounded, Lt. Col. Buchanan's driver, PFC William J. Toland, escaped the German ambush. He rode out of there on the hood of the Maj. Bradley's MP jeep and, after the war, lived for many years in New Jersey before he died. Talking to his sister recently, I learned of an earlier adventure of Toland's in Sicily.

Gen. Eddy's grand maneuver against the Germans in the mountainous island's center was to "fix 'em" with a push up the road from Troina to Randazzo with the 47th and 39th Regiments, while he enveloped through the mountains to the north with the 60th Inf., reinforced with some Goums. This enveloping force would have to build its own road as it advanced through the crags, Mules were issued again a la the Sedjenane operation. There were German defenders up there in the hills but not enough of them to stop the Go-Devils and their Berber buddies. It was a highly successful maneuver, one of the few bright spots in the Sicilian operation.

An unusual attachment at the moment of the 60th's jump-off was civilian George Biddle, a 58-year old USMC combat veteran of WWI, now a War Department war artist, who had Eddy's permission to tag along. He would sketch the soldiers and the scenes, making a special form of historical record of the event.

PFC Toland was assigned as Biddle's driver. Their six-day connection was the beginning of a long friendship. After the war, Biddle wrote a memoir, *Artist at War*, in which he mentioned Toland. When Toland's sister told me of the book, I obtained a copy and found that Biddle also mentioned, among others he met, the 60th's commander, Col. Frederick J. De Rohan, remembered by many old Go-Devils, as "Fearless Fred."

As a linguist, fluent in several European languages, Biddle made himself useful to the colonel, questioning prisoners and Sicilians encountered in the hills. Biddle and de Rohan were contemporaries and shared the AEF experience of WWI. Also, de Rohan had been somewhat educated in art appreciation and its history because, between the wars, while twice assigned to college ROTC, he had taken courses, in these subjects. While Biddle did not mention this in his memoir, it would only be natural for the topic to come up in their conversations. Biddle was quite attracted to de Rohan, finding him a good leader of men and a fine tactician.

Oddly, Biddle's post-9th time in the Mediterranean theater brought him into even closer contact with a man whose leadership he truly extolled, Lt. Col. John J. Toffey, Jr. This officer had formerly served with de Rohan in the 60th and, by most accounts, he disliked his commander intensely.

Biddle caught up with Toffey, then in command of the 2nd Bn., 15th Inf., 3rd Inf. Div., which was struggling north through Italy's mountains, licking wounds taken in the Salerno landing. Biddle spent nearly a month with the unit concluding that its commander was tops in combat leadership. He justified this fully in his memoir and included the man's sketch.

Now in Biddle's account there is no mention of Toffey's ever discussing his prior service with the 60th Inf. and Col. de Rohan. However, it's hard to believe this subject never came up. According to many contemporaries I've interviewed, Toffey's resentment of his former commander ran deeply.

Toffey had led his 3rd Bn., 60th Inf. for the northernmost landing at Mehdiya Plage on 8 Nov. '42. The Navy put them ashore several miles north of their assigned beach while under attack by French planes. This delayed taking their objective, a prominence from which artillery fire could be delivered against other landing force objectives. It contributed to tensions already developing between de Rohan and his immediate subordinates.

But de Rohan's leadership problem was far more serious than would be caused by an argument over one of his unit's tactical performance. Lt. Col. (Ret.) "Pat" Williamson, as a new 2nd Lt. in the 60th, was de Rohan's "commissioned dog robber". By war's end, he was commanding the regiment's 1st Bn. and now recalls the colonel as a "nut case." Certainly de Rohan was a square peg that could not fit into a round hole. Basically a staff person, he never had the progression of leadership assignments and experience, from platoon-commanding up, that most officers in his position had acquired. He was a good planner, an excellent instructor and a showman par excellence. But he could not stand danger, real or perceived. Early on, those nearest him, particularly his battalion commanders, could see this. Dr Rohan, for his part, realized they recognized his weakness and were a threat to his professional future.

On the other hand, de Rohan's regimental staff, a remarkable collection of talent, seemed to gain strength in this situation. Of course, they did not have to face directly any consequences of their commander's failure. The staff excelled at making allowances for the problem, smoothing over altercations and keeping everyone's eye on the mission. Even without intending to do so, they effectively covered-up the problem. The battalion commanders could only bear it and take the first opportunity to leave the regiment.

Continued in next issue

GREATER NY AREA CHAPTER

The first meeting of the NY Chapter, after the summer hiatus, was held at Masonic Hall, 71 W 23rd St, NYC on September 18, 1998. 1st VP Joe Killen opened the meeting with the group pledge of allegiance to the flag and the invocation by resident chaplain George Apar.

Secretary Art Schmidt read the minutes of the last meeting and Treasurer Al Zenka gave the financial report. Correspondence was read by Killen and we learned of the demise of James Hayes, Co D, 47th. Our sincerest condolences to the Hayes family. Mary Morgan wrote us to say that her sister had compiled a book of letters received from her uncle, 1st Lt. William Shelfer, 60th, who was killed in France in August 1944. The title of the published book is "Uncertain Seasons." Mary is also seeking other 9th men who might have known Shelfer. She also ordered a copy of the book, "Pawns of War" by deceased member William Kreye of the 39th, which Art Schmidt supplied.

NY Chapter Proposed 2000 Reunion

NY Chapter Reunion chairman Marty Gross and his committee reported visiting three Catskill resorts: Concord, Nevele and Kuthshers, for reunion consideration in the year 2000. He recommended the Kutshers Country Club Resort Hotel as the best deal. Based on the details given, members of the chapter agreed with Marty's assessment. Marty will make a proposal at the Board of Governors meeting in Worcester, MA, during the annual 9th Memorial Pilgrimage, October 17-18.

In the meantime NY chapter members will have a mini reunion at the Friar Tuck Inn in the Catskills, October 5-9. Al Lipton made the arrangements. At last count 42 people would attend. Of course, we look forward to the 54th Annual Reunion in Cape Cod in 1999.

Sick Call

On sick call: George Apar reported that Vincent Guglielmino was in the VA Hospital in Northport, L.I. very ill with pneumonia. (See later note.) Tony Varone, who was not well for a long period of time told me his doctor finally changed his medication — the side effects was making him worse. Tony is feeling better now. Dan Quinn also had a bout with pneumonia which hospitalized him for a few days. We wish everyone under the weather better days.

Meeting was adjourned and we partook of the hospitality table and engaged in small talk. Those attending not mentioned above: Anton Dietrich, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, Al Lubrano, Joe Rzesniowicki and Herminio Suarez.

NY Chapter reminder: if you haven't paid your dues for 1998 now is the time to catch up — \$10 for one 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.

A Tribute to Guggy

On Saturday, October 3, 1998, our 9th Inf Div comrade, Vincent Guglielmino died in the Northport VA hospital during his bout with pneumonia. His wake was attended by myself and wife Barbara and other NY chapter members at various times, who were not away on the Friar Tuck get-together.

We say goodbye to a fearless soldier in war, and dedicated member of his beloved 9th Inf Div Association in peace. Always outspoken for what was right, Guggy was the elder statesman whose opinion was regarded highly by the association. His imposing presence will be sorely missed. With his overseas cap under clasped hands, prominently displaying the Octofoil insignia, Guggy was buried in Calverton, Long Island. Rest in Peace Guggy. Our heartfelt condolences go to his daughter Francine and family.

