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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, January/February 2001

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Volume XLXXV Number 1

Jan-Feb 2001



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

GROUND TRANSPORTATION TO THE ADAM'S MARK HOTEL

Herb Stern has researched the following for those arriving at the Bush International and Hobby Airports:

Coach USA-Airport Shuttle Service: Coach USA Round trip is \$37/person and one way is \$24/person from both Airports. Booths are located in the baggage claim areas.

Yellow cab: \$47.50 for one person (up to six in same cab for same \$47.50 Total) from Bush Intercontinental Airport. From Hobby Airport the rate is \$40.50 for one person (up to six in same cab for same \$40.50 Total).

United Cab: \$46.50 from Bush International Airport (up to six in same cab for same \$46.50 Total). From Hobby Airport the rate is \$45.50 (up to six in same cab for same \$45.50 Total).

For those driving or renting cars, there is No parking charge at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

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 your 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 is 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 is 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* 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.

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

SEEKING

I am a former parishioner of the late Father Edward T. Connors (Captain, retired). Father Connors served in the 9th Infantry Division Artillery (Headquarters) during the Second World War from December of 1942 to January of 1946. I am currently conducting a research project on the life of Father Connors in the military.

I am attempting to contact those veterans who served with Father Connors and remember him. I would like to place a notice in your periodical, *Octofoil*, to that effect. Would you please let me know how I can go about placing a notice? I would welcome any advice that you may have.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,
Eirinn J. Buckley

3rd BN 39th Inf CHARLES WARNER

I hear you had a operation, hope you doing better than I am. The shingles are worse with pain. Had to get rid of my car, because of dizzy spells. I see the old gang is disappearing. Don't know how long I can last. Give my regards to all the fellows.

The 80th Division
Veteran's Association WW I
& WW II will hold their
82nd Annual Reunion &
Convention - August 22 to
25, 2001 at the Holiday Inn
- Hampton, Virginia.

Contact: Clarence H.
Brockman, Chairperson,
334 Fannie Street,
McDonald, PA 15057-1273.
Phone 1 (724) 926-2044.

60th Inf. K Co. JAMES D. BROWN

Enclosed is my check for 3 years dues. I was with Co. K 9th Bat 60th Reg. from March 1945 until end of war. Our Co. K. picture was in the *Octofoil* Nov. and Dec. 1990. I didn't know there was such a paper until about 2 months ago. Bog Cardinell in Fla. sent me some *Octofoil* papers and I sure have enjoyed reading them. P.S. Does anyone have information on the names of the officers at the end of war for Co. K?

Deadline for next

issue April 20th

Military Historian to Speak at Banquet

LTC Peter Mansoor, author of the award winning book, *The GI Offensive in Europe: The Triumph of American Infantry Divisions, 1941-45*, has accepted an invitation to speak at the 56th Annual Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division in Houston. Mansoor's recent book, which includes the Ninth Division's role in the European War in some detail, recently won the Army Historical Foundation's Distinguished Writing award and was chosen to receive the Society for Military History's 2000 Distinguished Book Award. LTC Mansoor's interest in the Ninth Division goes much further back than his recent book. In fact, Mansoor had earlier used the Ninth Division as the subject of one of his university theses.

LTC Mansoor is currently the Commander of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Hood, Texas. He is a 1982 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. An armor officer, he has served in cavalry units both the United States and overseas. Upon completion of graduate school, LTC Mansoor taught military history at West Point - for two years prior to attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. He posted back to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, this time stationed at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, where he trained Army units for two years as the operations officer for the Opposing Force. Prior to assuming his current duties, LTC Mansoor served for two years on the Joint Staff in Washington, DC, as the Special Assistant to the Director for Strategic Plans and Policy.

Besides being a military officer, LTC Mansoor holds a masters degree and doctorate in history from the Ohio State University. His Military schools include the Command and General Staff College, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Armor Officer Advanced Course, Armor Officer Basic Course, the Infantry Mortar Platoon Officers Course, and Airborne School. LTC Mansoor holds numerous military awards and decorations for his long service.

Herb Stern of the Texas Chapter read LTC Mansoor's recent book and decided immediately that this man's wide familiarity with the Ninth Division's record in Europe would make him an ideal speaker for the annual meeting. Stern contacted Mansoor at Fort Hood and found him eager to meet the old veterans of the Ninth. LTC Mansoor and his family will attend several days of the Houston reunion and they are anxious to visit with as many Ninth Division Veterans as possible.

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

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to:
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
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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.

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

POST MASTER: Send address changes to

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NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Don 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 Auxiliary Member.....\$30.00

Decals.....50 each

Philly-Delaware Valley

Illinois

New England

Florida

Texas & 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:

Sabatino Agostinelli - In memory of John Ormsby II, Hdqs. Co. 9th Med. Bn.

Edward Rickert - In memory of John Maule, A Co. 15 Engrs.

Adolph Wadalavage - In memory of Ken Meyers.

Aldor Cook - In memory of Charles Denton, C Co. 9th Med. Bn.

Samuel Robinson - In memory of Fr. Ed Connors.

Andrew Kopach - In memory of Charles Denton, C Co. 9th Med. Bn.

Metro Kowalchik

Willard C. Hayes

Albin Robb - In memory of The Mortar Plt. Co. D 60 Inf.

Salvatore Albanese

Alex Balough - In memory of Charles Denton, C Co. 9th Med Bn.

Grady Holman - In memory of Thomas Lorello, B Co. 60 Inf.

Ernie Micka - In memory of Ed Kuklewicz, Frank Rankin, James Mullen, John Gee and Jordan Bierman, all of B Co. 15 Engr.

Clarence Ray - In memory of his wife Pearl Ray.

Herbert U. Stern

Jack Lannon - In memory of Chester Braune, 47 Inf. & 60th Inf.

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

Lucien Lucas - In memory of wife, Virginia.

Gerry Bryant - In memory of Ken Meyers, 9th MP, and 47 Inf.

William J. Palmer



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.

Amtrak Connections to Houston

Amtrak currently has direct service to Houston from Los Angeles in the west and Jacksonville in the East on the Sunset Limited. The service from Los Angeles arrives in Houston on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 10:10 AM. The service from Jacksonville, Florida arrives in Houston at 9:38 PM Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. Departures from Houston are about 20 minutes after the arrival time.

The Jacksonville train has connections to New York and Pennsylvania Station and also services New Orleans and Orlando.

Houston also has train-bus service connecting with the Texas Eagle Daily at Longview, Texas. This route services Chicago and the Midwest and arrives in Houston daily at 4:30 PM. Departure time from Houston is 2:45 PM daily.

Amtrak has advised that they are rerouting many of their trains beginning in the Fall of 2000 or the Spring of 2001. The proposed rerouting would take the Sunset limited from Houston to Fort Worth and then west to El Paso. There would probably be many other changes, so to be sure of the routing, contact your nearest Amtrak station.

The Amtrak station in Houston is downtown and taxis meet all the trains. The distance to the Adam's Mark Hotel is about 12 miles.

TAPS SOUNDED



CSM Kenneth L.
"Moose"
MEYER (Ret)
1921 - 2001

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.

Many of you will remember Ken Meyer who presided at the Memorial Service when the National Convention was held in San Antonio.

It is with deep regret to advise the Association of Ken's demise 17 January 2001.

