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The Octofoil, January/February 2000

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Volume XLXX.V Number 1

Jan-Feb 2000

THE MATT URBAN MONUMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Members of The Ninth Infantry Division Association:

We have been assured that Matty's Monument will be in place and we are going ahead with our dedication plans. The date is set for Saturday, 11:00 AM on April 1, 2000. The ceremony will be at the gravesite (Grave #40 Sec. 7) Arlington National Cemetery. Everyone is invited to attend.

Letters of invitation have been sent to Pres. Jimmy Carter and Sen. Bob Kerrey. We are hoping that they will be able to join us on this occasion and we'd be honored to have them.

We'll never forget that emotional moment when Matty received his Congressional Medal of Honor from Pres. Jimmy Carter almost twenty years ago. Sen. Bob Kerrey also a war hero and recipient of The Medal of Honor paid Matty a tribute as he attended the Funeral Mass and Burial five years ago.

We are still working on the Dedication Program. Mrs. Jennie Urban and daughter, Jennifer will unveil the Monument. We believe that everyone will be pleased with the monument in our effort to have him remembered for generations to come.

We are grateful to everyone who have contributed so generously to make this possible. We pray that the Good Lord will bless us with a beautiful day, a day that we have waited for.

Sincerely,

The Matt Urban Monument Committee
Peter Radichio
John Bonkowski

For those who wish accommodations, there will be a limited amount of rooms at the Days Inn - Arlington for a discounted rate of \$65 plus \$6.34 tax. Mention "The Matt Urban Monument Dedication." Call as early as possible for complete information and reservations, because these rooms are based on availability.

Days Inn- Arlington, [REDACTED]

Contact Miriam Martinez, [REDACTED]

Three more late donations were received since our last Report and we are grateful. We have surpassed our goal. Carl H. Hill, 2nd Bn Hq, Hq Co. 60th; PLAV Post #16, Dearborn Hts. MI; Erwin and Betty Schmidt Co. F 47th.

18th ANNUAL JOHN LEWIS MEMORIAL PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE

Dear Comrades - Wives and friends of the Ninth Medical Battalion:

Happy New Millennium to you all. It's time to start planning for our next reunion. We will celebrate the 18th John Lewis Memorial on April 25, 26 and 27th, at the Heartlander Resort in Pigeon Forge, TN. Call now for your reservations. (I already called the 800 number and have my confirmation number).

The Heartlander Resort has set aside several rooms for our mini-reunion and will provide us a conference room for our CP. Their group rate this year for us will be \$39.95 per room plus tax. (We tried real hard to get last years rates but they were unable to). So, call them direct at 1-800-843-6686 or 423-453-4106 and be sure to tell them that you will be attending the Ninth Medical Bn Mini-Reunion.

Charlie Denton will open the Command Post on Tuesday AM the 25th and will follow about the same schedule as last year. He has also promised a special Memorial Service for those of our comrades that have passed on. Chalmus and Greta Cochran will take care of the refreshments but will need a helping hand. I'm asking Cynthia Hyde to do her good planning on our special dinner. I'm also asking Pete Radichio to do some planning on special programs so everyone can plan their time while we are there. (Pete, be sure to leave plenty of time for the women to do their shopping at the outlets!) Please bring your WWI photos and souvenirs so we can review and relive the "ole days".

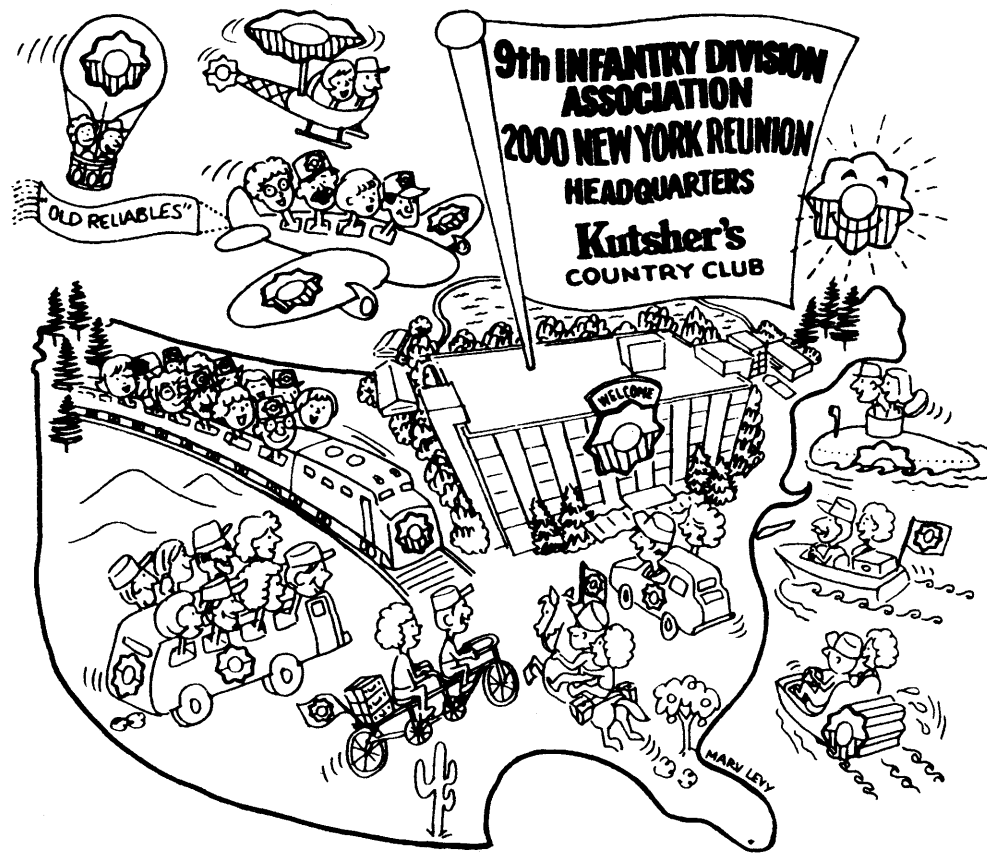
I'm enclosing group pictures and a "special greeting" that we all signed last year. It is for those that missed our mini-reunion. And especially for those that were so kind to send their greetings and in some cases a picture. We read each letter and posted them along with the pictures on the Bulletin Board. We hope you can identify all of your old comrades in the pictures and will try real hard to be in this years picture. Plan now to come to the 25th and if you really can't make it please, please send us a letter so we know that you are still among the living.

Respectively submitted:

Richard E. Cooley, Hq Co, te [REDACTED]

PS: Also enclosing copy of our roster as of Jan. 1, 2000. Please check over and let me know if there are any changes. Also, let me know if you want me to take you OFF the mailing list. (Mailings are getting expensive)

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



KUTSCHER'S WELCOMES THE 9th INF DIV ASSN 55th REUNION

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

Spring is here, and all roads lead to internationally famous Kutsher's Hotel in the Catskill Mountains, Monticello, New York, command post of the Ninthmen 55th Reunion. Your host, the NY Chapter and Kutsher's staff, have made every effort over the winter to make your stay as pleasurable as possible in the year 2000. The Catskills, wooded home of legendary, slumbering Rip Van Winkle, has been our mountain home on previous memorable get-togethers for the Old Reliables.

Kutsher's accommodations, dining, activities and entertainment are now in readiness for your enjoyment. We hope your reservation has been sent to Reunion Chairman Joe Killen, but if not, don't delay; fill out the reservation form on page two of this Octofoil and send it in right away. Don't miss out on this yearly chance to meet with your World War II buddies and partake of the varied interests awaiting you. And remember - there are NO STRIP TICKETS - the inclusive price covers three meals daily. Join us as the 9th Inf Div Assn launches the beginning of our annual reunions in the 21st Century.

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
- * 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.

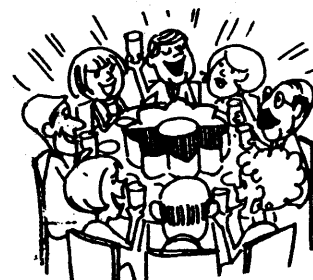
Look for more exciting details to come in the next Octofoil.

-Your Host, the Greater NY Chapter

Kutschers Reunion



Deadline for next issue April 20th



THE OCTOFOIL

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

National Officers
President
Martin Gross

[REDACTED]

Tom Hatton, 1st V.P.

