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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, August/September/October 2000

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 4

Aug-Sept-Oct 2000



HQS. C.P. TEXAS

The 9th Infantry Division Association
56th Annual Reunion Will be in Houston, Texas
When: May 17 - May 20, 2001
Early Birds may check in May 16th
at same low daily rate
Where: Houston's Premier Suburban Hotel

Texas and Grater Southwest Chapter to Meet at
Adams Mark Hotel in Houston on November 8-9, 2000

This is an extremely important meeting with much work to be done to organize and plan the 56th Annual Reunion to be held here in 2001. The hotel has agreed to give us a very special room rate for this meeting. We plan to have a private dinner at the hotel on the evening of Wednesday, November 8, and the hotel has also agreed to make us a very favorable rate for this function. Meeting at the Adams Mark will give everyone a chance to check out the food and service at the hotel and no doubt the hotel will try to impress all of us. The meeting will also give everyone a chance to look over the rooms that we plan to use for the 2001 Reunion. What a great chance to meet and enjoy ourselves. Come and have a great time in Houston.

When you call the hotel for your reservation, be sure to tell them that this is for the Ninth Infantry Division, Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter committee or board meetings on November 8 and 9, 2000. We don't want them to get mixed up with the annual meeting in 2001. The hotel phone and address information is shown below.

Call Your Reservation to
800-436-ADAM (toll free)
713-978-7400

LADIES CORNER

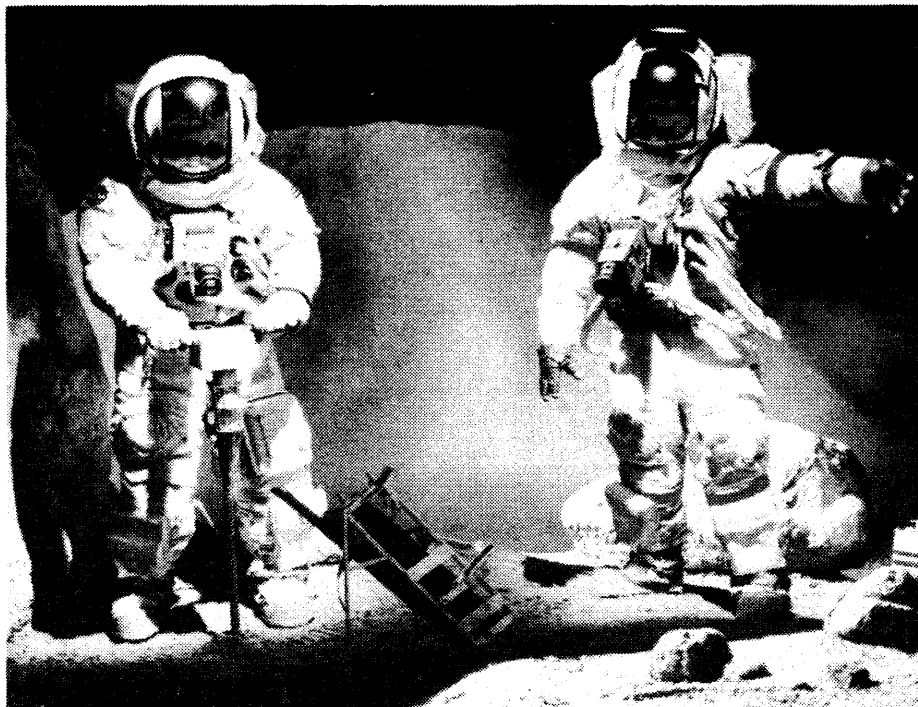
Well, I tried to get this column written in the last few weeks, but first the Olympics came on TV, then Baseball's end-of-season-play, and all through the Playoffs, to the World Series!! What can a sports fan do? Watch them, of course - and especially since my team, the Mets won, and Joe's team, the Damn Yankees joined them! Together at last in one Series! I don't know how many of you Ladies love sports, especially baseball, but I do, and I had a feeling this year that the Mets were going to make it — and they did! Consequently my joy was overwhelming, but I finally did come down to earth and started to get this column out, hopefully in time. No one wrote to me with any news, so I must just do it myself. OK? Anyway, as far as my news goes, I have nothing much to add to last edition's column. Joe is doing OK, my family is still my family, and I am still keeping busy, or trying to do so.

Company B lost Bill Klauz on August 21st, sitting in his chair after Breakfast. Ann Klauz had called Orion Shockley, who then called Joe, and I followed up with calling as many of the Company as I could. Our numbers are really getting smaller aren't they? By the way, in connection with the calls, Olga Palega, lovely wife of one of Company B's men, called me back and we had a long and beautiful talk. It had been so long since we did so. I promised, if she would call Joe and me around Christmas time, we would try and go to the New York Chapter's Christmas get-together. We used to have so much fun together; Olga talks as much as I do, but my children said that she might talk a little louder than me. I never noticed that, I was so busy taking to her, or anyone else around.

Before I end this note, I must say How Wonderful it was at our last meeting up at Kutsher's in May for all you Ladies there to welcome me so graciously. For days afterward, I floated on all that graciousness. You all take care now, and please keep in touch? Love you all, too!

Co. B 47th Inf.
Ellie Taubner

NASA Tour Planned For 2001 Reunion



39th Inf.
DONALD E. LAVENDER

Dear Friends,

I write quite often as I come across material that seems to me to be of interest to us as veterans of the 9th Infantry Division.

Last September while in Germany, I met a German veteran, Hubert Gees, who fought against us in the Hurtgen Forest. Hubert is one of the most articulate men I have met when it comes to describing the war. He was only 17 years of age when he was sent in to combat.

I was impressed with a speech he made a few years ago primarily because it answers questions many of us have asked. Why did the Germans fight? Enclosed is a copy of that speech with an explanation of the circumstances under which he gave it.

I believe it has appeal for most Americans Veterans.

All Good Wishes,
Sincerely,
Don

A monument was dedicated in 1994 to a German Lieutenant who lost his life trying to save a wounded American soldier in a mind field.

Hubert Gees was in that Lieutenant's Company and he spoke at the dedication of that monument. Gees was a member of the German 275th Infantry Division that fought against elements of the U.S. 9th Division in the Hurtgen Forest.

This is what he said:

"Freedom is a light for which many men have died fighting in darkness." This motto stands on the title page of the communiqué of the Society of the United States 22nd Infantry Regiment, which fought in the Hurtgen Forest in the Fall of 1944.

Continued next issue

NASA Tour Planned For 2001 Reunion

Special Bus Tour of Space Facility Planned
For May 18, 2001

Buses Will Leave Adams Mark Hotel at 1 P.M.

Herb Stern has been working with NASA for several months and has arranged for a special bus tour to the Space Center on the afternoon of Friday, May 18, 2001. Because of special arrangements made with both NASA and bus operators, cost of the entire tour including transportation will be only \$15 per person. This is a great bargain and will give members of the 9th Division a chance to see the latest operations at the Space Center. There will be no conflicting meetings to compete with the tour and the buses will return to the hotel at 5:30 P.M., so sign up and come along.