Command Sergeant Major (Ret), Kenneth L. Meyer, served with the 47th Regiment in World War II and subsequently in Vietnam. Ken was accorded full military honors at his funeral in Belton, Texas on 20 January 2001. Troops from Fort Hood provided the firing unit and bugler. Ken had long enjoyed the Tattoo held annually at Edinburgh Castle in Scotland where military and civilian units from many nations participated. At Ken's request, a Bagpiper played In the Garden and Amazing Grace at the service.

In Ken's service with the 4th, 9th, and 40th Infantry Divisions in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, he was awarded two Purple Hearts, three Combat Infantryman's Badges, four Bronze Stars (two for Valor), twelve campaign awards, three Air Medals, awards from France, Belgium, Korea, Vietnam and Yugoslavia.

What many of us did not know that prior to the Rhine crossing, Ken was pulled from the M.P. detachment and sent on a mission to Yugoslavia to train their Partisans in guerrilla warfare. To get there, he related he made his first, and last parachute jump.

Ken's service to the Chapter, Association, and as Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the 47th Regiment Association, reflect his life long commitment to his comrades-in-arms.

Ken's family requested in lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to: The National Infantryman's Association and Museum at P.O. Box 52087, Fort Benning, Georgia, 31995-2087.

Representing the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter at the funeral were M/M Ernest Botella, John Miller, M/M Willard Norris, and Gordon Schneider.

Gordon A. Schneider

GEORGE WILLIAM POOLE, JR. DEAD AT 76.

George served with the Anti Tank Company of the 47th Infantry during WWII. He was born on April 24, 1924 and died on November 26, 2000. Rev. Rob Jaskot officiated the funeral services held at Stauffer Funeral Chapel in Frederick, Md.

He was laid to rest at Mount Oliver Cemetery in Frederick, Maryland. Any member wishing to send condolences may do so by writing to his wife, Gladys Poole at 8855 Hawbottom Rd., Middletown, MD 21769.

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



(Hawk), is shown shortly before answering his last roll call.
39 Inf. B Co. ALBERT BACCILE

TRIBUTE

Dear Friends and Buddies:

I have just returned from a very sad trip to Fairport, NY. In the early morning of August 18th, Joseph Gravino called and informed me of the death of our "B" Co's 39th compatriot Albert "Hawk" DiRisio. The "Hawk", as we knew him, was without a doubt the most engaging and likeable character "B" Co. ever had. A man of many talents, we were often regaled by his good humor and comical impersonations throughout his Army service.

He continued in this vein also after returning to Fairport, where he operated a restaurant for over 50 years. The affable nature of the "Hawk" eventually soon permeated the entire area. He was always available for anything worthwhile that was of benefit for the community.

Over the many years our relationship remained strong and I was saddened, no little, by the gradual decline of his health. He was most proud of having served in the 9th Division, and relished relating the numerous anecdotes that happened during his Army days.

The "Hawk" organized the first "B" Co. 39th reunion, which continued for 45 years. In the last few years he was forced to curtail practically all of those activities he so dearly loved.

As a man of laughter and song, he brought much joy to thousands of people. What better way to dedicate your life than to this?

Joe and I served as pallbearers, and the Fairport VFW provided the Honor Guard, which was capped off by a 21-gun salute after church services.

A man of pride and integrity who doted on this multitude of friends was the "Hawk."

"Rest in Peace" my buddy, you have served your country well.

EDWARD S. STOKAN

FAMILY TRIBUTE

With sadness, I want to advise you of the passing of our father, Edward M. Stokan, this past November 28. For many years, he received mailings of the *Octofoil* at his home at 4747 Plummer Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201-2936.

Our Dad served as a staff sergeant with the 60th Infantry, K Company and carried a mortar with that outfit beginning with the North Africa campaign in November 1942. He was ultimately wounded in the Battle of the Huertgen Forest in the fall of 1944.

Back home, he worked as a carpenter all his life and, with our mother, raised nine children. He was the best father any son or daughter could ever have. We miss him dearly.

Like so many veterans, our Dad was very proud of his service in the military and of those with whom he served. He enjoyed the *Octofoil* very much and always looked forward to its arrival.

If you would, please remove him from your mailing list, but know that the *Octofoil* meant a great deal to a grateful old soldier in Pittsburgh.

Thanks and God bless.

TAPS SOUNDED

John Maule

A Co. 15 Engrs.

George Poole

A T 47 Inf.

Kenneth Meyers

9th MP Plat & 47th Inf.

Thomas Lorello

B Co. 60 Inf.

Edward Stokan

K Co. 60 Inf.

William Watts

Robert Hurst

Chester Braune, Jr.

47th and 60th Inf.

Charles Denton

9th Med. Bn. Co. C.

Edgar Zeno

39th Inf. G Co.

John Santucci

39th Inf. K Co.

Pearl Ray

Wife of Clarence Ray, L Co. 47th Inf.

Albert Baccile

Co. B 39th Inf

I'm very sorry that I haven't written to you sooner, but I wanted to let you know that my father, Robert Hurst, 1st Lt. A Co. 15th Eng. passed away on October 25.

TRIBUTE

Dear Sirs,

I just received the *Octofoil*. I would like to notify you that my father passed away on September 13, 2000. He was very proud of his military service in the Ninth and when he got relaxed he would tell stories about his time in WWII. He started in the Army Corp of Engineers at Fort Bragg and fought in North Africa and in Sicily. He was lucky to become a typist and was promoted to staff sergeant and landed in Normandy with a typewriter on his back. He ran a field headquarters for a Captain Egan. He was in the Arden and in Germany. He marched in front of Churchill, Roosevelt, Montgomery, and Eisenhower at Casablanca. He received the Bronze Star and a letter from General Eddy.

He didn't say much about the friends he had lost but talked more about his experience with his comrades. Stories like the hillbilly from Tennessee who could spot a sniper in the trees, who became the general's bodyguard. He talked about how the locals in North Africa were stealing from the GI's and how it was so cold in the Arden and how in the winter the supply people screwed up and sent lemonade and cotton socks instead of woolen socks and coffee. He talked about the German girl who baked the guys a blueberry pie that no one would eat and how they carried a wounded GI back from enemy lines. He was able through his stories and his experiences to instill in me a great respect for all the people who fought and died in the war. We all owe a lot to you in helping to save future generations from the tyranny that you all were fighting against. I will pass on the legacy of that war to my dad's granddaughter so hopefully it will never happen again and she can appreciate the cost of the freedoms that we enjoy and take for granted which you all paid a price for. May you all continue to pass the personal stories on to your sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, nieces and nephews. I know somewhere they will appreciate it as I have from my father.

Sincerely
Richard Bierman,
son of Staff Sgt.
Jordan Bierman
B Co. 15th Engr

May he and all his comrades who have passed on rest in peace.

We had a small service, including a Masonic ceremony, in our hometown of Sioux City, Iowa. My sister, Chriss Winston, wrote and delivered a wonderful eulogy that spoke of how proud we were of him and he of us. Again, please forgive my tardiness, but as his friends, I thought you would like to know.

Sincerely,
Jane E. Hurst

Continued from last issue

Red Phillips

First serial rights
(c) 1998 Henry G. Phillips

**DIFFERENT AS CGs, BUT BOTH
TOP PERFORMERS:
9th Inf. Div. Won Fame in ETO under
Eddy and Craig**

BY RED PHILLIPS

When U.S. Army units of World War II meet for reunions, the veterans frequently engage in the ancient argument about commanders and their units — did the leader make the unit's reputation or was it the other way around? During its eight ETO campaigns, the 9th Infantry Division was led by two commanders who were completely different in leadership style, Manton S. Eddy and Louis A. Craig. If there is truth in the contention that the man makes the unit, one would suppose that the 9th's experience would bear it out. Was that the case?

