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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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11-1-1998

## The Octofoil, November/December 1998

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087 : NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXXIII Number 5

Nov-Dec 1998

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Dear Members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association:

You may have heard that Peter Radichio from the Florida Chapter visited Matt Urban's grave-site at Arlington National Cemetery about a year ago. What he found was a simple G.I. headstone among many large monuments. He went away thinking that Matty deserved better than that and something should be done.

He expressed his feeling in the Nov.-Dec. 1997 Octofoil. After reading about his concern, I sent him a note that I'd be more than willing to work with him on this noble deed. Many letters and phone calls followed and the ground work has been established to have Matty honored with a monument that he really deserves.

The idea of replacing the grave marker was approved by Mrs. Jennie Urban. Information and Specifications from the Arlington National Cemetery have been received. Your Board of Governors and Association Officers have been gracious in our request to use the tax exempt number. "The Matt Urban Monument Fund" special account has been arranged at The Regions Bank in Inverness, Florida where Peter Radichio does his banking.

The process of selecting a most fitting monument for Lt. Col. Matt Urban has begun. Mrs. Jennie Urban's and our first choice was to have a duplicate of a very impressive monument that was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1996, in a park named after Matty in his home town of Holland, Michigan. We have contacted the monument company in Minnesota hoping to eliminate the middle-man. With the prints and molds already there and the benefit of the tax exemption we were hoping for a reasonable saving. It was a pleasant surprise when they replied with a quote of \$7,985 compared to the middle-man's statement of \$16,308. (Both include delivery to Arlington Cemetery.) One-third down payment is required at the time of placing the order and it takes about 90 days to produce the monument.

In the event that our first choice doesn't work out, we'll be looking elsewhere but time is very important here. As you can see, contributions are a decisive factor in this worthy effort. It is our hope to have the monument in place for an August 25th Dedication. That would have been Matty's 80th birthday. Everyone would be welcomed at the dedication.

So if you find it in your heart and would like to help make this dream a reality we'd be grateful for your contribution. Donations can be made to: "The Matt Urban Monument Fund" and sent to Peter or to me. They will be deposited at The Regions Bank and your generosity will be acknowledged. Contributions will also come from The Family and various organizations that Peter and I are involved with. We have faith that this mission will be accomplished.

Sincerely,  
John Bonkowski  
Matt Urban Monument Committee  
Peter Radichio  
P.O. Box 1541  
Hamosassa Spgs. FL 34447  
John Bonkowski  
19241 Angela Crt.  
Roseville, MI 48066

P.S. Besides our donations, Peter and I have made a pledge that every cent will go towards the monument regardless of our expenses.

### Reminder from the Awards Committee

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

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

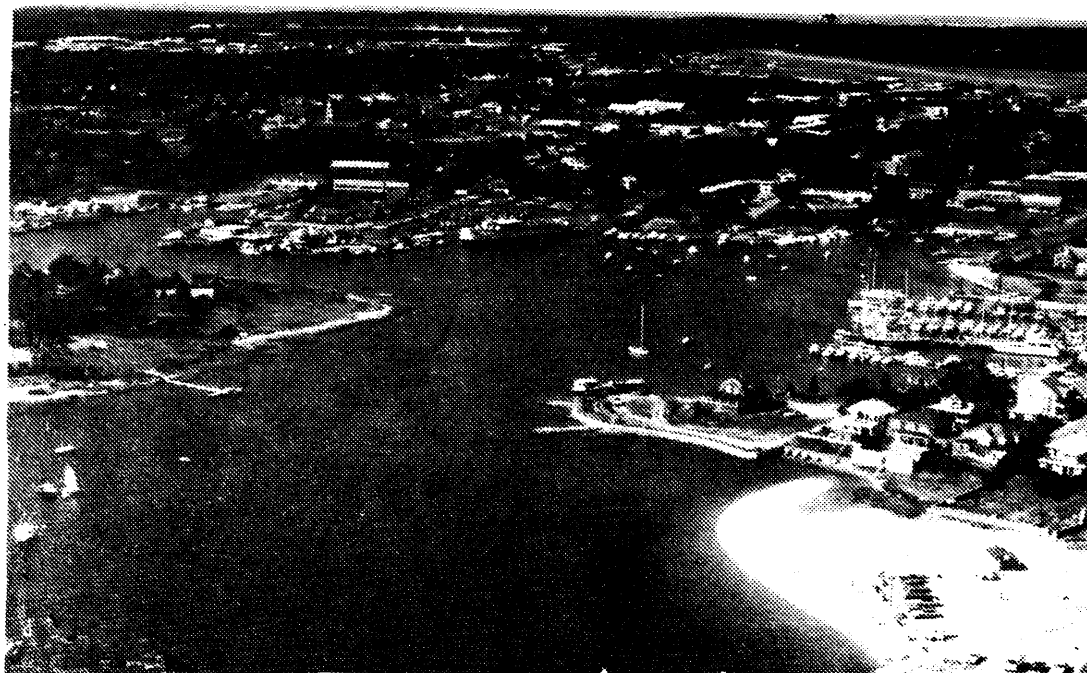
This would be one way to PERPETUATE our Ninth Infantry Division of World War two for years to come. Just give our name and address to the Chief of Volunteers and he/she can send the needed list to any of the following or better yet to each of the three committee members.

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

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

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

Larry McLaughlin, Chairman



Aerial view of Hyannis Inner Harbor Site for the 1999 Reunion.

### To The Ninth

Again and again, I gaze and stare as waves advance up onto the shore, and

What I perceive are landing crafts with G.I.'s by the score!

There are no smiles, all eyes are focused on the shore - and

In mind, visualized, are enemy - more and more!

Yet, all is quiet! What circumstances do exist?

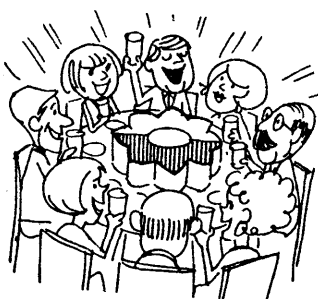
Never, Never! Did one expect 't would be like this!  
No exploding shells?  
Not a rifle shot heard?  
Not an enemy in sight!  
This is something unheard!

All the beating hearts of tense G.I.'s;  
All the gaping, fear-filled eyes -  
Of a sudden blinked and closed  
Heads turned upward to the sky -  
Hearts were becalmed; eyes opened;  
A prayer of thanks was the ensuing motion.  
Dear Dan,

For everlasting memories for which we all are thankful.  
Joe

P.S. Joe is working on a booklet containing all his war poems. Hopefully it will be finished by the next reunion.

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



### Seacoast Town

Hyannis is a lovely seacoast town. Within walking distance of the hotel, you will find all types of shops and stores. As you walk along, one of the pretty sights is to watch the artists with their easels and brushes painting portraits of people.

All types of restaurants are nearby - whether one wishes a hamburger, hot dog or wants to feast on lobster or steak.

### Waters of Nantucket Sound

There is so much one can do. Those who like to fish can go deep sea fishing on the protected waters of Nantucket Sound. The vessels are Coast Guard inspected and are equipped with modern navigational aids and fish locating sonar. A very exhilarating experience is to take a cruise on the calm sparkling waters of Lewis Bay and Hyannis Harbor. There are many points of interest along the way, such as Hyannis Yacht, the Kennedy Compound, a seaside view of Hyannisport, Dunbar's Point, Squaw Island, Egg Island and Point Gammons Lighthouse.

## Reunion dates May 23 - 26 1999 Hyannis, Mass.

### Martha's Vineyard

One might want to explore the two delightful islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Nantucket is an island of colonial charm with its cobbled streets, long white beaches and rolling inland moors. Martha's Vineyard known as the Storybook Island is a shoppers paradise, a blend of past and present. Beautiful beaches and dunes, lovely old homes, the gingerbread cottages, and the colored cliffs of Gay Head rising 130 feet above the sea makes your visit an unforgettable experience.

These are just a few of the many things that can be done during your stay in Hyannis.

The committee is still working hard on the format of our reunion. When completed all the details will be published in the Octofoil.

So remember the dates,  
May 23, 24, 25, 1999.

RONALD V. MURPHY  
44 Strawberry Ln  
Scituate Ma 02066

NINTH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION  
FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REUNION  
MAY 23, 24, 25, 1999  
SHERATON FOUR POINTS HOTEL  
HYANNIS, MA  
1999 REUNION PROGRAM  
CAPE COD, MA

### SUNDAY, MAY 23:

11:00 am 8:00 pm REGISTRATION  
\* 11:30 am GOLFERS REGISTRATION AREA  
4:00 pm FR CONNOR'S MASS  
5:00 pm BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
8:00 pm 11:30 PM RECEPTION/DANCE

### MONDAY, MAY 24:

9:00 am ALL DAY REGISTRATION  
10:00 am GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
4:00 pm BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
7:30 pm 11:30 pm MUSIC & DANCING

### TUESDAY, MAY 25:

9:00 am ALL DAY REGISTRATION  
10:00 am MEMORIAL SERVICES  
12:30 pm LADIES' LUNCHEON  
6:00 pm 7:00 pm COCKTAIL HOUR  
7:00 pm 11:30 pm 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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Philadelphia, PA 18148

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Thomas Boyle, Treasurer  
39 Hall Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary  
412 Gregory Avenue  
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Board of Governors

1999  
Al Perna  
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Charles LiBretto  
Paramus, NJ  
Thomas Hutton  
Saginaw, MI  
William Shea  
Scarboro, ME

2000  
Richard Boudouy  
Altamonte Springs, FL  
Jack Collier  
St. Louis, MO  
Larry McLaughlin  
Wakefield, MA  
Richard Starr  
Philadelphia, PA  
John Miller  
Arlington, TX

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Wauwatosa, WI  
Charles Vanderpoel  
Jacksonville, Fla.  
Elmer Wagner  
Bay City, MI  
Frank Haines  
Trenton, NJ  
Ernest Botella  
San Antonio, TX

Published five times yearly. May, June, July - Aug., Sept., Oct.,  
Nov., Dec., - Jan., Feb., - Mar, April by and for the members of the  
Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, pho-  
tographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every  
effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condi-  
tion.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry  
Division Association read: "This Association is formed by the officers  
and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the mem-  
ory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the  
Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusi-  
vely by means of educational activities and to serve as an information  
bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division.

