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The Octofoil, November/December 1999

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

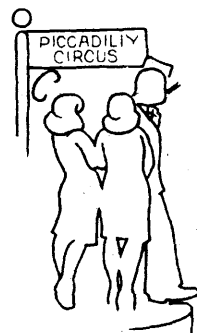
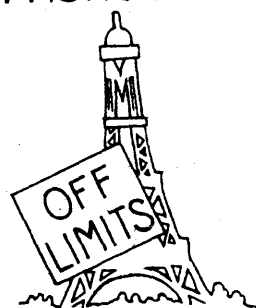
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Volume XLXXIV Number 5

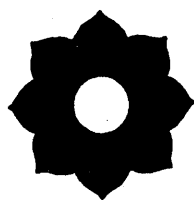
Nov-Dec 1999



The Ninth Infantry Division Wishes You



A Merry Christmas



Christmas Card



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.

The significance of this particular card lies in its origin. During the winter of 1944, the U.S. 9th Infantry Division was in the middle of WWII against the German Army in the Huertgen Forest area. An upper echelon officer of the Division ordered the originals of this card from a printer in Liege, Belgium, (already liberated by the allies), to be sold to members of the Division to send home to family and friends. I was a member of the Division at that time, and this is a copy of the one I sent home to my family. By the time Christmas arrived we were heavily engaged against the enemy in the infamous "Battle of the Bulge."

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

All of the smart and savvy members are sending in their reservation forms for our "pow-wow" up at Kutsher's this May 2K. They must remember ole Nathan Bedford Forrest's words of wisdom when he said, "Git thar the firstest with the mostest." Or was that J.E.B. Stuart, or maybe Braxton Bragg who said that? Whoever. Trevor E. Jones made sure that he won't have to sleep in a pup tent out by the lake because he was "Numero Uno" with his check.

Four Charlies and two Emils also checked in during the early going, and all indications point to a "Full House" come May. We're ready if you are; "He who hesitates is sleeping out in the barn"; or "You snooze, you lose." You know now in your heart of hearts that you'll be coming to the reunion, so why put off sending in the form for your reservation; do it now while you're thinking about it. "A journey of a thousand miles starts with the first short step."

Think back to the very First Reunion at the Hotel New Yorker in New York City during August of 1946 when this newspaper which didn't have a name then informed us that the hotel was "concerned about damages to rooms, including the banquet room and furnishings." The banquet price was five bucks a plate and could be attended by wives, sweethearts or friends. Well, I guess that we have mellowed some since then; and we have lost our "Wildmen" image as public opinion thought that every returning veteran was a tornado just needing a few drinks under his belt to break loose back then. We never were a "Wild Bunch" even then; maybe we disappointed John Q. Public, who expected a riot every day of our reunion. What a difference a day makes, how about 19,666 days? (54 years) since then. One thing that we still have is "esprit de corps" for the old outfits be it the Medics, or the Engineers, or the GD Infantry.

Have to get ready for the new Millennium or the one after it I'm not sure which.

Stay healthy and send in your reservation.

Joe Killen, G-47
224 North Grove Street
Valley Stream, NY 11580

Dan: Thought you might remember this card. I now have family who are printers; so they made me several copies. Merry Christmas to you Dan and thanks for keeping us all informed.

47th Inf. Hal C. Saum
306 W 36th Dr.
Kearney, NE 68847-2862

Well, Ninthmen, there are only a few months of winter to plod through until spring beckons us to the pride of the Catskill Mountains — Kutsher's Country Club Resort Hotel — Headquarters for the 55th Reunion of the 9th Infantry Division Association.

So far, it looks like a good turnout of comrades are expected, according to reservations coming in to NY Chapter Reunion Chairman Joe Killen. Joe has been working with the Kutsher's staff to have everything in order for our best reunion ever. The accommodations, dining, activities and entertainment are top notch and sure to please. If you haven't sent in your reservation and deposit to Joe, don't put it off any longer. The Millennium is here, and legendary Rip Van Winkle, asleep in his beloved Catskill mountains, is about to be awakened into the 21st Century to the tumult of Ninthmen, their families and guests converging at Kutsher's on May 2-5, 2000. Look over the following details — and remember, there are NO STRIP TICKET CHARGES — the inclusive price covers three meals daily!

The 9th Inf Div was born in 1940 to serve its country in time of war. For 55 years since the end of hostilities, we wearers of the Octofoil have continued our annual reunion tradition of camaraderie and fun, as well as remembering buddies who were lost in war, and who have departed since. For those of us who have made it to the 21st Century let's meet again... and again.

MILLENNIUM HEADQUARTERS FOR THE "OLD RELIABLES" NEW YORK 55th REUNION

Kutsher's Country Club Resort Hotel
Monticello, New York
Tuesday to Friday, May 2-5, 2000

The Free Amenities Include:

* Different all-star variety show nightly * Never a cover or minimum * Late night lounge shows * Discotheque music * Deep End Lounge for late dancing * Health and Fitness Center * Indoor swimming pool * Shopping Arcade * Valet car parking * Handball, Paddleball, Tennis * Golf * Shuttle bus to Apollo Shopping Mall.

In Addition:

After dinner on Tuesday, May 2, there will be a one-hour Welcome Party with beer, soda, pretzels and chips, and an open cash bar—and we will have a lavish complimentary cocktail party with open bar and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres on Thursday prior to our banquet.

Look for more exciting details to come in the next Octofoil.

—Your Host, the Greater NY Chapter

To All the "Notorious Old Reliables" —

Seasons greetings! Irene and I want to wish each and everyone a very Happy, Healthy, especially Healthy New Year. We are all looking forward to the millennium and hope to share many happy moments together. What better way to accomplish this than to attend the banner reunion at Kutshers C.C. in the Catskill Mountains of N.Y. May 2-5th.

The New York Chapter is working diligently to have this reunion top them all. Hope to greet you all there.

Best wishes,
Martin M. Gross
1904 Bermuda Cir. Apt. B2
Coconut Creek, FL 33066

AWARDS CHAIRMAN RESIGNS

To: Nat'l. President
9th Infantry Div. Assoc.
Martin Gross
100 Daly Blvd. Unit 415
Oceanside, NY 11572

Dear Mr. President:
I am resigning this date as Chairman of the Veterans Awards Committee.

Enclosed is my complete records and correspondence.

I was appointed to this committee at the 1988 Nat'l. Reunion by the new president Emil Langer.

The two other members of the committee are as follows:

Adolph J. Wadalavage
94-30 96th St.
Ozone Park, NY 11416-1609
Joseph H. Williams
1900 Holly Oaks Lake Rd. E.
Jacksonville, FL 32225-4426

Sincerely yours,
Lawrence J. McLoughlin
82 Gould St.
Wakefield, MA 01880

Deadline for next issue
Feb. 20th

THE OCTOFOIL

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to:
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
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President
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100 Daly Blvd.
Unit 415
Oceanside, NY 11572

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Saginaw, MI 48602

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1161 S. Lombard Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60304

Pat DeColli, 3rd V.P.
1017 Jackson Street
Philadelphia, PA 18148

Dave Heller
Judge Advocate
618 Sumac Rd.
Highland Pk., IL 60035

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Board of Governors
2000
Richard Baudouy
Altamonte Springs, FL

Jack Collier
St. Louis, MO
Larry McLaughlin
Wakefield, MA
Richard Starr
Philadelphia, PA
John Miller
Arlington, TX

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

2002
Joseph Killen
Valley Stream, NY
William Doty
Baden, PA
Billie Martin
Beverly Hills, MI
Lenny Tomassone
Pennsauken, NJ

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

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

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

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

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

Volume XLXXIV Number 5 Nov-Dec 1999

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.....\$30.00
Decals.....50-each

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

The 9th Infantry Division Association 55th ANNUAL REUNION
Tuesday to Friday - May 2 to 5, 2000

at
KUTSHER's
Country Club Resort Hotel
Monticello, New York 12701

(A photocopy of Reservation Form may be used if you do not wish to cut up your Octofoil)

9th Inf. Div. Assn. Room Reservations May 2 to 5, 2000

Name.....Spouse Name.....

Unit (Regt, Co, Btry, etc).....

Street Address.....

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

Telephone (Home).....(Bus).....

Date arrive on.....Date depart on.....

If Other Than M/M, I will share with.....

Please state any special request: Handicapped, etc.

SEE NOTE BELOW if paying by Credit Card* Please give info:

☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard #.....

Exp. Date.....

NO STRIP TICKETS REQUIRED!

