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9th Infantry Division Association

3-1-1999

The Octofoil, March/April 1999

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

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

Volume XLXXIV Number 2

Mar-April 1999

A view of Hyannis Inner Harbor



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)

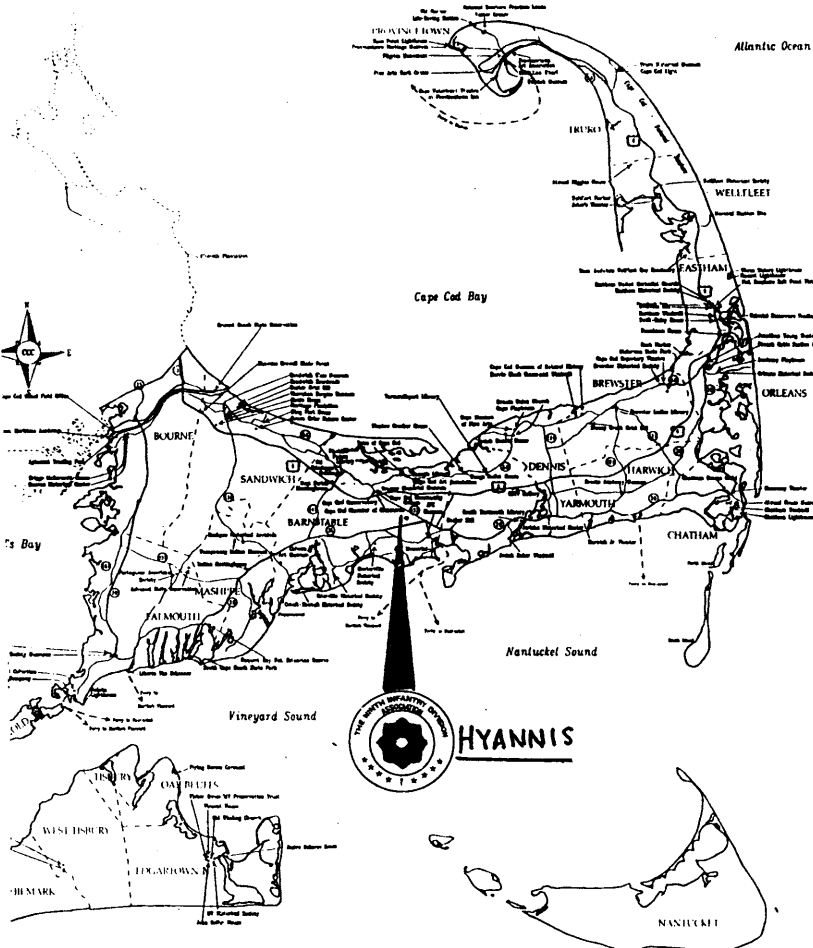
Take Rte 495 South. See directions #1 for rest of trip.

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 minutes).



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:

Leo C. Williamson - In memory of Keene "Slick" Wilson, Sandy Reamor and John Eisenhower

Heien Holmes - In memory of husband Joe Lagattuta and other Co. K. comrades.

William S. Horton

Don Lavender - In memory of Jack Radabaugh I Co. 39th Inf.

Tony San Giacomo - In memory of Ed McGrath, 15th Engrs. B Co.

Paul Lisa - In memory of Isadore Cohen, Milton March and Holt Rast

Donald Hyde - In memory of Ernest Bartroff B Co. 9th Med Bn.

Mrs. Ann Morano - In memory of George Apar B Co. 47th Inf.

Max Michelson

John B. Knight - In memory of Conda Knee, M Co. 47th Inf.

John Van Son

From M Co. 60th Inf - In memory of R.J. MacDonald

From the faculty and Staff at Durham Elementary - In memory of Ernest Bartroff

Boris Raynes - In memory of Trent Palmer I Co. 39th Inf.

Robert Pappas - In memory of General Randle

Earl Mosel - In memory of Robert Dunn and Duane Olson, Hdqs. 47th Inf.

Wanda Preston - In memory of Lew Gray, 60th F.A.

Joseph Kearns

Everett Tapp - In memory of Geri Hatton

Evelyn Dunn - In memory of Martin Roach and husband Robert H.J. Dunn

George Brown - In memory of Geri Hatton, George Apar and Robert Dunn

Glenn Smith - In memory of James A. Johnson, A Co. 47th Inf.

A.T. Forrest - In memory of George Ware and Milton Moran, 15th Engrs. B Co. and Holt Rast 15th Engrs - B & C Co.

Reunion dates May 23 - 26 1999

Hyannis, Mass.

54th Reunion Plans Completed
Don't say, "Maybe next year."

Dear Friends,

In the summer of 1942 all leaves were canceled. The Men of the Ninth started the tedious task of preparing and marking every piece of material and equipment that would be necessary to accompany the men who would wear the Octofoil. Their objective would be to rid the world of the dreaded, evil Hitler and all he represented. Many will recall those days. The rest of you will recall your first day with the Ninth. When you ask yourself how long ago was that? The answer is amazing — over fifty years ago.

In Hyannis at the Four Points Hotel on May 23, 24, and 25th men from all parts of this great nation will gather to renew friendships that were formed long ago.

We ask you to come to the Four Points in May and renew these friendships that mean so much. Many things have happened since we first met, and now the shadows of time grow longer for all of us. Please make an extra effort to be with us in Hyannis.

Those of you who have endured the pain and torment of battle know only too well the agony of conflict. I believe that this country of ours is still the greatest nation in the world because of the men who wore the Octofoil. Let's continue to show people that we are proud of having served our country. History is not only made by people, it is people.

Our Memorial Service shows that we have not forgotten our beloved dead, the 4,581 men, who made the supreme sacrifice. A life given in service to one's country is a living thing that never dies. We will also remember all our comrades who are no longer with us.

The Reunion Committee has a program arranged with all activities taking place in the Four Points Hotel, with the possible exception of one event being held on Monday, May 24th away from the hotel.

Come to Hyannis! I know you will enjoy your stay and we are looking forward to being your host.

Sincerely,
Ron Murphy

Member of Reunion Committee

*Around the corner I have a friend
in this great city that has no end.
Yet days go by, and weeks rush on
and before I know it a year is gone
and I never see my old friend's face
for life is a swift and terrible race.
He knows I like him just as well
as in the days when I rang his bell
And he rang mine. We were younger then
and now we are busy, tired men
Tired with trying to make a name
tired with playing a foolish game.
'Tomorrow,' I say, 'I will call on Jim
just to show that I am thinking of him.'
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes
and the distance between us grows and grows.
Around the corner, yet miles away
'Here's a telegram, sir. Jim died today.'
And that's what we get and deserve in the end
Around the corner, a vanished friend."*
—Charles Hanson Towne

NINTH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

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
1:00 pm	LUNCHEON
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
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
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St. Louis, Mo 63119

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618 Sumac Rd.
Highland Pk., IL 60035

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Board of Governors

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Philadelphia, PA
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Paramus, NJ
Thomas Hatton
Saginaw, MI
William Shea
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Altamonte Springs, FL
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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, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

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

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

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

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

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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 Auxiliary Member.....\$30.00

Decals.....50-each

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

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name.....

Street Address.....

City.....State.....Zip.....

My spouse (Brother or relative)

Served with.....

One year.....\$3.00

Credit Chapter.....

Taps Sounded

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

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

Leonard Kupkowski
47th Inf.

Robert Coffey
47th Inf. 1st Bn. Hdqrs.

William Yarbrough
Div. Gen. Staff

Jack Radabough
Co. I 39th Inf.

Ernest Bartroff
B Co. 9th Med Bn.

Goldie Witzkin
Wife of Ralph Witzkin
47th Inf.

R.J. MacDonald
M Co. 60th Inf.

Ruth Thornton
Wife of Wilfred Thornton,
Co. M 60th Inf.

Dorothy Brady
Wife of Carl Brady, Co. M.
60th Inf.

Lewis Gray Jr.
60th F.A.

Walter Fatt
9th Recon

Truman Crabbe
60th F.A.

Fred Freeman
F Co. 60th Inf.

Philip Berman
F Co. 60th Inf.

Michael Patrick
A Btry 60th F.A.

Don Lewis
Co B 47th Inf.

George Danas
47th Inf A Co.

Elmer Hughes
D Co. 47th Inf.



George A. Danas died January 22, 1998. He was a sergeant with 47th Regiment, A Company October 1944 to end of occupation. Transferred to Medics 47th Reg. during occupation. Survived by his wife Aphrodite, and children Elena and Anthony. Family may be contacted in care of Anthony Danas, PO Box 621, New Hampton, N.Y. 10958.