Copy must be received on or before the 15th of each month to  
guarantee publication of the 20th.

Second-Class Postage paid at Union N.J. 07087, and additional  
offices.

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

Volume XLXXIII Number 5

Nov-Dec 1998

Publication #402820  
NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

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

Street Address.....

I was a member of:

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

I wish to sign up for the following:

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

Sustaining Member.....

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund.....

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

Life Membership.....\$75.00

Ladies Auxilliary Member.....\$300

Decals.....50-each

Philly-Delaware Valley

Illinois

New England

Florida

Texas & South West

Greater New York

Washington, D.C.

Michigan

New Jersey

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.

William Archibald  
60th Inf. E. Co.

John H. Allen Jr.  
60th Inf. F. Co.

Herbert Hoepfner  
47th Inf. F. Co.

John Bazil, Jr.

John A. Hill  
47th Inf. H. Co.

James Hayes  
60th Inf. Co. D. & Hqs.

Salvatore Trapani  
Co. D. 39th Inf. (Med)

William Scudella  
60th Cannon Co.

John Bauman  
39th Inf. B. Co.

Edward McGrath  
15th Engrs. C. Co.

Al Bravin  
3rd Bn. 47th Inf.

J.P. Nehr  
Co. F. 60th Inf.

Wivia Wax  
Widow of Harry Wax  
Hq. Co. 39th Inf.

A. Trent Palmer  
Co. I. 39th Inf.

39th Inf.  
CONSTANCE TRAPANI  
4733 Wyaconda Road  
Rockville, MD 20852

With sadness I wanted to  
inform you and the Ninth  
Infantry Division Association  
that my husband, Salvatore  
Trapani, passed away on  
July 13, 1998 from acute  
leukemia. Sal was a Medic in  
the 39th Infantry from the  
Invasion of Normandy until  
the end of World War II.

Sal had been a member of  
the Association over 50  
years and was very active  
when there was a  
Washington DC chapter. He  
really enjoyed those years,  
especially the reunions and  
the memorial services in  
Worcester, Mass. He made  
many life-long friends  
through your association  
and always looked forward  
to receiving The Octofoil.

Enclosed please find a  
check for your Memorial  
Fund in Sal's memory.

Med. 47th Inf.  
KATHY McCaffrey  
daughter of  
ED McCaffrey

On behalf of the McCaffrey  
family, I would like to thank  
you and the members of the  
Ninth Infantry Division  
Association for your kind  
expression of sympathy on  
the death of my father,  
Edward McCaffrey.

I would also like to thank  
you for continuing to send  
us the Octofoil. Although  
Dad is gone, we will enjoy  
hearing about the people  
and places that were part of  
Dad's life. Thank you again.

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.

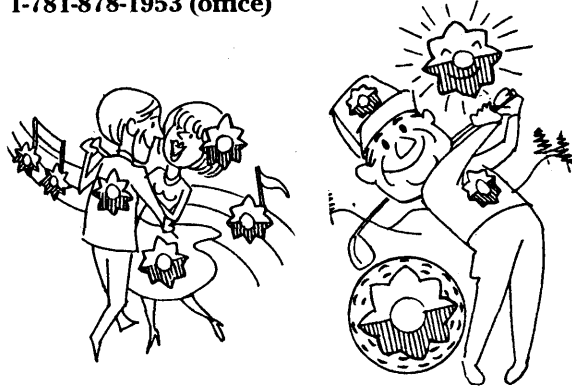
Please complete and send with your deposit to our Reservations  
Department or Fax to (508) 778-6039. This form must be  
received prior to APRIL 23, 1999.

\*All golfer's planning to play on Sunday shall notify  
HERB OLSEN prior to the reunion.

Mail: P.O. Box 845, Marstons Mills, MA 02648

Tel: 1-508-420-3320 (home)

1-781-878-1953 (office)



STRIP TICKETS

Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible, as  
will help the Reunion Committee to decide on looking  
into additional ways to make your stay enjoyable. The  
strip ticket will include a reception on Sunday evening  
with live music. On Monday evening we will have music  
again. Tuesday evening we will have a cocktail hour and  
banquet. The price of the strip ticket will be \$70.00. Make  
your check out to the 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION  
and mail it with the form below to THOMAS BOYLE, 39  
HALL AVENUE, SOMERVILLE, MA 02144. Tel: 1-617-625-  
8127.

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

Ronald M.A. Hirst  
60th Inf.  
Mathildenstrasse 4  
D - 65189 WIESBADEN  
Tel. (0611) 561856  
USA 01149-611-56 18 56  
Christmas 1998

To the Hirst friends  
around the world:

We two expatriates will return to the United States for the Holidays! Our son, Ronald Paul, has presented us for our golden wedding anniversary business class tickets as the incentive to get us to return. It would be difficult to refuse such a gift; it would be sacrilegious to refuse such a flight. We're preparing.

Almost another year has passed. The majority of you know our life experiences over that span. In brief, for those who do not - again it was a full agenda. A few medical disruptions but none of major significance - you'll not be a teenager for ever (thank God).

Our garden, Inge's bridge and Scotty's history research naturally filled most of the days. Travel has been reduced to almost nil. Other than Scotty's annual trek to Normandy (June) we did make a trip together to Switzerland. Would seem our 'adventures' during Scotty's thirty-eight years of Government service filled our craving for travel.

Perhaps Scotty moreso - remembering he was an inspector general whose realm for five years covered all between Great Britain and Pakistan and between Iceland and North Africa. Some 103 menus, 5,000 postcards and countless photographs later he did not travel again (other than Normandy) for eight years following his 1982 retirement. In the interim Inge made a flight or two to the US of A

#### President's Message

Dear Dan:

I wish that I would have a good excuse for being so late with this letter but I do not. Oct. 13th Nadine and I attended the Mini-Reunion in Angola, In. hosted every other year by the Ill. and Mich. Chapters. In attendance were Old Reliabilities from Wis., In., Ohio, Pa. Mo. and of course Mich. and Ill. This is a true 9th Div. Reunion as many units of the 9th are represented. We have a great hospitality room and every one has a good time. We were there also on the 14th leaving the 15th heading for Worcester, Mass.

We stayed overnight in Victor, NY. arriving in Worcester the 16th. This was my first Memorial in Worcester and it was great. Thank you friends of Father Connors for having this each year. Dan and Marie our little visit at Dennys was most enjoyable. I also would like to thank our Board Members for attending. You fellows are Old Reliabilities. Banquet night at Hampton, Va. I paid tribute to the different units of the 9th Div., but I left one out, the 15th Engrs. Clem Przybicki Co B from St. Joseph, Mo. and I were in the hospital in Devizes, England together, in beds next to each other. I was in St. Joseph one time and had a short visit with Clem.

I know by now that Christmas has gone by, however I do hope that all had a merry one and also a HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Jack A. Collier  
Co C 47th Regt.  
9th Inf. Div.  
126 St. John Ave.  
St. Louis, Mo 63119

#### 9TH DIVISION LICENSE PLATES

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

but, the golden days are with us now and we wish to take advantage of them. Our garden offers great enjoyment to our friends. What we lack in close friendship is filled with a voluminous correspondence (as the letter's opening confirms). We are not even bored when the weather is as nasty as this past October - the wettest in a century. But are not most happenings these days.

Next year is the last BIG hurrah for Scotty - 50 anniversary end of the Soviet blockade of West Berlin. 12 May 1999. Scotty will finally meet the families of the 32 Americans who lost their lives in that operation. He's known them over twenty years in correspondence. End of the line. Then all of his collections will join his Stalingrad collection at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. RESEARCH IS DONE. Still a bit to be written.

Today is a normal day. Scotty walked the mile to the American hotel (American Arms) picked up The Stars and Stripes newspaper. Then he walked into town - where he shops, does his reproduction, chats with many and buses home on ole number 7. Inge was baking (this time Christmas cookies). Both brunch. Then Scotty did a bit of yard work - still a bit of tidying-up to do. All must be in order when our house-sitters (and friends) come the day we depart. Scotty will write a bit, like this letter, and Inge will do her thing in HER kitchen. That is it. See you all next year.

#### TRIBUTE

I was saddened to learn in the Aug-Sep issue of the Octofoil, of Vincent Guglielmino's (Big Guggi's) passing. When I reported to Company F 47th Inf on June 29, 1941, as a brand new 2nd Lt of Inf., I was assigned as the Platoon leader of 2nd Platoon. The very first man I met in my Platoon in the Army was Vincent Guglielmino. He was always an outspoken soldier who used to joke and he told me that he always gave me a hard time. I answered by saying "Guggie" you just said that had to be said. Then when I was transferred to "G" Company as the CO of that Company Guggie was also transferred to the same company as well. Once again I was honored to have him in my unit. I will never forget the emotional state that "Big Guggie" and all of us that knew him when he found his brother Felix or little "Guggie" dead on the battlefield in Normandy. His reaction was understandable and all of us officers and men alike were deeply touched by this incident and I felt that it gave us added determination to make it as hard on the Germans as possible.