ROOM RATES PER PERSON for A MINIMUM of a 3 night stay which includes 9 full meals and gratuities for the Dining Room staff and the Chambermaid staff are as follows:

ACCOMMODATIONS (Please indicate):	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE
....Marquis (Ultra Deluxe)	\$355	\$280	\$230
....Tower (Super Deluxe)	335	260	215
....600 Section (Standard)	320	245	205

Attach additional note with following indications if desired. For those who wish to arrive early: The same daily rate will be in effect for up to two nights before the start of the reunion as follows:

		SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE
Marquis	1 night early.....	\$120	\$ 95	\$ 80
	2 nights early.....	235	185	155
Tower	1 night early	110	85	75
	2 nights early	220	170	145
600 Section	1 night early	105	80	70
	2 nights early	210	160	140

People who wish to stay only ONE night during the reunion can do so if space is available. The ROOM RATE plus \$20 for the ONE night early arrivers is the rate for this privilege. To extend your stay beyond the Friday exit time, the higher weekend rate will be in effect. Arrangements must be with the hotel management.

Make all payments by CHECK ONLY payable to:
9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION Y2K

Mail the completed Registration Form with check to: Reunion Committee Chairman Joe Killen, 224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, NY 11580. Deposits of \$50 per person will be accepted until April 1, 2000. Reservations made after April 1, 2000 will be subject to room availability. Cancellations made up to 72 hours before the reunion are fully refundable. Only checks payable to the 9th Inf Div Assn (tax-exempt organization) will not be subject to sales taxes. For more info call Joe Killen 516-561-7346.

Balance upon checking out of hotel must be made also payable to: 9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION

*CREDIT CARDS-Reservations and PAYMENT IN FULL must be sent directly to Kutsher's hotel, as credit card payments are subject to the Sullivan County and New York State Sales Taxes of approximately \$40.00. For hotel information contact Kutsher's Country Club Resort Hotel and Conference Center, Monticello, New Yo.k 12701. Tel. (914) 794-6000 or call Toll Free 800 431-1273.

TRANSPORTATION

Public:

Scheduled Short Line Bus Service from Port Authority Terminal in Manhattan to Monticello. Charter Bus, Car Service, Private Limousine Service available. Call Kutsher's Service Desk for information.

Automobile:

From New York City and Metropolitan Area: (2 hours) George Washington Bridge to New Jersey Palisades Parkway to New York State Thruway North. Proceed on Thruway to Exit 16 (Harriman) and proceed on Route 17 West to Exit 105B. Turn left at first traffic light onto ANAWANA LAKE ROAD-three miles to Kutsher's.

From Long Island: Long Island Expressway West to Cross Island Parkway. North across the Whitestone Bridge to Cross Bronx Expressway to Major Deegan Expressway North to the N.Y.S. Thruway North to Exit 16. Follow directions to Kutsher's as above.

From Syracuse: Route 81 South to Binghamton. Take Route 17 East to Exit 105B. Follow directions to Kutsher's as above.

Buffalo/Rochester: New York State Thruway to Exit 36, Syracuse. Follow Syracuse directions to Kutsher's as above.

BY AIR

From JFK Airport: Van Wyck Expressway to the Whitestone Bridge to Cross Bronx Expressway to the Major Deegan Expressway North to N.Y.S. Thruway North to Exit 16. Take Route 17W to Exit 105B. Turn left at first traffic light onto ANAWANA LAKE ROAD-three miles to Kutsher's.

From La Guardia Airport: Grand Central Parkway to the Triboro Bridge to Major Deegan Expressway North to N.Y.S. Thruway North. Follow directions to Kutsher's as above.

From Newark Airport: New Jersey Turnpike North to Route 80 West to the Garden State Parkway North of N.Y.S. Thruway North. Follow directions to Kutsher's as above.

From Stewart Int'l Airport: Leave airport and turn left. At first traffic light make a left. Take 84 West to Binghamton Exit. Take 17 West to Exit 105B. Follow directions to Kutsher's as above.

Car Rental: Major car rental agencies are located at all New York Airports and Stewart Airport. Driving time from Stewart to Kutsher's approximately 50 minutes.

Continued next page

Michigan Chapter News

On Wednesday, December 8, the Michigan Chapter met at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth for our Christmas party. There were 28 people present, members, spouses and relatives. There was a gift exchange.

Elected officers, as reported in the last Octofoil, were installed at the Christmas party.

It is my sad duty to report the passing in late October of Frederick Smith, a 9th Infantry man with the 84th F.A. Mr. Smith resided in Port Huron, Mi. I never met the man to my knowledge, but read it in the local paper. No services were held, to date, but if I hear of any, I will attend.

Our next meeting, our annual memorial, will be held in June, as the May calendar is overloaded.

Last year I was elected the Navigator of my K of C Assembly. Those of you who are K of C members know the time involved.

Dan, enclosed is a photo of Henry Steiner, better known as Hambone. I received the picture 35MM size and had it enlarged. It came from California, no return address or other ID as to who sent it. After you use the picture in publication, please forward it to Adolph Wadalavage. He still corresponds with people in the Winchester area.

Dues are due. Please check your cards. If yours are due, please send your 1 or 3 year dues to E.W. Wisniewski, the new secretary.

We wish all of you a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

Respectfully submitted,
Edwin W. Wisniewski
7576 Gratiot Rd.
Columbus, MI 48063

47 Inf. I Co.

ANTHONY DE ROBERTIS
RR 7 Box 7477
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

I have been very busy since I moved to the Poconos. We bought a two bedroom ranch home off I-80 in Stroudsburg, PA. We had to paint, put new floors and rugs down and central air conditioning. I bought a tractor for my son to cut the grass. They bought me a barbecue. If you come up this way, I'll cook you a hamburger and hot dogs but bring your own beer.

If you heard from Muldoon, he would tell you that I had a heart attack. I had to have a pacemaker put in. I go to Cardiac rehabilitation 3 times a week. I miss going to the meetings. Say hello to all the guys for me.

The Last NY Chapter Christmas Party of the 20th Century

The NY Chapter held its annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 12, 1999, between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM at Niederstein's Restaurant, Middle Village, Queens, NY. For the first time in many years the party was graced with the attendance of many Ninth men and their ladies - unlike our Christmas parties in recent years which were held after Friday night business meetings when only the men attended. We owe a measure of thanks to NY Chapter 1999 President Joe Killen, who reconnoitered this year's holiday locations to accommodate us on a Sunday afternoon, when it was convenient for our charming ladies to join us.

The Chapter was happy to see many members who do not attend the regular monthly meetings. One dedicated, regular member in particular, past-president Tony DeRobertis, who recently moved to the Poconos, PA, was accompanied by his son. Our chapter secretary Arthur R. Schmidt's niece and other relatives also joined him in the festivities. Art has been incapacitated from attending regular meetings because of some recent falls. In all, fifty Ninth men, families and guests were present.

The food and service was excellent and the Christmas decorated surroundings and seasonal music made the occasion highly enjoyable. Around the tables ladies conversed with each other about their interests and grandchildren, while the men spoke of old times and buddies of the 9th from Ft. Bragg, North Africa and Europe. The consensus was to consider having our Christmas party at Niedersteins again next year.

December Meeting

On Friday, December 17, 1999, the NY Chapter met at our Manhattan command post: Masonic Hall, 71 W. 23rd Street, NYC. At 7:30 PM President Joe Killen led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation to open the meeting. In the absence of Secretary Art Schmidt, prez Killen read the minutes of the previous meeting, followed by Treasurer Al Zenka's financial report.

Correspondence from Al Baccile, Ed Leddy and "Snuffy" Goldsmith was read by Killen. After unanimous acclaim for the Christmas party the membership turned to the business of electing chapter officials for the new millennium. After some last minute nominations the slate of Y2K officers were elected. They are: President - Anton Dietrich, 1st VP - Gene Magidson, 2nd VP - Joe Killen, Corresponding Secretary - Art Schmidt, Recording Secretary - Marv Levy and Treasurer - Al Zenka. Chapter Board of Governors: 39th - Herminio Suarez 47th - Dan Quinn, 60th - Charlie LiBretto, Divarty - Al Lipton, Special Troops - Adolph Wadalavage and Sgt. of Arms - Al Lubrano. Installation of officers will take place at our January 21st meeting.

After the drawing for the lucky winners in our Christmas Raffle meeting was adjourned and the 14 attending members partook of the hospitality table provided by Al Zenka. All the officers listed above were present for the election except Art Schmidt and Al Lipton. Al was in the hospital having an angiogram. We surely hope that Al will be fine and with us by the next meeting. Others also present were Ed Harris, Joe Maiale and Joe Rzesniowicki.