Only 225 seats are available for this special event so sign up early. Reservations for the tour must be received before April 1, 2001 to guarantee a seat on the bus.

Reservation Form NASA Bus Tour

Please reserve ____ seats @ \$15 each for the NASA Bus Tour leaving the Adam's Mark Hotel at 1 P.M. on Friday, May 18, 2001. I am enclosing a check for \$_____ as payment in full for the seats. (Reservations may be cancelled and money refunded at any time before May 1, 2001). Make your check payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association and mark **NASA Bus Tour** on your check.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Send all reservations to:

Richard G. Granbery

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).

Deadline for next issue of the Octofoil

Dec. 20th

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

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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.

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NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn. 412

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.....\$300

Decals.....50 each

Philly-Delaware Valley

Illinois

New England

Florida

Texas C. South West

Greater New York

Washington, D.C.

Michigan

New Jersey

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:

Preston Stillings

Samuel N. Ledford

Rosamae Mooty - In memory of husband, William, Co. E 47th Inf.

George Hulka

Ray Inzer - In memory of Boardman Lockwood.

Al Baccile and Joseph Gravino - In memory of Albert DiRisio, B Co. 39th Inf.

Anita Stanick - In memory of husband, Michael Stanick.

A.T. Forrest - In memory of Robert Hurst, A Co. 15 Engrs. and Frank Rankin B. Co. 15 Engrs.

Edward Drabik

Joseph Killacky - In memory of Frank Corvino and Joseph Mazzaresse.

William Douthit

Lorenzo Filetti - In memory of Joseph Skertich and James Etue.

Joe Killen - In memory of Bill Klauz, B. Co. 47 Inf. and Gene Magidson, C Co. 39 Inf.

David Pinkney - In memory of the Merrif A Co. 15 Engrs. Bn.

George Brown - In memory of BILL Klauz.

Mrs. Rose Richey - In memory of husband, Tom, H Co. 60 Inf.

Dr. Martin Gross - In memory of Gene Magidson

Martha Long - In memory of her husband, Ernest "Ernie" Long 3rd Bn Med.



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

NELLIE PALERMO

A note of thanks to all that gave to the memorial fund in my husband Ralph's name, your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated. Ralph passed away Feb. 10th of heart failure. He's so missed. Enclosed is a donation in his memory for the Memorial Fund. Thank you.

56th Annual Reunion
Ninth Infantry Division Association
Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston Texas
May 17-20, 2001

Hotel Reservation Form

Please Reserve the Following Accommodations:

_____ \$75 per room, per night Single Occupancy

_____ \$75.00 per room, per night Double Occupancy. These rates will apply for the day before and the day after the reunion dates. State and local taxes (17%) will be added to these rates.

Please State Your Preference for Rooms:

Smoking_____ No Smoking_____

(I) (We) Will arrive on_____ and depart on_____

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State_____ Zip_____

Day Telephone ()_____ Today's Date_____

A deposit for one night's rate or a credit card guarantee is required for each room. Please make checks payable to the Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston. For those paying by credit card, please fill out the information below:

Credit Card Type:_____

Credit Card Number:_____

Exp. Date:_____ Signature:_____

A block of guest Rooms is being held at the Group Rate shown above until April 17, 2001. Please make reservations early to insure group rates and availability.

Call Your Reservation to
800-436-ADAM (toll free)
713-978-7400
or mail to:

Adam's Mark Hotel
2900 Briarpark Drive
Houston, TX 77042
Attn: Reservation Dept.

Adam's Mark Internet Address is www.adamsmark.com

Travel Discounts To Houston, Texas
(9th Infantry Division Association Reunion in 2001)

Did you know that attending the 2001 - 9th Infantry Division Association Reunion, May 17 - May 20, 2001 qualifies you to receive Travel Discounts on the Airlines?

9th Infantry Division Association Members and their families qualify for special savings with Major Airlines. To take advantage of these discounts, simply make your reservations with

Bette Prochaska
(Jack Blann's daughter)
Carlson Wagonlit Travel
Houston, Texas
Toll Free: 1 888 294 8371

- When calling, be sure to identify yourself as a 9th Division Member
- Best discounts can be had by reserving at least 90 days before travel date
- Bette will provide air-travelers with Coach USA Discount Coupons for Airport to Hotel transportation
- If you desire you can extend your trip before and after the reunion.

Taps Sounded

Joe Killen

Here's a check for the Memorial Fund for the memory of two of the "Good Guys" from our New York gang. I don't like seeing this kind of "shrinkage" of the group because as each one leaves you can only wonder about how far behind them will the next man be until finally it will be my turn to leave.

BILL KLAUZ, B Co., 47th
GENE MAGIDSON, C Co., 39th

When Bill Klauz died, he was cremated so fast that we were unable to pay our respects to his family; but with Gene Magidson we attended his burial and were led in a final salute to Gene by Tony Varone. Gene's family were pleased that six of us were there to represent the outfit because Gene was always proud to have been a member of our group.

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

**Strip Tickets
For
2001 Reunion
Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston Texas**

Strip Tickets will include the following:

- ☐ A reception with light food and drinks on Thursday evening.
- ☐ A party with large dance band, buffet food tables, and drinks on Friday evening.
- ☐ A Cocktail Party and Banquet on Saturday evening.
- ☐ A Continental Breakfast on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings.

All of this food, drinks and entertainment is yours for \$125/ person. Please make your check payable to the 9th Infantry Division Reunion and send them to the following Address:

Richard G. Granbery
[Redacted]

Name of Member _____

(Name You Liked to Be called by) _____

Address _____
Street

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Company _____ Battalion _____

Regiment _____ Unit _____

Wife/Guest Name _____

No. Strip Tickets _____ @ \$125= _____

Amount Enclosed _____

The Ladies Luncheon Tickets
(A delicious full Luncheon at the Adam's Mark -
Men are Welcome Too)

Please also send me the following Luncheon Tickets:

_____ Tickets @ \$18/Ticket= _____

Amount enclosed for Ladies Luncheon _____

**DIRECTIONS TO THE ADAM'S MARK HOTEL
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

FROM BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT:

From any terminal, follow the Interstate 45 signs out of the airport onto John F. Kennedy Boulevard (JFK). Follow JFK SOUTH to the Beltway 8 WEST exit. Turn right onto Beltway 8, and follow the Beltway through 3 toll booths (\$1.00 each)* to the Westheimer exit. Turn left under the freeway, travel 3 traffic lights to Briarpark, and turn right. Go 1/2 block and the Hotel is on the right.

FROM WILLIAM P. HOBBY AIRPORT:

From the terminal, continue straight out and take a left on Airport Blvd. Take a left on Telephone Road. Travel approximately 3 miles to Beltway 8 and travel West on the Beltway. Travel through two toll islands (\$1.00 each)* and exit Westheimer. Turn right on Westheimer. Your second light will be Briarpark Drive. Turn right on Briarpark and the hotel will be on the right.