Vincent Guglielmino was a courageous soldier, a fine patriot, a loving family man, a long and lasting friend, and as Walter O'Keeffe said "he will never be forgotten." Not only will he not be forgotten he will be sorely missed by all members of this Great 9th Inf Div Association but especially this old Soldier.

Sincerely  
"Chip Maness"  
BG USA (ret)  
Lewis Maness  
2116 Durban Ct  
Viera, FL 33955

#### Co. F. 60th

Mr. John W. Miller  
1511 Cochise Dr.  
Arlington TX 76012-4321

Dear Friends,

This has been a busy year for the Millers. Spring came early so we were busy with spring-cleanup, sacking leaves and planting our garden in February and March.

Our trip to the East Coast in April started with my final cancer checkup in Houston, all okay. Our next stop was Atlanta, Ga., Durham N.C., and to Outpost #3, US Constabulary Reunion at Fayetteville, N.C. It was a pleasure to meet Walter Cunningham of 2nd Bn. 2nd A/C. The next stop, 9th Inf Div. Reunion at Hampton, Va. was a good reunion but our ranks are thinning. Only four attended from Co F 60th. On our return trip we saw friends in Woodstock, Va. and spent two days in Hershey, Pa. with Jean's sister Alberta. In late May Keith and I headed for Outpost #7 US Constabulary at Oklahoma City. We visited the demolished site of the Federal Building that was destroyed and the 45th Inf. Division Museum.

During the summer I was working with Bruce Murphy Travel assisting him in planning the 9th Infantry Tour of the Battle Areas in France and Germany where the 9th fought in WWII. We signed up for the French Tour of 11 days departing September 11 returning September 26. Having spent my last overseas tour 63-66 in Paris, it was refreshing to return to Paris, the city of light, and review all the beautiful city. The first two days were spent sight-seeing and the remainder of the trip travelling to Rouen, Honfleurs, and the beach area where the Allied Forces landed in France June 6, 1944. The visit to the Normandy Cemetery was very depressing. So many of the 9th Infantry Division are buried there. The Superintendent of the Cemetery provided us lists of those interred there and on reviewing the list I found the name of T/Sgt. Bernie Underwood, one of Co. F 60th Infantry Platoon Sgts. He was one of the Cadre that gave us recruits basic training after we arrived at Fort Bragg January 1941. We left the tour at St. Malo, after a reception by the Mayor to thank us for helping to liberate his country, France. Our next visit was with French friends who have a summer home on an island off the coast of Brittany called Belle Isle. Our three-day visit was very delightful. We departed Belle Isle on the 21st and spent the next four days in Paris shopping, that is Jean was shopping.

Shortly after we returned home we had a sewage problem and came to find out the Telephone Company ruptured our sewer line when replacing the underground cable. It's taken six weeks to resolve that problem.

On November 9th the Texas Chapter, 9th Div. met at Salado, Tx. for a two-day reunion. All the old faithful attended. On the 16th of December as Chairman I will host the Mini-reunion of the 106th Div. in Arlington, Tx. The Division took the brunt of the German attack on December 16th, the Battle of the Bulge 1944.

Our joy is being near our grandchildren who love to come to Na Na's and Pa Pa's house. We take in the movies together, cook, play cards, and now try to keep up with Wade. He's all boy and so alert. We're all looking forward to Christmas together.

Our love goes out to all our friends who lost their loved ones these last few weeks. May the Lord watch over you all.

Jean and John

P.S. We're on the Internet so E-mail us. Our number is: lechef@flash.net

#### B Co. 39th

AL BACCILE  
815 W. Broad St.  
Horseheads, NY 14845

I write this article in a mood that is both philosophical and nostalgic. Nostalgia that is most reverent and joyful. I sit and wonder about life, and the circumstantial behavior that affects most people. (Especially we of the 9th). A life of twists and turns that is often beyond comprehension.

The brashness of youth and the inherent capacity to conquer whatever obstacles he may face.

Such was the case when a large part of our members became part of the 9th Inf. Division in 1941. Fort Bragg became the training ground that would weld us together for life. Throughout our many years of association bonds were formed that prevail to this day.

Though our membership continues to shrink we have become inseparable in many ways.

Our gratitude must be directed to those whom have held our organization together these many years and may God grant them the health to continue doing so.

On other matters: I fully agree with Joe Killen and with his assessment of the book "Citizen Soldiers" written by author Stephen Ambrose. I too read the book and it became very perplexing why the 9th received so little recognition while fighting so many battles.

The fact remains, we were emasculated by either ignorance or intent. And to do so lessens the achievements of the thousands who fought and tried to preserve this great nation.

A more precise account of what happened in Normandy is the book "Overheard," a chronology of the Normandy campaign which was written by Max Hastings, a British correspondent - no less. He gives a full account of what actually occurred. Frequent mention of the 9th is noted. He pulled no punches on the events and battles of the American, British and Canadian forces. He also detailed the deaths of Lt. Col. Tinsley 1st Bn 39th and Col. Paddy Flint our lovable 39th Rgt. Cmdr. Authors should be aware that diligent research is a requirement to avoid a later embarrassment from those whose on the scene knowledge and credibility is beyond reproach.

Incidentally, my buddy Joe Gravino and I really enjoyed our safari to the Friar Tuck Inn! The food was very good and the staff most accommodating.

Benny Morrel still looks like he could go ten rounds. I cherish my memories of all that happened while serving in the 9th - especially those of B Co 39th.

I don't intend to make this sound like a "Swan Song". But, hey you never know. God Bless the 9th.



### Greater NY Area Chapter

As usual, the NY Chapter met at Masonic Hall, 73 W 23rd St. NYC at 7:30 PM, October 16, for its monthly meeting. (The October report is culled from 1st VP Joe Killen's notes who attended the meeting since this scribe was ill at the time.)

Prez Emil Langer opened the meeting with the membership pledge of allegiance to the flag and resident chaplain George Apar's invocation. A moment of silence was observed for our 4,581 buddies who died in WWII and those who have gone to their rest since. In particular, recently deceased member Vincent Guglielmino was remembered.

Business at hand included the reading of minutes by Secretary Art Schmidt of the Friar Tuck mini reunion, and the treasurer's report by Al Zenka. Langer read correspondence from Al Baccile, and a thank-you from Fred Golub's wife for the get well cards to Fred. Frank Fol's sister informed us that Frank had died two years ago and included a contribution to the memorial fund in Frank's name, as well as money for the Christmas 50-50 Raffle Fund Raiser. Willie Muldoon enclosed "Guggy's" obituary from Newsday. Widows of James Hayes and Frank Cancelino also sent letters. Notes were received as well from George Grossman, John Saquella, Leo Feinstein and Tom Rumore.

Discussion of the upcoming reunions was next on the agenda. Marty Gross stated that he would make a proposal to the National Board of Governors meeting the next day at Worcester Mass., for the NY Chapter's hosting of the 55th Annual Reunion at The Kutscher Hotel and Country Club in the NY Catskills in year 2000. Marty's negotiations with the hotel were detailed and fully approved by the NY chapter's attending members.

Meeting was adjourned and all present continued battling the breeze while gulping down refreshments. Those attending not mentioned above were: Mike Gatto, Al Lipton, Al Lubrano, Joe Rzesniowicki, Hermino Suarez and Adolph Wadalavage.

### November 20 Meeting

At the November 20 meeting in Masonic Hall, NYC, chaired by Prez Emil Langer, opening ceremonies were followed by the secretary's minutes and treasurer's report. Correspondence was received from Al Baccile, and Francine Spoltore (Guggy's daughter) acknowledging the NY chapter's expression of sympathy on his passing.

The chapter expressed its well-wishes to our very active member Al Lipton who was recuperating from a second knee replacement. Hope to see you back soon Al.

The main order for business this evening was the nominations of NY chapter officers for 1999. By acclamation the assembled approved moving up the current chair to the next officer's position and nomination for the next 2nd VP. Those thus nominated: President - Joe Killen, 1st VP - Anton Dietrich, 2nd VP - Gene Magidson, Secretary - incumbent Arthur R. Schmidt, and Treasurer - incumbent Al Zenka. Board of Governors: (all incumbents) 39th - Hermino Suarez, 47th - Dan Quinn, 60th - Charlie LiBretto, Divarty - Al Lipton, Special Services - Adolph Wadalavage and Sgt of Arms - Al Lubrano. Elections will be held at our next meeting in December.

After some other business and the secretary's report on the forthcoming Christmas 50-50 Raffle Fund Raiser meeting was adjourned and we partook of the repast provided by our hospitality crew. As we later departed for home all wished each other a happy Thanksgiving. Members attending, not mentioned above: George Apar, Tony DeRobertis, Mike Gatto, Ed Harris, Joe Killen, Bill Klaus, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, Gene Magidson, Art Schmidt, Dan Quinn, Joe Rzesniowicki, Adolph Wadalavage and Al Zenka.

### December 18 Meeting

On December 18 the NY chapter gathered at the Masonic Hall for a short meeting so that we could get an early start on our annual Christmas party. After the opening ceremony, we dispensed with reading of minutes and treasurer's report. The first order of business was the election of officers for 1999. The membership unanimously elected the slate of nominees referred to earlier. We thanked the outgoing officers for a job well done and wished 1999 officers good luck. We then held the 50-50 Christmas Raffle drawing. The lucky winners were: \$150 - Aldor Cook, \$75 - Jerry Fasano, \$50 - John Sequella, \$25 - Joe Rzesniowicki, \$15 - Harry Polche, \$5 winners - Al Lipton, Joe Killen, Harold Schramm, (2) Dan Quinn, George Bastido, Sal Santucci, Vincent Ianucci, Art Schmidt and Sabastian Andriello. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all who participated.