Aside from their profession and birth year of 1892, Eddy and Craig had little in common. Eddy, by speech and openness reflected his birthplace, Chicago. Craig, born at West Point, New York, where his father was an instructor, was raised by his mother and spoke quietly with the Missouri accents and taciturnity of her forebears. But the backgrounds and antecedents of the two men, having had much to do with their becoming general officers, were less significant in their command of the 9th. For example, while General Eddy's formal education ceased with high school graduation, he was a gifted instructor and his communications were easily understood. His lack of a college education, however, probably delayed his selection to attend the Army War College and, on this count alone, he may never have won a star. There was the fact, however, that, from an early and fleeting contact with George C. Marshall, his name was in the plus column of the future chief of staff's "little black book." Eddy hardly knew of this good fortune. By 1941, he was considering retirement and going into another line of work. Pearl Harbor held him in the Army.

Eddy and Craig both had been overseas in World War I. Eddy, having been first in his graduating class at Shattuck Military Academy in 1913, was commissioned in the Regular Army infantry directly from civilian life three years later. He went to France with the 4th Division and was seriously wounded in the leg while leading a machine gun company at Thebault during the Second Battle of the Marne. On return from the hospital, he was promoted to major and led a battalion in the Argonne Forest.

Craig graduated from West Point and was commissioned in the cavalry in 1913. After a year, he switched to the coast artillery and later to field artillery before heading for France, where he attended the theater staff college and then served at different headquarters. By the Armistice he was a lieutenant colonel.

The two officers reverted to their permanent rank in 1920, Eddy as a captain and Craig as a major. Craig was assigned to field artillery units in the U.S. between the wars. He also spent five years as PMS&T at Harvard University and, for a like period, was inspector general with two different corps area commands. He graduated from the two-year course at the Command and General Staff School in 1931 and from the Army War College eight years later.

Craig became a brigadier general in February, 1942, and a major general a year later when he took command of the 97th Infantry Division at Camp Swift, Texas. Later he was designated commanding general of XXIII Corps and, in the spring of 1944, was assigned to the ETO as a supernumerary. In August, visiting First Army, he learned of General Eddy's promotion to XII Corps and asked fellow Missourian, Omar N. Bradley, for command of the 9th.

Eddy's career between the wars included assignment to infantry units at Fort Benning, Georgia; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and Fort Thomas, Kentucky. He was a student at the Infantry School when his monograph about the 4th Division's fighting at the Vesle river came to the attention of and impressed Assistant Commandant, George C. Marshall. The account showed not only the student's mastery of tactical principles but also, perhaps more important to Colonel Marshall, the young captain's keen sensitivity about the fate of those serving under him. While Eddy had no knowledge of Marshall's interest and approval, the paper seems to have assured his professional future.

After completing the two-year course at C&GSS in 1934, Eddy remained as an instructor for four years. He was selected for AWC's 1941-'42 class but America's entry into World War II closed the college before his

class started. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, Eddy was promoted to brigadier general and assigned to the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Bragg. On arrival he learned of his selection to take command of the division in a few months. He was to prepare the men for an amphibious assault somewhere overseas.

The 9th's infantry regiments, as combat teams, participated in the North African invasion, spread from Algeria to southern Morocco. It was a great disappointment for General Eddy to remain behind while most of his troops assaulted African beaches. Again, in the Sicilian and Normandy invasions, the 9th Division remained in reserve while pieces were committed under other commanders. Although Eddy realized it should be considered an honor to be held back for the offensive's climax, his combative instincts were frustrated. He ached to be up front.

During his years as a tactics instructor at Fort Leavenworth, Eddy became expert in applying fire with the movement of combat units to dominate a battlefield. Ultimately, the campaigns in Northern Tunisia and Sicily provided him the opportunity to display not only his tactical skill but also the hardiness and discipline of his units in carrying out the wide envelopment maneuver. The victory at Bizerte was particularly rewarding coming on the heels of desultory and inconclusive II Corps fighting at Kasserine and in Southern Tunisia.

While the 39th RCT and the division's medium artillery battalion took part in invasion of Sicily, the rest of the division arrived in August. Relieving the 1st Infantry Division, the 9th broke the German's grip on the island's central highlands, again by a wide envelopment. Its performance there as in Northern Tunisia led to General Eisenhower's selection of the 9th along with other units to move to England and participate in the cross-channel invasion of Normandy.

In Normandy, on June 14th, the 9th was committed to expand Utah Beachhead and capture the port of Cherbourg. Rapid accomplishment of these missions won the division wide acclaim. Later, the 9th was involved in the St. Lo bombing and breakout. It stopped the enemy's Mortain counter attack and helped to close the Falaise Gap. Eddy then replaced the ailing commander of XII Corps in Patton's Third Army. Generals Bradley and Patton each indicated in memoirs that they initiated Eddy's replacement of Major General Gilbert R. Cook as CG, XII Corps, but the final choice of a commander at this level was undoubtedly General Eisenhower's. He reported it to the Army Chief of Staff as an accomplished fact which must have been quite satisfying to General Marshall.



General Eddy

General Eddy was a large, gregarious and peripatetic man who ran his staff and subordinate commanders with a loose rein. He was dedicated to his men's well-being and imbued with the principle of leading from the front in order to inspire them, and to know the situation's dangers and possibilities. He roamed some part of the front everyday. Woe to the machine gunner who had not cleared his fields of fire, or to the company commander who had not outposted his position properly. General "Lightning Joe" Collins, his corps commander, always accepted completely Eddy's description of a position or situation, for Collins knew that Eddy had been on the ground and was reporting from first-hand knowledge. This frequently entailed considerable risk and General Bradley awarded Eddy the Distinguished Service Cross for frontline heroism in the Cherbourg fighting.

In Normandy, War Correspondent Ernie Pyle called Eddy "one of the favorite generals among war correspondents because he was absolutely honest with us, because he was sort of old shoe and easy to talk with and because we thought he was a mighty good general."

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Frank L. Gunn, now of Hampton, Virginia, but then commanding the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, remembers an instance when Eddy's age and heavy physique nearly brought him to grief: "When enemy strength and the configuration of the hedgerows in our sector caused the battalion's progress to be slower than desired, General Eddy came down to see the problem for himself and insisted on visiting the rifle company involved. I had already been down to see the company commander and found him doing what could be done under

the circumstances. His unit had entered a field where access was restricted to a gap blocked by a gate. After they entered, the enemy brought machine guns to bear on the gate and began to mortar. This prevented much movement.

"After a warning from my guide, I got over the gate by vaulting. The German machine guns fired but were too late. Now, with Eddy in tow, after explaining the need, I repeated my vault. Then, crouching by the hedge inside the field, when the shooting paused I whistled for the general to come ahead. There was a loud thump when he lit stretched out on top of the gate. With legs hanging down on either side he was unable to reach the ground. I crawled back, grabbed the near leg and pulled him down just as the enemy began firing again.

"General Eddy wasn't hit and, on regaining composure, he acknowledged we were right about being 'heavily engaged.' We got out of there by another route."