[REDACTED]

Michael Belmonte, 2nd V.P.

[REDACTED]

Pat DeColli, 3rd V.P.

[REDACTED]

Dave Heller
Judge Advocate

[REDACTED]

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer

[REDACTED]

Daniel Quinn, Secretary

[REDACTED]

Board of Governors
2000
Richard Boudouy
Altamonte Springs, FL

[REDACTED]

Jack Collier
St. Louis, MO

Larry McLaughlin
Wakefield, MA

Richard Starr
Philadelphia, PA

John Miller
Arlington, TX

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

2002

Joseph Killen
Valley Stream, NY

William Doty
Baden, PA

Billie Martin
Beverly Hills, MI

Lenny Tomassone
Pennsauken, NJ

[REDACTED]

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 [REDACTED]

Volume XLXX V Number 1 Jan-Feb 2000

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.....

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

Life Membership.....\$75.00

Ladies Auxillary Member.....\$30.00

Decals.....50 each

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐

Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐

New England ☐ Michigan ☐

Florida ☐ New Jersey ☐

Texas ☐ California Chapter ☐

Ladies Auxillary

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Membership Application

[REDACTED]

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

Make all payments by CHECK ONLY payable to:
9th INF DIV ASSN REUNION 72K

Mail the completed Registration Form with check to:
Joe Killen

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 tax. For more information call Joe Killen 516-561-7346. Balance upon checking out of hotel must also be payable to the 9th INF DIV ASSN REUNION 72K.

(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.

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:

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

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 days before the start of the reunion as follows per person:

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

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. Kutsher's will accommodate members who reside in the vicinity and wish to partake of meals with hotel guests. Visitor Meal Rates are: Breakfast \$9.63, Lunch \$12.84, Dinner \$24.61. For attending both Cocktail Hour and Banquet management will accept CASH payment only of \$26.75.

If paying by CREDIT CARD

Please give information:

☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard #..... Expiration Date.....

Reservation secured by Credit Card must be paid in full and 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 Kutshers Country Club Resort Hotel and Conference Center, Monticello, New York 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



Veterans Day 1999
Retired Army General William C. Westmoreland leads Charleston, S. C.'s Veterans Day Parade riding in a horse drawn World I caisson. At his side a young boy dressed in a WWI uniform. General Westmoreland served as Grand Marshal for Charleston's first Veterans parade in nearly 30 years. Charleston VAMC employees were instrumental in reviewing the tradition.

POTSHOTS and OTHER OBSERVATIONS FROM the REUNION DUGOUT

The Grand Army of the Republic held their last encampment in 1949 and called it quits after 83 reunions. Since our reunion coming up in May is number 55, that means that we have to hold only 28 more reunions to catch up to them. By that time all of us kids, Blann, Brown, Maiale, Kelley, Crain, and yours truly, will certainly be classified as genuine survivors. See you then.

Don't forget that the Board of Governors and the National Officers will hold their executive meeting on Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 PM (May 2nd) in Kutsher's. Of the twenty other men who should put in an appearance there, as of today, I have heard so far from only six of them. Come on, guys, get it in; time's a wasting. I wouldn't want to reschedule to an unused broom closet.

To all of you other "Footdraggers" who are taking your own sweet time, please heed these warnings: - when all of the available rooms have been assigned and you have to sleep out in the pup tents by the lake; AVOID strolling to the latrine in the dark because the area abounds with black bears and skunks (striped kitties to the city boys) and you can imagine what a male bear in heat is on the prowl for. No, the hotel will not supply sidearms.

If you just happen to bump into O.C.S. in the halls, I'll bet you that he has a Michelin #54 in his hip pocket, along with a magnifying glass. To those who don't know a Michelin #54 is a road map of the Normandy peninsula from Cherbourg to Rouen, and down as far as 20 km below St. Lo. You can do him a favor if you speak to him only in French because we hear he needs the practice as he's going there right after the reunion. Calvados, pour moi!!

The one thing that every hero needs to become a genuine hero is a witness; without a witness you're a "dead pigeon" and nobody will believe your story if you can't back it up with a witness. Of course, some of us don't need reassurance as to how good we are or were. I still wish I knew the name of the kid who pulled me out from under the ice when I fell in at age five. He just took me in to my mother and disappeared without a trace. I could have been his witness for a medal. I wonder if he survived the war as he was about three years older than me. He could have left me to drown; but he didn't. Thank you, Lord. Yeah, I'm still here. Lincoln's Birthday, 1932; a day off from school, a day to die.

I guess that I was saved to "work my magic" first in George company 47th and now in the New York Chapter. Thanks again, Lord.

Stay healthy and send in your reservations.

Joe Killen, G-47

Continued from last page

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.

THE TEXAS & GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Our Chapter meeting was held October 26-27, 1999, at the Quality Inn in Abilene, Texas. Abilene was chosen in order that recognition could be given to Colonel Ray Inzer who served throughout WW II with the Ninth Infantry Division.

Two of our members in attendance had served under Captain Inzer in Normandy when he was the CO of Co H 47th Inf. Ernie Botella joined Co H in England as a replacement. He relates the benefit he received from the experience of those who had served in North Africa and Sicily. He stated: "I personally didn't realize then but I sincerely have realized since then that Captain Inzer was the very effective CO behind the additional training we replacements received prior to Normandy." Ernie was wounded June 22, 1944 and spoke with Captain Inzer on his way to the aid station. Ernie stayed in the Army for several years after WWII. He became a Company CO and when ... "problems arose that I asked myself how would Ray Inzer have handled this?"

W.M. "Dub" Lynch recalls: "Captain Ray Inzer, Company Commander, was the only officer left in Company H after the bombing of St. Lo. Lynch recalls that Inzer was wounded a few days later on August 3, at LeMotele, France." Lynch relates "the gloom that came over the Company when Captain Inzer was wounded. Captain Inzer made a special effort to come to the line and check on his men before being evacuated and treated for his injuries." It was in England where his wounds were being treated by "a very beautiful Army Nurse, Lt. 'Cokie' Coker, who later became his bride of fifty-three plus years."

Attending the Abilene meeting were two of Ray and Cokie's children, Carol and Sue.

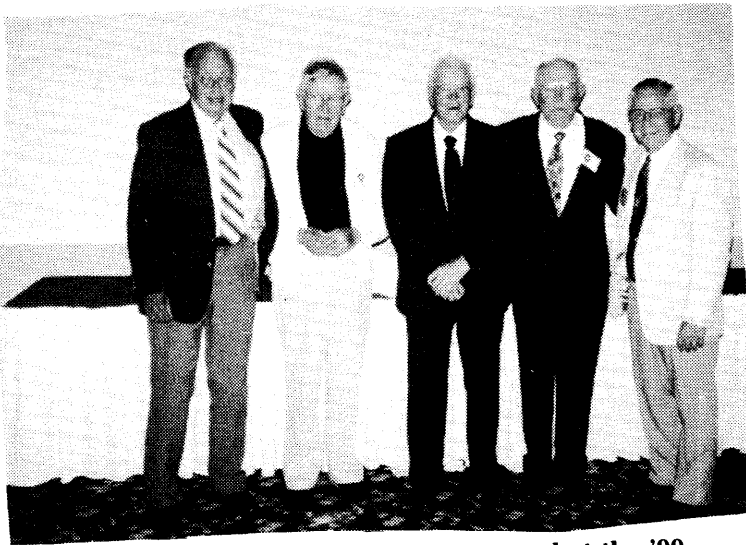
Members attending were M/M Jack Blann, M/M Ernie Botella, M/M Dick Granbery, M/M W.M. Lynch, M/M John Miller, Charles Newton, M/M Roscoe Shields, and M/M Herb Stern.

In addressing the meeting, Colonel Inzer spoke about the wonderful leadership of both officers and non-commissioned officers the Ninth had and developed over eight campaigns. Nor did he overlook the contribution made by the soldiers in the line. In closing he thanked the Chapter for coming to Abilene for its meeting.

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



At a recent meeting of Texas, Greater Southwest chapter in Abilene, Texas held on Oct. 27, 1999. Shown are L-R W.M. Lynch, Ray Inzer and Ernie Botella.



The 84th F.A. officers were well represented at the '99 Hyannis Reunion. L-R Bill Mauser, Ed Winsch, Walter Ricker, Pete Rice, and Frank Haines.