Attention NY Chapter members! If you haven't renewed your dues for 2000 now's the time to do it: \$10 for one year, \$25 for 3 years and \$75 for Lifetime membership. Make checks payable to 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, N.Y. 11566

Limited Edition Hardcover Books Still Available
THE PAWNS OF WAR
by: William Kreye — 39th Inf.
(now deceased)

Engrossing, personal and historical account of WWII 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.

Illinois Chapter Newsletter

No meetings or even a Holiday Party since our last newsletter. We have heard from some of our members through Christmas Cards. The Clarks are holding their own in Indiana and sticking close to home. We heard from Muriel Gray (Widow of Lewis Gray) and she is doing well after a pacemaker operation. The Andersons are fine. We received a card from Charles Stephens and his wife from Valpariso. Due to illnesses, they don't travel much. Dolores Bauman (widow of John Bauman) is doing as well as can be expected. The Hennemeths are basking in the Florida sunshine. The Clousers are in Florida and getting ready to make some changes. The Hellers are doing better and enjoying their grandchildren. Also heard from the Gaertners in Wisconsin and Vera Carpenter (Mike's Widow). Vera has had a few setbacks but is doing much better. The Belmontes are doing fine. I just celebrated my 80th Birthday and up until December 8th - was still golfing.

We're getting ready for another Midwest Winter and will start to make plans for the Reunion in May. Happy New Year to All.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Belmonte
1161 South Lombard
Oak Park, IL 60304

47th Inf. K Co.

J.W. ARNOLD
108 NW Jayellen
Burleson, TX 76028

Time for me to pay dues again, so I am sending a check for 3 years. I always enjoy getting the Octofoil and look forward to reading it, especially people from K Co. 47th. Reg.

I lost my wife, Marguerite, Oct. 24, 1998 so this has been a bad year for me. We had been married well over 50 years, but I have lots of fond memories and 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren and will enjoy Christmas with them.

Last time I wrote in I heard from several of you guys from K Co. 47th Rg. I have misplaced your addresses and phone numbers, so please do it again and I will do a better job filing them this time. Phone 817-295-4700.

B Btry, 26th F.A. C Co. 39th Inf. Regt Ct

LEROY MILLER
5317 Second St.
Saint Augustine, FL 32084-7242

I would at this time extend our thanks to the officers of the Florida chapter for their efforts in getting the arrangements for our reunion in Daytona Beach this past October, there were many obstacles that they had to overcome but they came through.

We all had a good time and enjoyed our get together. There were some problems with the hotel but that was nothing that could have been foreseen. I do feel though that the ones that had the water problem in their room should contact the hotel for at least a partial reimbursement if not total.

Also at this time I and my wife wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Audry and Emil J. DeDonato for their always placing the welcome signs and setting up and cleaning up the hospital-ity rooms, which they have been doing for many years and with never a complaint from them or us as far as that matters. They have been very unselfish with their time and efforts for us all.

So again, "Thanks Emil and Audry"!

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.**

Marcus Sciarappa
26 F.A. C Btry

Peter Hunzinger
39 Med. Det.

Felton Jones
F Co. 47 Inf.

Virgil Dingman
Hqs. 47 Inf.

John Karoffa
Hqs. Co. 3rd Bn. 60 Inf.

Harry Schwartz
A Btry 26 F.A.

Richard Trahey
3rd. Bn. 47 Inf.

James Joyce
C. Co. 60th

Alan M. Johnson
F Co. 60th Inf.

Clinton Daley

Zelma Dee Rigsby
Wife of Edward Rigsby,
Co. E. 39th Inf.

Charles Gordon
Div. Hdqs. M.P.

Frank Koncur
C. Co. 9th Med. Bn.

Walter Maziarz
39th Inf.

John Zulkiewski
Co. F, Hqs. 2nd Bn. 47th Inf.

Stan Pollinger
C Co. 47th Inf.

John Klooz
C Co. 9th Med. Bn.

James Ballard
D Co. 39 Inf.

Octavian Gansca
84 F.A. B Btry.

Jerry Langer
Service Btry 26th F.A.

Ernest L. Newhart
Co. F 60th Inf.

Robert R. Gorny
34 FA

Directions to Kutschers Reunion

From Southern New Jersey & Philadelphia: (3 hours from Phila.) New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 11 Garden State Parkway North to New York State Thruway North. N.Y.S. Thruway to Exit 16 and proceed on 17 West to Exit 105B. Follow directions to Kutsher's as above.

From Allentown/Scranton, Pa: Northeast Extension of Pennsylvania Turnpike North to Route 84 East to Exit 4 West. Take Route 17 West to Exit 105B. Follow directions to Kutsher's as above.

From Boston and New England States: (4 1/2 hours fr. Boston, 3 hours fr. Springfield) Mass. Turnpike to Sturbridge Exit. Route 84 West to New York Exit 4W to Route 17 West to Exit 105B. Follow directions to Kutsher's as above.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FLORIDA CHAPTER REUNION A SUCCESS. Over 46 members and guests really enjoyed the October 29, 30 and 31 reunion in Daytona Beach. Mr. and Mrs. Grapel and Mr. and Mrs. Izzo came as Dr. Martin's guests. Wally Richardson traveled from Greenwood, Indiana. Cletis Winningham and his wife Lula drove in from Allardt, Tenn. Irv King and his son made the trip from Monticello, FL. Henry Santos' sister Belle Deliz, went first to the Tampa V.A. Nursing Home to pick up her brother Henry and then made the 3 hour drive to Daytona Beach. Other members came from all locations just to spend a few days with friends and share the comradeship. Spiro Sareyane and his lovely wife attended the Saturday Night Banquet, but had to leave early due to a recent hip surgery. The Sareyanes now reside at 1264 Aviendo del Torro in Daytona Beach, FL 32219. Please correct your roster.

On Friday evening, the group had dinner at Julian's Restaurant. A private room was set aside for us due to the advanced preparations made by President Baudouy. The food and service were excellent. Julian's Restaurant & Lounge is located at 88 South Atlantic Avenue in Ormond Beach.

Immediately after dinner, the group convoyed a short distance to the Daytona Beach Playhouse to see the Cole Porter Review Show. The performers did an excellent job of portraying the life of Cole Porter ... a real talented person in the theatrical world.

The highlights of the Saturday Morning Men's Business Meeting were: Same Officers will hold their positions for another term. A \$300 donation was approved and given to Peter Radichio for the Matt Urban Monument. A new membership roster to be prepared and produced by Don Wright and his wife Anne. The Y2K Chapter Reunion location to be decided by the Reunion Committee to be appointed by Richard Baudouy. Many members sent in their delinquent dues as a result of Memo sent to them. However, all members are urged to pay their Chapter dues as well pay their National dues through the Chapter.

The Hospitality Room was set up the day before by Emil and Audrey DeDonato. It consisted of two adjacent rooms on the 10th floor where the ocean was in plain view from the South side and the Daytona Beach commercial section could be seen from the North side. The members enjoyed a variety of snacks; drinks and home baked goods from the Women's Auxiliary. Erika Miller baked two kinds of "Pizzelle" cookies. Jenny Uhl brought some delicious cookies. There was cheeses, crackers, dips, etc galore. The Hospitality Room was the center of activity. Sing-a-longs sheets were passed around and the singing was accompanied by taped music of yesteryear. The second room was filled with displays, photographs, newspaper articles which members viewed while munching on their snacks. A beautiful 9th Infantry Division cloth emblem was designed and made by Erika Miller was displayed. (This banner has been suspended daily beneath the American Flag at the De Donato home since their return from the reunion. Thank you Erika ... it is beautiful and we are proud to display it).

MEMBER NEWS

ROGER GARTLAND: Roger moved to 255 Charles St., Watertown, N.Y. 13605. He extended his best wishes for a good reunion as he could not attend. He hopes to make it to the National Reunion in May, 2000, but will not be coming to Florida in the future.

WILLIAM COEN: In a phone conversation with Bill, who is a patient at the West Palm Beach V.A. Medical Center, he informed this writer that he had reconstructive surgery on his stomach. Bill sounded up-beat and hopes to be home before Christmas. His wife Dora drives the 50 miles from Okeechobee to visit her husband frequently. Bill and Dora live at 3322 S.E. 24th Street in Okeechobee, FL 34974. Phone: 941-763-4229.