At 8:15 PM meeting was adjourned and we headed next door to the "Limerick House" for our holiday dinner. The fare offered a choice of roast beef, turkey or fish, with soup, salad, dessert and drinks. Our group of seventeen were seated away from the din of revelers at the bar. From all accounts the 9th group had a good time. During the party Prez Emil Langer was presented an Octofoil plaque in honor of his service to the chapter. Around 10:00 PM our party ended and we headed home after wishing each other a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Those attending were George Apar, Tony DeRobertis, Anton Dietrich, Mike Gatto, Marty Gross, Ed Harris, Joe Killen, Emil Langer, Marv Levy, Charlie Libretto, Al Lubrano, Dan Quinn, Joe Rzesniowicki, Arthur Schmidt, Gene Magidson, Adolph Wadalavage and Al Zenka.

### ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

We'll start off with some sad news. On November 14th one of our Illinois Members, John Bauman, 39th Inf. B. Co., passed away. John has been failing for the past year or so and finally went to his reward. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Delores, and family in their loss. John will be missed at our Illinois functions.

We were also informed of the death of William J. Scudella, 60th Cannon Co. His daughter told us that he had been planning to attend the past couple of National Reunions but came down with an illness that prevented him from coming. Our deepest sympathy to his family.

Our members sure are dwindling. We held our Holiday Party at the home of Bob and Jo Pauli. It was a beautiful day weatherwise and no trouble travelling but illnesses of various natures kept many away. Gordon Anderson came down with a terrible cold but did manage to drop in to bring the food they had prepared and to bring the main gift for our game. Howard and Grace Gaertner had planned on coming from Wisconsin but Grace became ill. Vera Carpenter had reservations made at a local hotel but on orders from her doctor, had to cancel and stay home. We were happy to see the Grays. Lew has just completed a four week session of treatments and will get a full report on the 21st of December as to the success or if further treatments are required. His wife, Muriel had hip surgery and is recovering but very slowly. They were going to bring Wanda Preston but she had another commitment. The Hellers arrived late but they were excused after they appeared with two boxes of Krispy Creme doughnuts from a newly opened chain in the Illinois area. We understand they are very popular in the South. The Paulis served an excellent lunch. After stuffing ourselves, we played our game enjoying the many white elephant gifts. We then had dessert and sat and chatted. This was the smallest group we have ever had and one of the longest parties enjoyed by all.

We hope everyone had a happy holiday season. Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Soon we will be able to concentrate on the '99 Reunion in Hyannis and start looking for good airline accommodations.

Mike Belmonte  
1161 South Lombard  
Oak Park, IL 60304

### SEEKING

31 Scotchtown Place  
Middletown, NY 10941  
Re: Sgt. Samuel Piccirilli  
Also known as "Tex"

I am hoping that you will be able to help me locate information on my father who I believe fought in Operation Torch and was taken prisoner. I recall him saying that he belonged to the Ninth Division. In fact he gave me a hard bound book covering the history of the 9th Division, 47th Infantry through early 1941. It was dated as a gift to my mother on 1/29/41. His picture appears with F Company.

If you require any additional information please write or I can be reached at 914-692-6762. Thank you again.

**M Co 47 Inf**  
LEO E FATLAN  
380 S. Center Street  
Braidwood, IL 60408  
Dear Dan:

Enclosed find a check for dues for 3 more years and also a little extra to the Memorial Fund in memory of Ken Creighton who passed on last Dec. 14, 1997.

Ken was in M Co 47th Reg. and lived in Portland Michigan. He was one of my best buddies and we got together over many years after getting out. I was to the funeral and his wife, Ruth was in the hospital for a couple of months and really had a rough time of it. I spoke to her the other day and she's doing pretty good now.

I was not able to make the last reunion in Hampton, VA. Hope to make the next one.

Hi to everyone, see you next year.

Sure missed seeing everyone this year!!

The NY Chapter wishes all 9th men and their families happy holidays and good health for the New Year!

NY Chapter Reminder: If you haven't paid your dues for 1999 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.

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

### New York Mini-Reunion

#### Continued from last issue

The following happy "revelers" are looking forward to returning to Friar Tuck next year: Assunta and Albert Lubrano, Kathryn and Joseph Donovan, Victoria and Aldor Cook, Janet and George Brown, Felice and Albert Perna, Ellen Robinson, Virginia and Sabatino Agostinelli, Elizabeth and Frank Kowalik, Esther and Charles LiBretto, Rose and Tony DeRobertis, Ann and George Gunther, Mary and Joseph Coppolino, Anne and Olido Starro, Emma and Joseph Killen, Adolph Wadalavage, Benjamin Murell, Lillian and John Giordano, Joseph Gravino, Albert Baccile, Edith and Frank Graziani, Edna May and John Creash, Mary and Thomas Demarinis, Gloria and Oswald LaTorre and Gen and Al Zenka.

All Ninth men are welcome. 82-36 234th Street  
Bellerose Mnr, NY 11427-2118

### APPRECIATIVE

#### 47th Inf. Co. H.

MR. & MRS. ROBERT C. WEBSTER  
P.O. Box 188  
Hempstead, NH 03841

Bob received the 9th Division check for the N.H. Veterans Home on Friday, July 17th. He immediately called Beth Berg, the Recreation therapist about going up to present it. An appointment was made for Monday, July 20th in the afternoon.

When we arrived the recreation room was full of patients just finishing bingo games and refreshments to follow.

The presentation of the check and Bob's remarks were happily received. The group was very happy. They already had a couple of those particular tables and needed more.

Sorry this thank you to you and your part in getting the check to N.H. has been delayed.

Bob has not been feeling well - aftermath of a flu condition and sudden high blood sugar which was new for Bob. Hope he'll soon be on the way to his very active, happy self.

At Tilton Veterans Home, they recorded Bob's remarks. Beth took Bob's picture. If we ever hear from it, we'll send it along.

We were sorry to have to miss the reunion in Virginia. We hope to be able to see you as usual at the Memorial Service in Worcester.

### 60th Inf D Co.

LILLIAN HAYES  
496 F. Heritage Village  
Southbury, CT 06488

Today I received a copy of the "Octofoil" which I always looked forward to. When my husband could no longer read or even comprehend I read it to him anyway because being a member of the Ninth Division was a very important part of his life. That is why I am writing you this letter.

My husband "James D. Hayes" 60th Infantry Hdq Co, D passed away on September 9th 1998. Your kind expression of sympathy was deeply appreciated.

In his life time he never missed reading this column. I am sure this was an oversight but I thought I should bring this to your attention so that it would not happen to anyone else.

I was very sorry to hear of Vincent Guglielmino's death. Jim was very fond of him. Jim was also buried in Calverton National Cemetery on Long Island, he always told me he'd haunt me if I did not bury him there.

Please accept the enclosed check in his memory.



The staff of the Octofoil wish to thank all those who sent the beautiful Christmas Cards and best wishes for the New Year. We would like to wish all the members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. To our Jewish members and families we wish a Happy Hanukkah.

M COMPANY (47TH) CHRONICLER

Continued from last issue

Toffey was WIA and evacuated at Maknassy in the spring of '43. He returned to duty at Magenta in July. Gen. Eddy, probably with only some vague comprehension of tensions in the 60th, and a more pressing concern for the 39th's leadership, decided to assign Toffey there as Col. William L. Ritter's second-in-command (executive officer). It was a step up for Toffey who was happy. He even persuaded his old friend, Maj. Richard F. Kent (now a colonel retired in Montgomery, AL) to leave his comfortable slot in the division G3 shop and take over as the 39th's S3.

For the Sicilian landing, the 39th was detached from the 9th. It made a D-plus-3 landing at Gela and was then attached to the 82nd Abn. Div. for its end run around the island's western shore. Col. Ritter broke his leg in a fall from his jeep. Toffey assumed command and distinguished himself in that capacity when the regiment, now attached to the "Big Red One," engaged in the early Troina fighting. Then Col. "Paddy" Flint appeared and Toffey had to step down. He was unquestionably disappointed.

After the Sicilian operation, the Allied offensive moved on to Italy. With many casualties taken in its Salerno landing, the 3rd Inf. Div. called for more replacements than the regular system could supply. Toffey requested and obtained a transfer to the 3rd and a month or so later he met George Biddle, the artist.

Toffey either did not choose to discuss his earlier service with the 9th with Biddle or, if they did discuss it, the artist did not choose to include it in his memoir. I would love to have had the opportunity to question either man further on the subject, especially Toffey on Eddy's reaction to his request to transfer to the 3rd Div. However, Toffey was KIA later in Italy, still leading his 2/15th. Biddle died in 1973.

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

I was writing in the last issue about the 60th's Col. de Rohan and his command problems, particularly with the 3rd Battalion's Lt. Col. John J. Toffey, Jr. We continue:

Toffey was WIA and evacuated at Maknassy in the spring of '43. He returned to duty at Magenta in July. Gen. Eddy, probably with only some vague comprehension of tensions in the 60th, and a more pressing concern for the 29th's leadership, decided to assign Toffey there as Col. William L. Ritter's second-on-command (executive officer). It was a step up for Toffey who was happy. He even persuaded his old friend, Maj. Richard F. Kent (now a colonel retired in Montgomery, AL) to leave his comfortable slot in the division G3 shop and take over as the 39th's S3.