FROM I-10 WEST (FROM THE DIRECTION OF SAN ANTONIO):

Exit Beltway 8 South. Travel through one toll island (\$1.00 each)* and exit Westheimer. Turn left under the freeway, travel 3 traffic lights to Briarpark, and turn right. Go 1/2 block and the hotel will be on the right.

FROM I-10 EAST (FROM THE DIRECTION OF BEAUMONT AND NEW ORLEANS):

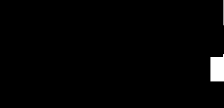
Follow I-10 to the West through downtown Houston until you reach Beltway 8 on the west side of Houston. Take Beltway 8 south through one toll island (\$1.00 each)* and exit Westheimer. Turn left under the freeway, travel 3 traffic lights to Briarpark, and turn right. Go 1/2 block and the hotel will be on the right.

FROM I-45 NORTH (FROM THE DIRECTION OF DALLAS):

Turn right onto Beltway 8, and follow the Beltway through 3 toll booths (\$1.00 each)* to the Westheimer exit. Turn left under the freeway, travel 3 traffic lights to Briarpark, and turn right. Go 1/2 block and the hotel will be on your right.

ALL OTHER DIRECTIONS:
Intersect Beltway 8 and follow it to Westheimer. Then follow directions as above.
*Beltway 8 is also called Sam Houston Tollway. In many cases the Beltway can be traversed on feeder roads without entering the toll way. However, there are many intersections to cross and the traffic is much slower.

**60th Inf.
RONALD M.A. HIRST**



56

This letter is long overdue. It is meant as a commendation for a French 'associate' of our Association. Not eligible for membership but one who has displayed - over the years - a passionate support of all Ninth Division - men who served in the Normandy campaign. Monsieur André Hamel.

In June 1994 his book, "Six Ans de Guerre 1939-1945 La 9th Division US d'Utah Beach à Goury," appeared. English title: Six Years of War 1939-1945. The 9th (US) Division from Utah Beach to Goury. (NOTE: GOURY is the extreme western tip of the Cap de la Hague on the Cotentin peninsula - west of CHERBOURG.) Unfortunately for us, it was only published in the French tongue.

I did not have the privilege of meeting this retired secondary school principal until Tuesday, 17 June 1997. This followed an extended correspondence exchange over some 15 months. I introduced him to The Octofoil. Now - since that first meeting - M. Hamel receives my copies of The Octofoil after I've had them copied. Since then he has been reading, as I do, cover-to-cover. And since then M. Hamel has reacted to many "SEEKINGS". As illustrations, I am including copy of his most recent three SEEKINGS-assists.

To Louis Bussler of Lansdowne VA seeking information on where his brother served with 47th. Andriana Palermo Buckley of Winchester, MA seeking information on where her Father served in Normandy. To Gary White seeking information on his late uncle, John R. Hand. I've also copy of letters to nine (!!!) others, all related to men assigned to our beset-of-all-divisions.

M. Hamel's efforts reminded me so much of those of our dedicated Secretary. Patient. Efficient. Remembering. Yes, Dan, you two are of the same mold. It is people like Daniel Quinn and André Hamel who keep us all remembered what a grand and one-of-a-kind generation we are.

June 2000 will find me again in Normandy - one day will be dedicated to a visit with André Hamel. I wish to (again) personally thank him for his continuing effort to assist our Ninth Division-family in their search for attachment to the ground they fought on-and-for in Normandy. Normans have never nor will their succeeding generations ever forget what we accomplished there.

And, if any of our membership wishes listing of the exact geographical location of monuments or points of interest related to the Ninth, they've but to write. I'll be privileged to provide.

Take care of one another, Daniel.

Oh yes:
Monsieur André Hamel
13, Route de Cherbourg
F-50340 LES PIEUX, France

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To
Houston, Texas
(9th Infantry Division Association Reunion in 2001)**

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Carlson Wagonlit Travel
Houston, Texas
Toll Free: 1-888-294-8371**

- **When calling, be sure to identify yourself as a 9th Division Member**
- **Best discounts can be had by reserving at least 90 days before travel date**
- **Bette will provide air-travelers with Coach USA Discount Coupons for Airport to Hotel transportation**
- **If you desire you can extend your trip before and after the reunion.**

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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Daniel Quinn Date Oct. 6, 2000

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

N.Y. CHAPTER REPORT FRIAR TUCK GET-TOGETHER

(NOTE: Since this regular scribe did not attend the Friar Tuck get-together the following report is written from audio tape and notes supplied by Al Zenka.) After a summer hiatus the NY Area Chapter held its first fall meeting at Friar Tuck Inn Resort, Catskills, NY, on September 14, 2000 during a mini-reunion, September 11 to 15. Thirty-two members and spouses attended. Everyone seemed to enjoy the get-together.

Prior to the meeting at 10:30 A.M., Anton Dietrich and Al Zenka prepared a beautiful and poignant Memorial Service. After the service, President Dietrich opened the meeting with the group pledge of allegiance to the flag followed with the invocation by Chaplain Hugh C. Whitaker. A moment of silence was observed for deceased 9th Division buddies. Minutes of the previous June meeting was moved to be accepted as printed in the NY Chapter Report in the June/July Octofoil.

Treasurer Al Zenka gave the chapter financial report which showed chapter finances to be in sound condition. While explaining the expenditures and receipts of the Friar Tuck get-together, Zenka noted Al Lubrano checked out earlier due to word of his nephew's death.

After the financial report Zenka read communications from members. Letters were received from Al Baccille, Al Eisen, Herb Taff, and Bill Ring, who couldn't attend the get-together because his wife is very ill. Notice of death of John Smith was received from wife Ethel. Another Ninthman John P. Gee, died on Dec. 31, 1999. Patricia Horsten noted the death of her father Charles Polkowski on May 5, 2000 and also included makeup dues of \$20 from 1998 with the request that her mother continue to receive the Octofoil. The Chapter offers its condolences to the families of those who have passed on and sends well wishes to the sick.

After the reading of communications Prez Dietrich opened the floor for discussion of other pertinent chapter matters. Adolph Wadalavage noted conflict between Houston Reunion and NY Chapter Pinelawn memorial service on the same date of May 17, 2001. After discussion all agreed to move up Pinelawn memorial one week later to June 2.

Before adjournment, Dietrich informed the group of Bill Klaus' demise on August 28. He was cremated and a memorial will be held at a later date by the National Guard in which he was a retired Colonel. Bill's wife will inform the chapter when memorial will take place. Our condolences to Mrs. Klaus and await the notification of Bill's memorial service. Zenka also noted the death of Nicholas Colombo from Margate FL. Letter to him was returned from post office marked "passed on." Our condolences to the Colombo family.