Anthony Danas
P.O. Box 621
New Hampton, NY 10958
Aphrodite Danas
124 Armand Rd.
Ridgefield, Conn. 06877

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:

- Reservation is cancelled or changed within 72 hours prior to arrival.
- If guest does not arrive on date specified, room is cancelled and reinstatement at group rate is subject to availability.
- 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.

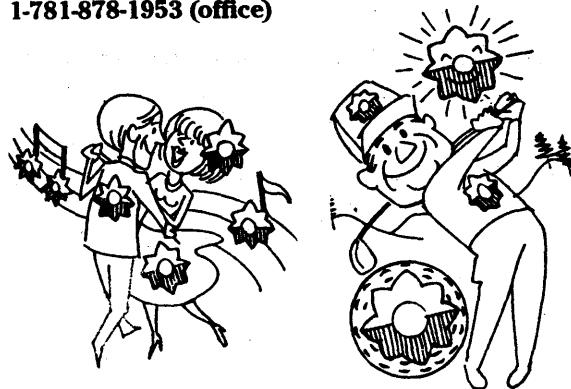
Please complete and send with your deposit to our Reservations Department or Fax to (508) 778-6039.

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 it 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 _____

The Monument Progress Report

Dear members of the Ninth Infantry Div. Association:

Thanks to your generous support the Matt Urban Monument Fund has made great strides since our last report in the Octofoil. Again we express our deep appreciation as we have done in all our acknowledgements.

As mentioned in our original "Open Letter to the Membership", contributions would also come from the family and some organizations that we are involved with. It happened and as a result the fund has gone over the \$7000.00 mark. With your continued support, we will achieve our goal.

Over half of that amount came from the PLAV (Polish Legion of American Veterans). As they extended a helping hand to honor Matty. An earlier response from the two PLAV Posts that were named after him was followed by additional generous donations when a center-fold spread was published in the PLAV National News, Easter edition. The bi-annual 64 page paper featured articles on Matty and our open letter.

We finally received a reply, dated March 23, '99 from the superintendent at Arlington National Cemetery. They requested a notarized letter of approval from Mrs. Jennie Urban after which they'd be happy to expedite our request. The letter was sent and now we're waiting for information about our proposed monument. The monument company in Minnesota sent us a roll of lettering prints for proof reading which included some changes. We can't do anything till we get the final word from Arlington, except to remind them how short the time is getting to meet our August 25, 1999 dedication date. The remainder of this month (April) is critical if we are to meet our schedule.

By convention time we should have some definite information on this monument project. In the meantime we're still hoping for a few more donations to complete that phase of our obligation. We aren't losing any hope that this mission will be accomplished, even if a little late.

Respectfully,
John Bonkowski
The Matt Urban Monemunt Committee
Peter A. Radichio
John Bonkowski

These are the latest donors and they are listed in the order that their donation was received:

New York Chapter: Richard R. Reedy (nephew of Gene Reedy), Barney L. Tobacco, Harry S. & Blondina Sager, Gene O. Reedy - A Bty 84th FA, Bill & Iris Canales - K Co 47th, Gerald C. Cele 60th FA BN, Arthur C. Doering - H Co 60th, James M. Egan- 9th Recon, Pete Rice Jr., Mrs. Jennie Urban (widow of Matt), Robert Pappas - A Co 60th, Henry Shimkoski, Goldie Jiovani, Dan Quinn- 47th Reg, Lyle Kelly - L Co 47th.

Donations from the PLAV: Lt. Col. Matt Urban PLAV Post #198 Niagara Falls, NY; Lt. Col. Matt Urban PLAV Post #164 Warren, Ohio; PLAV Department of Ohio; PLAV Department of Michigan; Edward S. Kaminski (The Military Art Gallery) Mt. Clemens, MI; Walter Omanowski PLAV Post #7 Wyandotte, MI; Akron PLAV Post #32 Akron, Ohio; Edward & Eleanor Apanek, NY; Walter Koziol Antioch, IL; Chester Sawko, Glandale Heights, IL.

Dear Dan

I want to thank the following names for the generous donation given toward the Matt Urban Monument Fund. I would like to hear more of the troops of the 9th Div and also the chapters around the country. We need your help, without you we can't complete the job for Matt. The following names I want them to be recognized by the readers of Octofoil.

Aldore & Vicky Cook, Frank Kawalik, Herbert Taff-39th Inf, Charles & Esther Libretto-60th Inf, John & Kate Slater, Phil & Dorothy Omara-47th Inf, 186 Fleet Reserve of Florida Hernando, Invernes Elks Lodge 2522 Florida, Brannen Banks of Florida, Vito Splendorio 9th Med, Joseph & Dorothy Williams 47th Inf, Mr. & Mrs. Sal Agostinelli, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kusel.

Contribution mailing address:

Peter A. Radichio, P.O. Box 1541, Homosassa Springs, Florida 34447.

47th Inf. M Co.
KATHRYN SCHRIFEN
JOE KEARNS
Apt. 102
2324 41 St.
Wilmington, NC 28403

Dad looks forward to receiving the paper. His mind is a little slow these days but he remembers all his buddies from the war and 9th Infantry. He is unable to make the reunion and wishes he could. Please say hello to all his friends for him. Thank you.

47th Inf. B. Co.
ED SARNOCINSKI
246 Estate Dr.
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

I'm a pussycat compared to you old timers. But I can still see and read. Chalk me up for 3 more years. Sickness has played it rough with my wife. This will be #3 we will miss. Miss the gang! This is about all I do with the better half hurting. T.V. besides K.P. She trained me well!

Texas & The Greater Southwest Chapter The Ninth Infantry Division Association

On March 24, 1999, the Chapter held its meeting at Salado, Texas.

Twelve members were present with Chapter President Ernie Botella presiding.

Sergeant-at-Arms Ken Meyer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain William "Dub" Lynch gave the invocation.

The following officers and staff were elected:

President: Jack Blann — 1st Vice President: John Miller — 2nd Vice President: Herb Stern — Sergeant-at-Arms: Ken Meyer — Secretary/Treasurer: Dick Granbery — Chaplain: William "Dub" Lynch — and Publicity: Gordon Schneider.

The financial report was given and approved. Money was set aside for two memorials.

Jack Blann and Herb Stern were chosen to be alternate Delegates to the Board of Governors at the National Meeting in Hyannisport.

The Ladies Auxillary said it would no longer be necessary to separate their funds from the Chapter funds in the Treasury. The Auxillary members' names will be added when donations are made.

The membership was advised of the death of Don Lewis from Webster, Texas.

Robert Burky has advised us of his plans to move to Dayton, Ohio to be close to Bob & Dottie's daughters. Bob, together with John Miller, was instrumental in starting the Texas and The Greater Southwest Chapter. John & Jean Miller hosted a going away dinner for Bob & Dottie on April 1st. A letter of appreciation and a plaque were presented to Bob and a medallion to Dottie.

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

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Time is drawing near for the Annual Reunion. We are planning to attend this year but representatives will be few from the Illinois Chapter.

It is with heavy hearts that we report the death of our dear friend and Illinois Chapter Member, Lewis Gray, 60th F.A. Bn. Hdq. He and his wife had gone to Florida for their annual vacation. He had been ill for a while but before leaving, the doctor approved of his travel. Shortly after arriving in Ft. Meyers, he became ill and was hospitalized. He passed away on March 16th and was returned home to Fontana, Wisconsin for funeral services. He was buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in River Grove, IL. Our deepest sympathies to his wife, Muriel and his family. He will be missed and is in our thoughts and prayers.

The Andersons traveled to Florida and visited with the Hennemuths and Clausers. They were there at the time of Lew's passing. They had a pleasant trip and back to Midwest living.

We learned that the Clarks will not be attending the reunion this year as Paul is not able to travel.