Marv Levy

Co A 60th

2044 Ellen Drive

Merrick, NY 11566-5404

New York Mini-Reunion

On Monday afternoon, October 5th 43 comrades, wives and friends bivouacked at the Friar Tuck Inn in the Catskill Mountains and gathered around the coffee and cookie table in the large, cozy lobby to renew friendships. We were sorry that Dan Quinn, Al Lipton, Fred Golub and Art Schmidt had to cut out for medical reasons.

For five days (and four nights), after each delicious meal, if interested, we managed to fit in bocci, bingo, horse racing, OTB, swimming, sauna, exercise room, shuffleboard, golf or walking outside with Rip Van Winkle and Hunter Mountains in the background, and a cocktail party. In the evenings, there were movies, dancing and Showtime, ending with make-your-own sundaes, cordials and cookies, or fruit and cheese before hitting the sack.

V.P. Joe Killen conducted a Memorial Service, with Comrade Pastor Hugh C. Whitaker giving the opening prayer. In addition to our 4581 KIA's, subsequent deceased comrades were also remembered. Particular attention was given to Comrade Vincent (Guggy) Guglielmino who was interred in the Calverton VA Cemetery that very morning.

Al Zenka

82-36 234th Street

Bellerose Mnr, NY 11427-2118

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

We just returned from Angola, Indiana for our Outstate Meeting with the Michigan Chapter and members from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana. We had a fairly good turnout, 45, and happy to see so many. Our thanks to Roger Alsgaard and Elmer Wagner for a job well done as hosts of the reunion. We missed a lot of the regular attendees but they all had legitimate reasons for not attending. Our biggest conflict is the timing with the Worcester Board meeting and the Mass at Fr. Connors old parish. Next year, we are planning this event one week sooner, October 5 and 6, 1999. So — mark your calendars and the Good Lord willing, we'll see you there.

Among the missing this year was Lewis and Muriel Gray. She recently had surgery but is doing well. Lew has run into some complications which have set him back a bit. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery for both.

Our cookout in July at the Gaertners was a huge success. The weather was beautiful and we had 22 people attending. Newcomers this year were Howard and Barbara Baczynski of Wauwatosa. The Clousers drove down from Upper Michigan and the Grays brought Wanda Preston. Among others present were the Andersons, Apels, Hennemuths, Hellers, Ted Curless, Paulis and yours truly. Gordon and Howard were busy at the grills cooking up a storm and as per usual, there was more than enough side dishes and snacks. We had Christmas in July and the Gaertners supplied gifts for all. A good time was had by all and Uncle Sam was also in attendance.

Our Holiday Party this year will be on December 12th at the home of Jo and Bob Pauli. Details will be forthcoming in a letter from our secretary, Gordon Anderson.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season starting with Thanksgiving and praying that everyone stays well. We are looking forward to the next issue of the Octofoil with more details for the reunion next year in Hyannis, Ma.

Michael Belmonte
1161 S. Lombard Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60304

APPRECIATIVE

On behalf of the New Hampshire Veterans Home, I wish to thank you for the kind donation of \$439.80 to be used toward the purchase of four folding tables. Your generosity is much appreciated and is an important part of the New Hampshire Veterans Home's mission to provide quality care and quality living to our state's elderly and disabled veterans.

Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Donna S. Long
Director of
Community Affairs

THE TEXAS & GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

We have lost another long time member of the Association. John A. Hill, Co. H. 47th Inf., died September 22, 1998, in Tulsa, Oklahoma at age 85. Military rites were conducted by soldiers from Fort Sill, Oklahoma. John's brother, Reverend Keith Hill officiated assisted by our own Reverend Bill "Dub" Lynch. At John's wish, his wife Erika had a plain pine coffin prepared so he would be buried as so many of his men had been buried in France and Belgium. "Dub" and I both served in John's machine gun platoon covering campaigns from Normandy through Germany.

John Miller returned from France at the conclusion of the tour of Paris and Normandy organized for member of the Ninth Infantry Division Assn. While some who had originally scheduled to make the trip had to cancel for health reasons, eleven persons were able to make the trip. Having a forty-four passenger bus for the tour enabled everyone room to stretch out between cities and the many stops in Normandy and down to St. Malo and Mont Saint Michel. While John and Jean Miller had visited Normandy numerous times while they were stationed in Paris, John noted on this trip he had visited some new areas, including underground German fortifications which have been retained in the St. Malo area. Hopefully one of our members who made the trip into Belgium and Germany will be able to report to the OCTOFOIL in this or a later edition.

A reminder to the members of the Texas & Greater Southwest Chapter (and any other members of the National) of our forthcoming meeting November 10, 1998, at the Stagecoach Inn, P.O. Box 97, Salado, Texas, 76571. Reservations can be made by calling (800) 732-8994.

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



Marge and Tom McGinley shown at their 50th wedding anniversary. Letter appears in Mail Call. Joe Kearns used to sing an old time number from around these parts called "When Your Old Wedding Ring." Congratulations and many years to come - Folks.

MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Act of October 23, 1962: Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

1A. Title of Publication: THE OCTOFOIL. 1B. Publication No.: 402820. 2. Date of Filing: Date: September 29, 1998
3. Frequency of Issue: Jan.-Feb., Mar.-April, May-June, July-Aug., Sept.-Oct., Nov.-Dec. 3A. No of Issues Published Annually: Five times yearly. 3B. Annual Subscription Price: Membership 4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 9th Inf Div Assn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07067.

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10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION

	AVERAGE NO. COPIES EACH ISSUE DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS	ACTUAL NO. COPIES OF SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAREST TO FILING DATE
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1. Sales through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales	None	None
2. Mail Subscriptions	2250	2250
C. Total Paid Circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)	2250	2250
D. Free Distribution		
By Mail, Carrier or other means		
Samples, Complimentary, and other free copies	100	100
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1. Office use, left over, Unaccounted, spoiled after printing	50	50
2. Return from news agents	None	None
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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.		

Daniel Quinn

GEORGE NICKLIN, M.D.
6 Butler Place
Garden City, L.I., NY 11530
(516) 747-6092

Dear Dan,

I thought you would like to see this. These Ninth Division members were at the Remagen Bridge, May 23, 1998. We also visited Schevenheutte, Hamich, Langerwehe. This picture was taken at the Remagen Bridge where the western remnants of the bridge are now a peace museum. In addition to the four Ninth Division members who were there, there were twenty First Division members. It was an amazing reunion as the German vets fought opposite us in these specific battles. The reunion was held with sixty German veterans at Langerwehe and Merode and included two days of socialization and festivities. The German veterans and the American veterans went together to the Remagen Bridge to visit the ruins of the bridge. There were also plaques from other divisions that were at the bridge. We really should try to get enough money together to put up a plaque for our own division. There are also plaques at Dachau, which we visited, and since one of our regiments (I believe the 47th) was the maintenance regiment for Dachau immediately after the war, I think that it would be appropriate, if we wanted to, to put up a plaque at Dachau.

Looking forward to seeing you at Worcester or in New York.

P.S. Frenzenburg Castle is torn down and is now a factory.

9th Med. Bn Co. A
DONNA BOUDREAU
29 Old Kawkawlin Rd.
Bay City, MI 45706

I want to let you know that my husband, Joseph E. Boudreau Co A 9th Medical Battalion passed away on April 14, 1998.

I want to thank the members that were able to come and be with us at that time.

We enjoyed the Octofoil for all its news.

60th Inf. F Co
EDMOND CORMIER
P.O. BOX 205
1307 S. Main
Breaux Bridge, La 70517

Please find my 3 yr. renewal which was due in 1997, I think.