Last names of members attending Friar Tuck mini-reunion (from table arrangements): Agostinelli, Baccille, Bielewics, Brown, Cook, Dietrich, Gravino, Graziani, Gross, Kowalik (hospitalized 9/15), LiBretto, Miller, Shoroff, Starro (hospitalized 9/14), Tucker, Wadalavage, Waiver, and Zenka. (Ovido Starro was hospitalized with a sudden leg infection and given intravenous antibiotic. After 72 hours he was sent home with no clue to the problem. Frank Kowalik was taken to an Albany hospital with chest pains. He had to be resuscitated while in the ambulance.) We wish our two members who suddenly took ill a speedy recovery.

SEEKING

Attention Ninthmen! Maybe someone might be able to help answer this query which was sent to me by E-mail on the 9th Div Website (on my daughter's computer) ... Re: Pvt. Harry Menefee and the Roer Crossing.

My name is Terry Menefee Gau. My Grandfather, named Pvt. Harry Menefee, was in the 9th Division, 60th Infantry, G Company. He was killed crossing the Roer River on February 23, 1945. I am searching for any information you might have to help me begin to find out what happened that day. As you probably know, children of those who gave their lives in WWII still grapple with the loss to this day. My dad is one of those children, and I'm doing this research for him. My dad was only 8 years old when his father was killed, and the last he saw of him was when he was seven. I am unfamiliar with military terminology and I got your name off a 9th Division website in hopes that you may have known Pvt. Menefee. Am I looking in the right place and can you help me?

Terry Menefee Gau, Director, Project Burning Bush, Union-PSCE, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227. Tel. 1-800-229-2990.

MICHIGAN REPORTS

Our annual memorial service was held in June at the Matt Urban Memorial at the Sports Center named after Matt in Holland, Michigan. We had a very sparse showing, only 8 of the Chapter and 2 VFW members from Matt's post.

In August, we held our annual picnic. Now that our members are dwindling, we hold the picnic at a member's home. We had 28 people, including first time member, John Ladd, and his lovely step-daughter, Judy, who just completed her service in Europe in the Army. John was a member of E Co. 39th Inf.

This past week was the annual reunion between the Michigan and Illinois Chapters in Angola, Indiana. We have alternated the hosts between Michigan and Illinois for the past 19 years. Michigan was the host this year and members from 6 states attended. Next year's meeting is already scheduled by the Illinois Chapter for a week later than this year's. Attending for the first time was Harold Watschke and wife Joan. He was a member of the 60th Inf., Co. L. He promises to attend again next year.

Guests Larry Holmes and his son attended the Angola meeting. Larry's father was in F Co. 39th Inf. He died when Larry was 4 years old and Larry needed to know if anyone remembered him and what our Division was all about. He spent part of our first day and all of our second day with us. He came back for the banquet. He was very impressed and grateful for how he was received and accepted.

Our next outing will be Dec. 13, 2000 at the Frankenmuth, Michigan Bavarian Inn. We meet at noon, dinner at 1 p.m., family style chicken dinner. For those who prefer fish, you must call either Elmer Wagner at (517) 686-0506 or mail him a card at 2833 Hotchkiss Rd, Bay City, MI 48706 or to me at (810) 367-3496. My address is 7576 Gratiot Rd., Columbus, MI 48063. There will be a gift exchange, man for man, woman for woman, of about \$5.

Many news letters being sent out are returned to me undeliverable, forwarding time expired. If you get the Octofoil and no newsletter, you must mail me your new address and phone number to update the files.

In August we lost Leonard Kowalski, a long time member of the 47th Medics. In September we lost Robert J. Lee. I had the pleasure of knowing him long before Pearl Harbor, while he was going to high school and before I entered the service. He came into the 47th H or HdQ Co., the first replacement after D Day. He was a Silver Star man.

We held our elections in Angola and the officers will be installed on Dec. 13 at the Christmas party. Our officers for 2001 are: President - Roger Alsgaard; 1st Vice president - Barney Tobacco; 2nd Vice president - Tom Saunders; Secretary - Edwin Wisniewski; Adjutant - Everett Tapp; Chaplain - Barney Tobacco; Historian - Billie Martin; Sgt. of Arms - Tom Hatton; Natl. Bd of Governors - Tom Saunders; alternate to be named later.

Respectfully submitted
Edwin W. Wisniewski
Secretary-Michigan Chapter

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

We recently returned from Angola, Indiana where we held our Mini Outstate Reunion with the Michigan Chapter. They hosted this year and we had a pretty good turnout, 38 including guests. We had a few of the regular missing. The Hennemuths had to have some medical tests. Only Rischel is having a problem with her eyes. The Clarks - we haven't seen them for a while - hope they are both doing OK. The Sagers were scheduled to attend but they never showed up. The Clousers are in the process of building their new home and their presence was needed. The Gaertners have both been in the hospital but are now doing better. Michigan did a great job of hosting and can relax next year when Illinois takes over. The Holiday Inn is now the Ramada and we were extended the same arrangements as in the past. We are booked again for next year, October 16 and 17, 2001. More details later.

Our cookout at the Gaertners in July was a great success. As usual Grace and Howard were gracious hosts and a good time was had by all attending. We all enjoyed our Christmas in July gifts. Wanda Preston and Muriel Gray were supposed to attend but Wanda had to cancel out because of a medical problem. (She is better now). The food was plentiful and no one went home hungry.

Not much else is new with the Illinois Chapter. We will try to get a lunch together for our Holiday celebration this year.

We are looking forward to the National Reunion in Houston next May. Till then stay well everyone.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Belmonte

H Co 60 Inf EUGENE R. LANDIS

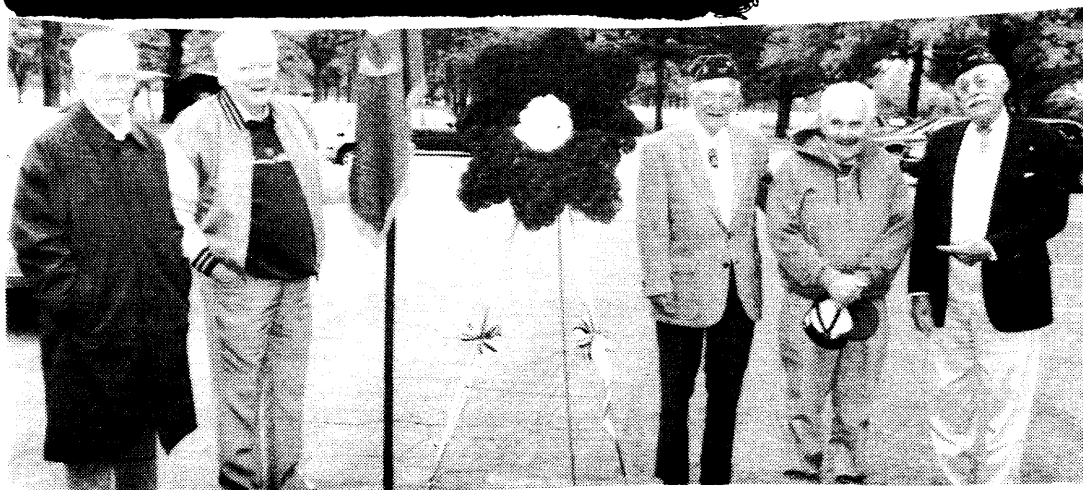
Dear Dan

I did not know the 9th Division Association existed until I ran into Bill Rybka. I am now 77 years old and it has been too many years for me to remember all the events and information from 56 years ago and I hope you can help me regain some of that memory. I think I was in the 60th regiment Co H. All I remember is that I was in the 9th Infantry Division. I know I was in the Battle of the Bulge, wounded in Germany and ended up in the hospital in Paris and then the hospital in South Hampton England.