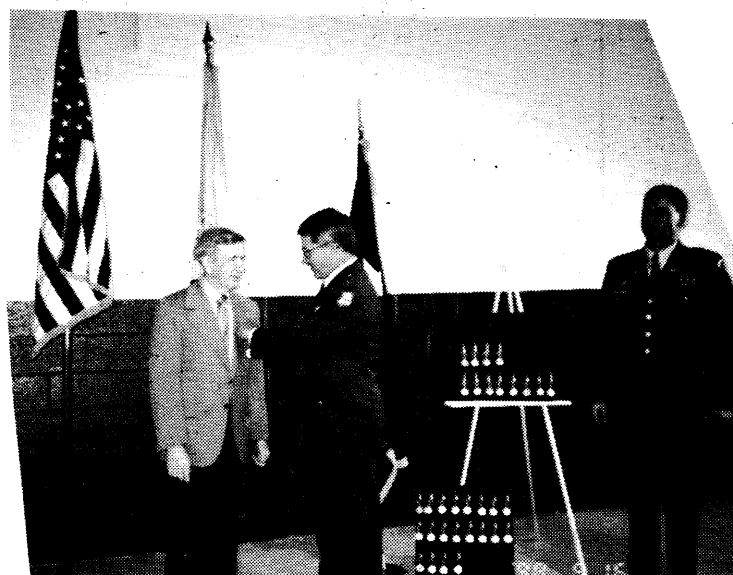
The Gaertners plan to have another cookout this year and will give us a definite date later.

The mini reunion in Angola, Indiana is in October at the Holiday Inn. More details later.

NEWS FROM 60th F.A. Bn. I failed to mention in my last letter that I heard from Jack Cowens once again after a period of some forty odd years. Jack of Hdqs. Btry. and Louis Prince of "A" & "B" Btry, met in Cincinnati and compared notes. I was glad to hear from Jack. He, Bud Remer, Hdqs. Btry., and I played pinocle for fourteen days on board ship coming home in August, 1945.

Stay well everyone and looking forward to seeing everyone in Hyannis in May.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Belmonte
1161 S. Lombard Ave.,
Oak Park, Ill.



Woodrod Gardella of the 60th FA sends this photo of him receiving the New Jersey Distinguished Medal Authorized by the Governor and presented by Major General Paul Glazer the Adjutant General of New Jersey. Anyone interested contact the Veterans Affairs Public Office, 10 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08048.

SEEKING

D.B. FINNIGAN
175 Lower Farnham Road
Aldershop
Hants, GU11 3RA
UK

Dear Sir,

I was given your name by Mr. John J. Slonaker from the U.S. Army Military History Institute at Carlisle PA, as someone who may be able to help me in my search for further information regarding a casualty of the June 1944 fighting in Normandy, France. He was Pfc. Delbert Francis Hower 13007540 47th Infantry Regt. 9th Div. US army and was killed in action on 15th June 1944.

Mr. Slonaker has been most helpful in supplying me with facts about the formation and movements of Pfc. Hower's unit, but this is purely basic. I know that Delbert Hower was quartered in the Hampshire County countryside (Northington village area) U.K. from late 1943 to the run-up for D-Day, and during this time he struck up a close friendship with a family in the local village of East Stratton where he is still fondly remembered and where I have been shown photos of this fine looking young man.

Mr. James A. Schoenecker, Superintendent of the Cambridge American Cemetery in the U.K. has kindly furnished me with the details of Delbert's grave, Plot B, Row 5, grave No. 29 in Normandy U.S. Military Cemetery at Colleville-dumere France, back of Omaha Beach, which I shall be visiting this coming July.

I have an unconfirmed report from this time, that Delbert was killed by a shot to the head by an enemy sniper, and I realize this could be true as these boys were particularly busy around this time. I know that Delbert's home town was Philadelphia and that his mother lived to a ripe old age, only passing on in recent years.

The 47th have a distinguished battle record in WW II N. Africa, Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Italy and finally D-Day on through to Germany. When did Delbert enlist? How old was he? When did he join the 47th? Did he see service in all these campaigns? Are these questions which can only be answered by the military authorities to a close relative I wonder!

I would certainly like to further my knowledge of these times of Delbert and his comrades whilst they were in England and his short time in France.

If you can help answer, any of these, I'm afraid rather jumbled questions, quotes from veterans memories etc. it would be greatly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely
Daniel B. Finnigan

1999 Reunion
Hyannis, MA
May 23, May 26,

Deadline for next issue July 20th

Greater New York Area Chapter

On Friday evening, March 19, 1999, fifteen members of the NY Chapter met at Masonic Hall at 71 W 23rd St., NYC. We were happy to see more attending 9th men, possibly due to spring-like weather and longer daylight. Chapter President Joe Killen opened the meeting with our pledge of allegiance to the flag and he also gave the invocation. A moment of silence was observed for our departed buddies in war and since.

Secretary Art Schmidt read the previous minutes and Treasurer Al Zenka gave the financial report. Killen read correspondence from George R. Van Leuven, 60th FA. The daughter of Leonard Kupkowski, Mari Szwiybka, notified us that Leonard had died on February 4, 1999. Our heartfelt condolences go to the Kupkowski family.

A discussion of the proposed Matt Urban Monument Fund for his gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery followed. The chapter donated \$500 toward the fund which is being proposed throughout the association.

Plans for the 9th NY chapter annual memorial service at the VA National Cemetery on Long Island, May 15, were finalized and this scribe would contact cemetery officials for coordination.

The Hyannis reunion was discussed and committee delegates were chosen: Nomination, Charlie LiBretto; Finance, Marty Gross; Newspaper, Arthur Schmidt and Joe Killen; By Laws, Adolph Wadalavage and Al Zenka, and Miscellaneous, Anton Dietrich. Joe Killen was appointed to the Board of Governors as Charlie LiBretto was going off.

After some other business, meeting was adjourned and the membership headed for the hospitality table for a repast and casual conversation.

Other attending members not mentioned above: Anton Dietrich, Mike Gatto, Marty Gross, Ed Harris, Bill Klaus, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, Al Lipton, Dan Quinn, Joe Rzesniowicki, Herminio Suarez, and Adolph Wadalavage.

April 16 Past Presidents Night

On April 16, the chapter met at its usual command post in Masonic Hall. Prez Joe Killen opened the meeting with the usual ceremony. Thirteen members attended. Minutes and financial report were read by the secretary and treasurer.

Correspondence from Ray Gordon and William Maloney were noted. Peter Radichio acknowledged receipt of the \$500 NY Chapter donation to the Matt Urban Monument Fund.

The special occasion of this evening was the annual honoring of the NY Chapter Past Presidents. Eight of these officers were in attendance: Marty Gross, Emil Langer, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, Arthur R. Schmidt, Herminio Suarez, Adolph Wadalavage and Alphonse Zenka. Current president Joe Killen and the membership applauded these 9th men for their dedication and leadership.

May Memorial Service and Picnic

The NY Chapter Memorial Service plans for the Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, NY, was affirmed by the director of Veteran Affairs. On Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 15, we will meet between 10 AM and 10:30 AM in the cemetery parking lot. We will then march to the main flagpole where an Octofoil floral wreath will be placed. A lectern for our service will be provided. Prez Joe Killen will open the ceremony and members will be given an opportunity to offer their thoughts remembering the 4,581 buddies who died in WWII, and for members who have since left us. Taps will conclude the ceremonies. Following the service we will travel a couple of miles to Bethpage State Park where we will have a picnic. Since there will be no May meeting at our usual command post in NYC we will hold the meeting at the picnic. We hope many 9th men, wives and friends will join us to honor our past buddies and picnic with us. We especially call upon Long Island 9th men, who haven't participated in a while, to share this gratifying day with us: renewing old friendships and perpetuating the honor of the "Old Reliabilities" — your 9th Infantry Division!

In the following week, members will sojourn to Hyannis for the 54th Annual Reunion, May 22 through 26.

Our last NY Chapter meeting before the summer hiatus will be on Friday, June 18.

Those members attending not mentioned earlier: Anton Dietrich, Ed Harris, Al Lubrano and Joe Rzesniowicki.

Attention NY Chapter members: If you haven't paid your 1999 dues now's the time to catch up — \$10 for one year, \$25 for 3 years, and \$75 for lifetime membership. Make checks payable to Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf 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

Limited Edition Hardcover Books Still Available

THE PAWNS OF WAR

by: William Kreye — 39th Inf.
(now deceased)

Engrossing, personal and historical account of WW II with the 9th Inf Div — from Ft. Bragg to Germany. Price: \$10.95 + \$3 S&H. Send check payable to "Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf Association (noting Pawns of War on check) to Secretary Arthur R. Schmidt, 89-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEMBER DIES

Philip Berman, a member of the Board of Governors from 1996 to 1998, died on March 24, 1999 after a brief illness. He was 72 years old.

Phil served the Florida Chapter as President for five years and its Treasurer from 1993 until his death.

He served as a Bazooka Man with Company F, 60th Infantry. He was born in Pittsburgh and moved to Daytona Beach, FL in 1979. Phil was a Principal/Owner of K & H Weather Conditioning Company in Florida before he retired in 1998.