I still receive the Octofoil, thanks.

I joined the 9th Co. F 60th in Dec. of 1944 during the "Bulge". I stayed with Co. F until days before end, when I was injured and after a short stay in hospital, I returned while unit was in Golstat, went home April 1946.

Would like to hear from someone from Co. F 60th. Thanks.

P.S. My wife and I attended the "Remagan" reunion on March 7, 1995. Very nice.

**Deadline for next
issue of the Octofoil
Dec. 20th**



Al Zenka (Co. K 60th Inf.) sends this photo of early days at Fort Bragg (1941) — He did name l-r: John Eisenhauer, Al Zenka, Isadore Feldman, Albert Beckerman, Jack Frodsky. Bottom row: Lou Horowitz.



Shown at their visit to meet with Merode German Vets are l-r: George Nicklin, (47th), Victor Larson 39th, Don Lavender 39th and Dan Garvey 39th Inf. 1st Bn. Photo and letter was sent by Albert Trostorf President of the Merode Veteran's Association. Letter is other section of the Octofoil. (They met on May 23rd).

Co. B 15th Eng. Bn.
"ALLIE" C. FERRANTE
35 Cove Avenue
Framingham, Mass. 01702

Marge and I were unable to attend the Virginia reunion because she was still rehabilitating from knee surgery. But, two of our faithfuls: Bob Mandle and Jim Mullens were there to carry on.

I've been in contact with the Sheas and the Mickas and we all plan to make the Cape Cod reunion in May. Let's hope that some of the former attendees can make it ... to name a few: the Rasts, Otts, Lizas, Moores, Rankins, Hoffmans, McGraths and Abels. The committee promises a great time is in store for all.

Dick McGrath, we missed your input in the Octofoil. Hope all goes well with you and Fran.

Since I'm in a writing mood, I thought I'd insert an incident that I recently recalled and I wonder how many others can remember it.

I believe it was in the early fall of 1942 and the division was passing in review. I don't know who the dignitaries were that graced the reviewing stand, that day, but after the Infantry had marched by, the Engineers then rode by ... seated stiffly with their rifles and looking straight ahead. These trucks were a combination of personnel carriers and dump trucks. Well, as you've probably guessed what happened, when one of the squads had arrived in front of the reviewing stand, the dump truck started to go up and with some calling out from the riders, the situation was corrected. It's no doubt they would have tumbled out right there in front of the reviewers. They must have enjoyed a good laugh later as we did. This story later appeared in the SATURDAY EVENING POST.

M Co 60th Inf
WILLIAM HORNADY
3432 Dresden Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36111

I am enclosing my dues for 3 years. Sorry I'm running a little late.

Many thanks to you for doing such a great job for the association. I don't know what we would do without you.

Our "M" Co. 60th Inf. reunion will be in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. again this year - September 23-24-25. I'm really looking forward to it.

Thanks again for your time and effort.

47th Inf B Co
WANDA LELAK
802 E. Flag Pl.
Poinciana, FL 34759

It's been a long time since I've written to you. I still get the Octofoil. Thanks.

It seems there are so many of Steve's buddies, that have passed away. I hope they're all having a good time up there.

Sending a check in memory of Steve. I still miss the old Sgt. Hope you and family are in good health. Peace be with you.

60th Inf E Co
JAMES C. POPESKI
1228 Shenk Ave.
Erie, Pa 16505

Enclosed is my dues money for three years, plus extra for the memorial fund in memory of fallen comrades of Co. "E" 60th Regiment.

Hope some day I can attend a reunion.

God Bless and keep up the good work.

84th F.A. Hq. Btry
JOHN BOISKY
5003 Kendrick St.
Panama City, FL 32404

Enclosed please find check for my dues.

Trust things are going well with all at your office.

Wishing all the best of holidays and good health and also to say hello to my friends in the 84th F.A. Bn.

Set Record Straight

*** POTSHOTS AND OTHER OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DUGOUT ***

After reading the last few issues of the "Octofoil" my interest has been aroused regarding the book "Citizen Soldiers" and its author Stephen E. Ambrose. The other "Old Reliabilities" seem to have given this book mixed reviews and I had to find out for myself just who is this Stephen Ambrose. Up to this time I had not read any of his works so I entered into this task without "any axe to grind" and without any prejudice toward Mr. Ambrose. I was aware that he was some sort of a history writer, but that was the extent of my knowledge of Stephen E. Ambrose.

HALT, WHO GOES THERE? FRIEND OR FOE? ADVANCE TO BE RECOGNIZED

If I am to believe the following flowery phrases taken from the rear of the "Citizen Soldiers" book jacket then the author is "The best historian of the awful majesty of war and battle etc." and possessed "the meticulous intelligence of a sensible historian." And, "No one writes about World War II with greater knowledge and sensitivity than Stephen Ambrose."

However, in his 1994 book "D-Day, June 6, 1944" on page 48, Ambrose states and I quote: - "Of the nearly fifty Infantry, armored, and airborne divisions selected for participation in the campaign in northwest Europe, only two - the 1st Infantry and the 82nd Airborne - had been in combat." Unquote. A "meticulous" scholar fully involved with his subject does not commit errors of omission. Perhaps, the author was ordered by some higher authority to delete, erase, or otherwise obliterate all record and memory of the combat record of the famous NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION.

On page 51 in "Citizen Soldiers" Ambrose writes "THEY got through to the west coast of the Cotentin on June 18th, to Cherbourg on the 20th. It took a week of hard fighting to force a surrender on the 27th." I ask, "Was the author instructed or told to delete the identification of the unit or units that would be recognized as being the mysterious "THEY"? Let the record show that the 47th Infantry Regiment reached the coast only a heartbeat before the 60th Infantry Regiment; both NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION units. This information is public knowledge if anyone would scan the newspapers and periodicals of that time.

Further proof of Ambrose's "greater knowledge and sensitivity is demonstrated in "CS" on pages 83, 84, and 85 where he describes the victims of the July 25 Operation Cobra short bomb drops as being from the 8th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division and also some from a regiment of the 30th Infantry Division. All truthful, but not complete. Was the author again instructed or ordered to delete any mention of the 3rd Battalion of the 47th Infantry Regiment of the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION which was also caught in that unfortunate tragic incident? Only mentioning two units of the three involved reeks of a deliberate attempt to expunge all record of the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION.

The author states on page 177 in "CS" "The Battle of Hurtgen lasted ninety days." Yet, on page 167 he says "On September 19, the 3rd Armored division and the 9th Infantry Division began the attack." Then on page 406 he writes about February, "On the 10th, V Corps won control of the dams, etc." It would seem that the "meticulous" man is a poor arithmetic student as 19 September to 10 February is more closer to five months and not ninety days. And, yes, the narration would have been damaged if the V Corps units were identified by Division numeral because credit would have to be given to the (by now) unmentionable NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION.

With the dexterity of a P.E. in a move known widely as the "Cover your ass", Ambrose adroitly hops, skips and jumps all over the western ETO. He hops from Market Garden toward Aachen, then skips the Hurtgen Forest where the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION is fully involved, and jumps south to the Moselle River valley. It would seem that he will do anything to escape having to give some recognition to the work-horse of General C. Hodges' 1st US Army, namely the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION.

In the chapter titled "Crossing the Rhine" Ambrose in his "meticulous" intelligence research has avoided any mention of the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION; and anyone who was on the scene can swear to the fact that although the 9th Armored Division captured the Ludendorff Bridge near Remagen, it was the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION that held and secured the span for the 1st Army as the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations attest to that fact.