Bill informed me you might be helpful in replacing the ribbons and medals that I lost many year ago. If that can be arranged I would be eternally grateful.

I am sending a check for dues.

May 19, 2000 Greater NY Chapter of the 9th Inf. Div. Assn. preparing to hold memorial services at Long Island National Cemetery, Pinelawn, N.Y. Left to right: Joe Rzesnoiwiecki, 1st Plt. Sgt. G - 49 Joe Killen (holding 9th I.D. colors) G-47 Anton Dietrich, G-39 Joe Maiale, I-47 Tony Varone, A/T-39. The white in the background are only a few of the headstones here at Pinelawn.



THE OCTOFOIL

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MELBOURNE REUNION PLEASURABLE: The "SOMETHING NEW - SOMETHING DIFFERENT" theme of the Florida Chapter year 2000 Annual Reunion proved to be a very enjoyable experience for the 32 attendees.

The Hilton Airport Hotel Management was extremely accommodating ... which made our stay pleasurable.

Thursday, September 21st was Registration Day. The Hospitality Room was set up by 1:00 P.M. By 5:00 P.M. over 22 happy people were nibbling and having a drink before going out to dinner.

On Friday, The Sterling Casino Lines took center stage. A caravan was formed at 9:00 A.M. and the group boarded the ship by eleven. Some won money ... some lost, however there was plenty of free food and drinks plus no boarding fees. The weather cooperated for those who just wanted to stroll the decks or enjoy the excitement of an elegant ship. The ship docked at 4:00 P.M. and by five o'clock everyone returned to the Hospitality Room. The San Marcos Restaurant at the Hotel prepared an "All You Can Eat" fish buffet plus some meat items which anyone could enjoy from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M. After everyone had a bellyful, it was back to the Hospitality Room for some Sing-a-long ... women played Rummycubes ... the men talked, joked, laughed, drank and even had a few snacks before retiring. This was a FUN DAY!

On Saturday, the Men's Business Meeting took place in the Murano Room while the Ladies' Auxiliary held their meeting in the beautiful Hospitality Room. Highlights of the Men's Meeting were:

(1) Preliminary copies of a new Membership Roster was presented by Vice President Vander Poel. Emil De Donato and Richard Baudouy are to edit this roster before final quantity printing is made. A notice when the new rosters will be available will appear in the Florida Chapter Newsletter. Members will be asked to send in 50 cents for a copy to cover the cost of the postage and printing.

(2) Acting Treasurer Baudouy gave the financial report stating that the Florida Chapter is solvent and it will remain as such as long as the members pay their dues on time.

(3) Elections of new officers were called. Ed Gray ran unopposed for Secretary and will assume the Secretary's role. H.F. Stansell volunteered to become the Chapter's Chaplain. By member association, Richard Baudouy will remain as President/Treasurer, Charles Vander Poel stays as Vice President and Emil De Donato will tackle the P.R. chores.

(4) By a majority vote, it was approved to hold the Florida Chapter 2001 Annual Reunion at the same Hilton Melbourne Hotel.

(5) After some New & Old Business was discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY MEETING & OTHER NEWS

Pres. Lila Stansell called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, September 23, 2000. After a short prayer and the salute to the Flag, Sec/Treas. Audrey De Donato read the minutes of the last meeting and then gave the Treasurer's Report. Both were approved by a voice vote. By acclamation, the members voted to keep the same officers for another term. Discussions were held on whether to limit the Chapter Reunions to just Fridays and Saturdays. The consensus was to leave that decision up to the Men's Reunion Committee.

A drawing was held for the Polyana gifts with every member receiving one of the gifts. Audrey De Donato said that Eva Santos had phoned her saying that Henry's sister was unable to drive Henry to the reunion so they had to cancel the trip. Lula Winningham from Allardt, Tenn joined the Women's Auxiliary. Lula and her husband Cletis drove the long distance just to attend the Chapter reunion. The Chapter extends a warm welcome to both. Condolences were sent to Dora Coen on the demise of her husband William. Anyone wishing to send a card to Dora Coen may do so by addressing it to: 3322 S.E. 24th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974. The women's Auxiliary Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

NEW MEMBER JOINS: Sidney Forman of Palm Beach Gardens read a news release about the Florida Chapter Reunion. He and his wife Bryna walked into the Hospitality Room on Saturday afternoon. Sidney served under Gen. Gunn while in the 2nd Bn of the 39th Infantry Regiment. Sidney wrote a book entitled "WAR & SEX in WWII D Day to VICTORY" which can be purchased at Barnes & Noble or Amazon.Com. Sidney Forman joined paying dues to the National Organization and the Florida Chapter. Sidney and Bryna may attend the national Reunion to be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Houston, Texas on May 17 to the 20th next year.

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET: Pres. Baudouy welcomed the members, their wives and guests for attending the reunion. The ceremonies were limited to a prayer followed by the salute to the Flag. The Hotel Kitchen Crew promptly served a choice of Rib of Beef or Chicken Cordon Bleu in the Murano Room. Starting at 7:00 P.M. entertainer Andy Anderson took over. He sang popular songs ... led the group in a sing-a-long ... provided a karaoke service whereby the words of the song flashed on a TV screen. He performed magic tricks to the delight of the audience. Andy Anderson is a popular entertainer in Central Florida. He proved his skills in the performance he gave for our group.

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.**

John E. Schopper
39th Inf.

Edward Kuklewicz

William Klauz
B & C Co. 47th Inf.

Francis O'Brien

Charles Fowler
15 Engrs

Albert "Hawk" DiRisio
B. Co. 39th Inf.

John Vandermeiden
84 FA Bn. B Btry

Frank Corvino
47 Inf. K Co.

Bill Coen
C Co. 47th Inf.

John Smith
47 A.T.

John Gee
15 Eng. Bn.

Nicholas Colombo
47th Inf.

Earl Weaver

James Harner
9th Recon

Larry Kurshan
9th Recon

Warren Herzberg
G Co. 39th Inf.

Eugene Magidson
C Co. 39th Inf.

Joseph Ayles
F. Co. 47th Inf.

George Vix
M.P.

Leonard Kowalski
47th Med.

Robert Lee
Co. H 47th Inf.