RICHARD TRAHEY DEAD AT 77: Wife Louise Trahey phoned this writer on November 10th to say that her husband Everett Richard Trahey, Jr. of 52 years died on November 7th. Richard, as he preferred to be called, suffered a heart attack 5 years ago. Since then he was in and out of hospitals suffering with cancer throughout his body. Despite his illnesses, Richard and Louise took many trips around the country including going to the National Reunions as well as to the Florida Chapter meetings. Chapter member Ed Gray, representing the Florida Chapter, attended the 11:00 AM funeral services at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church on November 12th. Rev. Carl Thrum officiated the services. Richard was interned at the Sarasota Memorial Park next to his father. Richard is survived by his wife, Louise, a daughter Mindy Gerrett, and 3 grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Louise Trahey, 2355 Hillview St., Sarasota, FL 34239, Phone: 941-955-2355. (Please note new address and phone number on your roster).

GEORGE ADAMS
260 Edinburgh Dr.
Ridge, NY 11961

I made a copy, as you can see, so as not to cut up my newly found 9th Div. Buddy's Newspaper.

Please send my whatever I need to order the 9th Div. Plate for my car and a 9th Div. Cap.

39th Inf. D Co.
ANDREW BALASCHAK
330 Boyer St.
Johnstown, Pa. 15906

Renew my membership in the 9th Infantry Division Assoc. - It ran out in 1998 - Sorry - must be that senility has set in.

Enjoy the Octofoil very much - Missed the Hyannis reunion but will make the next one in Monticello



Photo taken on Saturday, October 30, 1999 at the Florida Chapter Reunion held in Daytona Beach, FL. Henry Santos was presented with an APPRECIATION AWARD for his devoted and successful activities in furthering the interests of the National and the Florida Chapter Organizations. Pictured top row: Norris Gray; Irv King; Emil DeDonato; Richard Baudouy; DR. Martin Gross. Seated: H.F. Stansell; Henry Santos; and Charles Vander Poel.

Henry Santos and his sister Belle, arrived at the Hospitality Room about 12 noon on Saturday. Eva Santos did not come due to her recent surgery. Henry was a bit emotional in the beginning but soon mixed in with the members. He is confined to his wheelchair but hasn't lost his appetite. President Baudouy presented Henry with a framed appreciation award during his Hospitality Room visit. Henry and his sister departed for Tampa shortly after 3:00 P.M. (see photo elsewhere).

Fifty four members and guests attended the Saturday Night Banquet held at the hotel. Members had a choice of either prime rib or roasted chicken as their entree. Pres. Baudouy made a few announcements which was followed by a brief talk by Pete Radichio and Ret. Gen. Maness. A 4 piece live band furnished music for dancing and listening pleasure. The hotel supplied us with a private room with excellent food and service.

The Sunday Morning Breakfast was held in the same room as the Banquet Dinner. An all-you-can-eat buffet style breakfast consisting of Orange Juice; Eggs; Sausages; Potatoes; Pancakes, Coffee, Tea, Milk, and more was enjoyed by everyone. At about 11 A.M. cordial "good-byes" were exchanged with most of the group departing by 12 noon. And so another Florida Chapter Reunion came to an end. For those who could not make it this time, try to attend the next one. These Chapter Reunions are well planned, enjoyable, lots of fun ... and affordable too!

RUTH KING: As reported in the last issue of the OCTO-FOIL, Ruth passed away on August 27, 1999. Her husband Irv sent us a photo of the gravestone to be placed on a section of their property known as KINGSLURE. The Memorial Services were held on September 18, 1999. Jean Baudouy and Dolores Vander Poel, representing the Women's Auxiliary attended the services accompanied by their husbands Richard and Charles. Ruth's philosophy on life is best described by the following quotation she wrote next to a photo in her 1937 High School Graduation Book ... "The longer I live, the more my mind dwells upon the beauty and wonders of the world." For Ruth, every day of life was a celebration. May her soul rest in peace at the Kingslure property in Monticello, Florida.

NEW FL. CHAPT ROSTER: Secretary Don Wright and his wife Anne are in the process of making up a new roster. Please report any changes in your address, phone number, etc. to Emil De Donato who will pass it on to Don and other members in the next Newsletter. Please report changes immediately in order to eliminate as many errors as possible.

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

TEXAS & THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

At the semi-annual meeting of the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter held at Salado, Texas on March 24, 1999, I was installed as President of the Chapter to succeed Ernie Botello. At this same meeting, Ernie Botello and John Miller, duly elected members of the Board of Governors of the national Association, notified the chapter that they could not attend the annual meeting to be held in Hyannis. Pete Rice, Jr. and myself were named as alternate delegates to the annual meeting to replace Botello and Miller.

Would you please submit our names to the proper authorities so that our roles as alternate delegates can be noted. I look forward to seeing you again at Hyannis.

With my best regards.

Jack R. Blann
President
11303 Valley Stream Drive
Houston, Texas 77043

Tip of the Hat

Remembering the Memorial Fund and their buddies who have answered their last roll call we thank the following members and friends:

John Goldpaugh - In memory of Edward Hopkins, F Co. 47 Inf.

Edward Storan - In memory of Brother William, K Co. 47 Inf.

Mrs. Marion Haroutunian - In memory of husband, James.

Aaron Lubin - In memory of 84th F.A. men. Cal Polivy and Charles Pitney.

Wanda Lelak - In memory of husband, Steve.

Jerome Tishler

Walter Labau

Nate Gaynor - In memory of Frank Ozart and Walter Mahon.

A.T. Forrest - In memory of Frederic Henney and John "Jack" Suttermerhorn, both of 15th Eng. Bn. Hq.

William Voller

Merwin Andell - In memory of Paul Grimm, 60th Inf. G. or K. Co.

Fran Schwartz - In memory of husband, Harry, A Btry, 26th FA.

George Brown - In memory of Felton Jones, F Co. 47 Inf.

Frank Kowalik - In memory of Frank Koncur, C Co. 9th Med. Bn.

Jack Collier - In memory of Stan Pollinger, C. Co. 47 Inf.

Andrew Kopach - In memory of Frank Koncur.

Frank Kowalik - In memory of John Klooz C. Co. 9 Med. Bn.

Aldor Cook - In memory of Frank Koncur and John Klooz.

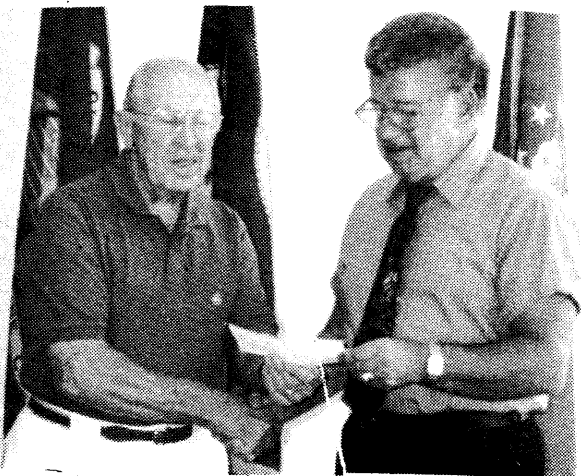


39th Inf.
CHARLES WARNER
507 E. Main St.
Bound Brook, N.J. 08805

Sorry this is late. We were flooded out. Bound Brook wiped out. You must have seen it on T.V. It was seen all over the world. We were under Marshal Law. It looked like a battle zone. I am ok, I live on the third floor and it came three feet on the second floor.

The American Legion of Bound Brook Post 63 and Wheaton 91 gave us veterans cash help. It will take a year to get back in shape. My nephew had to get a \$150,000 loan. I am still sick with the Shingles and a lot of pain. Could not get to see the doctor for 3 months. Will see him Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1999.

Give my regards to all and put this in the paper. Don't travel much. It's 8 years and it won't go away, "pain." So long for awhile. I wish I could see the gang.



Bob DESANT, former President of the association presenting a check to Jack Russell, Director of the North Carolina Veterans Home in Fayetteville, NC for their use.

Co. C 39th Inf.
LELAND ELLIS
1380 3945 Ln.
Paonia, CO 81428

After a lot of years down the drain, I wish to join the 9th Assn. again. I received the paper for a few years then lost out.

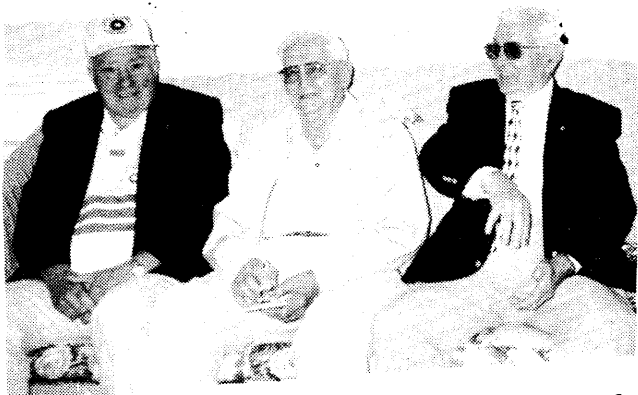
I met an old Co. Buddie in Mission, Tex. last Feb. John Young and his wife Belle. (I lost my wife 12 years ago with cancer).