H Co. 47 Inf
JOHN POPP

I am sorry that I am so late in paying my dues. I'm one of the originals from Ft. Bragg where we were intents till the war was over.

I was in H Co. 2nd battle 47th Inf. from day one in Ft. Bragg till I was discharged in June 1945 and became a member in 1946.

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.

Jerome Langer
Serv. Btry 26 FA

Frederick Falgiano
M Co. 47th Inf.

John Cattle
84 F.A. Bn.

Elmer Roscoe
26th F.A. Bn.

Carmen DellaTerza
9th M.P.

Marguerite Habermann
Wife of Michael
Habermann, 39th Inf.

James Upham
G Co. 39th Inf.

Robert Vollmar
E Co. 39th Inf.

Peter Fortunato
84th F.A.

Edwin Perry
B Co. 39th Inf.

Virginia Lucas
Wife of Lucien Lucas

Ralph Witzkin
Serv. Co. 47th Inf.

Cyril Guidry
C Co. 39th Inf.

James West
A Co. 39th Inf.

Calvin Daniels
39th Inf. A

George King
Co. F 47th Inf.

Farnis Apostolides
Div. Arty

Tom Pitzer
9th Q.M.

John Parisi
39th Inf.

Kay Ghre
Widow of Larry Ghre
Co. F 47th Inf.

James Mullen
B Co. 15 Engrs.

Glen Gibbs
60th Inf.

Ralph Palermo
C Co. 9th Med.

Carla Olsen
Daughter of Pauline and
Herb Olsen

James Driscoll
Co. F 60 Inf.

Laurier (Larry) Gagnon
84th F.A.

Milton (Jack) McDaniel
Co. G 47th Inf.



NY Area Chapter Report

The NY Chapter met at Masonic Hall on Friday evening, January 21, 2000 at 7:30 PM. The new millennium was ushered in with the opening Pledge of Allegiance recited by the assembled and led by outgoing 1999 president Joe Killen. Resident Chaplain Al Lipton delivered the invocation and asked that we have a moment of silence to remember our departed buddies.

The first order of business was the installation of the chapter's new officers. Lipton officiated at the changing of the gavel from Joe Killen to newly elected president Anton Dietrich. Killen also received the traditional Octofoil plaque given to outgoing presidents for a job well done. The additional slate of officers were also installed: 1st VP Gene Magidson and 2nd VP Joe Killen. Incumbents Art Schmidt and Al Zenka retained their offices of Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The chapter's Octofoil reporter Marv Levy's added new post was Recording Secretary. Chapter Board of Governors are: 39th - Herminio Suarez, 47th - Dan Quinn and 60th - Charlie LiBretto. Divarty - Al Lipton, Special Troops - Adolph Wadalavage and Sgt. of Arms - Al Lubrano. Killen thanked the Chapter for the opportunity to chair the past presidency. Dietrich thanked the members for electing him for the year 2000. He acknowledged the exceptional job done by his predecessor and would try to be worthy of the honor.

On Sick Call

The meeting then began with Levy's reading the minutes of the December meeting followed by the financial report by Al Zenka. Regarding communications with other members Zenka reported Art Schmidt had a carotid operation in North Shore Long Island Jewish Hospital. (Since then Art has been released from that hospital and has been transferred to the VA 23rd St. facility for rehabilitation). Get well soon, Art

February Meeting

Because of snow, sleet and freezing rain our meeting on February 18 was sparsely attended. Five hearty Ninethmen: Chapter prez Anton Dietrich, Joe Killen, Ed Harris, Joe Rzesniowicki and this scribe held a semi official hearing of views and information. We learned that three of our chapter members had recently passed away: Jim Mullens, John Parrisi and Ralph Witzken. Our sincerest condolences go out to their families. We will miss them.

The following Chapter Officers were elected for the year 2000: President - Anton Dietrich; First Vice-President - Eugene Magidson; Second Vice-President - Joseph Killen; Secretary - Arthur Schmidt; Recording Secretary - Marvin Levy; Treasurer - Alphonse Zenka; Chaplain - Albert Lipton; Judge Advocate - Daniel Quinn; Sergeant-at-Arms - Al Lubrzn.

Installation of Officers

This is my first letter as President of our New York Chapter. As we start this first year of a new Millennium, Y2K, I would like to wish all of you and your loved ones a Happy and Healthy coming year. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the membership for electing me President and feel, with the staff of officers who were elected with me, we will be able to have a successful administration and Reunion in May. However, to do a good job, we need the support of the entire membership. Please come to meetings and give your support. Many thanks to Joe Killen for a job that was well done.

We had a very successful Christmas party on December 12th at Niederstein's Restaurant in Middle Village, New York, with 50 members and their guests in attendance. Thanks, Joe, for your fine work.

Following is a brief resume of our agenda for the next few months. The next regular meeting of the New York Chapter will be January 21st at the Masonic Building, 71 West 23rd Street, New York City (corner Sixth Avenue and West 23rd Street) at 7:30 PM. Free refreshments will be served. Our February meeting will be on the 18th. The March 17th meeting will be Past Presidents' night. So come to the meeting and honor our Past Presidents. There will be no meeting in April due to Good Friday.

This year's 55th Reunion for Y2K will be chaired by our New York Chapter, so plan to attend on May 2nd through the 5th at Kutsher's Country Club, Monticello, New York.

Our Annual Memorial Service at the Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 20th, at 10:30 AM, followed by our usual picnic at Bethpage State Park, along with the May meeting.

Please check your mailing sticker on the envelope of this letter (upper right hand corner) which indicates the year to which your dues are paid. If they are in arrears, Art Schmidt at the above address will be happy to receive them. The dues are \$10.00 for one year, \$25.00 for three years, and \$75.00 for a Life Membership, payable to the Greater New York Chapter, 9th Infantry Division Association.

Dietrich received a letter with dues from Mrs. Antoinette Mastrangelo, wife of deceased member Peter. Zenka will return dues payment since widows are not obliged to pay deceased member's dues. Sabatino Agnostelli sent back \$50 from his 50-50 Christmas raffle winnings donating it to the Chapter's general fund. Also, Nick Nichols donated his raffle winnings to the general fund. Thanks, guys.

Prez Dietrich also received a call from Fred Folgiano's daughter that his death had not been reported in the Octofoil. We are very sorry for this oversight and Taps for Fred will be noted.



In-coming NY Chapter President Anton Dietrich (r) presents Octofoil plaque to out-going President Joe Killen at Installation of Officers, January 21, 2000. (Photo-Marv Levy)

Attention NY Chapter Area 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, [redacted]

Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings, as your input counts.

Yours in Comradeship,
Anton Dietrich, President
139-01 89th Avenue
[redacted]

M Co (47th) Chronicler

Dear Compadres:

According to my publisher, Greenwood Press, the Eddy biography will be available for purchase at \$65 a pop, come 30 March 2000, at <http://www.greenwood.com> on the Internet. If this is out of reach, try asking your local library to order it.

Also, my "battle book," Sedjenane, our story of N. Tunisia, is available at another Web Site, www.region-alarts.com, along with the late Herb Clark's God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen. The latter book is made up of Christmas columns from Herb's newspaper in which he celebrated his fellows from Hq 60th Inf. during the Hürtgen experience. Proceeds from the sale of Herb's book will be donated in his name to the Association's Memorial Fund.

I'll pass on an invitation I've had from Germany's "Merode Veteran's Assn." to attend their reunion May 25-28. These are the guys we tangled with coming out of Schevenhütte in late Nov. '44.

If interested, write to Albert Trostorf, Schloss-Strasse 12, 52379, Langerwehe-Merode, Germany, phone ++49-[redacted]

No news from Mers to relay - probably all hunkered down for the winter. Adios amigos. Note new address:

Red Phillips
[redacted]

SOS for New Jersey Chapter Members

I urge present, past and interested future members of the New Jersey Chapter who would like to work to reactivate the chapter to contact me at my residence at [redacted]

[redacted] I welcome your suggestions for chapter meetings and other activities. In order to update our chapter membership files, it is important that you send your current address and telephone number and designation of units in which you served in the 9th Division.

If you are planning to attend this year's reunion, please let me know in advance so I can contact you. Look for my room number at the registration table and leave yours. We should have chapter representation at all committee meetings.