Rocco Vita
Cannon Co.

Fred Golub
60th Inf. Serv. Co.

SUNDAY A.M. BREAKFAST: A hearty breakfast was served to the group in the Murano Room from 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. Goodbyes were exchanged with well wishes for a safe return home. Some were looking forward to attending the Houston, Texas National Reunion in May and also the Florida Chapter Reunion again in Melbourne, Florida. For those members who were unable to attend this past reunion, we urge you to please try to make the next one ... you'll be glad you did.

ROSTER UPDATE

Coen, William deceased on September 6, 2000

Forman, Sidney New Member:

Miller, LeRoy - Correct Zip Code from
Richardson, Wally - correct address:

9091

Emil J. DeDonato

M COMPANY (47TH) CHRONICLER

Compadres de M/47

For those Octofolians lamenting some historians' failure to give us due credit in acquiring those "Eight Stars," I pleasure in reporting a new book that will bring joy to their unhappy hearts. Peter R. Mansoor is a West Pointer with a doctorate in history from Ohio State University. He presently commands the armored reconnaissance squadron of the 2nd Armored Div. at Fort Hood and will be the guest speaker at the 9th's Reunion Banquet next year in Austin. (A tip of the steel pot to Herb Stern of the Texas Chapter for this coup). The theme of Mansoor's new book, *The GI Offensive in Europe: The Triumph of American Infantry Divisions, 1941-1945* is simply that guys like us, and particularly those of the 9th Inf. Div., have not been given full credit for who and what won "The Big One" of the ETO. Too frequently, Mansoor says, apologists for the Germans or those historians who just can't find any good in what we did, claim that victory was due only to our overwhelming material strength, especially Allied air power, or to the Wehrmacht's bleed-out on its Eastern Front. To the contrary, this guy gives full credit to what Tom Brokaw has popularized as "The Greatest Generation," and he repeatedly touts the 9th as the leading organization of that great asset. He makes the point that it was not so much Ike's or Omar's strategy, or the tactics of army and corps commanders in making use of this asset, but the lower-levels of leadership. Most important, he says, was the toughness of individual American soldiers, where they were well-trained and well-led.

I am hoping to beat the band that we will have the Phillips' affairs in such order so we can have the pleasure of Mansoor's company in Austin next May.

The last *Octofoil* brought to my attention another excellent tale that sort of echoed Mansoor's theme. This brief memoir was written by Dr. Gordon M. Binder, once surgeon of the 1st Bn., 47th Inf. and now living in Millbrae, CA, a San Francisco suburb. Binder wrote his stirring account of service in the aid station from the time he joined in Normandy to his relief for illness late in the spring of '45. I wish I had read it earlier in my own work where I feel I've slighted company aid men and the division medics in general. Also, I could have used some of Binder's details of the 1st Battalion's leadership from Jim Allgood and Herman Schmidt — both very different and very good.

There has been considerable writing of the 9th's WW II fighting prepared by its veterans: Bob Baldridge's *Victory Road*, Jack Blann's *A Private's Diary*, Bill Butler's *The Boondocks of Purgatory*, Herb Clark's *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, Ed Hopkinson's *Memoirs of a Civilian/Soldier in World War II*, Marvin Levy's *Take Cherbourg!* (including his video tape of the same name), and Bert Waller's *Commanders We Knew*, to say nothing of those books by Red Phillips, the Octofile files, and the official histories of the 9th and its units. Individually, as good as they are for historical purposes, these records will not be as valuable to future historians as they would be if all were together in some proper repository.

You know, we gripe a lot when Stephen Ambrose gets it wrong about which 9th Division "created" the Remagen bridgehead, or somebody else writes about Kasserine Pass and fails to mention 9th Divarty's heroic stand at Thala. But to my knowledge, beyond publishing its own *Eight Stars to Victory*, the 9th Division Association has never gone out of its way to make the its glorious history known to the professionals who write of such things. I'm suggesting a way to turn that around.

Adios amigos!

Red Phillips

Mr. John Metzler, Supt.
Arlington National Cemetery

**Re: Location of
Matt Urban's Grave**

Dear Sir:

I would appreciate your sending me info on where Matt Urban's grave is.

You probably know he is one of America's most decorated combat heroes.

I will visit his grave soon as I can get to Washington, as I had the honor of serving the Ninth Infantry Division in WWII, and knew of his many exploits.

Sincerely,

Robert Baldridge

Enclosed: copy of book jacket cover about him.

Three members of the 9th were awarded a DSC (KIA). Families never knew about the awards.

Monty McDaniel

Re: S/Sgt. Paul Edwin Alexander 60th Infantry

I talked to you Thursday night about my uncle who fought in WWII with the Ninth Infantry Division. He fought in North Africa, Sicily, and was killed on June 14, 1944 in France. He was a member of the 60th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company G. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for the action he lost his life in. He lost his parent's, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, and 2 nieces without their knowing of his DSC. He is buried at the American Cemetery and Colleville Sur Mer/St. Laurent Sur Mer France. I found out about the DSC after looking up the American Battle Monuments Commission Website. The reason I looked it up was because after seeing the cemetery scene in Saving Private Ryan I wanted to learn more about the place he is buried. They have a real nice Website that lists all the soldiers buried overseas. It tells where they are from, where they lost their life, and the awards they received. No one in our family knew of this award I spent four months trying to find the Citation before finally receiving it from the National Archives the last of July. He has a sister left and she and I are in the process of getting the paperwork back from St. Louis to receive the medal. We are told it will take 6-8 months to get this paperwork for the medal. His Distinguished Service Cross was listed under General Orders No. 70 17 October 1944. There were two other soldiers from the 60th Infantry Regiment receiving the DSC their names were S/Sgt. Lawrence W. Gunderson from Minnesota and Private William Katsoulakos from New York. I wonder if their families knew about their DSC since my uncles family didn't know. There were several soldiers listed on General Orders No. 70. I was hoping that if anyone knew my uncle S/Sgt. Paul Edwin Alexander from Bloomington, Indiana they would get in touch with me. I am enclosing a copy of General Orders No. 70 listing all seven soldiers and their DSC Citation.

I-Award, Posthumous, of Distinguished -Service Cross - Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in paragraph 3c, Section I, Circular 32, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, 20 March 1944, as amended, the Distinguished-Service Cross is posthumously awarded to the following officers and enlisted men:

Staff Sergeant Paul E. Alexander, 15104455, 60th Infantry, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on 14 June 1944, in France. When his company had been held up for over an hour by extremely heavy machine gun fire from an enemy strong point, Staff Sergeant Alexander led his squad forward to attack the enemy position. As he moved ahead of his men across the fire-swept terrain, Staff Sergeant Alexander was seriously wounded, but nevertheless continued to lead his squad and direct their attack. He personally threw hand grenades into four enemy machine gun positions completely silencing the guns and inflicting numerous casualties on the enemy. Staff Sergeant Alexander lost his life as a result of this action, but the extraordinary heroism and undaunted courage he displayed were an inspiring example to his men, in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces. Entered military service from Indiana.