John and I were in the 4th platoon of Co. C. 39th Reg. We had a good time visiting and covering a lot of ground. John sent me the Oct. 99 issue and I enjoyed it.

Enclosing a check for dues.

9th Inf. Div. Band
STEVEN D'ANGELI
15 Granite Rd.
Medford, MA 02155

Enclosed are my dues for 2 more years and I hope to be able to pay many more of them. Having been with the 9th from Ft. Bragg all the way to Ingolstadt (so long ago I forgot how to spell it) Germany. Yes, the band was there, they sometimes answered to the call "Medics" even though it was not well known to most of the guys in the division. Even so, I enjoy reading the Octofoil. My very best to you and your family and happy holidays.



Shown at the Hyannis reunion three old timers from the 9th QM - Trevor Jones, Everett Tapp, and Gene Berassi. Tapp's letter appears in Mail Call.

Co. K 47th
JOSEPH J. KILLACKY
705 Illinois St. Apt. 6
Lemont, IL 60439-2703

I am under orders from my K Co. commander to put some pressure on you to get his K Co. newsletter in the Octofoil. It might even improve the temperament of this Baton Rouge architect turned journalist. You have to admit he's got a good sense of humor and uncovers some funny stories - even if he does misspell a lot of names. His comment on Nicklin alone should be seen by all!

I'm also attaching a good article on cartoonist Jack Higgins. Perhaps you can tack it up in the Cape Cod rumpus room to make the Beantown and Holy Cross contingent happy - he's one of theirs.

I'm afraid most of K Co. can use their mouths better than their legs these days - not many on the road to the Cape - enjoyed a good reunion. Best wishes to all.

47th Inf. L. Co.
JEROME SYPNIESKI
5430 - 34th St. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55417

I am enclosing money for dues and the balance for the Memorial Fund - for those from L Co. who lost their life overseas, and especially for First Sgt. Warm, who lost his life on the morning of Nov. 8, 1942. A bomb dropped near Boz and I was wounded at about the same time, ended up in a hospital ship at sea. We were asked the next morning if we wanted to be sent to the States, I chose to return to shore.

I ended up in a hospital in Casablanca - spent 19 weeks - went back to the company, went through the rest of Africa and Sicily and to England. Sgt. was from Wisconsin, a friendly state next to my state, Minnesota. We compared our states and a lot of things on the twenty one days - Voyage. We never got to fire a shot.

SEEKING

I'm still on the hunt for a 9th Division book. I heard from Joe Williams, and he wrote and said that you may have a soft covered book. If you do I would like to purchase one.

Thank You,
Vincent Terrible
C. Co. 60th Inf.



Trevor Jones is shown presenting the donation check from the Association, to Gloria Jorel, Chief of Volunteers Service of the West Haven, CT, Medical Center.

Sorry to be so late with the picture that you requested of the presentation of our donation to the West Haven, CT. VA Medical Center. Gloria Jorel, Chief Voluntary Service, was most appreciative of the gift, and will express her thanks in writing, to the Association.

Mae and I enjoyed the reunion in Hyannis, as usual, and thank the "Old Reliabilities" in New England for the thought and work that they put into making it a success, also, the same gang who will be doing the same thing again in October, at Worcester.

There were only three Q.M. faces to be seen at Hyannis, Everett Tapp, Gino Berasi, and mine. Gino and his brother Carl were visiting in Wilton, CT from Youngstown, Ohio, and Gino drove over 200 miles to Hyannis for a 30 minute visit with his old Buddies. This is the same Gino Berasi who traveled from Italy to Munich, Germany, in 1970, just to say "hello" to us when we were on our tour. His visit that time didn't last much longer than this one.

Everett Tapp
163 Meadow Cir.
Ellentown, FL 34222

It was great seeing you two at the Four Points Reunion. I thought the New England Chapter did a great job hosting it.

I enjoyed it very much and looking forward to the 55th coming up.

I spent May, June and most of July in MI with family. Finishing off a basement of 900 sq. ft. for my oldest daughter (framing it up, ins. and placed 51 sheets of 4 x 8 x 1/2" drywall. So the old boy had some work cut out for me.

And will be doing a greater amount of traveling in the year 2000. As I have three grandchildren getting married. One in Chicago, one in Denver, Co. and Dearborn, MI.

P.S. Dan, here is a photo of Traverse Jones, Gene Berasi and myself taken in lobby at Four Points Hotel. But they weren't listening to what I was saying.

Through the Octofoil, I would like to invite a Johnnie Rook and Mark Adlerstein who are both from the Brooklyn area to the 55 National Reunion.

Take care.

Everett Tapp

After the Octofoil came out, I received a call from Joe Russo in Wareham, MA. He has had "some stones" removed recently, but is "hanging in." Mary is also doing O.K. He also said that the Hokansons are having eye problems, therefore, don't do much driving. Bill Palady also called, everything is pretty much the same with him.

Looking around the banquet room in Hyannis, what used to be a great sea of familiar faces has really been reduced to the friends we have made since attending these wonderful get togethers. My memory of the Ninth goes back to September, 1940, and those wonderful pyramidal tents. So many have answered the last roll call since then.

We'll keep our powder dry, and look forward to seeing you in the Catskills next year, all things considered, but Mae needs an increase in her allowance if she is going to play in that high stakes card game with the ladies.

As always,

Trevor and Mae Jones
34 Geraldine Circle
Trumbull, CT 06611

On a brighter note the reunion at Hyannis was great. The total attendance was down a bit - about 280 - but overall, everyone seemed to have a good time. The following "B" Co. men were present, along with some wives:

Al Ferrante and Marge, Jerry Shea and Pat, Ernie Micka and Dot, John Moore and Margaret, Bob Mandle, Art Schmidt, Pat De Colli, Tony San Giacomo.

Dick McGrath and Bob Apel were also planning to make the reunion but had to cancel plans at the last minute but both are thinking about making next years reunion in the Catskills. I do believe that the group that were at Hyannis are planning to be at the next one in the Catskills and per recent correspondence with (Capt.) Otts, he likewise is looking forward to the next reunion, which will help to continue the good record of "B" Co. for having a "good group."

So till then, good luck and good health.

Co. F 60th Infantry
JOHN W. MILLER
1511 Cochise Drive
Arlington, Texas 76012

Greetings from Texas with sixty-eight days without rain and twenty-eight days over 100 degrees.

It was nice to get a phone call from Domer Miller, Co F, 60 Inf. Domer informed me that Jim Geagan passed away in 1998. Jim was among the 1st draftees that joined the 9th Division in 1941. I remember him well. He was overweight when he entered the service, Co F, 60th, weighing about 240 pounds. When we finished the Sicilian Campaign, Jim was down to 132 pounds. What a 60mm Base Plate and the Ghost March won't do for you. I talked to Jim several times by phone and tried to get him to join the Association and he said, "The war is over and I'm not interested in any further association." He was a good soldier, gripe, gripe, gripe, but he did his duty. May he always rest in peace.

I have received several calls from relatives of 9th Division Veterans wanting a copy of 8 Stars to Victory. If you should have an extra copy, please write to me.

I have an ample supply of 9th Infantry Bolos. If you desire one of these great mementos, write me. Looking forward to the next reunion.

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.

60th Inf.
JOSEPH L. RAPPAZIN
24001 Sherman
Oak Park, Mi. 48237

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





Rodger E. Alsgaard clears brush and other debris from the park at Tendercare. His volunteer work has earned him honors.

Volunteer's Work of Gratitude getting State recognition

All Rodger E. Alsgaard wanted was to thank his wife's nursing home for her care.

The 84-year-old said he didn't want administrators to name the park he helped build after him. Now, he says he has "no idea" why he won a statewide Volunteer of the Year Award from a nursing home trade association.

"The day that you don't volunteer or you don't do anything after you retire is the day you're going to die."

RODGER E. ALSGAARD volunteer Co. F. 47th Inf.

Alsgaard was a leader in a three-year effort to create a park in a woods behind Tendercare Saginaw, 2160 N. Center in Saginaw Township.

"There are other people at that project who deserve it more than I did, but they were mostly employees," he said.

Alsgaard will receive the award today in Lansing from the Health Care Association of Michigan, which represents 300 nursing homes.

"The day that you don't volunteer or you don't do anything after you retire is the day you're going to die," he said.

Brenda LaVigne, former Tendercare administrator who nominated Alsgaard, will have none of his modesty.