Thank you for your response.

Frank Haines
President, N.J. Chapter
9th Inf. Div. Assoc.

9th Med. Bn & Div. Hqs.
HERB STERN
[redacted]

Enclosed please find my check for membership renewal in the association for the year 2000 plus donation to the memorial fund in memory of Ralph Palermo.

My friend, Ralph Palermo passed away on February 10th.

Although there were many long intervals of time during which we did not see each other - 58 years is a long time for this friendship to endure.

Ralph was with C Company 9th Medical Battalion from Ft. Bragg to the occupation in Germany. He was truly one of the old Reliables - a good soldier, a good family man who in spite of ill health gave generously of himself to his community.

Those of us who were his comrades and friends will remember his good spirits, his care for others and his conscientious nature - we will miss him greatly.

B Co. 39th
ALBERT BACCILE
[redacted]

Well friends, if we are to continue the comradeship and viability of the 9th Inf. - and further extend into the new millennium we must make every effort to attend reunions and acknowledge the fine work of our Division chapters.

Over these many years we have stayed in close contact through other medias such as letters, phones and cards, but being together at reunions is much more intimate and rewarding.

Aging and illness are certainly big factors at our present stage of life. However, we should not forget who and what we represent.

About once every month I travel north to visit my old buddies, Al "Hawk" DiRisio who lives in Fairport, N.Y. and Joseph Gravino who resides 8 miles away in Macedon, N.Y.

Former B Co. Mess Sgt. DiRisio is such a great guy to be around, and we all remembered how he entertained with his jokes, singing and accordion playing. The "Hawk" operated a restaurant in Fairport for over 50 years, and is well known to all in that area. He is now ailing and bedridden but unforgettable.

There is none more proud to have served in the 9th than are old 1st Sgt. Joe Gravino. I usually stay at Joe's place and we have many fond memories to share. Joe was recently honored by the Macedon American Legion Post for being one of the most decorated men in Wayne County. (Enclosed is a picture regarding those ceremonies).

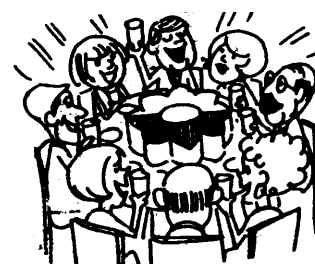
This past year has further depleted our ranks. Former B Co. Capt. Edwin A Perry, died of terminal cancer in Lanett, Alabama last summer. He said in his letter to me, "that it was time to go" (his words). He served 35 years in the Army, and retired as full Col. He was buried with full military honors in Fort Benning, Ga.

Another recent loss was sustained by yet another B Co. officer, Lucien Lucas's wife Virginia passed on to her eternal reward. A fine woman and dedicated mother. Luke you have our sympathy.

Unless something unforeseen happens Joe and I will be at Kutshers in the Catskills this coming May. It would be nice to see some of our old buddies. How about it guys?
P.S.

Joe has agreed to buy all B Co. men and consorts a drink, and I will give you a Charlie Chaplin solo as long as I can still limp.

Kutshers Reunion



May 2 to 5, 2000

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Reunion Committee Report: With each succeeding year, it becomes more difficult for our Reunion Committee to find a suitable hotel to hold our Chapter Reunions. The Orlando/Kissimmee/Daytona locations are fine geographically as they are centrally located to accommodate our membership. However in order to negotiate for a reasonable room rate, the Hotel Sales personnel usually demand a guarantee. We require a Hospitality Room where we can bring in our own snacks and drinks. This is not easy. As we read the OCTOFOIL, we can't help reading that some of our members are listed in the TAPS Section. Illnesses, financial problems, distances and other family obligations take their toll in reducing the number of members who attend these reunions.

With these facts in mind, the Reunion Committee (Richard Baudouy, Emil De Donato and their wives), have been looking into other locations to hold our Fall, 2000 Reunion. Upon Peter Radichio's suggestion, Audrey and I met with the Sales personnel of the Plantation Inn located in Crystal River. This is a lovely golf resort on the West Coast, about 50 miles north of Tampa. Their room rate was excessive any month after September and also they do not permit any food or drinks inside the Hospitality Room. Drinks and snacks are allowed in a "Parlor Room" ...BUT ... a bartender must be hired. Although Plantation Inn is a beautiful place, it just doesn't meet our requirements.

Next, we went to meet with the Sales Manager at the Holiday Inn, Ocala. The room rate quoted was \$56.00 per night, double occupancy, providing we can rent 20 rooms for two nights during the tentative dates of November 7, 8 and depart on the 9th. The Banquet Room and the food are adequate. The obstacle is in the Hospitality Room where food and drinks are not allowed. However, we can utilize a "Parlor Room" together with another separate room plus an outside tent, (weather permitting). This sounds like a good deal, however we are exploring other facilities in Melbourne Kissimmee/St. Cloud and a decision will be noted in future issues of the OCTOFOIL.

Now here's how ever Florida Chapter Member reading this Newsletter or any National Association Member who may wish to attend our Reunions can help. Please take the time out and "invest" in a 20 cents postcard or a 33 cents stamp to answer the following questions and then send them to me: Emil J. De Donato,

The questions are:

1. Would you travel to locations other than Daytona Beach or Orlando?
2. Will you attend 2 or 3 days in the middle of the week?
3. What month of the year is best for you? Name a 2nd or 3rd month?
4. Is finance a problem with you?
5. Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding our reunions?

Again, please take a few minutes to answer these questions and send them as soon as possible. Remember ... the Reunion Committee works hard in making plans, meeting and negotiating with Hotel Sales personnel; promoting the reunions and other chores without compensation. All we ask is that you help us a little bit by expressing your thoughts so that we can serve the Florida Chapter better.

NEW ROSTER UPDATE: Secretary Don Wright is working on a new roster and promised to send reading proofs to all the other officers for editing purposes before making the full printing run. Send any corrections of address, deletions, etc. to: Don Wright, 200 Ocean Lane Drive, 304, Key Biscayne, FL 33149. In the meantime, update your old roster with the following changes:

Coulán, Arthur C. Moved. New address: 2504 S.E. Anchorage Cove, Apt. E-1, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952-4977.

Driscoll, James: Deceased, October 13, 1999. Jimmy suffered multiple sicknesses. He died of complications of the heart. Jimmy and Virginia sold their Florida home and moved to New Jersey the latter part of 1999. Jimmy served with Co. F 60th Infantry. He also was the Chaplain of the Florida Chapter.

Gagnon, Laurier: (Larry): Deceased, December 24, 1999. Larry was born in Westerville, Maine on June 19, 1919 and served in the military from 1938 to 1970 (32 years). He fought as an artillery soldier in WWII and also fought in the Vietnam War. Larry is survived by his wife Florence, his son Mel and a daughter Connie Teal-Schweers. Larry and Florence moved to Florida in 1980 and resided at 3218 Good Homes Rd., Orlando, FL. 32818. Our heartfelt sympathies to both the Driscoll and Gagnon families. May our brother comrades rest in peace, Amen.

Mc Daniel, Milton (Jack): Deceased, February 9, 2000. Jack served in Co G 47th Infantry. He was awarded the Bronze star and the Purple Heart during the battle for Cherbourg. He was a staunch supporter of the Florida Chapter and a proud member of the National Organization. He died of complications in the neck resulting from a heart attack.

MEMBER NOTES

Bill Coen: Bill was discharged from the West Palm Beach V.A. Medical Center and returned to his home in Okeechobee, FL.

FRIENDSHIP MEMORIAL Memorial Dedicated

Don Lavender, veteran of Co. I 39th Regiment, participated in the dedication of a Friendship Memorial at Schmidt Germany on September 11. The "stone", provided by a benevolent Dutch resident Ron Van Ryt, is intended to commemorate the friendship that has developed between the one time enemies. The German 89th Infantry Division and the 707th Tank Battalion listed on the monument represent all units that fought in the Hurtgen Forest. The battle that continued from mid September 1944 to mid February 1945 involved eleven U.S. Division and nine German Divisions. Both sides lost in excess of 20,000 men. Although the Hurtgen Battle is not remembered as one of the decisive battles of World War II, it has been the subject of five or more books and was studied at the U.S. Command and General Staff School at Ft. Leavenworth.