I am not attempting to delve into the Ambrose psyche to find what has caused him to have a mental block when and where the famous NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION is concerned. It is his loss and he could have made a so-so book into a great book by the simple inclusion of more references and event descriptions by members of "Hitler's Nemesis" code name "Notorious", the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION.

The charts on page 280 contain many obvious errors and were possibly copied incorrectly by the authors assistants. Another flawed listing is the listing of casualties by divisions as many RCT's (Regimental Combat Teams) were attached to other units than their own for many periods of varying length and it would be hard to

47th 1st Bn Med Det.
MRS. KEVIN MURRAY
41 Frederick Pl.
Delmar, N.Y. 12054
Dear Mr. Quinn:

I am writing to inform you that my father, Edward McCaffrey, passed away September 28th of last year. Although my father never talked much about the War while he was alive, he was a very proud member of the Ninth Infantry, keeping a certificate of that fact framed over his desk and always looking forward to his next issue of The Octofoil.

While cleaning out his house, I found a copy of Eight Stars To Victory and on the inside cover he had written "T/5 Edward McCaffrey 42048785, Regimental Medical Detachment, 1 B., 47 INF., 9th Division, P. 202-268"

This brings me to the second reason for my writing. I believe my father has about another year on his membership dues and because I have found it interesting reading the issues of The Octofoil, I would appreciate it if you would change the address on his subscription to 41 Frederick Place, Delmar, New York 12054-2430. I would also appreciate hearing from anyone who knew my father or has any stories about him. If I can be of any assistance with information, I would be glad to try. For the last years of Dad's life, he was very involved with his genealogy. I am trying to put all this together so that my children will know what their Grandfather did before they or I for that fact were around.

I appreciate any assistance you can give me and I look forward to reading more about the Ninth Infantry Division.



The other day I found a picture taken when Jimmy Cagney visited E and F Company's quarters at Brighton Woods. Most of the men in the picture are from F Company, E Company was on guard duty that day. However a few E Company men managed to get into the picture. The Staff Sgt. kneeling in the first row is Johnny Bac an original 47th man from Fort Bragg after El Guettar he was one of the Non-Coms selected to form the new E Company. He came from New Jersey somewhere near Paterson. I believe. You will probably recognize John "The Barber" Traveled, Puelo, Ignatius and Hadden. The fellow on the right wearing the field jacket and helmet is named Miller don't recall his first name. Standing behind Cagney and to his right is I believe Johnny Rizzo, Perhaps, if you publish the picture in the "Octofoil" somebody will come up with the rest of the names.

Taps Sounded

But his delight will be in sharing his fruit with you, the angels and friends

Like Toad and Doc, who've gone on

So please take care of this man, this good man

This proud man You'll know him as Al Thompson

We know him as "Dad" Written by Allen Thompson's daughter on the night of his death.



determine which division was credited with having casualties for those periods. Without a doubt the "Days in Combat" will have to be revised for all of the Infantry Regiments in the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION because the 39th RCT landed on Utah and was immediately attached to the 4th Infantry Division and entered in combat on 12 June 1944; the 47th RCT was attached to the 3rd Armored Division from 24 October until 10 November when it was then further attached to the 1st Infantry Division until 7 December. 7 March saw the 47th RCT attached to the 9th Armored Division to help hold the newly won bridge against enemy counterattacks.

JACK BLANN called the book "a very interesting story" and full of half truths; CHESTER JORDAN said "it wasn't too bad," and WOODY LOCKWOOD termed it "a must read", and CHARLES W. FISHER was irked enough to send a letter to Mr. Ambrose asking why the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION was hardly mentioned. He received a politely written response that sounds like another CYA form letter stating that "Dr. Ambrose is currently not available" and that "the mistakes have been corrected." They should have included a shovel with that answer so C.W. could spread it on his roses.

I am well aware that Stephen E. Ambrose does not receive the "Octofoil", so I shall send him a copy of this assessment of his book and we will see if I receive a response the same as CHARLES W. FISHER. Those "mistakes have been corrected" people are the same people who would lock the barn after the horse ran away. The damage, the eternal damage has been done and no amount of revising can correct the hurt and the insult that Ambrose caused the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION'S image to suffer for all time.

PROVOST MARSHAL, INCARCERATE THIS STEPHEN AMBROSE AS AN ENEMY OF THE SACRED MEMORIES OF THE DEPARTED NINTHMEN. DESTROY THE KEY

*** GOD BLESS AMERICA *** GOD HELP AMERICA ***
Joe Killen, G-47 INF
224 North Grove Street
Valley Stream, NY 11580

LADIES CORNER

Continued from page 1

Cruise on the Pacific coast nearby. What a trip! Etsie cooked some delicious meals, we ate out in great restaurants, and we talked. We also saw lots of the road work Shock had done there over the past 20+ years, and we met some of their good friends there.

In August, we made our annual Maine trip to see 1/5 of our family there, and relaxed by a Lake Marancook we love so much. Well, I think I have run out of room, so I shall continue in the next column. Joe is doing well, though a little slower than usual, and I am semi-laid up with a torn ligament in my left knee, from a fall in my living room 3 weeks ago. C'est La Vie! You all take care, please keep in touch, and I am still your friend —

Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621
October 19, 1998

60th Inf. F Co.
C Btry, 84th F.A.
KENNETH C. THOMPSON
109 Green Bay Ave.
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

A couple weeks ago, I was visited by an army buddy I hadn't seen in about 40 years. During our conversations I asked him about the Ninth Division Association, and he said he belonged to it and would send me a copy of the Octofoil.

Last week I received 3 of them from him. Lo and behold, there was a copy of the Aug-Sept. Oct. 1997 issue with an article on the Battle of Thala.

I was there, right in the middle of the battle and remembered what happened like it was just yesterday.

I got knocked out of the war just before we reached St. Lo on July 15, 1944. Spent one year in several hospitals and was discharged from service July 5, 1945.

**MINUTES OF THE 188TH MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS
THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

The meeting took place in the Holiday Inn, Worcester, Mass., on October 17, 1998. The meeting was called to order by President of the association Jack Collier at 4:00 P.M. and asked the members to rise and recite with him the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Present at the meeting were Marty Gross, Charles Libreto, Al Perna, Larry McLaughlin, Bill Shea, Richard Baudouy, Tom Hatton, Alternate Board member from Philly - Delaware Len Tomassone, Judge Advocate Dave Heller, Treasurer Tom Boyle. Also in attendance were Herb Olson, Pat D'Colli, Joe Killen, Ron Murphy, Al Ferranti, Ed Gill, Geo Brown, Al Zenka, Adolph Wadalavage, and John Bonkowski. Frank Haines had to cancel out at the last moment.

Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting held in Hampton, Va in May at the reunion. Upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Len Tomassone it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and instructed the Secretary to place copy on file.

Tom Doyle was asked for his treasurers report and Tom reported on the spending and income for the last quarter. Upon a motion made by Bill Shea and seconded by Larry Mc Laughlin it was voted to: Accept the Treasurers report.

Al Perna a co-chairman of the 1998 Reunion held last Spring in Hampton, Va. reported that a profit of \$2040.00 was realized from the reunion with refunds of thirty or more members cancelling out at the last days and refunds being made to those members with slight deductions made for commitments that were made and paid for by the reunion committee. All in all it was a very good reunion as stated by the members of the Board and the committee was to be congratulated for a job well done, especially George and Janet Brown and Al and Felice Perna. Al and George were Co-chairmen for the reunion.