The late Colonel (Ret.) Frank R. Veale, who served as Eddy's G1 in the 9th and XII Corps, recalled:

"Sparkling the general throughout his campaigns was a constant demand, almost a mania, for mobility. In combat particularly, he displayed the most conspicuous aversion to allowing either his own person, or his troops to remain in any location longer than it took to prepare the next move. Immobility was his dread. He was at his happiest when moving rapidly."

Years of infantry soldiering gave General Eddy a sure knowledge of how much more could be drawn from tired men when tactical advantage was to be had by just a bit more exertion.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Harold W. Smith of Colorado Springs, Colorado, was a battalion



General Craig. Continued next page

Continued from last page

communications officer of the 60th Infantry during the regiment's drive across the Cherbourg peninsula. Short of their objective by just a few miles, the troops were exhausted after 24 hours of heavy fighting. Generals Collins and Eddy meeting at the front could see that an advance of only a few miles would reach the sea and cut off Cherbourg from enemy reinforcement. The regimental commander protested Eddy's order to keep moving. His troops, he claimed, had to be rested before continuing. Eddy would have none of it. "I know they can do it," he said and, after some changes of command, the job was done during the few remaining hours of darkness.

In his memoirs, General Omar N. Bradley's references to Eddy were generally laudatory, however he almost always qualified his praise with some note of Eddy's tactical caution. Eddy's "caution" was more properly his concern for the mission and his potential casualties. To the frequent annoyance of his colleagues and sometimes his commander, Eddy was assiduous in asking for more help. He was always fishing for the best possible deal for his men.

Eddy received word of his new command of XII Corps on the phone in his operations center from General Collins. He claimed it was a complete surprise. As he discussed the details, the staff quietly assembled and, when he rang off, they cheered and applauded. As the general recorded in his diary that night, "They probably knew of this even before Collins did."

If Eddy was not loved by his men it was pretty close to that. As Ernie Pyle reported, Eddy was "like an old shoe." He spoke soldier's talk easily and those in the more forward positions were always glad to see him. He would be missed.

In the fall of 1944, Colonel (Ret.) Frank J. Randall, was a replacement lieutenant to the 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry, and he soon learned from "old soldiers" what a first-class leader the 9th had had in Eddy. They were wondering what the change of command would mean for them.

Again, when Randall reported as a student to C&GSC in August, 1950, General Eddy had departed but staff members were still remarking about their former commandant and the academic and administrative improvements he had introduced. Randall concludes:

"In my career I found such favorable testaments from those left behind quite unique and I came to regret never having had the opportunity to serve under General Eddy's leadership."

General Craig was simply not gregarious. He could not loosen up. Sophisticated staffers wondered momentarily about Craig's ability to take over, but one contretemp over sloppy staffwork put an end to that.

Word passed quickly about the new boss' background and qualifications. Then, after the pursuit across France was done and the 9th regained contact with reinvigorated enemy, the new situation called for a different type of leadership than soldiers of the 9th had known under Eddy. Craig was able to meet his new challenges fully.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Lawrence J. McLaughlin of Wakefield, Massachusetts, an assistant G3 of the 9th at this time, recalls a visit by General Collins, the corps commander, soon after it became apparent at their relatively low level that the Huertgen Forest called for an entirely different game plan.

Collins, accompanied by Maurice Rose, commander of the 3rd Armored division, came with an armored reconnaissance NCO who had discovered an undefended trail by which an attack might bypass anti-tank guns blocking the armor to the north and, at the same time, unlock the forest defenses that had stopped the 9th. This was an infantry job and "Lightning Joe" wanted Craig to take it on. Probably, he remembered how in Normandy Eddy had jumped at such an opportunity to outmaneuver the enemy. Craig, however, was a different kind of tactician.

McLaughlin relates Craig's extemporaneous description of the conditions faced by all three of his fully committed and engaged infantry regiments, his engineers and his recon troopers. Craig concluded: "I'll organize the cooks, clerks and ration-counters for a stab at it, but it won't take much for the Germans to stop them when they're discovered." General Collins was dissuaded and the proposal died. McLaughlin marvelled at his commander's detailed grasp of the situation and the corps commander's acquiescence of Craig's assessment.

Craig was a third-generation Army officer. His paternal grandfather organized and led a regiment of Missouri volunteers during the Civil War, and his father graduated from West Point in 1874. He had a 17-year older brother, Malin, who was Army chief of staff, 1935-39, and who undoubtedly guided Louis to assignments helping his professional progress. As a devout Catholic, the younger Craig would never have organized in Africa, as had Eddy, a strictly controlled house of prostitution as a means of slowing rampant venereal disease.

Like Eddy, Craig had absorbed General Marshall's tactical philosophy. As a result of his artillery training and experience, however, he tended to stress the application of fire power. When the fast moving situation following the Normandy breakout came to a close, the Allies had outrun their logistic support. Replacements were slow in arriving and artillery rounds became rationed. Given a breather, the enemy regrouped, reequipped its

forces and, with great efficiency, set up a continuous front west of the Rhine. The 9th stagnated in the Huertgen Forest but, during the Bulge battle, it held the northern shoulder of the German penetration with great style. Its condition throughout this period would have been far worse but for Craig's ability to garner and apply defensive fires and plan counter-strokes.

Division command calls for qualities which were abundant in both Eddy and Craig. They knew the capabilities of their organization and its gear and as much of the same about the enemy as could be learned under battle conditions. They could grasp quickly the significance of terrain and the weather to either side.

The commander can exert a real and positive force upon his men but they must see him regularly to realize his concern for their well-being. Visiting frontline units is often risky and calls for unwavering personal courage, but it is the only means for a commander to measure the effects of battle upon men less experienced than himself and to know when key subordinate commanders are approaching the breaking point and need relief.

Craig, perhaps, was less a habitue of the front lines than was his predecessor. His visits were usually limited to the regimental and battalion CPs, for he firmly believed that his primary function was to exercise firm control from a central location behind the front.

There were exceptions, of course. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Leo C. Williamson of St. Petersburg, Florida, when serving as operations officer of the 60th Infantry's 3rd Battalion, recalls a visit by General Craig after some of their most vicious fighting in the Huertgen Forest:

"General Craig took me aside and asked about Lt. Col. Keene N. 'Slick' Wilson, our battalion commander. I told him that while 'Slick' showed no outward trace of it, he was about to explode. We had been together long enough that I could perceive this while others, even the doctor, could not. I urged the general to get him to Liege or Paris for a few days and, to my surprise, he took the boss back with him in his jeep. The next thing I heard was that 'Slick' would be in England for two weeks."

Colonel (Ret.) John W. MacIndoe, then S3, 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry, remembers: "One day in the Huertgen while attacking, sensing we might be getting ahead of the units on either side, the CO went to one flank and sent me to the other to keep an eye on things. Once there, German artillery and mortars began shredding the trees. I turned around and there was General Craig on his belly a few feet away. He crawled over to me and I explained what was going on. He patted me on the shoulder and said 'You're doing a good job, Captain, keep it up.' Then he left."

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Lewis E. Maness of Viera, Florida, led the 47th's 2nd Battalion for most of its fighting in Europe. Of Craig's leadership, this veteran states: "After our fighting at Frenzenburg Castle in early December 1944, he came down to see what could be done for us. I told him the battalion had been on the line for the past 147 days and what we needed most was a few days without getting shot at. The next morning we were sent back to a rest camp for a week. As luck had it, the Battle of the Bulge started three days later."