All elements of the 9th Division were involved in the Hurtgen Battle - some more than others. Ninth Division losses - killed, wounded or missing - exceeded 4,000.

Harro Kunst, retired school teacher, represented the German units at the dedication. He was an artillery observer in the Hurtgen. Kunst translated his own speech. Gevert Haslob, retired Lt. Col was an aide to General Walter Bruns, commander of the German 89th Div. and he also participated in the unveiling of the monument.

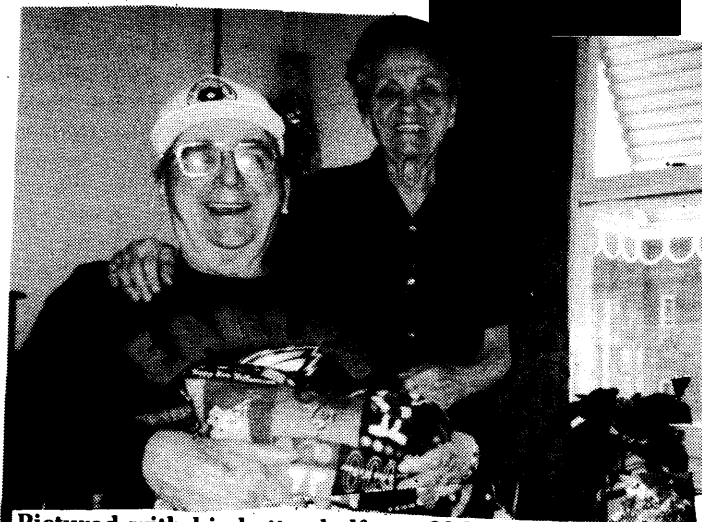
Lavender was an enlisted man during the war and is now a retired Reserve Colonel. He was selected to speak on behalf of American forces because of his acquaintance with the Dutch citizen who contributed the stone and members of the American 707th Tank Battalion which supported the 28th Div. during the war. The 707th was meeting at their annual reunion and did not have a representative present. Lavender's comments were interpreted by Klaus Schulz - an authority on the Hurtgen Battle.

In his commentary, Lavender mentioned: "In this dim dark forest fifty-five years ago, both sides prayed to the same God that they might be victorious ... Today we come together mindful of the many years since that have brought an understanding and a friendship that once seemed impossible. Those of us who saw our comrades fall shed a tear in sorrow as we recall their loss. Family and friends remember the fallen and question WHY? We, who were with them when they fell, question WHY ME? Why was I left standing when they were taken away? Life has been a bit more precious for those of us who once faced death on the field of battle, and consciously or unconsciously, we have endeavored to live better lives because we somehow gained the impression that we must have been spared for a purpose."

"As veterans of a war long over, our lives are nearing an end. We hope that memorials such as this one may have some influence on those who might follow reminding them of the futility of war and encouraging them to find some other way."

For those who might have occasion to visit the Hurtgen area, the memorial stone is located in a small park next to the church in Schmidt. Although the name of the 9th Division is not listed thereon, our division is honored just the same and all of us know the part we had in that battle.

39th Inf DON LAVENDER



Pictured with his better half are Ol Mess Sergeant Joe Lesko and Anne his bride of 58 years. Joe was king of the kitchen of Hq. Btry 84th FA.

Irv King: Since the loss of his wife Ruth on August 27, 1999, Irv and his son have been spending much time together. Both attended our 1999 Chapter Reunion in Daytona Beach.

Henry Santos: We were happy to learn that Henry spent the holidays at his Tampa home with his wife Eva. Henry shows some improvement at the VA Nursing Home in Tampa.

Writer's Note: Please send any Florida Chapter news to me regarding your good times, anniversaries, grandkids, vacations, sickness, etc. A simple post card or a note will do.

Emil J. De Donato

84th F.A. Hq. Btry RIP RYBKA

One of the unsung heroes of WWII was the hard-working Mess Sergeant. He saw to it that we had full stomachs. Some had more talent for preparing "something from nothing" than others. Ours, Sarge Joe Lesko, was one of the best at this. His kitchen was never closed when a hungry man arrived, even if he arrived late, for chow (Joe as truly an "Old Reliable").

Several years ago, Laryce and I went to see Joe and Anne in Tamaqua, PA. We found Joe (now 86) in a wheel chair, an amputee (not a victim of WWII, but of diabetes) confined to home with his constant companion and loving caregiver, his wife Anne. We looked at the whole situation and expected perhaps words of complaint or self-pity from them. NOT SO, NOT EVER! We were welcomed into their home with smiles and happy hugs. Since that day, we have corresponded with them frequently, via phone and the U.S. Mail; and we have learned that when we need our spirits lifted, we only need to talk to "Joey" and "Annie Bananie" (as they call each other). They are as romantic and as much in love as they were when Joe went away to war. We love and admire them both. I'm enclosing a couple of pictures of Joe and his "Annie" taken on their 58th anniversary, New Year's Eve, 1999. Hope you have room for them in this issue. Joe has never been able to attend a 9th Div. reunion, but he has always been there in spirit. He is so proud to be one of the "Old Reliabilities!" If you need a lift for your spirits, just give them a call or drop a card!

Sarge Fat Joe and Anne Lesko,

C Co. 39th Inf. JOHN D. YOUNG

I'm sending my dues for another year for the Octofoil paper.

Received word Christmas that Sgt. Cyril Guidry of Plaquemine, La. passed away in Dec. 99.

We spent the winter in Mission, TX, 1999 and Leland Ellis of Paonia, Colo. came by and visited my wife and me. We enjoyed his visit very much. He was a machine gunner in 4th Platoon. James West of Oneida TN passed away last year. He was in A Co.

I also remember Carlos Ward of Ohio. I met him in Mt. Etna in Sicily when I joined the 9th Inf.

My wife and I are R-V'ers. We have made tours all over the west and we visited Leland Ellis when he lived in Gumison, Colo. and owned a jewelry store.

We spend our winters in Fla., Mission TX and Ariz.

We are home this winter, the 1st winter we have been home since I retired.

I enjoy the Octofoil very much.

FLORIDA CHAPTER SALUTES TWO DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS

The 9th Infantry Division produced many brave, heroic soldiers during the fighting of WWII. To write case histories on each one of them would take years of research and require a book of over 500 pages. A story written by Gary Harris, a writer for AIR & SPACE MAGAZINE prompted me to write this article.

The Florida Chapter is honored to have Lewis "Chip" Maness and Norris Gray on its Membership Roster. As the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Bn 47th Infantry Regiment, Major Lewis Maness lead the 2nd Battalion in an assault which completely penetrated the enemy main line of resistance guarding the approaches of the Roer River during the five day period between November 24 to November 28, 1944.

The 2nd Bn. 47th Infantry was again cited for its role during the period of April 2 to April 5, 1945 when they captured the town of Welminghausen, Germany.

As a civilian, Ret. General "Chip" Maness has been sharing his Army experiences with such audiences as NASA ALUMINI LEAGUE, Veterans Groups, Reunions and other functions. His biggest joy is talking about the time when he commanded the 2nd Battalion in the capture of (8) Missiles near the Hartz Mountains in Germany. These missiles were shipped to the USA for study. As "Chip" tells it... this was the "YEAR THE ROCKETS CAME". That was in 1945... now after 54 years of research and development, NASA and America have produced the sophisticated missile hardware we now witness being launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on practically a monthly basis.

Norris Gray served as an artillery soldier with A Btry, 60th Field Artillery. He joined NASA as a FIRE CHIEF soon after leaving the service in 1945. Norris is now retired but remains as a consultant to NASA. As "Fire Chief", he was responsible to cover any mishaps of the shuttle no matter where they happened in the world.

Norris Gray played an important role back in the 1950's when a program known as "BUMPER" was experimenting with missiles being launched from remote make shift pads located at different locations of the present Cape Canaveral. At present, Norris serves as a member of the NASA Board of Directors. He and his wife Dorothy have attended many National Reunions and almost all of the Florida Chapter Meetings. The Officers and the membership of the Florida Chapter are proud to have these two gentlemen participate in the affairs of the Florida Chapter.

Emil J. De Donato

60th Inf. M Co.
BONIFACIO CAMPOS

Enclosed dues for year 2000.

For all those guys from Co M 60th, who would have thought when we left Bragg in 1942, we'd be here today. Not me.