He was a member of Congregation B'Nai Torah, the Jewish War Veterans Post 300, The Moose Lodge and The Jewish Men's Club. Philip Berman was the Chairman of the 50th Annual Reunion that was held in New Orleans in 1995. He worked very hard in organizing and the growth of the Florida Chapter.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 2 step grandchildren.

The above photo shows Philip and Barbara at a 1993 Florida Chapter Officer's Meeting held at the De Donato residence in Rainbow Lakes Estates, Dunnellon, Florida.

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

Veterans will receive

60th Inf.

JOHN W. MILLER
1511 Cochise Dr.
Arlington, TX 76012-4321

Nearly 2 million older veterans who never stopped paying premiums on government-sponsored veterans' life insurance will soon get checks from the government. The Department of Veterans Affairs, which administers life insurance programs for veterans and service members, will distribute \$751 million among those older veterans, an average of \$375 per person. Only veterans who were issued government-sponsored life insurance policies between 1917, and 1956 will receive the payments. Included are: 1.6 million World War I veterans, who hold National Service Life Insurance ("V") policies; 19,000 other World War I veterans who hold U.S. Government Life Insurance ("K") policies; 222,500 holders of Veterans Special Life Insurance policies; 74,000 veterans who hold Veterans Reopened Insurance policies. These veterans will receive their checks in 1999 on the anniversary date of their policies. The amount of each refund will depend upon age, the type of insurance and the length of time their policy has been in force. A VA statement explained that the payments represent dividends policyholders earned on premium payments as they accumulated interest over the years.

Continued on Page 5

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

PHILIP BERMAN DEAD AT 72: The chapter lost one of its devoted, hard working Officer/Member when Philip Berman died on Wednesday, March 24, 1999 at his home. Phil was one of the originators of the Florida Chapter. He served as President for 5 years and its Treasurer from 1993 until his death.

His wife stated that Phil never quite recovered from a recent gall bladder operation. He was in and out of the hospital for several months prior to being released in March of this year. He passed away peacefully at his Daytona Beach home.

Grave site services were held on Friday, March 26, 1999. Over 50 mourners attended the services at Mt. Sinai Cemetery, Daytona Beach. Representing the Florida Chapter were Emil & Audrey De Donato, H.F. Stansell and his wife Lila.

Phil is survived by his wife Barbara, three sons; Bruce, Sanford (Sandy), Mark, a daughter Lori Ann Nocera, a sister, four grandchildren and two step grandchildren.

The Florida Chapter Membership will sorely miss Phil Berman...a dedicated Chapter Officer and a good person.

FALL MEETING UPDATE: Because of the untimely death of Phil Berman, who was Chairman and handling the details for the Fall Meeting, there will be some changes. Since the published report in the last issue of the OCTOFOIL, the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort Hotel was sold and is now under new Owners. The name has been changed to "THE PLAZA RESORT." Because no contract was signed, the new management informed our Chapter President, Richard Baudouy, that new negotiations are to take place. Upon the sad news of Phil Berman's death, a committee was formed. It consists of Richard Baudouy, Chairman, H.F. Stansell, Co-Chairman and Emil De Donato, Advertising/Promotion. Details will appear in the next issue of the OCTOFOIL.

It will help the Committee tremendously if all members who plan to attend or just thinking about attending will drop Emil De Donato a note at 3650 S. W. Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431 or Phone: 352/489-4070. Invite friends, relatives, other veterans to join us...the more we have, the easier it is to negotiate with the hotels. You can always cancel by notifying the committee 48 hours prior to the first day.



Standing left to right: Katherine O'Grady (deceased 1/8/98); Barbara Berman; Dorothy Fleming; Audrey De Donato. Second row: John O'Grady (deceased 7/6/96); Philip Berman (deceased 3/24/99); Wm Fleming; Art Schneider (deceased 1/29/96). Front row: H.F. Stansell and Emil De Donato. Photo taken 11/6/93 Dunnellon, FL.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

by: Audrey De Donato

SUE JOHNSTONE: Sue wrote a nice note saying that she is feeling fine but was sorry she missed the last National Reunion. Reason being is "that it is getting too tough to go the long distance." However, Sue is going to make a good effort to attend the Women's Auxiliary Meeting this coming fall. She can be reached at 100 Glenns Lane #109, Dunedin, FL 34698 or phone: 813/736-3414.

ANN ELICHIO: Ann is recovering from a 4th hip surgery. Her husband John stated that she had her last operation on October 20, 1998 at Tampa Hospital. Dr. Kenny Gusthe performed the surgery. Ann is recovering nicely on this 4th try and hopes to come to our meetings. John and Ann spend their summers at 204 Mamosa Dr., Whiting, NJ 08759. She will be delighted to hear from some of you ladies...a "get-well-soon" card would be nice.

P.S. Send news to me: Audrey De Donato, 3650 SW Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431 or Phone: 352/489-4070.

ROSTER UPDATE

Gray, Edward — Summer Address: 217 Hayes Ct., Normandy Bch, NJ 08739
Hart, Claude — Moved to: 8075 Beneva Rd. #5, Sarasota, FL 34238
Kadis, Julian — Deceased — date unknown
Mickelson, Max — New address 1033 Newcastle B, Boca Raton, FL 33434
Persing, Gifford, M. — New Member — 4411 Fairlawn Dr., Orlando, FL 32804
Williamson, L.C. "Pat" — Moved to: 1733A 8th St. Dr. NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Emil Dedonato
3650 SW Mosswood St
Dunnellon, FL 34431-3439
Ph: 352-489-4070

Continued on Page 6

VETS

Continued from Page 4

Two other factors led to the dividend payments. First, veterans are living longer than actuaries anticipated when they formulated the various government-sponsored veterans insurance programs years ago. Second, the premiums earned greater interest while sitting in trust funds than planners anticipated. Only veterans who continue to hold the policies described above will receive the payments. Anyone who discontinued coverage will not. Persons covered by Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), modern VA-sponsored special life insurance programs for disabled veterans or mortgage life insurance will not receive refunds. Modern-era veterans should not confuse the VA's latest announcement with the "dividend hoax" that has confused veterans and vexed VA officials for more than 30 years. SGLI and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) do not pay dividends. Reports to the contrary, which frequently surface, are false.

60th Inf. A. Co.
ROBERT PAPPAS
P.O. Box 10385
Silvis, IL 61282

First of all, let me give my heartfelt thanks for the work you do in keeping the Octofoil running so that us division members know what is going on from other comrades who drop a line now and then. It's been a long time since I've dropped a line, so I suppose this will be a surprise to many from the Illinois and Florida chapters. Three years and 10 days ago I had a severe heart attack in which the staff at the hospital used those famous sticks on me 3 times to bring me back to stay around for awhile longer. I still go to Cardiac Rehab 2 times a week to try and stay in shape. 3 minor operations in past 7 months on hand and left shoulder and just now getting able to work out with weights. Moved back to Illinois when my wife passed away in '92. It's been a tough go since then but I now have a wonderful companion to keep me on my toes. We do a lot of traveling together. Bowling and golf also keep us busy. Enclosed is check for memorial fund in memory of General Randle. Again many thanks and also to Marie. God Bless to all.

60th Inf. Co. E.
SAL COLUMBIA
1504 Whistler Rd.
Bel Air, Md 21015

Enclosed find check for three year dues. Will be 76 years young soon and fairly good health. To give a little about myself, I joined the 9th Division in France and was wounded in Normandy, July 20, 1944 and again in the Hurtgen Forest, Oct. 11, 1944. Enjoy reading the Octofoil and wish you all the best.

M COMPANY CHRONICLER

Dear compadres:

In learning the life of General Eddy many of my leads turned out to be wild goose chases, par for the research course. A recent one, dealing with the 9th's charge across the Cherbourg Peninsula, was at least interesting. This action created a whopping salient, six miles deep on either flank and four miles wide from Barneville to Port Bail which extended the front 16 miles, a stretch reminding of Tunisia.

Eddy spotted his infantry battalions at the obvious spots where Germans trying to relieve the cut-off Cherbourg from the south, or those seeking to escape the net by breaking out from the north, might be frustrated. Initially there was not much action on the southern flank but there was plenty going on at Barneville where the coastal road from Cherbourg had been cut by the 3rd Battalion of the 60th (Major Kenne N. Wilson) and inland at St Saveur de la Nehou where the main road south from the port was blocked by the 1st Battalion of the 39th (Major H. Price Tucker). These break-out attempts of the German 77th Infantry Division were extremely costly to this formation which had been brought back and renovated after Russian service, and refilled mostly with young conscripts and "volunteers" from POW cages and slave labor camps. The 77th had not been much involved in the defense at Utah Beach, but after the fiercely contested break-out attempts, when there were fewer than 2,000 effectives left and all its general officers were gone, an Oberst Rudolph Bacherer broke up what was left into small parties and ordered them to infiltrate through the 9th's positions and reform on the other side.