Staff Sergeant Lawrence W. Gunderson, 37294748, 60th Infantry, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on 25 July 1944, in France. Staff Sergeant Gunderson's company was pinned down by heavy enemy fire from machine guns and an anti-tank gun. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Staff Sergeant Gunderson, armed only with a rifle and several grenades, skillfully maneuvered within close range of the machine gun and, exposing himself to observed fire from the gun, singlehandedly wiped out the entire crew with grenades. Fearless and aggressive, he then attacked the crew of the anti-tank gun at point blank range. Tough subject to direct small arms fire and receiving wounds in this encounter that proved fatal, his attack was so fierce that all members of the German anti-tank gun crew were killed or wounded. As a result of his action, the company was enabled to continue its advance. The extraordinary heroism and dauntless courage displayed by Staff Sergeant Gunderson in singlehandedly destroying an enemy machine gun nest and an anti-tank gun crew set an inspiring example to his entire company and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces. Entered military service from Minnesota.

Private William Katsoulakos, 32726754, 60th Infantry, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on 23 June 1944, in France. During an assault on an enemy hill position, Private Katsoulakos continued to advance even though he had suffered a severe head wound. The remainder of his platoon had become disorganized by the deadly enemy fire, which resulted in the loss of their platoon leader. Under fierce enemy machine gun fire, Private Katsoulakos courageously maneuvered forward alone, stormed an enemy pillbox with grenades and bayonet and completely wiped out the pillbox, killing the four occupants. After this act Private Katsoulakos reorganized his platoon and directed the advance to their objective. The personal bravery and courage displayed by Private Katsoulakos reflects great credit on himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces. Entered military service from New York.



The Ninth Infantry Div. Association presents \$300.00 check to Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dallas Texas 75216. L to R in picture is: Gordon Schneider, 47th Inf, Steve Staus, Chief Voluntary Services and Alan Harper, Director, VA Health Services John Miller 60th Inf. and Dan Heers.



Donald E. Crass, 60th Inf. Co. F presenting 9th Division check to Paul Noury, the Acting Medical Center Director at Iron Mountain, Mich. V.A. Hospital.

THE OCTOFOIL

Honored by tree plantings at Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

Dear Dan:

Spoke to you the other night. Enclosed are pictures of 9th Div Signal Men in Avenue of Remember (Main Street Running through Fort Mommouth). These are 16 memorial stones that I counted. Might be more. I belong to UBOB 56 in Fort Mommouth and that is how I came across these monuments. Looking for Captain Henry Blanchard, which you have a good story in March-April 1998 Octofoil by Reo Phillips.

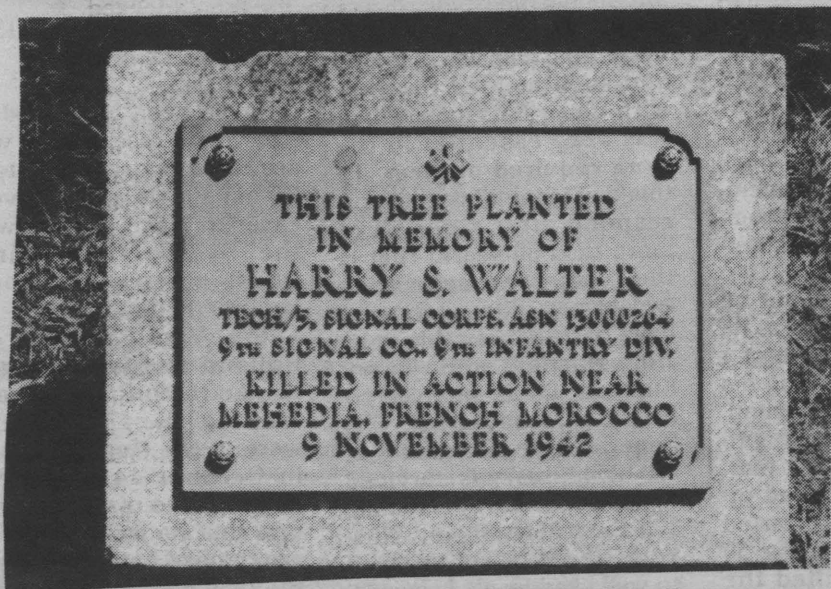
If you do get any inquiries you can pass them on to me because nobody knows anything at the Fort.

The UBOB is putting up a memorial stone at the Fort around Dec. 16, 2000, that's how I got involved.

Thanks for your attention on this matter.

Merwin (Whitey) Andell

Keep up doing such a terrific job.



MAIL CALL

Charles Hoffman

Mr. John Miller
The Ninth Infantry Division

Dear Mr. Miller

On behalf of the VA North Texas Health Care System, Dallas VA Medical Center, I would like to thank you and your organization for the generous donation of check number 5441 in the amount of \$300.00 for our hospitalized veteran patients.

It is with support such as yours that we are able to make our veterans' stay in the hospital more pleasant and cheerful.

Again, thank you for your donation and your concern for our veterans.

Sincerely yours
Alan G. Harper
Director

SEEKING

HELEN ANGELINA

Your name was given to me by Jim Divney. I had written to him because he served in the 60th Infantry 9th Division during World War II. My dad, Pvt Pasquale J. Angelina was killed in the Huertgen Forest Oct. 17, 1944. I'm interested to learn of anyone who knew him in the service. He was in F Company. I was 3 years old at the time. I was just hoping that one of the guys in his group might remember him and be able to tell me about him and what it was like there.

Thank you,
Helen

P.S. I was privileged to visit Henri Chapelle Cemetery, where he is buried.

Med Det 60th Inf
WALTER J. LABAJ

Dear Dan

Sending a few old pictures taken in World War II and would like to know if they can be photographed in the Octofoil. Dates and places are on the back of the pictures.

History about my serving in the armed forces. I was combat Medic assigned as a replacement to the 9th Infantry Division Medical Detachment 1st Battalion 60th Regiment. I'm seeking members who served with me.

Aid station members officers and non comm. are Capt. Dargay (Doctor) 2nd Lieutenant Sanfillipo, Corporal Ben Vastano, Sgt. Dunn Pfc. Franklin Doolittle, Stecher Bearer's Horton, Myron Kocur, Kutulas, Turley, Gregg and Mitchell. Jeep drivers Wallace Sanders and a American Indian who went by the name Chief. aAmbulance drivers Lupe Canter 2nd driver name unknown. I was stationed in Wolnzach, Germany in a small village outside of Munich Army of occupation.