"Mr. Alsgaard is an amazing man," said LaVigne, administrator of Tendercare Midland since October 1998, where staffers are building another park.

As soon as LaVigne thought of the park idea, Alsgaard was instrumental in fund-raisers, clearing the woods of brush and debris and building a pavilion, LaVigne said.

JOHN C. ANGIER III
67 Ocean Dr.
Saint Augustine, FL 32084-7451

National Order of Battlefield Commissions is trying to locate all men, WWII, Korea and Viet-Nam, who on the field of battle against an armed enemy received a commission from enlisted or Warrant status to commission status. It may be you or someone you know. Contact John Angier, 67 Ocean Dr., St. Augustine, FL 32084; 904/471-7695. 396-997

"It was, as I recall, a jungle dump, overgrown with trees and brush and all the debris the contractors didn't want to take home, bricks and stone," he said.

LaVigne added: "He would be out there at 5 or 6 in the evening when the rest of us were tired and ready to go home, still out there clearing (brush and debris). When we got tired building things, he'd say, 'Come on, girls, you've got more in ya.' 'I miss him dearly.'"

The home's pharmacist, also a licensed builder, designed the pavilion. Various bake sales and other events raised \$18,000.

The park opened in 1998. Now Alsgaard makes sure everything is winterized properly.

Alsgaard, who lives on Wynes near Brenner, started transporting patients and helping with ice cream socials when his wife, Jennie, came to the home.

Although she was no longer alert, she sat in the park twice before she died in December 1997.

"They went overboard in their attention to my wife," he said. "To show my appreciation, I did what I could."

Alsgaard still volunteers at the Sunday ice cream socials.

"A lot of times, when the loved one leaves the nursing home, so does the family," LaVigne said, "but Rodger stayed."

Alsgaard insists on crediting LaVigne with the park idea, housekeeping supervisor Becky Zehnder with keeping the labor going and "my mother, who told all her children: No matter where you go, make sure you leave it a better place than when you got there."

Dear Editor:

Would you please insert the following in the Reunion column of your Magazine.

80th Division Veterans Association WWI & II
81st Annual Reunion
August 23rd-26th, 2000
Galt House West, Louisville, Ky.

Robert H. Burrows Chairman

Box 453
Broomfield, Co 80038
303-466-5818

Thanks for your consideration.

George V West
Public Relations Officer

Dear Dan:

The attached was given to me by a friend. This is so true. I thought maybe the fellows would like to read it in the Octofoil.

Keep well - I'm 81 and still deer hunting.

Edwin Lusk
131 Auburn Rd.
Indian Springs, AL 35124-3805

Just a Simple Soldier

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in

And the deeds that he had done.

In his exploits with his buddies;

They were heroes, everyone.

And 'tho sometimes, to his neighbors,

His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened,

For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,

For ol' Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer,

For a soldier died today.
He won't be mourned by many,

Just his children and his wife.

For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,

Quietly going on his way;
And the world won't note his passing;

'tho a Soldier died today.
When politicians leave this earth,

Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,

And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories,
From the time that they were young,

But the passing of a soldier,
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution,
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise,

And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow,
Who in times of war and strife,

Goes off to serve his Country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,

Are sometimes disproportionate,
To the service he gives,

While the ordinary soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid with a medal
And perhaps a pension,

small,
It's so easy to forget them,
For it is so long ago,

That our Bob's and Jim's
and Johnny's,

Went to battle, but we know.

Co. H, C, B 47th Inf.

WILLIAM KLAUZ
1510 York Ave.

New York, NY 10021
212-535-0383

Dear Dan:

Received my copy of the Octofoil today and was again proud to read same. I got a kick out of Orion C. Shockley's letter and hoped to read about the Newspaper clipping I gave you. To quote Shockley, the past is what actually happened but history is only what someone wrote down. If you can see your way to write about this action, I would be very thankful.

47th Regiments History Book, there are no page numbers! But in the section "Cherbourg Peninsula," on the page with Col. J.D. Johnson (great soldier). Elements of the 1st Bn were the first troops to attain the division objective, which was to seal off Cherbourg Peninsula. (the unit was Company "C" 47th Inf.)

9th Div. History Book, page 171, Top of page, a period when the eyes of the world became focused upon the veterans of Bizerte June 17 witnessed another historic and exciting episode as the 9th plunged forward to seal the fate of the enemy to the North. Credit for the feat belongs to the 1st Bn, 47th Inf., which cut the La Haye-do Puit - Barneville - Sur Mer Pond near St. Lo D'Ourville at 10 P.M., thus blocking the last remaining route of escape or reinforcement for the German forces and severing the continent Peninsula. (Division states 10 P.M., but actually it was between 4-5 P.M.)

I'm sending you copies of The New York Daily News June 19, 1944. Readers can go to their library and get a copy, as we all know the 9th division never got the recognition it should have, this page really did us justice.

I'm sure there are many, many men of the Division never read same. Dan please if you can print this article with newspaper clipping it will finally do me justice.

Pray that you and Marie and family are in the best of health.

Yank Gun 'Serenade'

Foils Nazi Breakthrough

With U.S. Forces on the Cherbourg Peninsula, June 18 — A mass concentration of artillery fire, which 9th Division soldiers call a "serenade," plus hundreds of mortars early this morning routed the first German effort to break our steel wall after the division's doughboys had cut completely across the neck of the Cherbourg peninsula by 11 o'clock last night.

And now the Germans trapped in the northern end of the peninsula are desperate. Unconfirmed reports are that their remaining divisions and the Cherbourg garrison had received orders from Field Marshal Erwin Rommel to send out their best troops if possible. Now they presumably will try to carry out his second rumored order: if unable to escape fight to the last man.

So far we have met one breakthrough attempt, an

engagement which produced as bloody a battlefield as the campaign has seen, but fortunately most of the blood was drained from enemy veins.

Yanks Gain Hills

Yesterday one element of the 9th moved on to its objectives known as Hills 133 and 145. By evening they were looking down on the coastal crossroads above St. Lo d'Ourville and both columns could see the shimmering blue of the Atlantic Ocean.

The Germans still were fighting but wondering what had hit them. At one crossroads our boys captured four German military policemen ready to direct traffic for the large force which was attempting to get help out of the trap.

Dead Cover Battlefield

With their first success the Germans must have thought they had a chance. The next moment the heavens descended about them with every gun firing as fast as it could on this one target. More than 1,000 feild artillery shells dropped on the enemy. In addition, the infantry was firing every mortar at top speed and the German breakthrough stopped like a cow being pole-axed in an abattoir.

Today I saw what this battlefield has been. I had been with the Americans on bloody D-Day but never have I seen such a sight as hundreds of German dead sprawled in heaps in the open and behind hedge-grows and in the woods.

But the general in command knew that the situation, though fluid, was all in our favor and sent his men forward at 10 o'clock in the evening. One unit of the southern prong cut the coastal road just above the crossroad near St. Le d'Ourville and the Cherbourg Peninsula. Heading the escape route was Lieut. William Klauz of New York City.

Meanwhile, the northern prong had surged down from its hills, entering Barneville, situated on a bluff overlooking the ocean. But while this unit was getting set, another part of the force as well as another back near St. Jacques de Nehou, two miles northwest of St. Sauveur, was hit by what at first they thought was the kitchen sink. Their first rush carried the forward waves into our lines and for a while reports were coming back that our command posts were about to be overrun. But everything was under control and orders were to stand fast, that help soon would arrive.

In a few minutes, it did. Help came in the form of an artillery "serenade", the concentrated power of every gun in the entire group.

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



**The cost of war is beyond
imagination, must not be forgotten**
By Richard L. Stoltz

About 4 weeks before Memorial Day last year, the Dayton Daily News paper wrote an article wanting veterans of WW 2 to write something of their experience in the war to put in the paper on Memorial day. So I thought what the heck, I'll write something. About a week before Memorial Day they called me up and said they picked mine to run, but they wanted a picture of me, so I sent them one that was taken when we were on occupation duty after the war in Germany.

If you want to, you can put this in the Octofoil. I would like to see it put in. I'm sending you the picture, also, I'm sending you a self addressed envelope for you to send the picture back to me. I don't want it to get lost. Thank you.

I'm sending you \$100.00 for reservations at Monticello, N.Y. If you make reservations at the hotel I want the loser level room. Thank you.

Richard L. Stoltz L-47
766 Hunters Chase Dr.
Vandalia, OH 45377-9450

After all these years, it's time for me to come out of my shell and speak my piece as a front-line soldier in World War II fighting the Germans.

For us old veterans, Memorial Day and Veteran's Day bring back memories of death, destruction and miseries in all wars.