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Before leaving this saga, I should mention that Toffey proved to be an outstanding combat leader in the 3rd. I had a notice put in their Association newsletter for information on his service with them and heard back from many fellows all attesting their deep regret over his death somewhere south of Rome. Among my letters was one from Bill Buemi, once of F/47 and, after the post-Sicily draft for 3rd Div. replacements, F/15th. Today in Lyndwood, OH, he operates a wineshop & deli and keeps up with two associations. A good man to know, huh?

There was sad news in the last Octofoil of Ken Creighton's death. He was my driver most of the time we were in England and I amused this Michigander by dubbing him "Tex." Don't ask me why; maybe I thought he walked or talked funny, like Big John Wayne. Anyway, Ken was a fine soldier and I'll miss not seeing him at Hyannis for the Reunion.

On a lighter note, I'm happy to report that The Making of a Professional: Manton S. Eddy, USA has found a home. Greenwood Publishing Group of Westport CT will be putting it out. Unhappily, they cater mostly to libraries and deep-pocket research outfits, which means the volume price in the \$50-60 range will be too steep for most citizens. The solution to this problem will be to get your local library to order it. Then let me know that library's

DONALD E. LAVENDER  
2913 49th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
E Mail:  
Donlav@Juno.com

I read with some interest, the lengthy diatribe against Stephen Ambrose and his book "Citizen Soldiers" berating the man because he did not say enough about the 9th Infantry Division.

All of us who fought with the 9th know what a great job it did and those like Ernie Pyle, who were on the spot, gave the division the credit it is due. The 9th's leading role in WW II has not been forgotten by those who know or were there.

I too have been disappointed when it appears that the exploits of the 9th have been overlooked. I was impressed with Charles MacDonald's book "A Time for Trumpets" about the bulge, but disappointed that the 9th only got slight mention. That is not sufficient reason to berate the man or the book. He was there and he wrote as he saw it.

Some time ago, I secured combat footage of the war in Europe and the Bulge. It is well done, but tends to emphasize the exploits of the 84th Division. Obviously, it was assembled by someone close to that division. I would have liked it better if the 9th had been mentioned.

Stephen Ambrose is an established author renowned for his research and accuracy. Any literary work can be dissected to reflect unfavorably on the author. To do so about a work as highly accepted as "Citizen Soldiers" tends to reflect on the critic more than the author.

All of us who fought in the Infantry can be grateful that such works as Stephen Ambrose's book "Citizen Soldiers" and Steven Spielberg's movie "Saving Private Ryan" have received so much attention. They point out what a tough dirty job we had to do, but what's more, it provides some reality to the many who have been born since and would not know about it any other way.

If I observe correctly, there were more than forty combat divisions that fought in our general area. There is no way that every account can include how great a job we did. We should be grateful for any information that extols the combat infantryman and helps the general public to have a better understanding about the horrors of war.

Sincerely,  
Don Lavender

LT COL MARTIN A. PETERS, U.S. ARMY (RET)  
239 Stanford Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78212-2011  
(210) 930-1337  
FAX (210) 930-1603  
Peters4188@aol.com  
**HELP NEEDED**

Dear Sir:

The Retired Officers Association published a notice, at my request, in the April issue of their magazine, asking for information about one of my pre-World War II commanders, the then Captain John G. Van Houten. I have had an amazing response from many sources, including two of his first cousins. I have almost enough information to compile a fairly good biography, but some gaps of his military service remain.

Today I received a letter from Gordon A. Schneider, Arlington, Texas with a parcel of information that he obtained from the Ninth Division history, EIGHT STARS TO VICTORY. This is what he outlined:

"Colonel John G. Van Houten became the 9th's Chief of Staff in August of 1944. Colonel Van Houten assumed command of the 60th Inf. Regt, 9th Inf Div in October 1944. Col. Van Houten was named Assistant Div. Commander of the 9th Inf. Div in June 1945."

Mr. Schneider said that this was all he could provide, but suggested that I contact you, thinking that perhaps you could provide further information.

Perhaps you could provide an account of his service in the above capacities. I would be grateful for anything you could provide, including photographs.

From other sources, I have learned that he was Assistant Division Commander of the 28th Infantry Division, Camp Atterbury, Indiana and Goepingen, Germany Aug 1951 to Nov 1953. The 28th was a Pennsylvania National Guard division, activated and sent to Germany during the Korean conflict. Sometime in 1954, the 28th was redesignated the 9th Infantry Division, but I think by that time Van Houten was promoted to Major General and became the AC of S, G-1 in US Army, Europe, in Heidelberg, Germany. (I joined the 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division in late October 1954 in Heilbronn, Germany and remained with it (as S-4) until the Division rotated to Fort Carson, Colorado in Nov 1956).

Just recently, I received a packet of pictures from one of Van Houten's first cousins, but they are mostly official photos of him as a general. I'm very short on photos of him in the field grades, and none in company grades. I'm sending you a scanned copy of him as a Major General. He died 23 February 1974 while on a trip to Brazil with his wife and was buried in the National Cemetery at Fort Sam Houston, Texas (about 3 miles from where I live). I visited his gravesite recently; his wife, Rebecca, is buried with him.

I would greatly appreciate anything you can provide me concerning his service with the 9th Infantry Division, including narratives, decoration data, etc.

Yours truly,  
Martin A. Peters

HERE'NTHERE

Charlie Warner an old timer from the 39th Infantry attended his first reunion in a long time last summer in Hampton, Virginia. Charlie has not been up to par of late and through the kindness of two lady friends who drove him some 1400 miles he was able to get to the reunion. Charlie lives in Bound Brook, NJ at 597 E. Main Street 08805. He wanted to thank the ladies in the Octofoil. They are Eleanor Dawson and Lenore Lavoie. He also wants to send his regards to the New York Chapter members. He and the late Frank Russo made the one hour trip from Jersey every month to attend the NY meetings. Frank passed away a few years ago.

\*\*\*

Ed "Hoppy" Hopkins of the New Jersey Chapter has been on "sick call" again. He is in a local hospital in Edison. Get well Hoppy. We miss your letters from the NJ Chapter.

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

34th FA Bn  
SHELDON STODDARD  
122 Madison Rd.  
Portsmouth, N.H. 03801

Enclosed dues for three more years. It's been a long time since I last wrote. I have had a problem with cancer for the past three years. Now I'm living with the effects of chemo. At present I'm free from cancer. I can no longer go to Worcester for the reunion. Best wishes to all 9th Div. friends.

39th Inf. Hq Co.  
GEORGE B. ROSE  
801 College St.  
Clinton, NC 28328

I am enclosing a check for dues, etc. I would like to hear from anyone who served in Hq Co. 39th.

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

name and address and I'll make sure they are contacted by Greenwood when the book is done, probably about this time next year. Incidentally, that high price does not mean the author gets a higher cut and, with the expected small volume, my net will be no higher than it was on myself-published battle books. So why didn't I get that route again and get the book out earlier and at a lower price? I guess it was the ego of which you know I've never gone short. A "Last Hurrah" you might say. And who knows, The Making would offer an opportunity for George C. Scott and Karl Malden to suit up and play sojer again. Join me in dreaming of that happy day. Hasta la vista!

**TEXAS & THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER  
NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

The Chapter meeting was held in Salado, Texas, November 9 and 10, 1998. Attending were M/M Jack Bland, M/M Ernest Botella, M/M Richard Granberry, M/M Don Lewis, Ken Meyer, M/M John Miller, Charles Newton, M/M William Scott, M/M Herbert Stern, and Pete Rice.

At the business meeting it was decided the election of Officers would be held at the May, 1999 meeting. A committee of four was appointed by President Ernie Botella to select a site in Houston, Texas for the meeting.

The Ladies Auxiliary at their meeting elected Kathy Stern as President for the coming year.

Robert Burky had to cancel his and Dorothy's attendance at the meeting due to Dorothy's surgery.

As we are wont to do in discussing "our War", four of the ten 9th veterans in attendance had landed in North Africa at Port Lyautey, November 8, 1942. These were Ken Meyer, Division M.P. with 60th; John Miller, Co F 60th; Charles Newton, Anti-Tank 60th; and Herbert Stern, 60th Medics.

While William "Dub" Lynch was unable to attend the Salado meeting due to a previous commitment, he was the guest speaker at the Great Southwest Rotary Club meeting on Memorial Day on November 11, 1998, in Arlington, Texas. This is the second time in recent years that "Dub" had been asked to speak to these Rotarians.

On a personal note, the surgeon who removed two malignant tumors from my bladder has given me a ninety day clean bill of health. So good so far.

Since I sent in the report last week from the TEXAS & GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER, I've received some additional information. Would you please addend to my earlier report the following?

At the Chapter meeting a motion was made and approved to accumulate the money the Chapter normally sends to the Memorial Fund upon a Chapter member's death, and when it reaches \$300.00, select a V.A. Hospital in our region as the recipient.

There are a number of instances of individual contributions made by members of the Association that may go unnoticed. For instance, Robert Burky regularly serves on an honor guard at Veterans' funerals, in addition to serving as President of his V.F.W. Chapter. John and Jean Miller baked twelve dozen cookies for their P.O.W. Chapter's presentation to the Dallas, Texas V.A. Hospital.

Recognizing the difficulty for Bob Rucker to travel, and his contribution to the Chapter and National over the years, a site near his Woodlands, Texas (outside of Houston) will be sought for our Spring 1999 Chapter meeting.

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



Photo taken at the Tex GSW meeting held in Salado, Tx on Nov. 10, 1998. L-r Brill Scott, Jack Blann, Charlie Newton, Ernie Botella, Ken Meyer, Herb Stern, Dick Granbury and Pete Rice.

**FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

**DON WRIGHT APPOINTED SECRETARY:** During the September 17-20 Chapter Reunion in Kissimmee, FL, Secretary Bill Fleming asked to be relieved of his duties. Pres. Baudouy was successful in recruiting Don Wright to take over the Secretary's job. A smooth transition of passing over the "Minutes Book" the "Roster Files" and other papers was accomplished. We congratulate our new Secretary and also thank Bill Fleming for the good job he did while serving as the Florida Chapter Secretary.

**FL CHAPT. FALL MEETING:** Because of Chairman Phil Berman's illness, all plans to organize the Fall Chapter Reunion have been put on "hold". Phil entered Ormond Hospital on November 10th for a gall bladder operation. Following his surgery, Phil was in guarded condition for three days. It appeared that the anesthesia or some other unknown factor caused the problem. He woke up after the third day looking up at most of family surrounding his bed. As he quoted, "I thought I was in Heaven". Phil was recuperating rapidly for the following few weeks but on November 25th ... the day before Thanksgiving ... Phil was back in the Hospital where he was treated for dizziness and released on November 29th. When he asked the doctors when he could go back to work, he was told soon after the New Year.

Emil J. De Donato  
3650 SW Mosswood St.  
Dunnellon, FL 34431  
Ph: 352/489-4070

**FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

**MICHAEL DERESH DIES:** It was indeed a shock to read the name of Michael Deresh in the Aug/Sept/Oct "TAPS SOUNDED" column.

In a phone conversation with his wife Nina, Michael suffered a massive heart attack while preparing to bowl in a bowling league on July 20, 1998. The 911 Medics responded quickly but were unable to save Mike by the time they got him to Northside Hospital & Heart Institute in Pinellas Park, Florida.

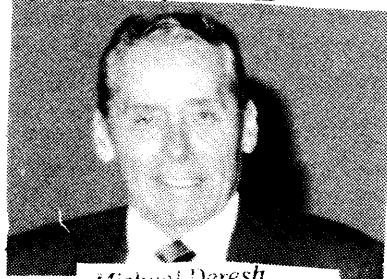
Michael was 83 years old. He served with Cannon Company, 60th Infantry Regiment. After his discharge from the service, Mike became a police officer with the New York Port Authority. Upon his retirement from the police work in 1978, Michael and his wife Nina moved from New Jersey to Florida. Mike was a life member of the DAV; a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart; an active member of the Florida Chapter and a member of the National Organization of the 9th Infantry Division Assn. and a member of the N.Y. Port Authority Police Benevolent Assn. Michael joined a bowling league in his area and would bowl on Monday mornings. It was at the bowling alley before the games started that Michael complained of chest pains which resulted in a massive heart attack causing his death.

Michael is survived by his wife Nina of 57 years, a daughter Nadine Fitzgerald and a son Richard.

Michael was always willing to help in any of his memberships. He handled the Table Reservations in New Orleans at the 50th Annual Reunion, helped during the Hampton, Va 52nd Reunion. He will be sorely missed by all the members of the Florida Chapter.

Nina Deresh may be reached at 9212 40th Way North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782 or phone 813/577-5222.

**TAPS SOUNDED**



Michael Deresh

**FLORIDA CHAPTER MAKES DONATION**

**HENRY SANTOS HONORED:** During the last Florida Chapter Women's Auxiliary Meeting, the members voted to donate \$300.00 to the Nursing Home in honor of Henry Santos who is a patient at that facility. The Men's Membership voted to match the \$300.00 and donate it to the James A. Harley Veterans Hospital in honor of Henry who was a patient at the V.A. Hospital prior to being transferred to the Nursing Care Unit. On October 6, 1998, Audrey De Donato, Sec/Treas of the FL Chapt. Auxiliary, together with her husband Emil, met Eva and Henry Santos in the lobby of the hospital. They visited with the Santos for a few minutes before proceeding to the offices of Mr. Richard Silver, Hospital Director. They were met there by Christine L. Feeser, Chief voluntary service, Dr. Inez V. Joseph, Associate Chief Nursing Service, and the Director of the main hospital, Mr. Richard A. Silver. Audrey then turned over two checks of \$300.00 each to the Nursing Home and to the main Hospital. Audrey drafted and presented a letter stating that this money was being donated by the Florida Chapter in honor of Henry Santos who worked very hard for the success of the Florida Chapter. It was suggested that any item purchased with this money should credit Henry's name and the Florida Chapter.

A photographer was standing by to take pictures. (See photo and caption in this issue).

The representatives of the VA Hospital were very grateful of this expression of caring. Letters to Audrey De Donato were later received acknowledging the donations.

Henry Santos was very jovial. Leading the way in his wheelchair, he took the De Donatos for a tour of the facilities lasting well over two hours. Henry spoke of his daily therapy in which he is able to stand on his own for a few steps. He likes the food but really enjoys the snacks that Eva brings. Eva visits Henry 7 days a week. When she cannot get a ride, she hires a cab. Eva is a great source of comfort to Henry. She is untiring in her efforts.



Pictured standing L to r: Christine L. Feeser, Chief, Voluntary Service; Eva Santos; Dr. Inez V. Joseph, Associate Chief Nursing Service; Richard A. Silver, Hospital Director; Audrey and Emil De Donato. Seated: Henry Santos.

**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:**

George Byron Rose - In memory of Daniel Layman 39th Inf.

Mrs. Hugh Capella - In memory of husband, Hugh

Merwin Andell - In memory of Vincent Guglielmino

Robert Griffith - In memory of Vincent Guglielmino, Steve Blyshik and George McCarthy

Samuel L. Palter

Gordon Schneider - In memory of John A. Hill, 47th Inf. H Co.

Lillian Hayes - In memory of husband, James, 60th Inf. D Co.

George Brown - In memory of Vincent Guglielmino and John Allen, 60th Inf. F Co.

Boardman Lockwood - In memory of Vincent Guglielmino

Constance Trapani - In memory of husband, Salvatore, 39th Inf.

Dolores Bauman - In memory of husband, John, B Co. 39th Inf.

Al Baccile and Joe Gravino - In memory of John Bauman, B.Co. 39th Inf.

Francis M. Bozarth

Jack Eddy

**746 T.D.**

H.J. MORRIS JONES  
1091 Maury River Road  
Lexington, VA 24450  
Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a check for my dues for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000. Also, please change my address as shown above. No, I have not moved. The change is brought about by the installation of a 911 system here.

It happens that I was a lieutenant platoon leader in the 746th tank bn. We were attached to the 9th in mid-July and the attachment lasted until the end of the war. It ended for me on 27 Nov. 44 when I became a POW in the vicinity of Frenzerberg Castle.

I got quite a kick out of a letter I got about a month ago from a German who said we fought each other around Frenzerberg Castle. He invited me to come over to Germany for a visit. He said he was the head of a Veterans organization that included both Germans and Americans.

They had just had a reunion and 28 Americans were present. He never said how he learned about me or got my address, so that remains a mystery. Regards to all.

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



# 60th Inf. F Co.

JOHN W. MILLER  
LTC USA RET  
1511 Cochise Dr.  
Arlington, Tx 76012-4321  
Many members of Co. F 60th and 2nd Bn have wondered what happened to Lt. Nelson. His brother sent me this letter about a year ago. Please publish.

Roland Louie Nelson  
1920-1981

— a man who had more than his share of combat in World War II. Co. F, 60th Inf. 9th Div.

As to Roland's military service, I can only give you what I remember. He was commissioned a Second Lt. at Knox College - June 1942. Sent to Fort Bragg for infantry training - took part in the invasion of North Africa - Oct. 1942. Wounded at Kasserine Pass by a German grenade. Took part in the invasion of Sicily. His unit was 60th Inf. regiment 9th Division\*. I saw him 4 times in England before the invasion. His unit landed on Utah Beach D-Day +4 and fought to Cherbourg, France - Then he was wounded severely near St. Lo - rifle shot near heart. Evacuated to Hereford, England where I met him again - I saw him twice more before he was sent back to Germany. Rejoined his outfit near Battle of Bulge and fought in Hurtgen Forest - he said this was horrible. He was a military mayor of a German town after the war was over. Then discharged as a 1st Lt. I have some of his medals and citations - Purple Heart and Silver Star. His unit fought with 1st and 3rd Army divisions in various battles. He was in combat for 33 months.

His 2nd war wound was a direct contribution to his death (at age 60) due to clogged arteries and complications.

\*Roland was one of four men that survived. This unit had 400 percent replacements.

## SEEKING

Dear Mr. Quinn:

I am attempting to locate former members of the First Battalion, 60th Infantry, who served during World War II. My father, Robert J. Huot, served in this unit. I am researching the unit's experiences from the perspectives of the men who lived through them in an attempt to publish their accounts. Unfortunately, my father died several years ago after keeping most of his memories of those days from those with whom he was closest. Any information you can provide on the current whereabouts of these individuals would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Thomas J. Huot  
21301 Audette St.  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
(313) 274-1623  
E-mail address:  
THEHUOTS@AOL.COM

What's the difference between roast beef and pea soup? Anyone can roast beef.

# 9th Medic

GUY W. WALKER  
9141 Blackhawk Trail  
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356  
phyluy@lucernevalley.net

Even at my age and mileage, I feel like an illegitimate child at a family reunion. Notwithstanding the fact that I was a member of the 9th Inf Div when it was reactivated in Fort Bragg, NC, stayed with it through mid year 1942, was sent out on cadre, and landed in the Middle East (Persian Gulf Command) in Nov. 1942. I have followed faithfully as possible, the History of the 9th Inf Div.