This operation was successful. As described in the US War Department's *From Utah Beach to Cherbourg*: "A battalion of the 1050th Regiment (a part of the German 77th) temporarily wrestled control of a bridge over the Ollande River near St. Lo D' Ourville on 19 June, took a considerable number of American prisoners, and opened the way for Colonel Bacherer to lead from 1200-1400 men through the American lines. (There were no US units identified in this account).

Seeking confirmation of what might have been at least partially Eddy's responsibility, I looked for some veterans of the 77th who might be alive yet in Germany. I found several who referred me to the German military historian Paul Carrell's *Invasion! They're coming!* I learned in this book: "1 Battalion, 1950th Infantry Regiment (77th Div.) launched an old-fashioned assault on the enemy bridgehead with fixed bayonets under covering fire from a light machine gun. The battalion took the bridge, decimated the 2nd Battalion of the American 47th Regiment and took numerous prisoners. They reached the German lines with all their wounded, 250 prisoners and 12 captured jeeps."

Wow! I thought, Eddy was indeed responsible if he failed to see that the 2/47 set up an all-around defense of their position. Coming from the north after infiltrating through our lines, the krauts had apparently surprised the 2/47th and cleaned house.

But wait just a minute! After we crossed the peninsula, our 3rd battalion was just down the road from the 2/47th and, as I remembered it, after we cut the coastal road on the night of 17-18 June, we had only a few hours rest and then were ordered to head north and take up the capture of Cherbourg. If the German attack from the rear against the 2/47th didn't come off until the 19th, the entire 47th was probably out of there, replaced by the 90th Division's 357th Infantry, when the stuff hit the fan. I found some back-up on this point.

Walter O'Keefe, then a machine gun section leader of E/47 confirmed my recollection: "We had just finished our holes on the final objective when the deuce-and-a-halves were there to take us north to capture Cherbourg. We did not wait for the 90th guys who were supposed to relieve us."

When I told General "Chip" Maness what the German historian had alleged, he gave me his best full-bore blast: "That's a crock! We only saw the krauts rear ends as they took off. None ever came at us with bayonets!"

My search for the truth of who let Oberst Bacherer and company out of the bag next led me to the fine oral history of the 90th Infantry Division, *War from the Ground Up*, by John Colby, which included remarks of a Lt. Col. Edward Hamilton whom I located in Virginia. Hamilton, the 90th's assistant G3, had been sent down to relieve the CO of the 1/357th after that units tangle with the Germans. He is quoted in the Colby book: "The battalion (1/357) was occupying a defensive position south of a small river with its estuary in the English Channel on the west coast of the Cotentin Peninsula at Port Bail... the battalion was in a blocking position on the western sector and terminus of the American line cutting the peninsula. Two days earlier (21 June) it was attacked in the gray light of dawn by German units attempting to escape the American assault in order to regain German units to the south."

Now I can see why claiming a victory over 2/47 of the 9th sounds a hell of a lot better than would a victory over 1/357 of the 90th, but this is calumnious. Shades of Stephen Ambrose! I've written Herr Carell and asked him to set the record straight in the future Octofoil. We'll see what happens.

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

COMPANY K
47TH INFANTRY
THE 47TH LIVES!

KEN MYERS notified me in January that the last of the 47th. was, indeed, about to be the last of the 47th. The 2nd. Btn, 47th. was at Ft. Leonard Woods and would soon be deactivated. He suggested that we get all the 47th. men who could write, to write a Colonel at Ft. Benning.

We did, and a General at Benning sent us all letters saying he would love to have the 47th., but this was controlled by the CENTER of MILITARY HISTORY.

I got on the internet and found some names to write and E-mail, which I did. On the 2nd. of April I got a letter from the HISTORIAN'S which said the 3rd. Btn., 47th. had been activated at Benning on the 1st. of March and that the 2nd. Btn. would be Wood on the 5th. of April and reactivated at Benning on the 15th. of April. OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER.

It would be terrible for us old farts living longer than our regiment. I am not clear whether the new army has regiments, they have gone to Brigades that have twos instead of threes but maybe two is a regiment now. In any case, as training btns. at Benning they should be pretty safe for some time.

ROLL CALL

JOE KILACKY is still walking on his mal-functioning God given legs and resists the expert medical advice of CORVINO and JORDAN to get it fixed. He'll never make the MASTERS this way. Only one pro has court permission to ride.

JOE sent some clippings from the military savvy Chicago papers, about winning wars with airpower. I told JOE, when I called him, that fighting a war with airpower was like letting a fart at a tea party, it doesn't hurt anybody, but it makes everyone mad as hell.

HELEN HOLMES is bearing up and doing well.

RED THOMPSON, despite rumors to the contrary, is still alive and kicking.

DR. NICKLIN fell on the indigenous ice and broke his leg. He can't follow the admonition, "Physician heal thyself," it would necessitate crossing specialist borders.

J.W. ARNOLD said he was going to get in touch with the Dentist, J.T. WEATHERALL because he was an OK guy.

STATISTICS

Here are some of the 9th. Division STATS that I pulled off the web while looking for a contact to save the 47th.

The Ninth had 264 days of combat in which:

2,905 were killed
14,066 were wounded
792 were missing
868 were captured
18,631 total battle casualties
15,233 non-battle casualties
33,864 total casualties
% of T/O strength 240.4%

They label the casualties as TENTATIVE. Well, I guess so, we had more than that in K Company alone. I wonder what was so dangerous about the rear echelon? Virulent gonorrhea?

The number of combat days looks suspicious to me. I had almost that many in 8 months and that works out to only 124 casualties a day, give me a break.

In the INDIVIDUAL AWARDS it doesn't have the two Medals of Honor that I know about, but they say we had:

DSC	86
Legion of Merit	6
Silver Star	1,789
Soldiers Medal	55
Bronze Star	5,518
DFC	1
Air Medal	124

And it says we took 113,324 prisoners. We probably got that many out of Cherbourg. What we needed was a LEGION OF MERIT records keeper.

Co. K 47th Inf.
Chester H. Jordan
1058 West Lakeview Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA
70810-4641

Reminder from the Awards Committee

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 PERFETUATE 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

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

Michigan Notes:

Time Again to be the bearer of sad news. Our good friend and loyal chapter member, Don Lewis, passed away this past month. His sister, in Vassare, Mi, called me with the news.

Don and Helen will be remembered as the ones who rose early to reserve our picnic spot at Kensington Metro Park in Detroit, Mi. What good times we had then. Don served in B Co. 47th Inf.

In any event life must go on. We look forward to remembering Joseph Boudreau at a memorial service to be held at his grave site in Bay City, Mi. in June.

This, of course, follows our trip to National Reunion in Hyannas. Tom Hatton, Elmer Wagner and I are flying out together, arriving on Friday.

I'm looking for a large turn out. I know we are getting old and creaking in every joint but think on it. It might be the last time that we can get together with those who played a big part in our lives. Unless we lied about our age we all have to be in our late seventies or older.

Now back to the future. In August we gather for our annual picnic at the home of Art and Mary Doering in Alto, Mi.

This was a fun time last year. They have spacious grounds so there will be room for you to join us.

Sincerely
Rodger E. Alsgaard Sec'y,
Mich. Chpt.
9th Inf. Div. Ass'n.

Continued from page 4

VISITING FLORIDA???

On March 6, 1999 I received a phone call from Frank Haines of the New Jersey Chapter. He was visiting his brother-in-law in Citrus Springs, FL approximately 12 miles away from my home. We spoke for about 20 minutes. Frank called the night before he was going to leave to go back home and so due to the time limit, we did not meet the person.

May I suggest to any 9th Division Association Member who plans to visit Florida to just drop me a card in advance telling me where you will be staying and when you will be in Florida and I'll send you names of Florida Chapter Members who you might want to contact. If you are in the Dunnellon/Ocala area, then you may contact me at 3650 S.W. Mosswood Street, Dunnellon, FL 34431 Phone: 352/489-4070.

MATT URBAN MEMORIAL: Peter Radichio has been working very hard in raising funds for a monument to be placed in Arlington Cemetery in honor of Matt Urban. Many of us know that Ret. Army Lt. Col. Matt Urban who served with the 9th, was wounded several times but he kept going back to the front lines. On July 17, 1980 President Carter awarded Matt Urban the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest award for valor during our war. Reason given for such a delay was that the Army lost Matt's records.