We all have our war stories in all branches of the service — land, air and water. Some are good and some are bad. Before the door on the 20th century closes behind us old veterans who are left, we must make it real. We must teach the younger generations that freedom is not free and why we honor the Americans who died and suffered in the defense of our country to keep her free, not only in World War II but in all wars.

I speak from experience on the front lines of the battlefields of France, Belgium and Germany. I am 74 years old.

As soon as I turned 18, I was drafted into the Army. I took basic training for the invasion of Normandy, France. Our instructors pounded into our heads, "Kill or be killed," every day. That's what we had to live with.

I went in at Utah Beach as a replacement during the invasion, joining the 9th Division, 47th infantry, Company L. We fought, of course, for each other, but we also fought for our loved ones and to keep our nation free.

The cost of the war was beyond imagination and must never be forgotten.

More than 16 million Americans served in this nation's armed force during World War II.

Three-fourths of the world's population took part in World War II. That's a billion people.

One hundred ten million persons were mobilized worldwide.

More than 45 million people were killed. Of the 45 million people, 25 million were military personnel and 20 million were civilians. As a whole, 25 percent of the casualties were caused by combat fatigue.

We had to harden our insides as well as our outsides, or we would have cracked under the strain of living for months at a time like an animal in the cruel, fierce world of death.

New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is awarding a "Distinguished Service" Medal to Veterans who:

1) Served in the Armed Forces during a war period and are recipients of Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal (Navy and Marine Medal), Bronze Star Medal, Combat and Infantry Badge, and Purple Heart;

2) Were residents of New Jersey when entering service;

3) Are honorably discharged and have WD-53 or DD-214 to prove eligibility.

Application forms are available at the local N.J. Veterans Service Office.

TO OBTAIN YOUR MEDALS

You can obtain all of the awards to which you are entitled by writing to:

National Personnel Records Center
Entitlement to Awards Division
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132

You must write asking for the medals to be issued to you and you must include a copy of both sides of your discharge papers. This service is available to living relatives of deceased veterans.

Everything was abnormal and unstable in our lives. We stank from not getting a bath for months at a time. We slept in foxholes that we had to dig every night with our little shovels. We slept with no sheets and with our steel helmets as pillows. Sometimes there was mud and water in the holes, but that was better than bullets and shrapnel. We lived in constant dust and mud, pestered by insects and heat.

We had to eat cold rations with dirty hands, if they could get them up to us. We were moving and fighting constantly. After digging your hole and pulling guard duty at night, if you have three hours to sleep you were lucky. One time I fell asleep walking. I fell flat on my face, and I felt like a damn fool.

We were deprived of all things, yet we went on fighting until the end.

Yes, I was a litter case, like so many others, the first time I got hit with shrapnel in the back early in the war.

Shrapnel is jagged pieces of metal. When it goes into your body it's hot, and it tears, cuts and rips. It's worse than a bullet; I know because I've had both.

They flew me back to England, healed me up and rehabilitated me, then sent me back to the front lines, which were by then in Germany.

I went on fighting until close to the end of the war, when I got hit by a bullet in the neck and shoulder.

The hardest thing I ever had to do in my life was go back to the front lines to face death once more. "God was with me once. Can he do it again?" That's what I was thinking.

I did a lot of praying, and many times I thought about Psalm 23:4: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

That's what kept me going and kept me from cracking. I know everyone could not be on the front lines, but everyone had a very important job to do to win his war. Let's not forget the home-front people who worked long, hard hours making war materials to keep the war going. Rosie the Riveter sure made the news in those days.

Today there is no single monument that expresses the contribution to freedom made by the 16 million American veterans of World War II.

Five things I got out of World War II:

- Two purple hearts.
- Battle scars as souvenirs.
- Disability.
- Memories — some good, and some bad.
- Most important, appreciation that ours is a free nation.

DICK L. STOLTZ is a member of American Legion Post 668, Vandalia.

PARADE HONORS VETERANS

When Charleston, S.C., VA Medical Center employees asked the veterans they serve what was needed to honor veterans on Veterans Day, the resounding answer was a parade. There hadn't been a Veterans Day parade in Charleston for 28 years so the VA Medical Center decided to resuscitate the long-dormant tradition. Mayor Joe Riley gave the organizers full support, as did local military and veterans service organizations.

At precisely 2 p.m., on November 7, 1999, a large Air Force Jet transport flew low over downtown Charleston signaling the start of Charleston's "first annual" Veterans Day parade since 1971. More than 70 marching units, including the Citadel Cadet Corps. and members of all military service branches, led the way, followed by floats from veterans service organizations and local civic groups. "It was an inspiring sight," said Charleston VAMC Director John Vogel. "The Charleston Exchange Club donated thousands of miniature American flags and the streets were lined with people, young and old, waving flags to honor our veterans."

Highlight of the parade was the Grand Marshal, retired Army General William C. Westmoreland, sitting tall in the seat of a horse-drawn World War I Army caisson provided by the South Carolina Army National Guard.

The Matt Urban
Monument Committee

Peter Radichio
John Bonkowski

This is the latest list of donors who have sent their contributions to me:

Walter Williams, PLAV, PFC James Pawlak, PLAV Post #169, Sterling Heights, Mi., Henry & Evelyn Golabiecki, Co. C 47th, Chester & Ayn Mikus Sr. 84th FA, PLAV National Department, Frank Siemaszko, PLAV Post #169, Edwin & Margaret Wisniewski Ser Co 47th, Mrs. June Hoepfner (Memory of husband, Herbert) Co F 2nd Bn 47th, Bill & Iris Canales K Co 47th (Second donation), Charles & Mary McLhinney (Memory of brother, Walter KIA with 47th), Edward Romanek PLAV Post #75, Dearborn, MI.

SEEKING

Dear Mr. Quinn:

I am writing a letter to you because I am seeking information on the time my Dad spent in the Army during World War II. My Dad passed away last February. I had always tried to talk to him about it but he would never expand too much to give me much insight. Since his death I have talked to some of his old friends and they have told me things that I had no idea that he had done. So naturally my curiosity has been high. I loved my Dad and was very close to him. I would like to gain more information on some of his service, maybe it would help me understand some of the things that he had to go through and why he was the way he was. My Aunts and Uncles said my Dad was a different man when he came home from the war.

I have his discharge papers and medals and ribbons. I am going to include his name, rank and serial number and other information I think would help. If you are unable to help me please let me know, so that I may explore other ways of getting information.

My E-mail address:
pkksr@yahoo.com

My Dad:

Name: Francis K. Kibler

Serial No. 37 284 023

Rank: PFC

Infantry:

Co B, 47th Infantry

Place of entry:

Fort Snelling Minnesota

Rifleman 745

Battles and Campaigns:

Algeria, French Morocco,

Tunisia, Sicily and Nor-

mandy Campaigns

My Dad was wounded in

France on July 13th, 1944.

Shrapnel and a bullet

wound.

I hope you are able to help me. I hope that maybe some of the men he was in the Army with are still alive but I know the chances of that are probably not the best.

Thank You
Paul Kibler Sr.

My Address:
Paul Kibler
3306 39th Street South
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560
Phone Number: 218-291-9425

39 Inf C. Co.

CARLOS WARD

10280 Eaton Pike

New Lebanon, OH 45345

Thought I had better send my dues in before you blackball me and list me as AWOL.

Sorry I couldn't make it to the reunion this year, but hope to make it next one. I had a valve change in May and didn't do much. Sure do miss the men from the 9th and pray we can all make it next year. Give my best to all keep in touch.

Thanks, God Bless.



Deadline for next issue of Octofoil Feb. 20th

MAIL CALL

Sorry to be so late with the picture that you requested of the presentation of our donation to the West Haven, CT. VA Medical Center. Gloria Jorel, Chief, Voluntary Service, was most appreciative of the gift, and will express her thanks in writing, to the Association.

Mae and I enjoyed the reunion in Hyannis, as usual, and thank the "Old Reliabilities" in New England for the thought and work that they put into making it a success, also, the same gang who will be doing the same thing again in October, at Worcester.

There were only three Q.M. faces to be seen at Hyannis, Everett Tapp, Gino Berasi, and mine. Gino and his brother Carl were visiting in Wilton, CT. from Youngstown, Ohio, and Gino drove over 200 miles to Hyannis for a 30 minute visit with his old buddies. This is the same Gino Berasi who traveled from Italy to Munich, Germany, in 1970, just to say "hello" to us when we were on our tour. His visit that time didn't last much longer than this one.

After the Octofoil came out, I received a call from Joe Russo in Wareham, MA. He has had "some stones" removed recently, but is "hanging in." Mary is also doing O.K. He also said that the Hokansons are having eye problems, therefore, don't do much driving. Bill Palady also called, everything is pretty much the same with him.