Co. I 60th Inf.
JOHN P. EPP

SEEKING

In reference to our phone conversation of 21 March 2000, I am writing this letter to you at your suggestion in hopes of finding some information about my brother PFC Anthony J. Epp who died of wounds received in action in the Hurtgen Forest, Germany on October 18, 1944. His burial records indicate that he was with the 9th Division, 60th Infantry Regiment Company "K". My research indicates that he was probably fighting in the Germeter or Richbelskaut area of the forest perhaps near road junction 471 approximately 15 through 17 of October 1944. I would appreciate it if you would inform me of any veterans who may have known him or were in the area at the time and could provide me with specific information. I am enclosing some information from the 60th infantry journal, 3rd Battalion which covers this period of time. Hoping to hear from you, I remain.

60 Inf. D Co.
JOSEPH DAVIDSON

I'm grateful to you for your wonderful effort in publishing the Octofoil. I joined (as a draftee) Co. D. 60th Inf. in January of 1941. Trained with them at Ft. Bragg for about a year. Due to acute near sightedness, transferred to Ordnance Co. at Bragg and never got overseas. Proud to have been a member of the 9th and their memorable war record.

60th Inf. K Company
WILLIAM H. CLEMENTS

I'm looking for information about anyone from my company. Our company was from Ft. Bragg, No. Carolina. We left Norfolk, VA, Oct. 23, 1942 and landed Nov. 8, in Port Lyautey. We went through Africa, to Sicily, to England, to France and finally Ingolstadt, Germany. I've lost contact with several of my old buddies from the 60th Go Devils throughout the years and would like to hear from someone who shares the same experiences as I have. I remember a guy by the name of Fritag who was with me when we got to Ingolstadt. The last I heard, he was in the Austin, Texas area. Hope to hear from someone soon and see you at the 2001 reunion in Houston. Thank you and everyone on staff for your time and hard work keeping The Octofoil going! I'll be 80 in October and I enjoy the updates and information in it.

OUR LIEUTENANT

This is an episode over a 3 week period from the hills of El Guettar to the Sedjenane valley. It tells of our first encounter with a seasoned enemy and ends with our Lt. being killed in action. He was the first engineer officer to give his life for his country. Anyone who was at El Guettar will never forget it. The days were hot and the nights were cold, except when "Jerry" flew over. First would come the parachute flares hanging over us. They would light up the area like it was "Broadway". Within 20 to 30 seconds, down would come the butterfly bombs exploding over our heads. In our hole with our halftrack over it, we felt fairly safe. "Jerry" came over all night, one plane at a time. Our planes ruled the sky by day, but as soon as it got dark "Jerry" took over. I remember one of their planes coming over just as it was getting light. It was a two engine light bomber but he didn't drop any bombs as he came over the area. All of a sudden he started firing his machine guns at the ground. Within seconds every gun there started firing at him. One of our guys jumped up on our half-track and started shooting at him with our 50 caliber. Tracers filled the morning sky and the plane started to smoke from one of its engines. It banked to the right and started to go down behind one of the hills ahead.

A few minutes later we saw black smoke billowing up from where it crashed. Our platoon was behind one of the small hills back of the 3rd Bn. of the 47th Inf. We were the third platoon of B Co. 15th Engr. Bn. attached to the 3rd Bn. One afternoon a jeep pulled up near our position with 3 stars on the front. An officer got out and climbed up to where we were dug in. We knew right away that he was someone special as soon as he got close to us. After we saluted him, he told us he was General Patton, commander of the 2nd Corps. I'll never forget his uniform, the riding boots, 2 pearl handled pistols and the scarf around his neck. We filled him in on the situation in our immediate area. All the while Lt. Ware was talking to the General, he kept looking at the hills ahead with his binoculars. As he was leaving he said "We'll beat those sons of bitches", and was gone. I looked at Lt. Ware in amazement but we both felt good.

About the ninth night we were told we were relieving part of the 47th. We loaded up on our trucks and were driven to the base of the hill on our immediate front. On the way we passed the 105's that were firing away. We climbed a large hill and when we were near the top, Lt. Ware told us to dig in or use a hole already there. All night long he kept checking to see how we were doing.

Continued in next issue

9th Recon Troop
NICHOLAS CAPOBIANCO

Enclosed are my dues for the years 2001-2003 with the thought that I will be here for any future payments. I made quite a few reunions when my good friend John O'Grady was alive. He was the spark plug for our Troop especially when he became President of the Ninth Infantry Division Association in 1993. The two reunions that are still upper most in my mind are the Pines in New York in 1989 and Fayetteville, NC in 1992. Who can forget that stirring celebration in the chapel at West Point Academy. If you didn't have tears in your eyes during the ceremony, your heart wasn't working for you on that day. Fort Bragg, where it all began brought back many memories, pleasant and at times not so. The men of the Recon Troop came from all parts of the US and soon melded together with close harmony which was very essential in the work required of them. To this day many of us still correspond after a period of more than 50 years. That is the reason I am submitting two names of troopers who have passed away this year. Jim Harner and Larry Kurshan. Jim is survived by his wife Dottie Harner, The General Store, Morgantown, PA 19543; Larry is survived by his wife, Audrey Kurshan, 305 East 86th Street, New York, NY 10028. For two men so well liked by all, I am sure a sympathy card would go a long way to ease the pain they suffered for their loss. Thanks.

Co. K 60th Inf.
JOSEPH RAPPAZINI

fully express my appreciation for all the devotion and integrity that you have expressed over the many years since war's end. Not only am I overwhelmed upon receiving "The Octofoil" my wife has become fascinated when reading the articles that it contains, and, my wife is experiencing considerable interest as well. Consequently I find myself naming places, faces and happenings - and, always are memories developing in mind! Of course, it follows that I relate names and places and happenings, which I am certain is characteristic of each G.I. who served under "Uncle Sam." There is much to be remembered and thankful for, and more than grateful to you as I look up constantly and scan the newspaper headline that reads "The Octofoil"! A million and one thanks again for your devotion and dedication to the Ninth Division and all those who served wearing "The Octofoil!" Warmest regards.

THE OCTOFOIL
412 Vreney Ave
Weehawken, N. J. 07087
Publication No. 46239

SEEKING

BILLY L. ALLSBROOK

Dear Dan

I have been contacted by two young researchers who are doing work of Hurtgen Forest Battle and are very eager to make contact with the respective Ninth Division Regiment people involved in that battle.

Ron Van Ryt is from Holland and is seeking to contact 60th Regiment and 1st Bn of the 47th men that were in the Hurtgen Forest in October 44 at Raffelsbrand. Some of the information that he wants to share are German battle reports in the time and area which are quite interesting. His address is: Ron Van Ry, GEN-ESTETSTR 8,

E-mail address is

The other researcher is Albert Trostorf of Germany who is seeking 9th Div. men from the 1st Bn of the 39th Infantry that were involved in the battle for Merode Castle. Albert informed me that he lives about 500 yards from the Castle. His address; Albert J. Trostorf, Schloss-Strasse 12, 52379 Langerwehe-Merode, Germany. His E-mail address

Anyone seeking information about this area and time period might do well to contact these men.

Still eager to receive The Octofoil and read the letters from men that are part of the Ninth Division.



Deadline for next
issue of the Octofoil
Dec. 20th