Peter Radichio has teamed up with John Bonkowski of Roseville, MI in this venture. They have run into a few design and production problems but have overcome these obstacles. Money is sorely needed to accomplish this task. The Florida Chapter Membership have always been generous in supporting a worthy cause. This one is no exception. Anyone wishing to contribute to the Matt Urban Monument can do so by sending their contribution to Peter Radichio, P.O. Box 1541, Homosassa Springs, FL 34447 or to John Bonkowski, 19241 Angela Ct., Roseville, MI 48066.

Emil J. De Donato



Tom McGinley Can Co 47th sends this photo taken at Vicksburg Battlefield at a recent visit, a monument to the 47th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Div. of the Civil War.

B Co. 47th Inf.
DENNIS CANEDY
117 Rocky Hill Ave.
New Britain, CT 06051

I recently had a below the knee amputation of my left leg, due to diabetes and poor circulation. And thereby hangs a tale. On March 10, 1945 on the Remagen bridgehead, I went into a stone barn to sleep, there were already two GIs in there. Sgt. Frank Halpin came in and said, "Move over Canedy!" I obliged and went to sleep. Halpin laid down in the spot I vacated. Around 3 in the morning I was awakened by Halpin who said "My leg is off!" A large shell had landed nearby and a fragment had severed his leg below the knee. With the help of the other men, I applied sulfanilamide and dressed the wound and gave him a shot of (unauthorized to me) morphine. In the morning the chow jeep came with a letter and I said goodbye to Frank. He replied, "Aren't you going to give me breakfast?" which by the way was hotcakes and sausage. So moving over the good Lord gave me 53 more years of use of my left leg. Best regards.

39th Inf Co M
PETER FOTIO
2838 Wickersham Ave.
Linden, NJ 07036

Enclosed is a check for three years due. I enjoy reading the paper, going over from front to back. Good luck to all new officers.

47th Inf K Co
EVAN THOMPSON
1925 Stonehedge Ln
South Bend, IN 46614

Dear Dan, we hope you and Marie are well and going to the reunion. Ethel and I have not been to a 9th reunion since 1997 in Louisville KY.

We are old, but still get around good for old farts.

Jordan had a notice in the Octofoil Al Holmes passed away. On the river boat we were on with Al and Helen, every one had a good time. Al and Helen had a ball. Great people, they always had a ball where ever they were. I hope I can go like Al went.

We thank God we still go for Ethel 85 and me 88 last Oct. Dan would you please send me Octofoil decals. Thanks a lot.

Take care of yourselves.

39th Inf
DON LAVENDER
2913 49th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310

I was sorry to learn of the passing of Jack Radabaugh, a veteran of Co. I, 39th. Radabaugh joined Co. I in the Hurtgen Forest in October of 1944. He was with the unit through the end of the war.

In late 1945 when I Co. was on occupation duty at Traunstein, not far from Salzburg, he served I Co. as First Sergeant. Radabaugh lived in Findlay, Ohio. He had attended several mini-reunions of I Co. in recent years.

Enclosed is a token in his memory.

Dear Dan:

I thought the attached was pretty good & that a lot of 9th fellows might like to read it, if you can fit it into the next Octofoil. Keep well.

Sincerely
Edwin Lusk
5-3 3rd Bn 60th Inf.
1941-1943

What is a Vet

A friend forwarded this to me. It's anonymous, as far as I know.

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity. Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking. What is a vet? He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel. He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel. She - or he - is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang. He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back, AT ALL. He is the Quantico drill instructor that had never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account red-necks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs. He is the parade - riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand. He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by. He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep. He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come. He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs. He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known. So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say "Thank You." That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded. Two little words that mean a lot, "THANK YOU".

15th Engrs
TONY SANGIACOMO
24 Aspen Ln
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Hi Dan:
Hope everything is A ok there and I hope you are hearing from the fellows in 9th division who go back ways like I do and can remember Fort Bragg and Carolina maneuvers.

Enclosed find donation to honor Ed McGrath of the 15th Engrs B Co who was listed as one who passed away as I read about him in the last issue of Octofoil. He was a good friend of Tony Madonna. We shall all remember his passing. I'll expect to see all the gang at Hyannis - I hope they all come up.

I want to say there's plenty of dough waiting for you here in Atlantic City

The best to all.

Hdqrs Btry Div Arty
HENRY BOKINA
3 Prospect St. Box 132
Hatfield, MA 01038

Enclosed is check for my dues. Everything is OK here in the Conn. Valley of western Mass. Still do a little bit of farming - grow mostly cucumbers & spinach. Everything is done with machinery. Cigar tobacco is making a comeback in the valley.

My health is not bad - a few aches & pains.

Keep up the good work Dan.

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

Treasured Memories of The Ninth

Yes, it was a long, long time ago!

When on the sleeve, an Octofoil did show!

Yet, at present, as I gaze out upon an unending sea,

'Tis a vision of "The Octofoil" that comes to me!

Countless G.I.'s features drawn and intent,

Stared out upon the waters, waves on the offense!

They challenged the vessels abounding with G.I.'s

Who steadily and prayerfully turned pleading eyes to the sky.

"Lord, hear our prayers; heed our pleas.

As we, duty bound sail 'cross this vast sea.

'Tis our trust to pressure world peace, and

As did You, for mankind your life did expend.

Mankind with love and gratitude, his life should spend."

P.S. Dear Dan

The site where my wife and I are situated - the Gulf of Mexico, stirs endless memories warm and inspiring, for which I am most thankful.

Warmest regards for your devotion to THE NINTH!
Joe R.

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247**

Dear Mr. Quinn:

As you well know, the men and women who served our country in the Armed Forces have risked their lives to ensure our safety and liberty. Many of them made the ultimate sacrifice and never returned home to their families and loved ones. We owe all the veterans who served our country a tremendous debt of gratitude for their dedication and courage.

Together with many others who grew up in the thirties and forties, I have always felt that World War II was the defining moment in the history of the United States and the world this century.

My daughter and son-in-law recently gave me a copy of "The Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw, which spotlights this period of our history. I found it so interesting that I have already given copies to my uncle and several other friends. It is a nostalgic tribute to our heroes of the truly greatest generation and I urge that you try to obtain a copy and read it.

In recognition of the important role veterans played in our history and their efforts over the years here in New York State, the Senate has passed bills recently designed to provide veterans with additional education and tax benefits. The Senate passage of these bills coincided with the American Legion's Legislative Day at the Capital.

I also wanted to let you know that the American Battle Monuments Commission is raising funds to build a national monument to the Americans who helped win World War II. I am proud to say that the State Senate will provide \$850,000 in its budget resolution to help build this fitting and proper tribute to their courage and dedication.

Our Senate contribution will help fund construction of the World War II Memorial on 7.4 acres of the National Mall in Washington, D.C. I have also made a personal donation since the monument is being funded through both public and private tax-deductible contributions. It would be located between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. A Registry of Remembrances, listing the names of Americans who participated in the war effort, will be kept on permanent display in Washington D.C., so future generations will always remember the sacrifices of those who served their country in the greatest war of all time. My donation includes the name of my "Uncle Harry" Andrew Scafidi of Ridgewood. If you are interested in recommending WW II veterans' names, I will be glad to have additional information sent to you.

This national World War II monument will be something that all Americans can be proud of ... I know I am proud of our veterans and proud to support this noble effort.

Sincerely,
SERPHIN R. MALTESE
Senator, Queens County

P.S. The Conspicuous Service Cross is a way for New York State to honor individual veterans for their distinguished service in the time of war. If you are or know of a veteran who may be eligible for this honor, please contact me for an application.

**L Co 47 Inf &
3rd BN Hdqs 47th
LYLE KELLY**
N 6153 Hwy A
Deerbrook, Wi. 54424

Enclosed is check for three more years of membership in the 9th Div Association, also a donation to the Matt Urban Memorial Fund.

I still keep in touch with Ben Kovacs, and Al Bravin, 3rd BTL 47th men. Al is in a nursing home, Upper New York, not in the best of health! Ben is doing OK.

As for myself here in Northern Wisconsin - doing good, retired and keep in shape. Have had a few medical set backs, otherwise OK.

We do enjoy the outside and our grandchildren.

I do look forward to the Octofoil, it has been an interesting source of information of the 9th Div. Association members. I've been a member since the start.

Dan I want to thank you for keeping us going all these years. Thanks again, keep up the good work. Best of health to you & yours.