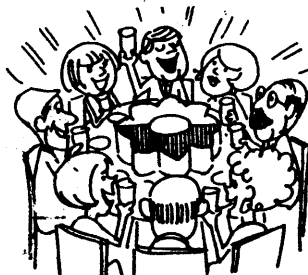
Looking around the banquet room in Hyannis, what used to be a great sea of familiar faces has really been reduced to the friends we have made since attending these wonderful get togethers. My memory of the Ninth goes back to September, 1940, and those wonderful pyramidal tents. So many have answered the last roll call since then.

We'll keep our powder dry, and look forward to seeing you in the Catskills next year, all things considered, but Mae needs an increase in her allowance if she is going to play in that high stakes card game with the ladies.

As always,
Trevor & Mae

MAY 2 TO 5, 2000

Kutschers Reunion



60th Inf.
JOHN MILLER
1511 Cochise Drive
Arlington, Texas 76012

Jean and I feel blessed and thankful that we remained healthy throughout the year. Even though I had carotid artery surgery during the spring of this year, I have recovered well and am feeling real good.

In February Jean put on a demonstration for the Gourmet Department of the Arlington Woman's Club of a six-course French meal. The Club had burned down a few months before so no cooking facilities were available. Friends helped her with the service. The ladies attending were given an assortment of petits fours. Jean made over 400 of them and they did appreciate her talents.

We didn't go overseas this year so we took a tour of New Mexico and Arizona, visiting old military friends enroute. Some of them we hadn't seen in over 50 years. We had a lot of interesting conversation about WWII, Battle of the Bulge, Army of Occupation of Germany with the U.S. Constabulary and my last overseas tour in Paris, France. Without a doubt, three years in Paris was the highlight of my career.

Returning from our vacation I started my usual Friday and Saturday routine of going to garage and estate sales searching for antique tools and other collectables. I've found numerous items of real value. I enjoy restoring old furniture and doing research to determine the value and this keeps me occupied.

During the summer Keith and Ronni sold their house and moved into a larger home with four bedrooms. They're much happier with the added space. Keith and Ronni's children are a joy for us. Jean keeps busy entertaining her grandchildren, always using her talents preparing special meals for the family.

Jessica, the oldest, will be eleven the first of January 2000 and has real artistic talents as well as being a very good student. Jeanette is seven, a good student, very good talker and busy with Girl Scouts. They're in a Charter School which the State of Texas has just started and are doing beautifully. Both Spanish and Latin are among their courses. The youngest is Wade, 2 years old and all boy. Quite a difference from little girls.

We took our family out for Thanksgiving dinner as Jean is in the process of preparing a dozen or more of international cakes and other pastries for a Millennium Dessert Party on 28th of December.

We're looking forward to next year and will be attending the 9th Infantry Division Reunion held at Kutsher's Country Club, Monticello, N.Y. May 2nd-5th Year 2000. Hope to see all our old friends, especially those of Co. F, 60 Infantry.

The year 2000 is just around the corner. Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Millennium, Happiness, Peace and Prosperity.

Health care broadened for veterans

By John Petrick
Journal staff writer

Starting today, a wider array of health care benefits are available to veterans under the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act.

Veterans must enroll in VA Healthcare in order to be eligible, and can submit an application at any time.

Those enrolling in the program will be eligible for a comprehensive benefits package on inpatient and outpatient services, with the new addition of preventive and primary care. Those services include such things as diagnosis and treatment, rehabilitation, mental health and substance abuse treatment, home health, respite and hospice care and pharmaceuticals.

Those not needing to enroll in the program include veterans who have been receiving VA Healthcare services since Oct. 1, 1996. Those veterans will be automatically enrolled in the new, more comprehensive benefits program by the VA automatically.

Also not needing to enroll are those:

- rated by the VA as having a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more.

- recently discharged from military service for a compensable disability that the military determined was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, and which has not yet been rated by the VA.

- seeking care from VA only for a service-connected disability.

The first year of national enrollment is a test year, according to VA officials. This year's veteran applicants will be notified whether they have been enrolled beginning in March and ending next September. The turnaround time for next year's applicants is expected to be significantly shorter, the VA said.

The VA does not encourage applicants to give up existing health care if enrolling in VA Healthcare. VA Healthcare is dependent on the level of congressional appropriations, not on premiums paid by enrolled veterans. Veterans with private insurance or other public coverage such as Medicare or Medicaid may find VA enrollment to be a complement to their existing coverage.

To apply or obtain information, call the VA's toll-free hotline at 1-877-222-8387.

Kutschers Reunion



May 2 to 5, 2000

MRS. JAMES T. JOYCE
1039 Oxford Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55103

I just received The Octofoil this afternoon and I feel I should write to let you know that Jim passed away on August 22, 1999 on his seventy-sixth birthday. He had served in Company C, 60th, 9th. Though Jim had not been well in the last two years, he was still able to function quite well in daily activities until shortly before his death.

I am enclosing a copy of "The Warrior" which was authored by our daughter, Teri Joyce (Rochester, Minnesota), in honor of her father. Teri and I both give you permission to print this poem in The Octofoil if you so desire.

Jim always enjoyed receiving this paper.

THE WARRIOR

My father was a warrior, so long ago in France.

Six weeks he spent in battle, it must have seemed a trance.

His years, they numbered twenty, with so much more to learn.

He saw the blood upon the deck of those who'd not return.

He crossed the Channel, felt his fear, as icy as the water.

He said his prayers and marched ahead to join up with the battle.

He saw the dead laid side by side, a mile square they covered.

How could he think he'd be immune when all around death hovered.

The hedgerows marked the battle lines, a shield or a trap?

On each side the soldiers

crept, ears listening for a snap.

Grenades were traded, bullets flew like raindrops in a storm.

Protection was a four inch hole and rosary beads to pray on.

Tripped by a tree root, a near miss, the Hand of God so close,

To feel the burning on your shoulder, a shiver in your toes.

On outpost duty he sat alert, tired and cold and wet.

He heard a sound, he pulled the pin, he was ready set.

The password spoken in the dark before the grenade was tossed,

He searched the ground to find the pin, but he knew that it was lost.

He held the handle that long night, waiting in the hedgerow

For dawn's new light to show the pin so it'd be safe to let go.

His buddies did and were replaced, more men to sacrifice.

Half were dead within the hour; a shoestring saved a life.

July Seventeenth was the day the ground exploded round him.

His legs were hit, his ear was torn, the battle sound grew dim.

They patched him up, gave him a drink, shipped him somewhere near it.

No purple heart could e'er repair the wounding of his spirit.

His wife he married, children raised, yet he couldn't find The pin for that last

grenade, the one he carried inside.

THE OCTOFOIL
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L100
JOHN CLOUSER
1088 N CIRCLE DR.
CRYSTAL RIVER FL 34429

Fifty years he wandered through those hedgerows of the past,

'Til finally he wrote his story and found release at last.

His years, they numbered seventy-six, when he learned the code word.

He told me he'd been interviewed and it was all on record.

He said, "Thank you" "Thank you." Thank you is the code.

On his birthday the circle closed, he crossed the final hedgerow.

For James Thomas Joyce
August 22, 1923 - August 22, 1999

Love, Teri (Joyce)

60th Inf. F Co
CLIFFORD PAINTER
4070 Oakhurst Drive
Sarasota, FL 34233

Think this has missed the Dec. 20 deadline, but hopefully it will make the next issue of the Octofoil. With much sadness I am reporting that another F Co Commander has died. Alan M. Johnson who commanded F Co from Aug. '44 to Feb. '45 died November 17, 1999 at the Fleet Landing, FL retirement where he lived. He was participating in an Armistice Day ceremony when he collapsed, dying just six days later.

You may recall that at the reunion at The Pines there were 5 former F Co Commanders in attendance. I am now the only one left - Robert Kriz, Matt Urban, John Allen, and now Alan Johnson are all gone. It was not a good year for F Co 60th. Earlier this year Phil Berman, Richard Nevens, and Jim Driscoll all died.

On a much lighter note to all of our F Co friends, Rosalie and I are enjoying the warmth and sunshine of Fla. Plans to attend next summers reunion are presently up in the air. We'll see what develops as the time gets closer.

Hope you and Marie are still doing OK. I assume you will put Alan's name in the TAPS column.

The 9th Recon Troop lost one of its original troopers, with the loss of John A. Kay.

Please insert this news in your next edition of the Octofoil.

The Recon Troop were a very close unit, and I am sure his passing will bring back memories, good and bad ones.

Thanks
Nicholas Capobianco