President Collier thanked Perna for his report and for a "Job well done". Upon a motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Dick Beudouy it was voted to accept the report of the 1998 Reunion Committee.

Herb Olson of the NE Chapter reported on the 1999 reunion to be held in Hyannis, Massachusetts on May 23 to the 26th at the Four Points Motel. Reservation forms will be found in the Octofoil. Olsen stated that things were going along well at the reunion site, Herb has met several times with Tom Boyle and Ron Murphy at the Sheraton Four Points site of the 1999 reunion. Motion made by Larry McLaughlin and seconded by Richard Baudouy to grant the Reunion committee the sum of \$2,000.00 for reunion expenses, so carried.

Judge Advocate Dave Heller began a discussion on bringing up-to-date the By-laws what they should read without making any changes. This hasn't been done in a few years so Heller will take care of the matter. President Collier thanked Heller for taking care of the subject.

Marty Gross made a proposal to hold the year 2000 Reunion in the Catskills at the Hotel Kutsher. Marty briefed the members as to what to expect such as three meals a day, the saving on taxes by booking through the association, and they would be able to use our tax free number granted to Non-profit organizations. This motion was seconded by Richard Baudouy. It was voted to: Accept the bid from the NY Chapter for the year 2000 to be held at Hotel Kutsher in May.

John Bonkowski requested the use of the association's tax exempt number for refurbishing Matty Urbans Grave site and upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Tom Hatton it was voted to: grant the use of the association's tax exempt number for use of the group that will work on refurbishing Matt Urbans grave stone.

There being no business to come before this group and upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Len Tomassone it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

Ser. Btry. 84th FA Bn
FREDERICK TALARICO
503 Elm Street
Pittsfield, MA 01202

Enclosed find check for 1999 dues and the memorial fund.

The memorial fund is in memory of Maurice E. Callahan, C Battery, 84th FA Bn. He died on August 20, 1998 after a long illness. He was retired from Crane & Co., as a sales representative for 42 years. This company makes the paper currency.

I also have been hospitalized for 23 days. They found a tumor, size of a golf ball pressing against my spine. I had radiation treatments.

I get around with a cane. I'm coming along slowly.

Regards to you and Marie.

39th Inf H Company
FRANK CANCELINO
P O Box 723
Herkimer, NY 13350

Rosemarie Werkmans book Love, War, Remembrance brought back many memories. Her husband Hank, was my Section Sergeant.

I had been in touch with Bob Hagadorn from Kentucky but he passed away a few years back. I also was in touch with our Company Commander Albert C. Geist from Chicago. We visited back and forth a few times.

If there is anyone out there from AAAO H Company 39th Inf. I would be happy to hear from him.

Seeking

Co K 60th Inf
ED LANGE JR.
4510 Tamaron Drive
Greensboro, NC 27410
Dear Dan:

Hi!! Hope that this letter finds you well and looking forward to a cooling down period this Fall ... guess we all have had our fair share of the hot weather. Hope that your 9th Division's 53rd Reunion was a highly successful one ... and that you had a good attendance. That must be a wonderful feeling to once again have the opportunity to reunite with buddies from a long time ago. Once again, may I state our greatest thanks and appreciation to all of you that sacrificed so much ... we are forever indebted to you all.

Just wanted to update you on my further trips and research regarding trying to obtain any additional information about my cousin, Alfred Lauper. We were fortunate enough to make another trip to Europe this past June-July. Spent some time in Belgium and Germany. We had accommodations in Gemund, Germany and this enabled us to spend a lot of time driving all throughout the "Hurtgen Forest" area ... visited the Roer River Dams, Schmidt, Vossenack, etc. ... specifically the areas of activity for the 60th Infantry Regiment in the October-November-December 1944 time period. We also had the opportunity to pay our respects to my cousin's gravesite at the Henri Chapelle Military Cemetery ... which continues to be beautifully maintained. Additionally, we visited two excellent World War II museums in Luxembourg ... one in Diekirch and another in Clervaux ... well worth the visit ... with many photographs, equipment and historical items. While in Clervaux we met two WW II veterans from the 82nd that had returned to tour the area ... and they were very interesting and informative to talk with.

In my last note to you in March I indicated that I had written to Joseph Rappazini, Oak Park, Michigan ... and I received a very nice reply from him later that month ... and even though he was originally assigned to "K" Company, he was transferred to 3rd Battalion Headquarters Company and did not have the opportunity to have met my cousin ... it was kind of him to respond to my query.

60th Inf. E. Co.
JOSEPH BLACK
175 S. Anza St. #513
El Cajon, CA 92020

My dues must be late. I am enclosing a check for \$25.00 for 3 years dues - every time I get the Octofoil I enjoy so much.

I was in E Co. 60 Inf. I was a replacement and joined the 9th 29th of Dec. '44 - somewhere close to Upen, Belgium.

I was wounded on March 9th '45. I went to a hospital in Rhimes, France and returned later back to my company and finished the war with the ninth.

JOSEPH W. GALL
328 Adams Street
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452
419-734-2052

SEEKING

Dear Sir:

I am seeking information on my cousin Joseph T. Tomor, 60th Infantry Regiment. He was killed in action around Cherbourg on 16 June 1944. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have known or come in contact with him during his time with the 60th Infantry Regiment. Any information will be appreciated.

ERVIN HILL JR.
709 N. Amos
Springfield, IL 62702
217-787-1148

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.

Some time 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.

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.

Co. A - 60th Inf. Reg't.
RICHARD E. COHEN
5612 Harding Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22311
Tel. 703/845-1410
Fax 703/845-0483
E-Mail - RECOH@aol.com

First, my continuing thanks for your dedicated effort in making The Octofoil a joy to receive. Although due to conflicting business commitments I have not been able to attend a reunion in many years, the news items and letters make me feel like I'm still a part of our great organization.

Secondly, from time to time I see letters from members inquiring about the availability of the Division history "Eight Stars To Victory." I have just found an ad in the trade paper ANTIQUE WEEK listing a volume for sale. Interested members should contact James H. Rieger, 218 Datura Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235, Tel. 412/242-9323. The ad quotes a price of \$85.00
Best regards.

Can. Co. , 47th Inf.

TOM MCGINLEY
210 Hugel Dr. Apt. 1-A
Pittsburgh, Pa 15209
Dear Dan and Marie,

I want to thank you for announcing our 50th wedding anniversary in the Octofoil. We appreciate that very much. We had a great time (May 19th) with all our friends and neighbors and of course all our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were there, coming from as far away as Seattle, Chicago, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Georgia etc.

Recently I saw a write up in the paper that I thought would interest you, about a soldier from the 9th Division who was from this area. I'll let the article fill you in with the details but it made for a lot of interest around here. Of course I have a copy hung on the bulletin board at the local V.F.W. 166 where I am quartermaster. There are only a few WW II guys left but we are still hanging on. (Thanks to social members) I am in charge of buying all the liquor and beer every week but I can't touch a drop (doctor's orders) having been through 38 weeks of radiation plus a lot of other bad stuff including arthritis but other than that I am feeling OK and expect to make it to Florida this winter and hopefully the next reunion in Cape Cod.

I get a letter every week or so from my old buddy from L. Co., Bill Muldoon (Bethpage). I have been trying to get him to go to Florida for the winter, but he is staying out on Long Island.

39th Inf. I Co.
JACK RADABAUGH
1808 Camelot Ln.
Findlay, OH 45840

Enclosed find check for \$25 to cover my dues for 3 more years.