So hoping you and Marie had a healthy and happy holiday. Same goes to all men and family from Co M 60th Inf. Thank you for a good job on keeping us informed through the Octofoil.

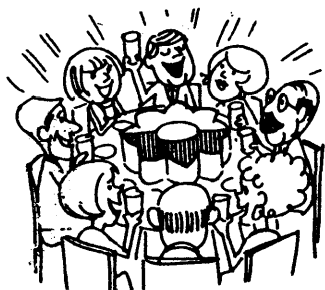
47th Inf. K Co.

GEORGE AND KATE
NICKLINS

Christmas rushed right by us, so here we are to wish you a very Happy New Year and a glorious new century.

We both continue to be very busy. Our big news this year is the impending publication of George's book Doctors in Peril (how they cope with major illness).

The children and grandchildren continue to thrive, and we all send our love to you.



SEEKING

My father fought in Europe with the 9th Infantry (France, Germany). His name was Warren Nichols, 60th Regiment, 2nd Battalion (I think) Easy Company. He was a machine gunner. Unfortunately, he passed away two years ago. I was hoping you might be able to find anyone who knew him or refer me to someone who could. I have one item that you might be interested in. It appears to be from a battalion news letter. It is titled Sportscasting dated 27 July 1945.

My Dad kept it because he was featured in the Softball Section. The pitcher for Easy Co. was feller other players for Easy Co. listed are gansman; for Fox Co. Van Summeron, Ferguson and I think Perrigrin. I hope you find this helpful. If you like I could try and copy it for you. My Dad told me a lot of stories and I would like to see if anyone is left that experienced them.

39 B/NF Band Hqs. Co.
ANTHONY F. JAKUBIAK

Enclosed find dues for next three years.

I've been hospitalized several times and am slowly recovering.

I'd like to say hello to my buddies Dave Goodman and Vic Daumit.

Send regards to other members of 39th Infantry Band.

INVITATION

Dear Friend and Comrade,

The Merode Veterans Association and the 3rd Parachute Division Association would like to invite you and your family members, for our next American - German peace - and friendship reunion, which will be from May 25, 2000 till May 28, 2000 here at the towns of Merode and Schlich in Germany.

Like in the past years, we have arranged a very interesting program for our American and German veteran friends.

The Merode Veterans Association and the 3rd Parachute Association want to give you their full assistance during the time here in Germany. We can also make a reservation for you at a local Hotel at the town of Dueren. Deposit or prepayment is not necessary. The name of the Hotel is: Hotel Jägerhof, Monschauer Strasse 215 - 217, 52355 Düren-Rolsdorf, Phone: ++49-2421-96710.

If you would like to attend our reunion, please take a flight to the Airports of Frankfurt/Main, Cologne or Dusseldorf. At the airports you will have the opportunity to rent a car or you can travel by train to the town of Dueren. We will transfer you from the Railroad Station to the Hotel. We also will transfer you back and forth from the Hotel to our reunion room. All rooms at the Hotel have a separate bathroom and it accepts credit cards like VISA, MasterCard and American Express.

If you want to attend our reunion, please give me a message before April 30, 2000. Our German veterans and myself would feel very honored, if you would visit our reunion.

If you should have any questions, please contact me by mail, e-mail or on phone. The best time to call me is after 07.30 PM (Greenwich time)

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Albert J. Trostorf
(Chairman & President)

B Co. 15 Engrs.
RICHARD C. McGRATH

The good part first, this letter is to tell of my appreciation for all the work, all the time, and all the years that you, Marie, and all your co-workers have put out - "The Octofoil."

It has kept us in touch with all our buddies and I know I speak for all of them when I say thanks a million for taking on this mountain of information that we look forward to every month or so.

Wish you well and I hope you have a healthy happy future, you and yours.

Now for the sad part. I was informed the other day of the passing of Jim Mullen, a good brave soldier. He had moved to Florida some time ago and his close comrade Lt. Bob Mundle was good enough to let me know he was failing. Bob was generous with his time and one of the best officers any Army outfit ever had. The other day I received the bad news from Jim's sister.

Jim, I believe, was one of the early draftees from the New York area to form the Ninth Inf. Div. and I was lucky to know him. He was always ready to do his part in doing what was necessary. We had good times at many reunions.

Look forward to seeing you at a future reunion, if I ever feel up to it.

Thanks again for everything.

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. Div. Ass'n (noting Pawns of War on check) to Secretary Arthur R. Schmidt, 89-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385.

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:

Steven Kostowicz

Siegfried Reinheimer

Joyce Roscoe - In memory of her husband, Rusty Roscoe, Joe Albanese, Joe McKenzie and Arnold Leach, all from 26 FA Bn.

Arthur Clark - In memory of Tony Carmeci, George Capobianco, Jim Shaw and Nick Asparag, all M Co., 39th Inf.

John A. Peluso

Ralph Palermo - In memory of Frank Koncur and John Klooz, both from C Co 9th Med. Bn.

Marvin Toothaker

Mrs. Peter Fortunato - In memory of her husband, Peter.

J.E. Eddy

Harry Kenney - In memory of Bob Colflesh, Frank Petty and Bill Mooty.

David Sanner

Rip Rybka - In memory of Charles Pitney and Cal Polivy.

Paul Giarraputo - In memory of Vincent Guglielmino, Edward Hopkins and Felton Jones.

Jack Dunlap - In memory of John Bauman, Edwin Perry, Co B-39th Inf. and Ruth King

Chester Mikus - In memory of Octavian Gansca, B Btry 84 F.A.

Frank Kowalik - In memory of Ralph Palermo, C Co 9th Med.

Richard McGrath - In memory of James Mullen, B Co. 15 Engrs.

Aldor Cook - In memory of Ralph Palermo, C Co 9th Med.

Andrew Kopach - In memory of John Klooz and Ralph Palermo, both of C Co 9th Med.

Alex Balough - In memory of Ralph Palermo, John Klooz and Frank Koncur.

Kenneth Hill - In memory of Robert Vollmar, E Co 39 Inf and Zelma Rigsby, wife of Ed Rigsby, E Co 39 Inf.

Herbert Stern - In memory of Ralph Palermo, C Co 9th Med.

39 Inf E Co.
RAY WHITE

Enclosed is my check for 3 years' membership dues.

Please send a special "hello" to all old E Co. gang. I don't know if I'll get to the next reunion or not, I am in a wheel chair recuperating from a broken hip on Oct. 16, '99.

If not, good luck & God bless all of you.



Richard O'Connor 84th F.A. former Jersey boy now living in Calif. keeps busy helping the sick and the dying.

Except for a few twinges in the hinges, Richard A. O'Connor is a healthy, active 84-year-old who needs to keep busy. When he retired from the grocery business 22 years ago, he noticed an item in his church's newsletter about a hospice training course for volunteers to aid the terminally ill and their families.

"I don't have any hobbies or special talents, but I love people and helping them in any way I can," he said. "Hospice care sounded like something I could do so I signed up."

During an eight-week course, he listened to doctors, nurses, social workers and psychiatrists. Each week a different aspect of dealing with the needs of the dying and their families was explained to the students.

"I first just call and suggest dropping by to meet them. I visit for about half an hour to see if we click," O'Connor said. "They might not be comfortable with me, and then again I might not want to be in a particular situation myself."

He once refused to take a case because the patient had two huge dogs roaming freely around the house. Twice in his life he has been bitten, and dogs make him nervous, he said.

O'Connor said one of his toughest experiences emotionally was with a single mother and her beautiful 5-year-old daughter, who was dying of leukemia. He drove them to Childrens Hospital in Los Angeles and stayed there with them for eight hours, then drove them home.

The hospice volunteer never touches the patients, but is allowed to give them their pills. The purpose of hospice is not to prolong life or end life, but to make the patient as comfortable and pain-free as possible once the doctor has declared they are terminal. In other words, at the patient's written request, no extraordinary measures are taken on their behalf.

O'Connor tries to meet the needs of the caregiver of a terminally ill person any way he can. In addition to his regular schedule of duties, he has cooked meals, answered phones, house sat when a survivor needed to get away for a while after the loss, and he even mowed lawns. He usually attends the funerals or memorial services because he feels he has made and lost a friend, no matter how briefly he was with that person.

"Sometimes you only visit them once before they die. Others last for months," O'Connor said.