Craig's professional reputation rose dramatically in the course of exploiting First Army's capture of an intact bridge across the Rhine at Remagen on March 7th, 1945. After elements of the 9th Armored Division heroically grabbed the bridge, the nearest infantry support available to capitalize on the windfall was Craig's 9th Division. Later, because of the III Corps commander's remarkable inability at this juncture, it fell upon Craig to command the forces crammed into the Remagen bridgehead and prepare for a breakout. For more than a week, Craig was a de facto corps commander, fighting two other infantry divisions plus many supporting units, all the while expanding the bridgehead against fanatical resistance, and making room for more strength.

After the war, Generaloberst Alfred Jodl, former chief of the German Armed Forces Operations Staff, recalled that the Allied success in the Remagen bridgehead "hastened Germany's defeat and shortened the war in Europe by six months."

Colonel (Ret.) Arden C. Brill of Seattle, Washington, was the division headquarters commandant under Eddy and Craig and remembers the sharply different personalities of the two men: "Eddy showed his feelings and was outgoing. Except professionally, Craig seldom opened a conversation and kept his feelings to himself. A smile, a show of displeasure, or anger, was a rarity. I sensed there was always an inner struggle to appear completely composed. To permit others to know him well was not a part of his leadership style."

In contrast to Eddy who favored tanker jackets, highly polished paratrooper boots and the .38 Colt automatic pistol regularly issued general officers, Craig was strictly GI in his dress, down to the .45 caliber service automatic pistol. His purpose was to demonstrate to the men, that for the most part, he lived as they did. His driver, Tech, Sgt. (Ret.) C.O. Ellenberger, recalls that when winter set in Mrs. Craig sent the general a handsome fur-lined leather jacket. After trying it on, he sent it to storage with his other personal effects. The driver protested that other generals wore such coats and the men would not be put out if they saw him in one, but General Craig was firm in his decision.

Those who wonder about the effectiveness of such a gesture might mark the recollection of Colonel (Ret.) Lloyd G. Huggins of Petersburg, Virginia, who states he met the general after the war and mentioned his visits to the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, during the bitterly cold winter fighting in the Huertgen. Huggins brought up the general's choice of dress and Craig responded: "I always wondered if the troops noticed." Huggins assured him they did and adds: "General Craig made himself visible up front and we respected him and believed in his leadership."

In 1977, at a testimonial luncheon in Washington given by 9th Division veterans for their former commander, General (Ret.) William C. Westmoreland of Charleston, South Carolina, who was the division's chief of staff from October, 1944, to the war's end, toasted General Craig.

"This gentleman was and still is a man of exceptional moral and intellectual depths. He was a military professional in every sense. Self-effacing and modest, he spoke softly and politely to all; he never harangued or engaged in pompous exhortations. Never did he use crude, vulgar or blasphemous language. Dignity and integrity were his hallmarks. He led by example."

Normandy may have been more even ground for the two men, but would Craig have been as ready to act on the fast-breaking opportunities presented Eddy west of Ste. Mere Eglise in June, 1944? The author thinks not.

Conversely, stress and hypertension brought Eddy down in late April, 1945, on the eve of victory in Europe. If he had been commanding the 9th during its blood bath in the Huertgen Forest, or suffered the aggravation of having to command two other divisions and fight in three directions in the Remagen Bridgehead without the full authority of a designated corps command, he might have succumbed even earlier. Craig's exceptional equanimity in these times suited the need.

The author's conclusion is that as the European War changed, the 9th Infantry Division changed and the changes in its command corresponded neatly. Eddy brought up a fine division and Craig was very lucky to inherit it.

Lt. Col. Henry G. Phillips, USA (Ret.), was with the 9th Inf. Div. in all of its campaigns. He is the author of *El Guettar: Crucible of Leadership*; *Sedjenane: The Pay-off Battle*; *Remagen: Springboard to Victory*, and his biography of Lt. Gen. Manton S. Eddy has been published by Greenwood Publishing Group.

THE END



FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FLORIDA CHAPTER 2001 REUNION: The Reunion Committee is going ahead with plans to hold the Fall Reunion at the same Hilton Melbourne Airport Hotel where it was held last year. Chairman Richard Baudouy is negotiating the rates and other matters with the Hotel Sales Personnel and will pass on all information to this writer who will publish it in future issues of the OCTOFOIL. Remember ... hotel room rates are based on the number of rooms we rent so plan on attending and enjoy the comradeship of your peers.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

LeRoy & Erika Miller are continuing with their computer lessons and should be experts at it soon.

Lila & H.F. Stansell enjoyed the company of Lila's sister, her son and his wife for the Christmas holidays. Since a change in their medication, both Lila & H.F. are feeling much better. They enjoyed the Melbourne Reunion and are looking forward to attending the FL Chapter Fall Reunion.

Tom & Carol Sauders Christmas Card contained an odyssey of events that made up their year 2000. They ushered in 2000 by moving to Michigan from Tennessee. They spent Easter in California with members of their family. While staying in California, they went to Yosemite with visits with Tom's daughter Cathy and a granddaughter Ann. From California they went to Las Vegas ... but didn't gamble too much. While in Las Vegas, they met Tom's cousins and joined in a family reunion. Carol and Tom attended Carol's nephew Mike who graduated high school with honors.

On October 19, 2000 Carol was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and had enrolled in a Cardiac Rehab program.

Florida Chapter Members will remember Tom and Carol as close friends of Phil & Barbara Berman. Also for their willingness and participation during our Chapter reunions and especially their help at the 1995 Annual Reunion which was hosted by the Florida Chapter in New Orleans.

Our prayers go with Carol for a full and speedy recovery. May God be with you in your determination to get well.

Barbara Berman took time out from her work at Fazoli's Restaurant to go on a lengthy vacation to visit her friends in England. From England Barbara traveled further north to Scotland. She enjoyed her vacation despite the cold weather. In fact ... Barbara is planning a return trip to England this coming June.

SICK CALL

Audrey De Donato breaks hip: Plans were already made by Emil and Audrey to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on February 4, 2001 when on Tuesday evening, January 30th around 10:30 at night, Audrey slipped and fell off a chair she was standing on and busted her hip. Both Emil and Audrey were hanging photo enlargements of their wedding 50 years ago. As she stepped down from a chair that she was using as a ladder, her foot slid from underneath her and she landed on her right hip. Soon after 911 was called she was rushed to Monroe Regional Hospital in Ocala where x-rays showed a broken hip. Surgery to replace the socket portion was performed the following day, Wednesday, January 31st. After a 4 day stay at the hospital, Audrey was transported to TimberRidge Rehabilitation Facility in Ocala where she is going through an extensive Re-hab program to get herself back to normal. All plans for a family celebration ... the church ceremony, Restaurant Dinner, Florist, Airplane flights, cake maker and invitees had to be cancelled.

After the first 10 days of her re-hab program, Audrey is able to get around on her walker. She can dress and take care of bathroom chores without assistance. At this writing, she will go on a cane therapy followed by a removal of the surgical staples with a visit with the surgeon on February 16th. Hopefully, she will be released to go home soon after that visit. Audrey offers the following piece of advice, "NEVER USE A CHAIR INSTEAD OF A LADDER."