I was with 39th Reg. Co. I. Joined 9th March 1944, came home Apr. 1946. Had 9 months occupation duty after war ended (Trostbery G.)

I enjoy reading the Octofoil, you are doing a good job. Keep it up.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

REPEAT PERFORMANCE A BIG SUCCESS: Members who attended the Florida Chapter Reunion this past September 17, 18, 19 & 20th raved about the good time they had. Many praised the Reunion Committee for their hard work in making the preparations ... like getting a spacious Hospitality Room where there was sufficient space for displays; a bulletin board; two large tables loaded with assorted drinks and plenty of goodies. Audrey De Donato made coffee every morning at 7:00 A.M. She also went out to buy orange juice, doughnuts, cake, bagels, milk, etc. which were provided free to anyone who didn't want to go out for breakfast. During the day and some night time hours, sing-a-longs were held. Some ladies played RUMMIKUBS while the men socialized and made good use of the goodies.

At 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, a convoy was formed and the group went to Landry's Fine Sea Food Restaurant. By 8:00 P.M. the group had returned to the Hospitality Room to continue the socializing.

Friday was a "free day" but most chose to remain at the hotel to meet and talk with the new arrivals. On Friday evening at 6:00 P.M. a party of 34 attended SLEUTH'S MYSTERY DINNER/THEATER SHOW located in Orlando. This was an audience participation show to determine who murdered the old rich man. Barbara Berman offered her solution stating that the nurse fed him Viagra Pills and the poor (rich) old man killed himself as a result of too much sex. All agreed that the food and the show were well worth the price.

At the Saturday night Banquet, either Prime Rib or Turkey Breast was served to over 40. Chairman and Master of Ceremony Chuck Van Der Poel, introduced Ret. Gen. Lewis "Chip" Maness who told how the 2nd Bn of the 47th Infantry captured 8 missiles near the Hartz Mountains in Germany. These missiles were shipped to the United States for study. Gen Maness explained how these missiles played an important part in the development of the NASA Program.

Norris Gray, Chapter Member and a consultant with NASA in Melbourne, read parts of a translation of a young German soldier's diary describing his feelings as the Americans were invading Omaha Beach. (A copy of this letter was sent to the OCTOFOIL Editor to be printed separately in this issue).

Following these brief talks, Chairman Van Der Poel introduced Steve Champagne, the "one man" entertainer who performed for the Florida Chapter Reunion last year. Steve Champagne is a "one-man" human dynamo ... he sings, he pantomimes, he plays the drum Buddy Rich style, he tells jokes, and yes invites the audience to dance while he croons a soft tune. For over one and a half hours, Steve Champagne performed non-stop ... he is a delight to watch. Steve sets up his own special-effect lighting, musical equipment, programs his tapes hours before his performance. He does have one assistant who works the lighting. It amazed everyone to watch their timing and execution of each number one after the other. We salute Steve Champagne for a fine "REPEAT PERFORMANCE" show.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING: Chapter President Richard Baudouy conducted a spirited meeting starting at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday. In addition to the Officer's Reports, the highlights of the meeting were as follows:

1. To hold the 1999 Chapter Reunion in Daytona Beach. Phil Berman will act as Chairman and H.F. Stansell as Co-Chairman.
2. Elections of new Officers were postponed until next year with the same slate of officers to remain in office.
3. Members and their wives to consider Bus Tours or Cruises as an additional "get-to-gether" to our yearly reunions.
4. As a result of the News Releases sent out to different media, two new members were signed up as members to the Florida Chapter.
5. President Baudouy to attend the next Board of Governors Meeting. The Chapter Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

ROSTER UPDATE

Dooley, John E. (new member) 750 11th Ave., Naples, FL 34109
Dupuis, Paul - Change address to: P O Box 238006 Daytona Bch, FL 32123
De Graff, John H. - Moved to 334 Danube Ave Apt 205 Tampa, FL 33606
Friedes, Jack (new member) 7076 Huntington Ln #802 Delray Bch, FL 33446
Michelson, Max - new address - 1033 Newcastle B Boca Raton, FL 34434
Wright, Donald - new address: 200 Ocean Lane Dr. #34 Key Biscayne, FL 33149

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

by Audrey De Donato

Katherine O'Grady: It was extremely shocking to learn from her daughter-in-law Diane O'Grady that Katherine died on January 8, 1998 after a brief illness. Katherine is now reunited with her beloved husband John who passed away July 6, 1996. May their souls rest in peace.

Phyllis Dick: Phyllis sent in a photo of herself with her husband Fred taken two months before his death on May 5, 1998. Phyllis regretted that she was unable to attend our reunion as she spent a 3 week period during our meeting with family in Connecticut. We thank Phyllis for the photos she sent which will be included in the Photo Album.

MICHIGAN NEWS

9th Inf. Div. Ass'n.

RODGER E. ALSGAARD
Sec'y Mich Chpt
2834 Wynes St.
Saginaw, MI 48602-3730

Michigan News: Anathema: Anything greatly detested. New World Dictionary. That word is quite apt when an editor sets a deadline of October 20th and the writer will not have the time to report on an upcoming meeting.

The meeting, of course, is our annual Out State Meeting to be held in Angola, Ind.

There will be business meetings and election of officers for the year 1999. A report of our finances will be given by Elmer Wagner. You see that it will not be all fun and games.

For all readers, especially those of the Michigan Chapter it is time to pay your dues for 1999. Check your membership card and if you are not a life member or paid for 1999 or beyond, get your dues to me before December 31, 1998. Make your check to the Michigan Chapter and send it to me. Dues are \$10.00 one year \$25.00 three years and \$75.00 Life Member.

Final Notice: Our annual Christmas Party/Meeting will be held December 9th at Fischers Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Mi. We meet at noon with lunch served at 1 P.M. The menu is the Family Style Chicken Dinner or your choice. If you elect for the choice please call me before December 5th. For all making reservations you can reach me at 1-(517) 792-7362 after 7:00 P.M.

That is it. Now mark your calendar and I will see you in Frankenmuth.

Ruth Zimmer: Due to the "Grandma Baby Calls" Ruth could not attend our meeting this year. She hopes to make one or two future reunions.

Ann Elichco: Ann's knee surgery did not heal well and as a result, both she and her husband John regrettably could not be with us during the Kissimmee Reunion.

Lila Stansell: Lila wrote stating that her husband H.F. was fixing a flat tire when his back was thrown out of joint. As a result, they will receive a refund as they could not make it to Kissimmee this year. We wish H.F. speedy recovery.

Virginia Driscoll: It was a pleasure to see Virginia and her husband Jimmy at our reunion. Both Virginia and Jim went under surgery and recovered well enough to be with us. We enjoyed your company.

Ruth King: Ruth and her husband traveled for 4 1/2 hours to be with us. They live in Monticello, Florida which is outside of Tallahassee. Ruth wrote a note thanking the reunion committee for their hard work in putting together a wonderful program.

Eva & Henry Santos: On October 6th, Emil & Audrey De Donato went to James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital where they met Eva and Henry. Shortly after arriving at 1:30, Audrey presented Dr. Inez V. Joseph, Associate Chief of Nursing Care with a \$300.00 check. Audrey then presented another \$300.00 check to Richard A. Silver, Director of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital located on Bruce B. Blvd. in Tampa, FL. This money was donated in honor of Henry Santos who is recuperating in the Nursing Care Unit.