Lyle Kelly from tent city to the Elbe river!

In case anyone remembers me, and would like to get in touch, my address is above.

**Co. B. 15 Combat Eng.
CHARLIE HOFFMANN**
91-43 81 St.
Woodhaven, NY

When I sent you the letter I wrote to Stephen Ambrose I asked you to put his reply that was sent to me. It is a sort of an apology even though he says it wasn't my intent to put down the 9th Inf. Div. He is phoney since he put our 9th Div. down in both of his books. First in "Band of Brothers" and again in "Citizen Soldiers."

Here is his reply to me.

The other letter is from Andy Rooney who is on 60 minutes C.B.S. TV. He knows the real story of our great 9th Div.

Please put them in this time.

**47th Inf. D Co.
WALTER STANKO**
364 Bark Street
Swansea, Mass. 02777

I will appreciate knowing if anything is being done to honor the late Lt. Col. Matt Urban, the most decorated combat soldier in the history of this country. A commemorative stamp issued by the United States Postal Service would be very appropriate and recognized by the nation for the honor due him. Thank you.

**60th Inf.
RAY WOLFE**
2037 Hartland Center Rd.
Collins, OH 44826

My husband and I want to thank the Ninth Infantry Division Association for allowing us to attend last year's reunion at Hampton, Virginia. Dad (Ray Wolfe) enjoys and looks forward to his reunions. We haven't made reservations for him for Hyannis, Mass. yet. Waiting to see how he feels. He had a head cold and still treating an ear infection. He's been house bound except for trips to doctor for the last three weeks. Dad isn't able to write letters. He received a Christmas card from his buddy and friend Samuel Carlick. I picked up a Ninth Infantry Division and the utmost extent of our power hat pins at your reunion in Hampton. I would like to buy the 60th Infantry Go Devil. Do you know if anyone sells them? Dad (Ray Wolfe) said to say hi and hopes to see everybody at Hyannis, Mass.

**39th B Inf L Co
JOHN VAN SON**
22300 Copa De Oro
Oro Grande, CA 92368

Well I just looked at my paper and I am in the rears with my dues.

I wish I could get around better. Can't drive anymore. Have a golf cart to get around the small farm. I like to read all of the paper when it comes. Sure like the stories some of the guys tell. I was in L Co 39th Inf. I am very proud that I was in the Ninth Div.



Moises Marrero sends this photo taken on Maneuvers of E Company 47th Inf: 1941 (Carolina) — Front row L to k Nevers, O'Malley, McDonough, Lombardi, Back row: Marrero, Fenrey, Harris, Leone. He didn't write if they made it or not, that is through the War.

SEEKING

A few years ago, I adopted the graves of two U.S. soldiers, two brothers who lie side by side at the American Military cemetery, Henri-Chapelle, Belgium.

One of them, DICKES, Stewart F. served in the 87th Infantry Division, but his brother DICKES, Forest Lee, was a Private in the 39th Infantry regiment, one of the regiments assigned to the 9th infantry division.

Concerning this last soldier, I only know the information registered on the certificate of adoption annexed herewith.

I really would like to know him better and have an idea of what was his military life and death.

As he received the Purple Heart, I assume he was wounded at one time. As you will note, he also was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze star medals, but for which acts?

Through your association, could you supply me additional information concerning Private Forest Lee DICKES.

Waiting for your answer, I thank you beforehand for any help you could provide.

Yours sincerely
Julien Loncin
Rue de Gorhez 44
B 4880 Aubel
Belgium

**60th Inf. E Co.
JOSEPH BLACK**
175 S. Anza St.
El Cajon, Ca. 92020

I received the Mar-April issue of the Octofoil. So far I have only seen two men of E Co. 60th regiment, of which I became a member on Dec. 29th, 1944. I was wounded March 9th, 1945 and returned to my unit about the last of April 1945, until the end of the war.

Although I had only a few months of combat I'm proud to have been in the Ninth Division. I got to see what hell was like, and the horrors of war that every man who ever fought in a war was to experience. No one will ever know what the American soldiers went through and gave for our country. Maybe most Americans now don't give a damn, but I do, and I always will.

No matter what we 9th Division men may agree or disagree on, there will always be a 9th Division of World War II and its magnificent records are written down on records dipped in blood of our slain comrades and it will be so until the end of time. To all men of the 9th Division you are my heroes.

Request for Medals of World War II

From time to time one of our members will inquire where he may receive medals from his time with the Ninth. For those interested write to: U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center, Attn: DARP-PAS-EAW, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63132-5200.

Your request should include your serial number, date and place of birth, of course your full name, address, then and present, the dates served in the Army and by all means a copy of your separation document (DD Form 214).

**9th Recon. 9th Inf.
RICHARD W. DeMOSKE**
2004 Hunter's Ridge
Martinsburg, WV 25401

I am informed by the US Army Center of Military History that you are the point of contact for the 9th Infantry Association. I am not familiar with the resources you have so it is somewhat difficult to form my inquiry. As a former member of the 9th Reconnaissance Troop of the 9th Infantry Division I am mainly interested in the 9th Recon during WW II and especially the European campaign. If you can tell me of their route through Africa and Europe in some detail, I would be grateful. I also wonder if there are rosters and personnel information available for 1995-96. Thank you for any help you can provide.

**B Co. 39th Inf
JACK JEWELL**
1049 N 800 Rd.
Baldwin City, KS 66006

I wish to express my gratitude to all those whose efforts have helped to maintain the spirit and enduring sentiment among the members of the 9th Infantry Division. It is through this worthwhile cause, initiated and sustained by your dedication, that we pay respect to our fellow soldiers and especially those who were sacrificed during a noble crusade. With our common understanding of past experiences no further explanation is needed. The Octofoil has been an excellent source for expression of mutual interests. THANKS! I salute you all. I have enclosed payment for a Life Membership in the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

**C. Btry 26th F.A. Bn & Divarty
BORIS RAYNES**
2532 Chelsea Road
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

Received the current year's copy of the Octofoil and realized time was speedily passing with the need to renew my dues. So I gladly enclose my three year membership fee, and hope that I can see it and most of us into 2,003 when my driver's license also expires and can renew them both. Thinking mortal thoughts, as I always do on reading the casualty reports of each issue; I also enclose a contribution to the Memorial Fund in memory of Trent Palmer of Company "I" 39th Inf. I was made an honorary member of that fine group on the sponsorship of Don Lavender, based on my support of Co. "I" as a forward observer from Btry "C" 26th FA Bn. I feel like an adopted orphan in that the only other member of my Btry I have met is Tom Boyle, our loyal treasurer.

MAIL CALL

B Co. 15th Engrs.

PAUL LISA
6638 Claridge St.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19000

Enclosed is my check for \$40.00. I'm paying my 3 yrs membership dues. I'm enclosing \$15.00 for the memorial fund for the following: Isadore Cohen, Milton March and Holt Rast. "May they rest in peace."

34th F.A. Bn.

KENNETH S. JENKS
271 Park Avenue
Westbury, New York 11590

Thank you for your quick response to my recent letter — and for the copy of The Octofoil. I have already written to Joe Williams seeking help in finding a copy of Eight Stars to Victory.

I'm enclosing my check for \$25 — 3 years membership — which can be credited to the greater New York chapter. I do not know why I let my membership lapse because I'm one of the "originals." A small group of us "regular red legs" in early August 1940 came down from the Canadian border (5th Field Artillery - Madison Barracks, N.Y.) to form the 9th Division Artillery in the boondocks of Fort Bragg. A short while later I met 1st Lieutenant William C. Westmoreland and the last time I spoke to the General was in October of 1986 shortly before I retired from Wall Street. A thousand memories, beginning with August 1938 — and they keep flooding back.

C Battery, 60th F.A.

WOODROW C. GARDELLA
87 Norwalk Avenue
Whiting, N.J. 08759

Rarely do we hear about field artillery men. I know you're out there, so let yourself be heard. The enclosed photograph is about me, Woodrow C. Gardella, receiving New Jersey's "Distinguished Service Medal" authorized by the Governor of New Jersey and presented to me by Major General Paul J. Glazar, The Adjutant General of New Jersey. My records were destroyed by fire at the St. Louis Army Reserve Personnel Center and after 54 years I am just receiving medals that I am entitled to. Anyone interested in receiving this medal contact the New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, Public Affairs Office, 101 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648; I have been seeking Ed. Grzymkowski and Donald Lawrence — where are you men, sound off! Thank you for your many years of service Mr. Quinn.