Jean Baudouy spent a few days in the hospital recuperating from a bout with pneumonia. Jean is now at home but must be very careful not to get caught in the rain without an umbrella. Richard is feeling much better with his feet problem and is now able to wear shoes instead of slippers. Richard is Chairman of the 2001 Florida Chapter Reunion. Any member wishing to help him in the setting up process is asked to contact him at 515 Oakcrest Street, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 or phone: 407/862-7157.

Dolores Van Der Poel had a severe throat infection in January. Thanks to modern medications, she was able to recuperate in a short period. Her husband Chuck is feeling much better since our last Chapter Reunion in Melbourne.

P.S. Please send news to Emil J. De Donato, 3650 S.W. Mosswood Street, Dunnellon, FL 34431 or phone 352/489-4070.

NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER
BACK AT ITS OLD COMMAND POST

The NY chapter met at the 69th Regt Armory at 25th St. and Lexington Ave., NYC at 7:30 PM in the Father Duffy room on January 19, 2001. The armory had been the previous home of the chapter until eleven years ago when we moved to Masonic Hall across town. We paid a yearly rent of \$600 to Masonic Hall, but met only 9 months of the year. The Hall would not reduce the rent proportionately so we looked at other locations, including the availability of a rent-free room at the VA hospital on East 23rd Street in NYC. After deliberation the chapter opted to return to the armory. The armory does not charge rent to a veteran group.

Due to bad weather and illnesses only seven members attended: Bill Canales, Anton Dietrich, Mike Gatto, Ed Harris, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto and Joe Killen.

Prez Anton Dietrich opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag, followed by acting chaplain Joe Killen giving the invocation, in the absence of chapter chaplain Al Lipton who was sick. A moment of silence was observed for our departed comrades.

Minutes of the previous meeting was read by recording secretary Marv Levy. The lengthy, yearly financial report was read by Prez Dietrich in the absence of ailing Treasurer Al Zenka. The report showed the chapter is in good shape.

Correspondence was read by Dietrich: Hy Shakin donated his \$75 3rd prize Xmas raffle winnings back to the chapter's welfare fund while also noting that because of his disability he is unable to attend chapter meetings. Walter O'Keeffe also returned his \$10 prize to the chapter's good and welfare fund, and offered well-wishes to the chapter at its former armory command post.

Formal Installation of Officers Postponed

Next order of business was the installation of 2001 officers. Because only seven members were in attendance, including 2 officers, newly-elected president Joe Killen suggested we have a formal installation at our next meeting when, hopefully, more members could attend. It was noted that ailing Zenka normally would have driven in with Lipton and Wadalavage but they, too, were not well. However, 2000 prez Dietrich was presented an Octofoil plaque for his dedicated and exemplary service to the chapter, and Dietrich presented an imaginary gavel to Killen to begin his term as president.

Prez Killen's first order of business was to suggest that the chapter donate (possibly \$100) to the armory working staff, considering the money we saved by not paying yearly rent to Masonic Hall any longer. Dietrich believed it was too early to acknowledge the benefits of the armory and we should wait a few months to assess our future command post.

A discussion followed considering the location of our next Christmas party with New Jersey and the armory as possibilities. This issue will be considered at a future meeting when more members have a voice.

Deliberation for the location of our next mini reunion followed. Dietrich showed a book of NY State resorts that Zenka had obtained. Besides NY the Poconos in Pennsylvania was also to be considered. There will be more debate on this subject at future meetings.

There was some discussion of the upcoming National Reunion in Houston in May. Killen and Ed Harris raised the feasibility of less costly group travel arrangements to Houston and the various reunions in the future. Discussion followed with the subject to be explored further at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned without refreshments since our hospitality staff did not attend this meeting.

We wish all our members and their loved ones speedy recovery from their illnesses and a happier New Year for 2001.

Attention NY Chapter members: if you haven't renewed your dues, do it now for the New Year: \$10 for one year, \$25 for 3 years and \$75 for Lifetime membership. Make checks payable to NY Area Chapter, 9th Inf Div Assn and send to Arthur R. Schmidt, Secretary, [redacted]

Marv Levy
Co A 60th

"Return to the Battle of Normandy"
Video Still Available

Marv Levy's award-winning 46 min. video showing an infantry replacement's baptism of fire with the 9th Infantry Division in the 1944 Normandy Invasion is told with his drawings and combat footage. Only \$19.95 (includes postage). Check payable to Marv Levy, and mailed to PO Box 444, Merrick, NY 11566. Satisfaction or money back.

47th Inf. Co. I
JOSEPH MAIALE

I want to apologize for not writing this letter sooner. I won't give any excuses, because there are none, so better late than never.

I went to Kutshers Reunion in May and thanks to my friend Joe Killen, I was introduced to Elmer Wagner. He was also in Company I and knew more about where I had been than I did. He gave me the names and possible addresses of four of the men that I was captured with 55 years ago. I was able to contact only two of them, Ted Spelatis and George Mathieu. Unfortunately, Ted passed away two years ago. With my sons help, I was able to track down George. We found out that he had moved from the Bronx to Red Hook in upstate NY.

When I called and spoke to his wife Kitty, I introduced myself (thinking she would not have a clue as to who I was) what a shocker to hear her say "Oh my God my husband has been looking for you for 55 years." The reason he couldn't find me was that he did not have the correct spelling of my name. We spoke for a few minutes and she told me her daughter would call me back. Susan called and invited my wife and I to visit them which we did. I cannot put into words the feelings I got after seeing George after all these years. It brought back a lot of memories. George was in poor health and unfortunately passed away in August. I was so thankful that I at least did get to see him.

There is a moral here I suppose. If you have someone to get in touch with, do it now, because there are no tomorrow's. I am still looking for Schultz who I think was from New Jersey and John Englert who I think was from Ohio. He was our squad leader. Thanks again to Joe Killen and Elmer Wagner.

I am making a donation in memory of George Mathieu.

C Co. 47th Inf.
C.B. BAKER

I was saddened to learn of the death of my friend Bill Klauz. He was executive officer in C Company where I was a medic for most of my time in WW II. He was later promoted to Captain and sent to B Company 47th. We kept in contact through the years.

Wilson Langley called me recently and wanted me to write to you and make you aware of the death of Otis Earl Bumgarner another C Company man with the third platoon. We also kept in touch through the years.

Enclosed please find a check for the Memorial Fund in memory of Bill Klauz and Earl Bumgarner. They were both very special to me.

Not much news these days. Hope this letter finds you well.

Deadline for copy of the next issue of the Octofoil will
be APRIL 20th

WILLIAM H. MALONEY, jr. Attorney at Law, 303 East 83rd Street, Apt. 16 G, New York, NY 10028-4319. Tel: (212) 535-5489, FAX: (212) 535-2803.

RE: 2ND BN 39TH, NOV. 8TH, 1942 - HMS SPEY

Dear Dan:

Thank you for printing my letter and other information about the HMS SPEY in the Nov.-Dec. 2000 edition of the *Octofoil*.

I am going to send a copy of the *Octofoil* piece to the British "Navy News" and the members of the crew of the SPEY who wrote to Jack.

I also want his input (and yours, of course) about the way to get the Ninth Division Association to make some formal recognition of the service rendered by the Captain, officers and crew of the HMS SPEY to the 2nd Bn. of the 39th Inf.

Would you make sure that my home address is on this letter so that I might get some input from any other members of the 2nd Bn.