Purely by accident, finding a notice of reunion, have I been able to re-establish contact with what is proving to be remnants of the division from WW II. I search diligently through the Octofoil for names and places that I could connect with, usually without results.

I can remember the maneuvers in So. Carolina, (8th, 9th, 30th Div) when the 9th Div was at that time the Beat in the entire Army, as well as the training in Fort Bragg. Memories include the exercise when one of the Mess Sgts of the 60th Inf Regt tried meat loaf sandwiches or such on the troops and we wound up with three men lost to Food Poison.

I remember the first ever amphibious training of the army troops, mock up ships in the field and the subsequent shipment to Cherry Point for Chesapeake Bay exercises; off loading in rough waters in the Chesapeake Bay and hitting the beach. As usual had not the slightest idea as to what was going on.

Remember the visit from FDR, with every rake mark in the entire division area being straight through the area, and the President going through at about forty miles an hour, surrounded by SS agents. How could he see anything?

Remember the first ever Division Review, massed in all its military splendor, for the parade. Starting in the wee hours of the morning (I was a Bn Color Guard for the 9th Medical Bn) and lasting until late afternoon. To this day, I cannot remember seeing a face of the General who penned our Colors. So much for the training received from our EM cadre, from Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

I still have a copy of the "9th Med Bn, 9th Inf Div. 9141." I break it out fairly often and have pangs of remembrance of the men I once knew. I even got in on the wrap legging and brown shoes from WWI storage, the monkey jackets and riding britches without boots!

Fortunately for me, God had his hand on me during the entire War and I am one that is here to appreciate the sacrifices made by so many. I remember also communicating with one of the four men left in Co C, 9th Med Bn when the Sicilian ended and after that lost all contact until now. I really appreciate the Octofoil and the contact it gives with a past that I do not wish to forget.

# 47th Inf. B Co.

CHUCK MUNGER  
1950 Forked Creek  
Englewood, FL 34223

We sure missed seeing you all in Hampton, Va. Things just didn't work out for us. We plan to be in Cape Cod this spring though - God willing.

Hope all is well with you and all the gang! We are fine - for old folks! Still able to enjoy Florida and all the good things - swimming, fishing, boating, occasional trips. Our best to you.

# 60th Inf. H Co.

RICHARD IRWIN  
2155 E. Hammonds Lake Dr.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

My three years must be up for my dues is enclosed for another three years.

Today is December the 7th and I have yet to hear anything about Pearl Harbor. If the people don't remember that date you can guess how far we vets of the war are doing in people's memories. As I was reading the Octofoil of late date I noticed the letters complaining about the Burnside book. He is supposed to be an historian and he couldn't remember what outfits were in action. For my money his book is a big disappointment.

Took the kids back to the Old Country last summer. Visited the Rhineland and up around the area where we spent so much time and lost so many lives. Time and Nature have a way of changing things. The only things I could remember were the bridge at Remagen and the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. I was one of those who was shipped to Berlin in September following the peace Treaty in April after they decided they didn't need us in Japan after they dropped the bomb.

I had been back for the 50th anniversary 4 years ago so I thought I knew what to expect, but I wanted to tell the kids that it wasn't fun and games.

This year was the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Air Lift. I found there was an amazing amount of goodwill felt toward the Americans.

Hope to make the next convention in Hyannis. We normally visit one of our kids in R.I. at that time of the year. God willing we will make a good effort. Best to all.

# 60th Inf F Co

FRANK DENNIS  
RR 2 Box 387  
Dallas, PA 18612

Enclosed find my check for my 3 year subscription to the Octofoil. I am also enclosing a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of my friend, Adam Drust, Co F 60th Inf.

Would like to let my buddies know I've celebrated my 80th birthday and I'm still in pretty good health.

Since my wife Dolores' passing I'm staying active with yard work and enjoying watching my grandson play high school soccer. I will also soon become a great-grandfather for the first time.

I always have fond memories of the times we spent at the reunions together. Hope to return when there is one closer to home.

# 60th FA Bn Hqs Btry

LEO FEINSTEIN  
80 Via De Casas Forte  
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

I received a New Years card from Gordon Dalrymple. I called another buddy - John Leggeri - who lives just 5 miles away. We are planning to get together after the holidays.

Writing this brings back such memories of 1944-45. It was at this time the Germans broke through at Ardennes and the ninth went south to hem them in. The 9th did so much and received so little credit.

Be well all of you.

# Hq. Co. 1st Bn 47th Inf.

RALPH S. YEAKEL  
2861 Crestwood N.W.  
Warren, Ohio 44485

Enclosed is my dues for another year. My daughter found me a copy of the book "Eight Stars to Victory". It sure brings back memories. I'm half way through it. I'm to the part where our battalion is entering Belgium.

# 47th Inf. K Co

J.T. WEATHERALL, D.D.S.  
1124 14th Street North  
Texas City, Texas 77590

Sorry I let my membership drop. I'll try to do better.

I was in Co K, 3rd Bn, 47th Regt. Col. Inziar was our C.O. I joined at about the Remagen Bridge, and we finally ended up on tanks at Dessau. Then down to Bauaria and Moosburg at Staag 6A. Came home in April '46, went to Dental school (got out in 1951) and back into Army (Dental Corps this time). Went back to Fort Hood (I took basic int. there in '43.) Then to Sandia Basin in Albuquerque and out in 1953. Merry Christmas.

# 39th Inf. G Co.

JAMES LEMMA  
1213 Windemere Ave.  
Royal Oak, Mi. 48073

It's time to send my dues again. Here is my check for another 3 years. Hope I get to see them all. To me you are the best part of the whole operation.

I love the Octofoil and can't wait for the next issue. Sorry to hear you were sick. Hope you are all right now.

Take care of you and Marie.

Bless you and keep up the good work.

# 39th Inf. Co. H

GEORGE TALLEY  
1805 County Rd. 16  
Centre, Al 35960

I'm sending payment for 3 yrs. I'm enjoying the Octofoil. If you know anyone in Co. H. 39th Infantry, I left the ninth in July 1944, was in hospital in England 2 months, then I was on my way back to my Div. 9th. Germans made breakthrough and I was put in the 134th Div. and never got back to the ninth, because I got wounded again. That was Battle of Bulge. They sent me back to England and then home.

If anyone out there was there 39th to write or call me. I would like to hear from anyone that was fighting in Co. H. 39th Inf. Did anyone in this Co. H. make it back?

Hope you all have a Merry Christmas from my wife Sara and me.

# G. Co. 47th Inf.

ROBERT GRIFFITH  
311 W. Lance Dr.  
Des Plaines, IL 60016

Hope this finds you and Marie in good health. I was sorry to read in the Octofoil of Guggie's passing away. If anyone could be called an Old Reliable it was Guggie. Enclosed is something for the Memorial Fund in memory of Vincent Guglielmino, Steve Blyshek, George McCarthy

Wishing you and yours the very best of health in the coming year.

# 60th Inf. F Co.

DONALD E. CRASS  
2295 Strong Road  
Phelps, WI 54554

I guess it's about time I pay for my dues as I see they run out this year. Enclosed find a check for \$25.00 for 3 more years.

In reading the Octofoil Aug., Sept. and Oct. issue I read Joe Killen's article on Stephen Ambrose's book on Citizen Soldier. I agree with him that Ambrose didn't do his homework. A lot of things could have been taken from the 9th Div. book Eight Stars to Victory and the book Follow Thru. History of the 60th Infantry Division. On page 99 and 100 the fight for the Schwammanuel Dam Co. E and F of the 60th attacked abreast. I was in Co. F 60th and the lead man in our squad hit a trip line which put a flare up and we were caught out in the open with no protection whatsoever. Here we really caught hell, a hell I will never forget. We received the presidential citation for this. But the credit went to the 78th Division. Also we were in the Hurtgen from Sept. and were there during the Bulge. Pushing the Germans across the Ruhr river.

# 84th FA B Btry

HENRY DOWNS  
P.O. Box 81  
McConnells, S.C. 29726

Enclosed is a check for 1 year membership and two (2) decals.

Please see if you can get this in your newspaper in the near future. We still have a few guys left that would enjoy it. We would get together often times.

I've sent some of the men of the battery a copy. Tell the members of our Battery to bring their copy to the reunion in 1999 and we will sing it to all present.

# 47th Inf. K Co.

KENNETH KUNZ  
PO Box 24  
New Douglas, IL 62074

I want to thank you for sending me the Octofoil. I enjoy reading it very much. You look for somebody you know, although sometimes there is no one from K Co 47th. I still keep in touch with Joe Killenky and still have pretty good health and still working for which I am thankful. Keep up the good work, you do a great job. Thank you.

# 9th Recon

LAWRENCE KURSHAN  
305 E. 86th St. Apt. 14 Nw  
New York, NY 10028

I was a member of the 9th Recon Troop from 1941 to 1945. Made 3 invasions. I would like to hear from some of the boys that were with me. Many thanks



## MAIL CALL

**Cannon Co. 39 Inf.**  
**GEORGE W. BOOTH**  
 621 S. Olive  
 Jefferson, Iowa 50129

Thought I would write a few lines to you and all the other guys, about our trip that we took in September. It was a really good trip. We landed in Paris and spent the next two days looking around Paris. Then on Monday morning we headed for the Normandy Coast. Went through some towns that I remembered and some of the Country started to look a little familiar. Went to Sword, Juno, Omaha, and Utah beaches. Visited the Museums and looked at the bunkers that remain there, also could see some of the artificial harbor that is still there, also there are some really nice memorials to the U.S. Army, and others.