The volunteer recognizes that the caregiver is isolated and alone. The patient has a doctor and the caregiver, but the caregiver has no one. Statistics show that many caregivers die before the person they are nursing, due to the work and stress they live under day in and day out.

O'Connor sits with the patient so the caregiver can go shopping or just have a few hours of essential respite. Some may just need a nap after being kept awake at night.

He reads to patients and talks over the news of the day. He lets them know they can close their eyes and just relax. They do not have to talk to him.

In addition to visiting patients in their homes, O'Connor is on call 24 hours a day to pick up medicine for the five-bed Whittier hospice house. He also spends every Thursday there, answering phones and trying to comfort the patients' visitors.

He says spending 22 years with the dying has not depressed him. It has never occurred to him to question the purpose for the suffering he witnesses.

"I just accept things as they are," he said. "I love people, and I know my work helps them. Someday someone will be doing this for me. Right now, I visit a woman in hospice house whose husband was a patient of mine 18 years ago.

"As for me, I'm just grateful to be alive at my age, enjoying my family and still able to feel useful."

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).

WILLIAM J. WOLF JR.

SEEKING

My father, Staff Sergeant William J. Wolf, served with the 9th Infantry Division, 39th Infantry Regiment. Last November my mother received a letter from the nephew of a Lt. Sid Gustafson of the 39th Regiment, 2nd Battalion. Lt. Gustafson was killed in action in April of 1943 and his nephew was documenting what he could of his war experiences. My father, however, did not join the 39th until late in June of 1943 so I couldn't be much help to him. I searched through Dad's papers and sent him a few articles and an old list of men from the 39th that was dated 1981. Also a very nice campaign map of the 9th Division in WWII.

I am now involved in the same type of project for my father. Dad was with the 39th Regiment from North Africa to the Hurtgen Forest where he was captured on 10-12-44. He was wounded twice and returned to duty each time. As you can see, I have a lot of research to do. I am currently working on the Battle for Sicily time period.

I found your Association address on the 9th Division Web Site on the Internet. They, especially Mr. Leon Baldwin, have been very helpful. I visit their web site frequently.

I am inquiring if it is possible for me to join your Association? If so, could you please send me information on how to do so? If I am not eligible to join, any information on services you can provide that would put me in touch with veterans that may have known Dad, would be helpful.

As I said, Dad served in the 9th Infantry Division, 39th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company G, 1st Platoon at the time of his capture. You may be interested to know he escaped from Stalag 3-C in 1945 and eventually made his way home. Dad passed away in January, 1991.

Thanks in advance for the consideration and help you may provide.

39th Inf. E Co.
WILBERT GOLDSMITH

I am sorry to have to report the passing away of Robert Vollmar of Bowling Green, Ohio. Bob was an original Ft. Bragg man from E Co., 39th Regt. To my knowledge he was drafted in 1940 and was one of the oldest (in age) in the company. Due to these factors he was called "Old Man." He was wounded a couple of times, but was sent home from the outfit on points when the war ended.

I hope to see you at Kutsher's in May. Judy, the old lady wouldn't miss going to the Jewish Alps for anything.

I sent a letter, requesting an answer, if they were going to attend the reunions. So far I have 3 yes'es and 4 no's. Most of the no answers are due to illness.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Dear Dan,

As you have written, each of us enjoy reading the Octofoil but few of us are willing to write. As a veteran of the 9th Division, and the 47th Infantry from Tenax city to Germany I want to share a little of what was engraved in my cavern hall of memory.

I reported for one year active duty in Sept. 40 - what a shock: to live in a tent with no running water, no bathrooms and no friends. A little bag of water was available. A wash basin supported by tent pegs. The Regimental commander was A.M. Patch a Lt. Col., later Lt. Gen. He gave me a warm welcome. Eventually, I found my tent, which I shared with five other officers. Capt. Eli Stevens asked that I be assigned to his company, which was anti-tanks, a new company. This unit was to be armed with 37 mm weapons reportedly capable of smoking out any tanks. Oh my, what we didn't know!

In March of '41 we moved into the new contaminant area, what a change! We trained and maneuvered all over the reservation. The officers had night classes led by "The Bear", Col Randle. He said he was trying to make brick without straw. Some mighty fine teachers came from this bunch of junior officers, to name a few: Jim Johnson, Chip Manness, Bill Tanner, Frank Smith, Leon Sieminski, Ham Walker, Randy Bryant, Burt Murphy - many others. (Leon organized Canon Company, a formidable task. His drill commands were "one, two three four, "Kill") There were so many who went from 2nd Lt. to Lt. Col.

We participated in maneuvers - "Chip" (Brig. Gen.) Manness was detailed to erect, about 800 tents near Rock Hill. In December came Pearl Harbor. Many who were due for separation were recalled for the duration.

Finally do you remember "Chicken Road" the Dorthy Dik - 22 days at sea, the gally - sleeping top side - the invasion on Nov. 8 - the long march from Saf to Port Lyantug - 236 miles - the Cork Forest - The bon fires at xmas '42 our singing songs like "the coffee isn't sank down in old Caselosa but the women are ooh la la, in Port Lyantley, they give it away, the Suttan hear it all in old Robot, so give the 50 francas down in old carablou where the women are oh la la.

We really got into it at El Guerton - what a terrific loss of humanity. Chaplain Sharp had a rough job processing our dead, being so many dying there like Dick Whitan and Red Wilson, so many whom I had known so well, heart breaking. Then Sedjunne and Bizerte and the end of the world magenta. Enduring this fly infested hole until we moved to Oran for our trip to Sicily. The Luftwaffe hit us in the harbor at Palermo. Our drive astride the road toward Troina and on to Randazzo. Bill Tounner got a piece of WP in his pants there, if my memory serves me correctly.

After the Sicilian campaign we were scattered about near Cefalu where we stayed until we moved to embark for England. I remember we pitched tents in a valley and the rain and wind ruined our sleep, leveled our tents except for the kitchen fly. We had canned sausage and hot cakes for breakfast the morning after the rain. Our kitchen folks should be decorated, they tried so hard to feed us when the situation made it possible. Anything was better than "C" ration or "B" ration was "C" ration in a big can.

The G.I. house of ill repute in Palermo. Then off to England, how wonderful - people who spoke and understood our language. There were girls, beer and sometimes scotch or gin.

Then off for France - the beach at sitah, the sites of the D-Day landing. Everyone had a scarf or a piece of parachute from the airborne assault.

The St. Lo bombing - more casualties and the "Brick Art" across France and Belgium stopping at Vernviere - then on to the Siejred line and now on German soil - but then the Huntgen Forest. The German counter attacks at Schwarhutte - By German count, the 3d boy killed one hundred (100) Germans.

We stopped in the area of Vicht, and Thenhuttte until the winter offensive began in November.

Enough for now.

Dan if you can read this it will be a miracle.

Merry Christmas to all.

P.S. Please pardon three random thoughts. I apologize for my hand writing as well as spelling. I am 81 and never thought I would see 23.

47th Inf.
JULIUS E. CLARK

Co. F 60th Inf.
JOHN MILLER

Recently received a telephone call from John Sansone who joined Co. F just before the war ended in N. Africa. We had a long chat. He wanted to know about Pavlich Nichols, Dennis, Filetti and many others, some deceased. He plans on attending the next reunion - be there.

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

MAIL CALL

1st Bn. Hq. 60th Inf.
AL VAIANI

The above letter was the last one written home by William Howard Shelfer (known as Bill) just before he was killed in France in Aug. 1944. The letter and many other similar are compiled in a book "Uncertain Seasons," by Bill's niece Elizabeth Shelfer Morgan. Bill was a member of the 1st Bn 60th from Ft. Bragg until he was killed.

For those of us that made it back I'm sure we all could have written letters like Bill's and recall the same feelings.

For those that made the Supreme Sacrifice, surely they all felt they were fighting the war to end all wars, but with the world today, God only knows how its next big war will end.

EDWARD LEWIS

Hoping to find everyone in good spirits.

I'm sorry for being late with my dues, but I have moved and with the confusion I had lost my papers.

I'm not that young anymore, I'm 87 years old and have arthritis in my hands.

Hoping everyone in the association is o.k. and enjoyed the holidays.

The new address is:

Have belated holiday.

9th Signal
EVERETT SPINK

Enclosed is my check for 2000 dues.