Very truly yours,
WILLIAM H. MALONEY, JR.
(Fox Co. 39th Inf.)

cc.:
BROTHER SEBASTIAN
(Jack Maher)
MT. SAVIOR MONASTERY

NAVY NEWS
OFF HMS NELSON QUEEN ST

Re: HMS SPEY AND 2nd BN, 39TH INF (USA) Nov. 7, 8, 1942

Gentlemen:

A few years ago JACK MAHER (Brother Sebastian) wrote to you about the spectacular service rendered by the officers and crew of the HMS SPEY to our above infantry unit in the Mediterranean when we were about to land at Algiers. You published his request to hear from any members of the crew. He heard from Captain H.G. BOYS-SMITH RNR and other officers and crew members. At Jack's request I wrote to the Ninth Inf. Div. newspaper about the many letters received. I am enclosing a copy of report of the matter in our Nov.-Dec. 2000 paper. I am also sending a copy of the letter and the report to those members of the crew who responded to Jack.

Very truly yours,
WILLIAM H. MALONEY, JR.

cc:
H.G. BOYS-SMITH, RNR
"Dibbens" Semley
Shaftesbury
Dorset, England SP 7 9 BW
S.H. HIX

ALEC WINGRAVE
58 Tintern Road
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LEN FORD
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ROBERT CARPENTER

Winshill, Burton on Trent
Staffs. DE15 0LR England
SYDNEY JOHN HELLYER
43 Oliver Whitby Rd
Chichester, Sussex PO193U, England

England

GIs in Britain 1942-45

I am currently researching a book about the Anglo-American experience in this country during the Second World War - notably 1942-45.

I note the 9th Infantry Division served time in this country prior to D Day.

I would therefore be delighted to hear from any members society who have memories - good or bad - of their stay in the UK.

Contributions used will be acknowledged in the book, but confidentiality will be respected as I do not intend to ascribe information to any persons in the text.

Yours sincerely
Helen Millgate

Dear Dan:

I called Jack Maher about the death of Capt. Boys-Smith. He told me that he got the information about the Navy News from Red Philips. He wants to offer his thanks to Red instead of taking the credit himself.

I am enclosing the obit of Boys-Smith for the continued saga. I am also sending a copy of this letter to Cyril Tebbis who sent me the obit. He joined the SPED after November '42.

Please let me know how we can put the matter for some recognition the convention in May to formally thank the crew of the SPEY for what they did not the 2nd Bn., 39th?

RED PHILIPS

ROSS MANLEY

NAVY NEWS
OFF HMS NELSON QUEEN ST

CAPTAIN HUMPHRY BOYS-SMITH, who has died aged 94, was one of the most decorated and successful Merchant Navy officers serving in the RNR during the Second World War.

His first wartime command, late in 1939, was the trawler *Tourmaline*, escorting convoys between Aberdeen and Newcastle. On February 24, *Tourmaline* was going down the Firth of Forth when an oncoming steamer, *Royal Archer*, blew up on a mine. *Tourmaline* picked up the entire crew and took them to Leith.

In April 1940, Boys-Smith was appointed in command of the Flower Class corvette *Anemone*, building at Blyth. In May, while waiting for her to become operational, he was given command of the Dutch schuyt (a small coaster) *Twente*, for the Dunkirk evacuation. He and his crew of five made six trips across the Channel and took off more than 1,100 soldiers.

On May 29, Boys-Smith steered *Twente* alongside the paddle steamer *Gracie Fields*, which had been bombed with 750 troops on board and was still under way but out of control. Boys-Smith jammed *Twente's* bows against *Gracie Fields* and kept her there while soldiers - some of them badly injured, scrambled across.

For his service at Dunkirk, Boys-Smith was awarded the DSO. He then commissioned *Anemone* for Western Approaches Command, based first in Liverpool and then in Londonderry.

Early in January 1943, *Anemone's* escort group was on its way to meet convoy HX 99, homeward bound from Halifax, when Boys-

Smith had a disagreement with the escort group commander over the group's position. Convinced he was right, Boys-Smith struck out on his own.

At dawn on January 7, *Anemone's* lookouts saw smoke haze astern. It was the Italian submarine *Nani*, overhauling *Anemone* in the belief that she was a convoy straggler. Boys-Smith allowed the enemy to come with-

**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

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 _____

in 3,000 yards, and then they also sank. Eventually swung round to open fire. Spey had 800 troops on

The submarine, which was board, whom she disem-faster and more heavily barked in Algiers on armed than *Anemone*, then November 9.

Boys-Smith was awarded the DSC and a US Citation rate depth-charge attacks, for Meritorious Service.

Serving with the 1st Support Group, *Spey* took part in several convoy actions early in 1943, including the climactic 10-day battle around the outward-bound convoy ONS 5 in May.

There were as many U-boats as ships in the convoy, And three and a half times as many U-boats as there were escorts.

Twelve merchant ships were lost, but six U-boats were sunk and two more lost

He left the Navy in November 1945 and rejoined the Colonial Marine Service.

From 1946 to 1950 he was Marine Superintendent of the Western Pacific High Commission, organising marine transport in the British South Sea Islands.

He then served until 1968 as Recruitment Officer in the Central Staff Dept. of Courtaulds Ltd.

Boys-Smith retired from the RNR in 1952 and was awarded the Reserve Decoration. He was a Younger Brother of Trinity House and a member of the Hon Company of Master Mariners.

He married, in 1935, Marjorie Vicars-Miles, whom he had known since childhood. She died in 1981.

But the landing craft, not designed for ocean passages, broke down or sank. *Spey* took two in tow, but

MAIL CALL

34th FA Bn.
JACK LANNON

Chester Braune Jr., his wife Gloria, my wife Ruth and I (Jack Lannon) met in the cocktail lounge at the hotel in Wisconsin during the reunion held there many years ago. It became a "crazy glue" relationship with each of us looking forward to the next reunion so we could spend time together again.

Chester died of cancer this past January 23rd, 2001 in Birmingham, Alabama at the age of 80. We shall surely miss him at the reunions.

He entered the ninth as a First Lieutenant in the 47th Infantry Regiment, was also an aide to General Stroh at 9th Division Headquarters and at his request was transferred to the 60th Infantry Regiment as a Company Commander.

Following his discharge he remained in the reserves, finally retired as Lieutenant Colonel in the 87th Army Maneuver Area Command, Birmingham, Alabama.

He is survived by his wife Gloria Braune, 365 Amherst Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35242.

The enclosed check is for a one year membership for me. The remainder is to the memorial fund in honor of Chester Braune, a true friend, sadly missed.

60th Inf. K Co.
WILLIAM DOBBINS

Thank you for your many years of hard work in publishing the *Octofoil*.

It's always interesting to keep up with what's going on and any news of my Army buddies.

I won't be able to attend the reunion but wish good luck to all.

60 Inf. K Co.
JAMES HART

Another year has zipped by, seems each year they go faster.

Last year I forgot to send in my dues until about May. The good old *Octofoil* made me remember. This year I looked at my membership card, took it with us to Florida, and now I am on time.

As always I send my heart felt thanks for the wonderful job you two have done over all the years. I am sure we would not have survived without you and the other guys that have worked so hard.

One of my kids gave me Andy Rooney's book *My War*. I am just getting into it, and seems it will be pretty good. Unlike a lot of other writers he has "been there and done that."

My hope and prayer is that you and the Division Association will have another great year. Thanks again.

47 Inf. Hqs 1st Bn
RALPH S. YEAKEL

Enclosed is a check for my yearly dues. As a past member of Hq. Co. 1st Bn. 47th Inf. I was wondering if anyone in the 47th Inf. could help me.