Henry is confined to a wheelchair. He is able to maneuver and is able to stand up to take a few steps. Henry goes for therapy daily and is improving. He has full control of his speech. Henry and Eva expressed their sincere thanks to the Women's Auxiliary and the members for this wonderful expression of appreciation for Henry who worked very hard for the success of the Florida Chapter.

Emil & Audrey De Donato
3650 S.W. Mosswood St.
Dunnellon FL 34431-3439

709 Ord.
PAT ZONA
P.O. Box 566
E. Sandwich, MA 02537
Dear Mr. Quinn:

I am writing this letter at the request of Mrs. Herbert Ravlin. She called me from her home in Marion Oaks Florida last night to tell me that her husband Herb w/o 709th Ordnance Co. had passed away yesterday, and specifically requested that I notify you of his passing.

To quote Doris, Herb was very very proud of the Ninth Infantry Division and of the four and one half years he spent serving in it.

Starting in February 1941 as a draftee from Burlington, Vermont he was with the Division until his discharge in June of 1945.

We were friends during that time and have stayed in touch since. My wife and I had planned to visit with him and his wife in October when we go to Florida. Now we will see Doris and try to cheer her up in person. We know it will be a difficult time for all, but that's life.

Please put the enclosed check in Herb's memory in the memorial fund.

47th Inf E Co
MRS. SIDNEY FRIEDMAN
580 Duke Rd.
New Milford, N.J. 07646
Dear Sir:

I found this card in my husband's wallet. Yes, he passed away May 21, 1998.

We did take the trip in 1992, that covered the route the 103 Division covered in WW 2.

"Big doings" in the town Saint - Du France a monument was dedicated with all honors because our soldiers liberated their town. It was a thrilling experience for our 2 bus loads of soldiers and families. Sid was very, very active in the Jewish War Vet. here in New Milford.

Sincerely
Jean L. Friedman

47th Inf F Co
BEN HULL
P.O. Box 424
Omak, WA 98841

Please find enclosed a check for dues for years 1999, 2000, 2001.

My card shows I'm paid through 98. I hope I'm doing this right as this is the first time I've sent dues since joining.

I was a member of F company 47th Regiment and I'm wondering if anyone remembers that shortly before the end of the war our company had five platoons and the platoon Sgt. was a fellow by the name of "Buck" Mobley. He was given command of the 5th and they were in combat for awhile. After the war buck was a high point man and was shipped out then I had the 5th Platoon for a while.

I have been watching and hoping for some mention of this. Does any one remember of another rifle company with 5 platoons in the regiment or division?

I wasn't with the 5th platoon very long and I don't remember any names but one and a real nice fellow (Booker T. Washington) from New York, N.Y.

I really enjoy the paper and I'm always looking for someone that I remember but haven't seen any yet, but it does bring back a lot of memories.

Thanks Dan.

Co. M 39th Int.

ALBERT P. IRENE
250-15 81 Avenue
Glen Oaks, NY 11004

I was a Private in the 39th Infantry Company M, 9th Division who served in North Africa and Europe. I am interested in hearing from anyone who may have served with my Company; 1942-1945.

I enjoy reading the Octofoil, and thought you could help me by printing my letter in the paper.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

H Co. 47th Inf.

W.M. LYNCH
2208 Tulane Dr.
Richardson, Tx 75081
Dear Dan:

The memorial service for Lt. John Hill was held on September 26. He served with H Company as a platoon leader from Normandy to the end of the war. I had the privilege of serving under him during much of that time. We will all miss him.

His family would like a copy of the Octofoil in which John describes his platoon's battle at the Frenzerberg Castle. I do not have a copy of that issue. If you could direct a copy to his son, Dr. Erick Hill, 2147 S. Toledo Ave., Tulsa, OK 74114, I would be grateful. If a copy is not available through your office, perhaps you could make a call through the Octofoil and see if we could accommodate the family through one of the members receiving the paper.

You do a tremendous job in preparing the Octofoil for all of us out here who have a common bond and interest.

Sincerely
W.M. Lynch
email:
WMANDBETTY@AOL.COM

MAIL CALL

RON VAN RYT
Genestet Str. 8
8416 TT - Heerlen
Holland + 31455418171
Dear Mr. Quinn:

This letter is written to you by a 36 year old Dutchman who received your address from Colonel Donald E. Lavender. Colonel Lavender was at the Merode meeting, which I helped to organize.

Because he knows about my interest in the October '44 fightings of the 60th Regt. at the Hurtgen Forest; he told me to ask you if he could publish (part of) my letter in your Veterans Newspaper of the 9th ID.

I want to get in contact with veterans from I, II, and III/60th, and from I/47th, who attacked a crossroad at the Hurtgen-Forest, which is called "Raffelsbrand", in October '44. A few maps are enclosed to show you where this crossroad is.

I've adopted the grave of an American 78th ID-303 Engineer, whose remains were found in 1976 at Raffelsbrand. He lost his life there on December 14th '44. His name was Richard Quick. This is one of the main reasons for my interest in the four month struggle for this crossroads.

I do have contacts with many, many veterans from both sides, who fought the Hurtgen Forest, but only few of them were at the Raffelsbrand crossroads.

Your 60 Regt, and I/47th Regt. veterans could be a big help with my study.

Dear Mr. Quinn - maybe you even could publish the big map of the 9th ID attack in your newspaper, so the veterans will know which area is meant. This map is very detailed and accurate, and it will not be known by most 39th and 60th vets. Of course every information about this particular area is more than welcome, but there are a few things which have my special interest.

(1) Who can remember the bad, soft ground at "Toddenbruch" (Dead Man's Moor), during the attack on "Peterberg" (Peterhill) by II and III 60th on 12, 13, 14 - 10 '44?

(2) Who can remember the 47 wounded Germans who were taken prisoner, inside pillbox "P1" at Peterhill?

(3) Who of the I/60th veterans can remember the Water-tower at Raffelsbrand, and pillbox 5/6?

(4) Who can remember anything about the big mortars from the 87th chemical 4,2" Mortar Battalion, who were supporting you?

I really hope there are some veterans among the 9th ID, who want to help me with my study for "my" crossroad.

Some additional information about me - Since I met Col. Lavender, we are writing many letters to each other, and I feel proud I may call myself his friend. Few weeks ago, I was a translator for a group of 39th 9th ID vets, who invited their German veteran friends for a battlefield tour. (we were at Raffelsbrand!!)

Co. L 47th Inf.
RICHARD L. STOLTZ (Dick)
5908 Algoma St.
Dayton, Ohio 45415-2407
Phone 937-275-0697

My name is Betty Jo Stoltz. I'm Dick's wife. Since my husband has joined the Octofoil, we have met a lot of new friends, that were in L. Co. with Dick. They are William Muldoon, Tony DeRobertis, Sergeant Laverne Riddell, Henry Geary who was hit at St. Lo and a prisoner for 2 months, Clarence Ray, Ira Moser. Clarence Ray, Ira Moser and Dick and the wives had a mini reunion Sept. 18-19-20 at Charleston W. Va. We live not too far from one another. The 3 of them have a lot in common, because they were in the same convoy going across the ocean to England and went in at Utah beach as a replacement, fought through Cherbourg up to St. Lo where all were wounded. They went back to England, then back to their unit where they all got wounded again, somewhere in Germany, which gave them 2 purple hearts.

I took notes hearing them talk. It was interesting listening to them. If anyone who reads this and from L. Co. please call and let us hear from you. We regret that the others were not with us at the mini reunion, but we did visit John Hill, another buddy of Dick's, who was close to him when he was hit with a bullet in the neck. We visited Sergeant Riddell 3 years ago and had a very nice visit, so you see, they are still good war buddies.