We went to the Normandy Cemetery and I found Capt. Settlement's Grave and placed a flag there. Was really impressed with the care that is taken of these cemeteries, and the personnel that is taking care of the visitors center. We went through St. Mer Aglise, and saw the Church that caused so many of the Airborne to be killed, there is still a parachute and a dummy hanging on the Church spire.

We then proceeded to St. Malo, the walled city. We were invited to a reception in the Mayors office and made honorary citizens of St. Malo. John Miller presented the Mayor with a Texas Flag. There were some French Veterans at this reception also, and we were all given a French commemorative pin. The next morning we were given a tour of a German bunker on one of the fortresses guarding the harbor area. John and Jean Miller left us in St. Malo, and we missed them on the rest of the tour.

Then we went to St. Michel and visited an Abby, which is built on solid rock. A very beautiful place. The room that we had at the Motel that night had a view of the Abby from our window. At night it is a very beautiful sight.

The next day we traveled on to Tours, Amboise, and on to Orleans. We visited a castle at Amboise. Then we had our farewell dinner at The Cave. What a dinner we had and also wine. We then went to Orleans and spent the night and then the next day went back to Paris. Dick Martin left the tour and returned home, the rest of us caught a train to Cologne, (Koln), it was quite an experience to ride a train, going 185 miles an hour or more!

We stayed in Bruhl for 4 nights and took tours from there. We went to Remagen the first day and saw where the bridge had been, there is a Museum in one of the towers of the old bridge. Then we crossed the Rhine and went to Lientz and then went to the top of the hill there and visited the Memorial there to the German Soldiers.

The next day we took a cruise on the Rhine and saw many castles and visited a winery and sampled their wine.

The next day we went to Merode and met a group of German Veterans, and went to a little German Cemetery and laid a wreath to honor their veterans and one American soldier that is buried there. We also had lunch with them and then they joined us on our bus and we went to see the Siegfried line and to the Hurtgen Forrest. A really long day and it brought back many memories. We were also told that an American plane and the crew were found in the area not too long ago, when they were making a new road. Also in the Hurtgen Forrest there is a monument to 2 German soldiers and 2 American soldiers that were found there, not too long ago. I suppose that this will go on for a long time as there are so many men that are missing and unaccounted for.

The next day we went to Luxembourg and stayed in Luxembourg City. That afternoon we went to the American Cemetery outside the City. General Patton is buried in this cemetery. We also stopped downtown for an hour or so, so we could change some money and shop if we wanted.

The next day we went to the American Cemeteries in Holland and in Belgium. They are also very well kept, we found Clement Bosman's marker in Maagarten Cemetery, and a man that was from our home town, Ivan K. Kinsman was in Henri Chappelle Cemetery. I visited both of these graves. We also went to Bastogne and visited the Memorial that is outside the city there and also the Museum. It is really a nice Memorial, but it is needing some care.

We also visited two other museums on our way back to Luxembourg. Also saw a Monument to General Patton. The Ninth Division should have had a better PR man, as there weren't very many markers or reminders of our Division.

The next day we headed for Heidelberg and visited the castle there and then went down to the Old Town and saw the Octoberfest Celebration. Then we headed for Wiesbaden where we were to spend the night and have our farewell dinner. Outside of getting lost a few times we had a very nice trip. The last night I celebrated my birthday, and even had a cake. John and Jason also celebrated their birthdays in France.

This was a trip that I had wanted to take for so many years and had finally decided that I would never get a chance, but thanks to the prodding from my wife, I was able to go and shall never regret it for a minute.

## SEEKING

Dear Dan:

I enjoyed talking to you today about my uncle who was killed at St-Lo, France.

I am trying to find someone who may have served with him or some history of his unit(s). Hopefully you were able to find the book you mentioned about the history of the 60th. If you did I will make a copy and return it to you.

The following is all the information I have:  
 Name: SSgt. John "Freddie" Baciagalupi  
 Organization: 9th Div., 60th Infantry, Co. I  
 Killed: July 17, 1944  
 Trained: Camp Roberts, Calif. - 1942  
 Served: N. Africa, Anzio?, Sicily and Normandy  
 Born: San Francisco, CA 6-4-20  
 Was all-city basketball and baseball player

I appreciate any information anyone can provide.  
 Thanks.  
 Jack Baciagalupi  
 7034 Lost Lake Ln.  
 Roseville, CA 95747  
 (916) 791-7001  
 e-mail: JackBaci@aol.com

**60th Inf. Co. D**

**JAMES CANADA**

Box 434

Shannon, Ga. 30172

Here is my dues for 1998. Hope this finds you and your better half doing fine as for me myself and wife are doing fine.

Had my throat examined and they found vocal cords had a cancer growing in it. I got through my treatment fine.

I hope everyone on the 9th Div. 60 Inf. Co. D. are doing fine. I know they are like myself they are getting up in years. I was 83 last June. I have been in and out of the Urgent Center four times in the last five months. I haven't got to be at the reunions anytime. Hope some of the guys that I served with will see this and write to me.

Here is wishing your family and all the 9th Div. D Company a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**709th Ordnance Co**

**WILLIAM ESTABROOKS**

167 Old Dover Rd.

Rochester, N.H. 03867

I find I am way behind in dues. My memory is very short, as I will be 92 next birthday, but still hanging in there. Lost my wife in Sept. 97 so I am trying to keep things going alone. Have no children, but have helpful relatives.

I am sending check to keep me up for a few years.

Thank you

**E 39th Inf.**

**HAL SHAKIN**

97 Beacon Hill Dr.

Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Nice of you to respond so quickly to my phone call. I missed the Octofoil for too many years, until I recently found an old back dated copy.

Now at 82, I can start looking for any remaining buddies of Co E Thirty Ninth Infantry. Many thanks for your help.

**9th Medic**

**PETE RADICHIO**

P.O. Box 1541

Homosassa Sp, FL 34447

First I want to thank you giving John Bankowski the fax number. Now I hope we can get on a roll for the Matt Urban Monumental Grave stone. I hope the invitation starts to roll to my address as well as John's.

The present news that I have at the moment Marge and I are in California for the Retirees American Air Lines Christmas party. Since we are here we went to visit George Stein and Kathy. They live in Santa Clarita, California. After 3 hours we finally found the apt. he lived in. They weren't home. I ran into his neighbor and she told me that George was in Veterans Hospital in Wilshire and George's left leg below the knee was amputated. I can't tell you how I felt as I was shocked. He is in good spirit. We visited him for about an hour and a half and he sends his regards to all the guys in Company B and the 47 Regiment Medics and the rest of the 9th Division men.

I would like all the men that I have mentioned to drop George a note of encouragement to let him know we do care. Thank you all and Margie and I wish Dan and Marie a very merry Xmas and all our friends in the 9th Division.  
 P.S. Mr. George Stein  
 19716 Ave. of the Oaks  
 Santa Clarita, CA 91321  
 Tele: 1-805-299-4492

**39th Inf. E Co.**

**KENNETH W. HILL**

3210 Maxwell Dr.

Midland, TX 79705

I note from the address label on my latest Octofoil that my subscription renewal is due. I am enclosing check for 3 years subscription.

I had a fine time at the Hampden reunion. The highlight for me was getting to visit with my WWII Battalion commander, Frank Gunn, B.G. Retired. He and his very charming wife Gen (Jen?) gave us a very interesting tour of old Fort Monroe. Best wishes to you and the Octofoil staff.

**M Co 47th Inf.**

**RICHARD YATES**

384 Spreading Oak Lane

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Enclosed find a check to renew my subscription of the Octofoil.

I would like to thank George Brown for inserting a note in the Octofoil telling of the passing of Daniel Layman.

I met Dan and his wife while on the Friendly Invasion Tour, during the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of D Day. As part of the tour, we represented the 9th Division in presenting Liberation Plaques to the mayors of Chateau Thierry and Leige.

Dan was selected by the group to make the plaque presentation to the Mayor and the Cities Dignitaries of Liege. In making the presentation, Dan gave it with eloquence and dignity. We in attendance were very proud to have been involved. I am saddened by his passing.

**47th Inf., 1**

**F.P. CERICOLA**

2056 Arnold Acres Dr.,

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15205-4106

My grandson and I recently returned from a tour of the 9th Div. WWII combat areas on Sept. 25, 1998, and on this tour I met the wife, two sons, and a grandson of my old buddy from "C" Company, Jim Ciluffo.

We traveled to several cemeteries and after visiting the one at Margaraten, Holland we met with a group of German Veterans who opposed our regiment at the Hvertgen Forrest, in the Ardennes assault, in a restaurant in the town of Merode. We had a wonderful meal with them and we exchanged our experiences during the war and we summed it all up by agreeing that there should never be another war. We exchanged division insignias and became friends.

Although I didn't join the 1st BN. "C" Co. as a rifleman on Feb. 18, 1945 in the Schmidt-Herscheid area near Monschau and the Bulge, on March 2nd Jim and I saw some serious fighting when "C" Co. helped take the towns of Bessenich and Ravenich under heavy small arms fire and a counter attack which we repulsed. On our way back to Company HQ I felt an ache in my left leg. Jim said there's blood coming out from a hole in your leg above your boot top. I entered the Aid station and had a piece of grenade removed and was bandaged. I am still waiting for my Purple Heart, but I guess it was lost in the shuffle.

On the way back to our hotel in Luxembourg, the tour guide and I stopped at a local bar for a beer and upon entering a short burly fellow noticed my 9th Div. Octofoil pin and shouted "9th Div., you helped save my country." He came over to me and clamped a bear hug. That was closure for me after 54 years.

Thank you for your patience and I hope your readers will get a chuckle from my letter.

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

**Deadline for next issue Feb. 20th**

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