Co B 9th Med BN

DONALD HYDE
120 Wiley Ave.
Deland, FL 32724

I see my dues are due. Enclosed is check for 3 years. Please use balance in memory of Ernest Bartroff Co. B. 9th Medical BN who passed away March 1st.

Read the Octofoil from cover to cover but don't see much from the 9th Medics.

Keep up the good work.

39th

DONALD E. LAVENDER
2913 49th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310

In May, I sent you some information about the two young Belgian fellows who dig the old battlefield areas. They had established a relationship with the 99th division. Last month, my wife and I met both of these Belgians again in Kansas City where they were guests of the 99th. At that time, they told us they had been digging in the area of Kalterherberg and had found items related to our Division.

They found a metal box which was addressed to a Sgt. Vernon Cratty of I Co. 39th. The found dog tags for Clarence J. King, a single dog tag for Salvador S. Gabriel, a mess kit with the name C.J. Busbey, 33232980, and a sterling silver ID bracelet with the name Lavern Nonnemacher 16021045. The inscription on the back is "To Doc from Mary, July 1944".

They have been able to identify men from Co. I, K and L of the 39th. They also found a revolver of either French or British make which they say is in good condition.

One of these young men Jean Louis Seel has a disk for his computer that lists most U.S. phone numbers and he is attempting to contact some of these people. He has been successful in some cases, but is still looking for some of them at the time I write this.

If you might be of assistance through the OCTOFOIL or membership lists, some veteran or his family would certainly be grateful. I have an E mail contact with Mr. Seel. Thank you.

SEEKING

Dear Mr. Quinn,

I would like any information you can get for me about the time Earl L. Davis was killed in Germany. What I would like to do is talk with someone who knew him, but I know the chances of this are slim, as most were probably killed at the same time. However, just maybe, I found out from family members that Earl is my real dad. I am 56 years old and this was a surprise to me. I am the oldest of 9 children. Most of my family that would know information are dead — (mom, dad, grandparents). Earl has a brother — Leroy Davis — who has been a great help to me. Enclosed is a copy of the letter Earl's mom received of his death.

Thank you for any help.

Patricia E. Millard
8621 Moonlight Ct.
P.O. Box 8
West Point, IN 47992
Phone # 765-572-2258

1999 Reunion

Hyannis, MA
May 23, May 26,

SEEKING**NANCY MORRELL**

59 Edgehill Dr.
Lancaster, PA 17603

I received your name from Ann Mix from AWON. I am researching my father's death in WW II.

Since I was a baby when he died, I've never known him, yet feel his ultimate sacrifice was the biggest loss of my life.

No one in my family had any of the facts straight regarding his death — too painful to discuss. But, I've always asked questions and wanted to know more. Now that we have AWON, I'm finally getting the information I've craved: facts about his actual death, where and how it happened.

What I'm asking of you is help in locating anyone who may remember my father. I want to know what he was like, what he talked about, what type of man was he? Did he have any close friends in his company that I could contact. His name is Harvey W. Matheny, Company G 39th Inf. 9th Division — Died March 14, 1945 in Schwelfeld, Germany. He is buried in Henri-Chappelle Cemetery in Belgium. He was originally from Clarksburg, W. Va.

I can be reached at: Nancy Morrell (717) 394-9631, 59 Edgehill Dr., Lancaster, PA 17603, E-mail njomorell@aol.com.

Thank you for any help you can offer.

Sincerely, Nancy Morell

B Co. 47th Inf.

MR. LOUIS T. MARINES
4802 Jaster Road
Emmaus, PA 18049-5213

Please renew my membership for 3 years and I hope to reach that time when I'll still be 82 years younger. The Lord has been good to me and still working part time, driving new Ford for a swap deal or pick up.

Recently drove to Huntington W. Va. 1100 miles and also to Cape May Court House a 400 mile trip. My membership card #0310. Recently I went to our town hall and saw a flag on the wall from the 47th Reg of the Civil War. I inquired and got a copy of the history of the 47th then.

God Bless.

F Co. 60th Inf.

CLIFFORD PAINTER
4070 Oakhurst Drive,
Sarasota, FL 34233

See by the Octofoil label and the new numbering system that my membership dues are due. Have enclosed a check for \$25.00. This should keep me in good standing through 2001.

Rosalie and I are again enjoying a warm and dry 'winter' in Fla. Haven't made a final decision, but may not make it to the '99 Reunion in May — our first time to miss since 1980. Have some complications about leaving Fla. and need to be back in Washington, PA for doctor appointments on May 27 & 28. If we don't make it to Hyannis our 9th Div & F Co 60th friends will know why.

Hope this note finds you & Marie doing well and not having too much 'bad' weather to put up with.

Warmest regards,

MRS. ANNA PATRICK

24 Parsons Court
Mahwah, NJ 07430
201-818-9489

Staff Sergeant Michael Partrick, 60th Field Artillery, died on March 21, 1999. Born in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, he served with the Ninth Division in North Africa, Sicily, France and Germany. He was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Following his discharge, Michael embarked on a long career with the New York Telephone Company, retiring as District Manager and Superintendent of Buildings and Motor Vehicles in 1979 with 33 years of service.

Michael retraced some of his experiences with the Army during a family trip to England, France and Germany in September 1986.

His loving wife Ann of 53 years, four sons, Michael, Gregory, Jonathan, Daniel and daughter Nadine survive Michael. He had five grandchildren. Michael was interred with military honors in New Hemstead, New York.

Thank You Dan

Co B 9th Med BN

PETER RADICHO
P.O. Box 1541
Homosassa Springs, FL
34447

Taps sounded when I spoke to George Stein, he told me Ernest Bartroff passed away 1st week in March 1999. As for George he's doing OK and his wife Cathy is giving him her tender loving care. This note is for the men in Co B & the 9th Medics. Send your card to Dorothy Bartroff, 60 Smith Ave, Kingston, N.Y. 12401. Let Doty hear from you all. Cheerio & God Bless. Rest in peace Ernie we'll miss you.

60th Inf Co I & Co K

LEO C. WILLIAMSON
1833 A - 8th St. Dr. NE
Hickory, NC 28601

We are moving to 1733 A - 8th St Dr. NE, Hickory NC 28601, 15 March.

This will put us within 8 hr. drive of our 12 grandchildren and 10 min. from one. #13.

Enclosing donation for Memorial Fund.

K Co. 60th Inf.

JAMES E. HART JR
7 Nenagh Dr.
Talleville, DE 19803

I am a bit late this year with my dues. Been fortunate enough to have had a rather lengthy Florida vacation. My wife and I had a very good time.

Every month I look forward to receiving the Octofoil and read it cover to cover. It is wonderful that after all these years our group is still close.

I know everyone joins me in thanking you and Marie for the unselfish work you have done over the years to help keep this great association going so smoothly. Hope you have a great 1999.

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

THE OCTOFOIL
412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N.J. 07087
Publication No. 402020

Hqs Co 60th Inf

KAREL GRIMM
620 S. Waupaca St.
Wautoma, WI 54982

Check for 3 years membership enclosed.

Still looking for someone that served at Ft. Bragg from 40-42 in Hq Co 60th Inf. I can't be the only one left, although I didn't go through what most of you did. Left Ft. Bragg in 42 to get my commission in the Sig. Corps which lasted about a year and then went to the Air Force where I flew B-17's in Europe. Saw a few 9th Div patches but no one that I knew.

Will not be able to go to Hyannis - maybe the next one.

B.Btry 84th F.A.B.

CHESTER (Mike) MIKUS
11154 Summers Cove Apt A
Fredricksburg, VA 22407

I served in the 9th Div. from Bragg to the Elbe river. I have often wondered and asked why we of the 9th Div. received very little credit and recognition we so heartily deserved. After reading Charlie Hoffman's article in the Octofoil, I got the answer. From that, I gather we were such an excellent fighting and dependable division, that any time any division needed help, they took a regiment out of the 9th to help them to reach their objective. We did the fighting and they got the credit or "glory" for it.

My son bought me the "Citizens Soldiers" book. I started to read it until I read the review in the Octofoil by Joe Killen. I thought it would be a waste of time to continue. Guys like Stephen Ambrose would be better off writing fiction or better yet, just stop writing.

John Van Demeded, Glad to know that you are still hanging in there. Don't give up. You must have an excellent wife to take such good care of you. Good luck to you.

I hope Labecki, our cook and Padgett, our truck driver, are in good health. They did not acknowledge my Christmas Cards for the last couple of years.

Closing with best wishes to you Dan and your wonderful wife.

C. Mikus