I just want to thank the Octofoil for bringing them all together again, it means so much for Dick knowing he is not forgotten. If it were not for the Octofoil they would not have found each other. I also want to thank, from my heart, every G.I. who fought in WW II for keeping us free. I know you went through hell. We are planning to be in Hyannis, Mass. in May 1999. Hope to see you all there.

I love you all

Betty Jo Stoltz

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

I'm a member of the U.S. 78th ID, the VBOB, the 116 Panzer Division, and last Xmas, we started our own "Ardennes Veteran Association" which already has 70 members. I'm also the Dutch contact person for the U.S. 87th Chem. 42 Mortar Bn, who were attached with the 9th ID for months! This Mortar Bn fought over 3 months in the Hurtgen Forest, but is not mentioned in any Hurtgen Forest books. I have their complete battalion and company histories - it's amazing stuff for the 9th ID! Are you interested? Very, very best wishes, your Dutch Octofoil friend.

Co. K 60th Inf.
JOSEPH L. RAPPAZINI
24001 Sherman
Oak Park, MI 48237

From a spot over-looking the Gulf of Mexico (the Mediterranean) wartime scenes are envisioned!

The Ninth

Looking out, I gaze upon the sea!

And, Oh! How memories come back to me!

'Tis not the force of the waves nor extent of the seas depth,

Rather 'tis the images of those who sailed across its breadth;

Who, in due time, the foe will have met.

Most aboard were strangers to one another,

Having joined the service, the foe to smother.

'Twas unknown at the time what would be encountered, yet,

'Twas readily known an enemy was to be conquered.

'Twas forgotten for the moment as the vast ocean was surveyed —

How could such a vast expanse of water ever have been made!

In every direction that searching eyes scanned,

Nary a one revealed a sign of green land!

On and on the vessel sailed across the ocean, and

Where the ship would dock, no one had the slightest notion.

Minds were astir; hearts were a-flutter.

Off' times voices could be heard to utter,

"Where do you suppose we're going to be,

When finished is the voyage across the sea?"

Voices were heard in numerous number,

"France"! "England"! "Italy"! voices thundered!

Those countries would become sites of conflict, but the initial battles that gained historical fame were fought in North Africa — the Sedianane Mountains which bordered the Sahara Desert — where the Nazis made their stand.

Tanks battled one another; war in the sky was constant; the infantrymen trod the Saharan Desert sand. 'Twas there the Nazi's made a stand.

However, Allied planes from the sky, armored tanks on the ground, armed G.I.'s added rifle sounds, that flushed the enemy, made then run — the fall of the enemy had begun!

R. TRACY GROOVER
1569 Groover Rd.
Hinesville, GA. 31313

Enclosed you will find my check which should bring me up to date with my dues.

I'm finishing up my 6th year as a County Commissioner and it has been a busy 6 years for me. Hinesville is the home of the 3rd Inf. Div. I hope to see you at the convention. I just received my confirmation. It will be my first.

I have a change of address because of 911 services that I will enclose.

**Remember the dates
May 23-26, 1999
Hyannis, Mass.**

15 Eng Co B
CH⁻ HOFFMAN
91-43 81 St.
Woodhaven, NY 11421
Dear Danny,

Just finished reading Charlie Fisher's story that he sent to Stephen Ambrose about the book "Citizen Soldiers."

Charlie did a great job telling Stephen Ambrose about our 9th Inf. Div. and I'm another Charlie who also wrote to him a few years ago. Please put in "Octofoil."

Here is my story.

Dear Mr. Ambrose,

Just finished reading your book "Band of Brothers" and found it good reading but two things annoyed me. The book tells about Co. E 506th Reg. 101st Airborne Div. and it seems like they alone won World War II. Also no credit is given to any infantry div. so I'm going to inform you of some of the things the 9th Inf. accomplished.

We fought in North Africa and Sicily under Gen. Patton who was in command of the 2nd Corps. He told us in Sicily the 9th did a great job fighting alongside of the British 8th Army.

Since your book starts with the invasion of Normandy we will jump ahead to that campaign.

On D Day our 39th Inf. Reg. was given the job to knock out some big guns in Quineville a coastal town north of Utah Beach. The 3rd Bn of the 39th after a tough fight did the job.

Our 47th Inf. Reg. cut the peninsula and were the first troops to reach the other coast along with our 60th Inf.

The 9th Inf. Div. was the first troops to enter Cherbourg. We then fought up to "Cape De La Hague"

At this point in time the 9th Div. had 390 men killed and 1851 wounded. The time was July 1st.

We were on line at the St. Lo breakthru and even though we took over 600 casualties from our own Air Force the 9th Div. went ahead on time with the attack.

Ernie Pyle wrote about our 9th Div. stating the 9th did something in the Normandy Campaign that very few divisions did and that was to be tenaciously on the Krauts neck. When the Krauts would withdraw the 9th was right on top of them.

The 9th Div. was the first troops to reach the Siegfried line and took the first German town which was Roetgen right at the Belgian border.

We fought from Sept. 13 to Oct. 26th in the "Huertgen Forest" taking 3836 casualties.

The 9th Div. was instrumental to help stop the breakthru by the Germans in the "Battle of The Bulge." By stopping the Germans from getting to Antwerp, they finally retreated back to Germany.

Our 47th Inf. Reg. was the first regiment to cross the "Ludendorf Bridge" at "Remagen."

Our division met the Russians near Dessau on the Elbe River.

When was the last time you wrote a letter to our Mail Call Column? Just a postal card would denote your interest and let some buddy know where you are. You like to read what other members send in ... why not do your own part and write a few lines now and then for their enjoyment.

THE OCTOFOIL
412 Gregory Ave. Westhampton, N.Y. 07087
Publication No. 46223

Ser. Co. 60th Inf. 9th Inf. Div.

ALLEN W. THOMPSON
224 E. 4th Ave.

Garnett, Kans. 66032-1504

I am sorry to inform you that the above named, died July 29, 1998 following a long illness.

Allen was always so proud to be a member of the 9th Inf. Div. He wore his caps everywhere so we felt it no more than right that he should have one of his caps with the 9th Inf. Div. insignia on it, in his hands. He was buried with full military honors.

His good friend Earl Oswald of Port Richey, Florida had called and talked to him just a few weeks before his death.

May God be with each of the men of the 9th Inf. Div.

Sincerely Della Thompson
(Allen's widow)

**Remember the Reunion dates
May 23-26, 1999
Hyannis, Mass.**

One of the reasons the 9th Inf. Div. didn't get the credit they deserved was that many times the 9th was attached to another Div. and they got the credit. One of our Regiments or Battalions was sent to help another Div. who got the credit. They didn't call the 9th Div. "The Old Reliables" for nothing.

I hope this letter has helped in informing you that Divisions of Infantry like the 9th and 1st along with other good Divs. fought as good as Airborne Divs. in World War II.

Our 9th Div. had 5 congressional medals of honor and 450 days of combat. Here is a list of casualties.

Killed in action 4581
Wounded 16961
Missing 750
Total 22,292

In closing I want to say you are a good author but in the future do better checking on facts before you begin writing.

Yours truly
Charlie Hoffmann
Co. B 15th Combat Engrs.
9th Inf. Div.

P.S. Stephen Ambrose wrote to me apologizing if I thought he didn't give Infantry Divs. the credit they were due. He said the 9th and 1st were good.