I look forward to receiving my Octofoil. I do not hear from any of my old buddies in the 9th Signal Co., but I do meet up with a couple of guys who were in the 9th Division around here.

I haven't been to a reunion in sometime but hope to get to one in the future.

Hope you and your wife will have a Healthy 2000.

I am not doing badly for being 85.

26th FA Bn.
JOYCE ROSCOE

I am writing to you, belatedly, to tell you that "Taps Sounded" for Rusty Elmer Roscoe on December 9th, 1998. The gang that used to be together at the Reunion in Worcester is just about gone. What wonderful memories we have of those times.

Enclosed is a small donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of my husband, Rusty, and Joe Albanese, Joe McKenzie and Arnold Leach - all from the 26th F.A. Bn.

The casket was flag draped for the funeral and I was pleased that the sexton of the cemetery (who, by the way, replaced Rusty in that post) was a member of the Ninth Division in Vietnam, was in uniform, and folded and presented the flag to me at the interment.

GEORGE PEDRICK

I believe my dues are due but I don't recall the amount. I'm enclosing a check for \$10.00, if that is not enough let me know.

Also, a little story that happened many years ago.

1943 Friday, 13th of August. Another day, hot Sicilian day. We were pinned down near Randazzo on a barren hillside with the Germans holding the top in favorable defensive positions. The only cover on the hill were the gullies that the seasonal rains had made. There was a little spring in one of the many gullies. As the day wore on, many GI's left their cover to make a mad dash to the spring for water to fill their canteens. The spring was unable to keep up with the demand and soon the GI's were drinking muddy water and a little later liquid mud.

That night the German's sent over their farewell barrage and pulled out. The next morning our unit was picked out and we set up in an olive grove. Quickly a lister bag with its four spigots was set-up with fresh, clear, cold water. As I was drawing a cup of water, two other GI's were doing the same. One looked at the cup full of the water and said to his buddy, "I drank water yesterday that I wouldn't even wash my feet or socks in today."

Dan, you'll never know how much your work is appreciated. Thanks for all you do for the association.

60th Inf.
JOE RAPAZZI

At the breakfast table, sits my wife and I, and, in addition, a copy of the Octofoil is set on the table, too! What it adds to the "picture" is immeasurable. The breakfast tastes better! My wife is more beautiful and my mind and heart - how can they be measured! Images in mind are endless; the warmth and admiration and gratitude felt - likewise prevail in abundance! And, much of the credit is due to your continual efforts in "keeping alive" images of those with whom we served as well as the feats and achievements which history records, and which, I am certain, that history records. And, to you much credit is to be rendered, for your devotion and dedication to the Ninth is simply remarkable. What you have accomplished by your sincere and devoted efforts to keep "The Ninth" alive is most remarkable, and I'm sure the good Lord will reward you for your efforts; for, and without a doubt, your efforts and devotion throughout the anti-war years have been recorded by HIM up above!

Multiple thanks for your sincerity, devotion and dedication to the Ninth and all those who wore The Octofoil.

God Bless you.

Have you sent in your Dues?

DUES REMINDER

This issue of the Octofoil has been used for years to remind our members that "dues are due." The caption "Is your Octofoil addressed with tell-tale red ink?" was used for years but now with our new computer mailing arrangements this is not possible. Instead we ask the members to check their Octofoil especially where their name is printed and above their first name you will find numbers and they will indicate what year your dues are paid up until. The letter L will indicate Life member — H will indicate Honorary member and 2000 will let you know that your dues are payable now.

If for some reason you find it difficult in paying the dues drop us a line and we will keep you on our membership roll, send you the paper and keep the matter confidential.

We hope to stay active for a few more years as we are not ready to turn out the lights. Send your dues to the secretary's office, [redacted]

SEEKING

JOSEPH J. JECOVINO

I am seeking your help in restoring the military record of my brother, who served with Co. C 15th Eng. Bn. 9th Div. in World War Two. His name was Cpl. Angelo Jecovino, Ser. #31021066, and he lost his life Oct. 1944, in the Argonne Woods, I believe. My mother had any records, medals, citations, including the purple heart award, stored in a special box that was lost during the flood of 1955 that devastated the Naugatuck Valley, in which we reside. I am a World War II veteran myself, and I met up with his Co. and learned that he was killed during an artillery barrage, while trying to dismantle a road block.

I have been trying by all means that I know available, to restore my own military record, and I am running into all kinds of hurdles. Having never been assigned permanently to any outfit, I feel like I am a forgotten G.I. My work was important, but we moved so often, that I must have gotten lost in the shuffle.

I am attempting to record the records of myself, and my brother, who never had his own children, so that I may be able to pass them on to his nephews and nieces, and my own grandchildren. Any help you might be able to render me would be deeply appreciated.

Please excuse the writing. I am afflicted with Parkinson Disease and find it difficult. I found your address in the book by Lt. Col. Richard S. Johnson, *How to Locate Anyone Who Is or Has Been in the Military*.

Thanks a million.

47th Inf. F. Co.
M. FRANKLIN HUDGINS

Enclosed is my check to renew my membership which expired in December. However, I am upgrading to a Life Membership. Also, please send me two (2) decals.

My copy of the division history "Eight Stars to Victory" has disappeared and I would like to be able to purchase another copy. If you or anyone you know has one or can identify a source for a copy, I would certainly appreciate it.

Thank you for your efforts.

MAY 2 TO 5, 2000

Kutschers Reunion



Mr. John Boisky

Dear Dan,

Trust this finds all going well with you & yours! Request you print the following letter, just trying to find someone who can give info on the following St. Lo. France shelling and 47th Inf attack on or about 6 AM June 10, 1944 supported by the 84th FA Bn. One shell 88 MM came in about 6 AM and hit a tree over a fox hole with 2 cooks and 2 orderlies killing all four instantly, this blast knocked out the radio controlling the fire mission supporting the 47th Inf, the noise woke me and Sgt. A.J. Milkans and we heard someone yelling "we need a new radio to continue this mission". I got up and half dressed ran over to a command car and re-established radio control with 47 Inf. All well mission continues the 88's continued to pound our area. At this point Sgt. Milhans say, "I am putting you in for the Silver Star for this!"

I don't remember any other conversation about this subject till the end of the war when I was preparing to return to the US, when I was saying goodbye to Sgt. Milhans he again said he would take care of the Silver Star and I thank him!

Time passed and I began to check again and found out Milhans was now in the Signal Corp., letters went unanswered. Then about 1965 I found out Lt. A.J. Milhans had died no cause of death listed. The S-3 and any of his staff may remember this location and date. Maj. Cattle was the S-3 - St. Lo. France. Date June 10 (?) 1944. Nearing my 78th birthday and wanted to make one more push.

Wishing all 84th FA members good health and the very best of everything, sorry I haven't made more reunions but my health is not up to long trips

Sincerely,
Boisky

SEEKING

JOHN J. TOFFEY

I have your name and address from Sgt. Ben Myers's extensive list of military associations.

I am reconstructing the military service of my father, Lt. Col. John J. Toffey, Jr., who served in North Africa and Sicily with the 9th. He went into Morocco commanding the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry and stayed in that position until he was wounded at Maknassy in March, 1943. He returned to the Division in time to go into Sicily as executive officer of the 39th, and was acting CO for a week in July when Col. Flint was injured. My father went to the 3rd Division in time to invade Italy. He was killed outside of Rome the day before it fell.

I have read the Octofoil and the history of the 60th in North Africa. I have read the relevant army green books, and I have seen operations reports and unit journals. Indeed, much of the 39th unit journal for the Sicilian campaign is in my father's handwriting. The keepers of military records in St. Louis have not been able to produce anything.

What I seek now is information in two areas: 1) Do you know of other sources I should look at? 2) Do you know of any men who were with either of my father's units in the 9th at the time, who might have personal recollections or anecdotes to share.

I shall be most grateful for any information you can give me.

PS. If you prefer e-mail, I am Jtoff@aol.com.

9th Inf. Div.
DOROTHY DANIEL

I am writing to let all the friends of Calvin Daniel know he is at the present time in Hospice of the Straits in Cheboygan MI with lung cancer, it is attached to his throat and spine and pressing on his heart. I was unable to care for him at home.

P.S. Editors note: shortly after receiving this sad note - Calvin passed away.

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