In our march from Safi to Port Lyautey we spent the weekend of December 13, 1942 in Casablanca. Our Regiment held a parade on Sunday and Sgt. Gardler carried the colors and Cpl. Ryan and myself were color guards. Our picture made the front page of the Casablanca Newspaper.

It was a nice picture of the colors passing by. If anyone knows how I can get a copy of it, please let me know. Thank you.

15 Engrs. B Co.
ERNEST MICKA

Enclosed please find check for the Memorial Fund in memory of the following men of "B" Co., 15th Engrs: Edward Kuklewicz, Frank Rankin, James Mullen, John Gee, Jordan Bierman.

It's hard to believe that it's time to make plans for attending another reunion. Last year's was great and from what I hear "our gang" from "B" Co. should be well in attendance one more time. The following are all planning to some degree to make it: Ferrante, Shea, Micka, Otts, Moore, Mandie, Merrill. (That's the making of a good squad)!! And of course it would be very nice to see a few others make it.

We've already made our hotel reservations and have our plane tickets and getting anxious to see everyone again. Stay well till then.

C.O. of Co. B. 60th Inf.
GRADY HOLMAN JR. (Capt.)

Tom Lorello is no longer with us!

Dottie called and said Tom died while having a hip replacement.

On the 12th of December 1944, for its actions, Co. B. was given the presidential unit citation giving it a recorded place in 9th Div. history - Tom "Brooklyn" was very proud of Co. B and Co. B. was proud of him - so to the members of Co. B 60th Inf. 9th Div. when you pin on that distinguished unit badge think about men like "Brooklyn" who put it there - as far as I know, there are only three of us still living that were in Co. B on 12 Dec. 44.

Robert H. Fisher

John Celler

Grady Holman Jr.

Med Det 39th Inf.
WILLIAM J. BUTLER

These past two years have witnessed a decline in my strength and agility. I slipped on the ice on my driveway on January 5th and severely fractured my left shoulder. In July, I finally realized that I could no longer manage my house or continue to live there without being able to drive the car. I could not have found this place nor have packed and moved here without the help of my family and of those dear friends who are of the generation behind me. They all recognized my physical shortcomings before I did, and helped me move here in mid August. My new address and phone number is on the letterhead.

This building, named Wyndham, is described as a retirement apartment building with about 90 apartments and provides a daily dinner, a linens service [bedding and towels], and a scheduled biweekly cleaning of the apartment. Transportation for excursions, shopping malls, and for medical and dental appointments is available. My apartment has a living-dining area, a kitchenette, a small office, a bedroom, a bathroom, and ample closet space. I continue with a schedule of shoulder stretching exercises twice a day, and also walk two miles daily in the halls of the building. A survey taken October 1999 reported 9 residents in their 70's, 53 in their 80's, and 27 in their 90's. Their median age was 86, and there were 61 women and 18 men. Living alone in isolation can be deadly, and here I can find conversation starting with the morning coffee.

Elaine is a full time evangelist now and as a result is out of town most of the year. Her three boys are in college and the oldest girl, Rachel, will graduate from high school in June. Her sister, Elizabeth, is in 11th grade.

Barbara, in Midland, is recovering from shoulder surgery this past summer and has been unable to play tennis for a year and a half. Her oldest boy, Jason, entered Albion College this fall. Brother Michael is in 10th grade.

Best Wishes and Happy Holidays.

84 FA Bn B Btry
SAMUEL ROBINSON

Swampscott, MA 01907

Hello again!! Writing was my "forte" but it's dwindling. Just learned from Mrs. John Vandermeiden that John passed away Aug. 15, 2000 after a long bout with ALS. (Lou Gehrigs Disease). He's had it for many years. A great guy. He was a F.O. for our Battery. Send cards to Mrs. V at 1105 Milpoint Drive, Spring Lake, MI 49456. Sorry I can't make the Worcester reunion. I have missed the last two. All my best to the gang!!

60th Inf. F Co.
DONALD CRASS

I see that my dues are going to expire this year, so I am sending a check for 3 more years of membership.

Also would like you to print the following information for our 9th Div. people.

France issues a certificate to honor WWII veterans for their participation in the liberation of France.

The certificate is meant to express the gratitude of the French people to the soldiers who participated in the Normandy landing and liberation of France on French territory and in French territorial waters and airspace between June 6, 1944 and May 8th 1945. The certificate will not be issued posthumously.

Contact your county service officer for further information requirements and the application. You will need your discharge papers. I should say a copy of it as it won't be returned.

In the last issue of the *Octofoil* listed as seeking I sent a letter to Mac Hill of 78 Chester Road, Raymond, N.H. 03077-2016. His brother was killed on Feb. 9, 1945. He was in Co. F 60th Inf. when we took the Schwarnmanuel Dam. I couldn't remember names after 56 years but I maybe knew him. In those days we were receiving new replacements quite regular, one didn't really get to know everyone, some were only there a few days, some only a few hours. One thing I will never forget is the hell we caught up there not being able to dig a fox hole and without any protection whatsoever. I know the only protection I had came from God.

Dan I would like to see in large letters on each page. Please help keep the news coming to your *Octofoil*.

I know there are people out there that have stories to tell, either funny or serious ones. Something to make reading it more interesting.

Thanks Dan for doing a Super Job.

47 Inf. L Co.
CLARENCE RAY

A short item for the *Octofoil*.

My wife Pearl V. Ray passed away Jan. 22, 2001. She had been in the Alzheimers Section of St. Andrews Village, a nursing home, here in Indiana, Pa., for just one week. She died very peacefully. She will be missed by many, many people. A donation to the memorial fund in her memory.

AT 47 Inf.
CHARLES BODNAR

Just a fast note and check to make sure I receive the next *Octofoil*. I hope to write a longer letter for the *Octofoil* maybe some of those gold brick writers from my company will also answer.

"Happy New Year."

THE OCTOFOIL Publication No. 4423
412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

47th Inf.
JOSEPH SCAARILLIL

CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEARS 2000

to you and yours from our
Scottsdale hideaway
Hi folks:

Here again are Joe and Ethel saying A very Merry Christmas to all our old friends, and relatives. Our fond memories of the past and our experiences together at work growing with all our children, grandchildren and new Arizona friends in school activities, and so much more too numerous to mention. Granddaughter, Cara, is now experiencing her first semester at Chestnut Hill college, on the outskirts of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with new challenges in life in her search for, in whatever the future has in store for her. Cara's father, Dennis experiences led him to working for large major banks and law firms. He is now employed at HFA in Philadelphia, has finished his fourth year at Widener School of Law in Wilmington, Delaware and is preparing for his Law Boards examination that leads to his licensing as a lawyer in New Jersey. He will probably affiliate himself with a law firm that specializes in property development real estate matters as a result of his studies and experience in the real estate industry in search for advancement in the law practice of his choosing. Last but not least, are my Arizona family, Debbie, her husband Tim, eleven year old, T.J., and six year old Addy. Tim has written a new play called "The Pastors Life."

We spend about eight months a year in our Scottsdale, Arizona condominium to escape winters in New Jersey and we really love it. We are enjoying our retirement. Regards to all who will listen and Buenos Noches Amigos! Just keep up with my high school Spanish.

Love,
Joe and Ethel Scaarillil
(commonly known as
Poppy Joe and
Grandma Ethel)