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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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3-1-2001

### The Octofoil, March/April 2001

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXXIII Number

Mar-April 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 across and the traffic is much slower

★ Algeria - French Morocco ★ Tunisia ★ Sicily ★

★ Central Europe ★ Rhineland ★ Ardennes ★ Northern France ★ Normandy ★ Sicily ★ Tunisia ★ French Morocco ★ Algeria

## Welcome to the Fifty-Sixth Annual Reunion

May 17-20, 2001

Adam's Mark Hotel • Houston, Texas

The Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter welcomes all of our comrades and their ladies to the great State of Texas and to the beautiful city of Houston for the second reunion of the new millennium. We trust that you will keep alive the comradeship that has always been a part of our reunions and will thoroughly enjoy yourself while you are with us.

### Association Officers

Jack R. Blann	President
Tom Hatton	First Vice President
Pat DeColli	Second Vice President
Joe Killen	Third Vice President
Dave Heller	Judge Advocate
Thomas Boyle	Treasurer
Daniel Quinn	Secretary

### Board of Directors

Marty Gross	Howard Gaertner
Charles Vanderpoel	Elmer Wagner
Frank Haines	Ernest Botella
Joseph Killen	William Doty
Billie Martin	Lenny Tomassone
Herb Olsen	Dave Heller
Jack Blann	Al Perna
H.F. Stansell	

### Reunion Committee

General Chairman	Jack Blann
Special Assistant to Chairman	John Miller
Registration and Finance	Richard Granbery and Ernest Botella
Hotel and Banquet	Herb Stern and Ernest Botella
Publicity	Gordon Schneider and William Scott
Tours and Transportation	Herb Stern and Ernest Botella
Memorial Program	Rev. W.M. Lynch and William Scott
Ladies Activities	Cathy Stern

## 2001 Reunion Program

<b>Wednesday, May 16, 2001</b>		
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.	Advance Registration	Ballroom Lobby
<b>Thursday, May 17, 2001</b>		
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.	Registration	Ballroom Lobby
4:00 P.M.	Board of Governor's Meeting	Westchase 1-3
6:30 - 9:30 P.M.	Reception and Welcoming Party*	Grand Foyer
<b>Friday, May 18, 2001</b>		
7:00 - 9:00 A.M.	Continental Breakfast	Rose Garden Rm.
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.	Registration	Ballroom Lobby
9:30 A.M.	General Meeting	Grand Ballroom
1:00 P.M.	NASA Tour Departs Hotel	Ballroom Entrance
7:00 - 10:30 P.M.	Dance Party*	Grand Ballroom
<b>Saturday, May 19, 2001</b>		
7:00 - 9:00 A.M.	Continental Breakfast	Rose Garden Rm.
10:00 A.M.	Memorial Service	Grand Ballroom
12:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.	Ladies Luncheon	Rose Garden Rm.
3:00 P.M.	Catholic Mass	Briarpark Room
4:00 P.M.	Board of Governor's Meeting	Westchase 1-3
6:30 P.M.	Cocktail Party and Dinner	Grand Ballroom
<b>Sunday, May 20, 2001</b>		
7:30 - 10:00 A.M.	Fairwell Continental Breakfast	Rose Garden Rm.

\*A buffet of light food along with refreshments will be served at the parties on Thursday and Friday nights. Beer and wine are complimentary; there will be a cash bar for mixed drinks.

### Announcements

**Briarpark 3** will be open Thursday through Saturday from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. for games and fellowship.

**The D Day Film from the D Day Museum** will be shown in Westchase 1-3 on Thursday and Saturday following the Board of Governor's meeting.

**Free Hotel Transportation** to the Galleria Shopping Center is available each day. Please check with the Hotel Concierge on time of departure and return.

**Banquet table assignments** will be available at the reception desk after breakfast (9 A.M.) on Friday.

★ Normandy ★ Northern France ★ Sicily ★



## THE OCTOFOIL

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

## National Officers

President  
Jack Blann

Tom Hatton, 1st V.P.

Pat DeColli, 2nd V.P.

Joe Killen, 3rd V.P.

Dave Heller  
Judge Advocate

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer

Daniel Quinn, Secretary

## Board of Governors

2001

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

2002

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

2003

Herb Olson  
Marston Mills, MA  
Dave Heller  
Highland Park, ILL 60035  
Jack Blann  
Houston, Tex  
Al Perna  
Philadelphia, Pa  
H.F. Stansell  
Ormond Beach, Fla.

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

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 Auxillary Member.....\$30.00

Decals.....50 each

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐

Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐

New England ☐ Michigan ☐

Florida ☐ New Jersey ☐

Texas & South West ☐

## 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:

A.L. Shockley - In memory of C.A. Porch and Warren Good

Anthony Narducci

Eugenia Gansea - In memory of all who have passed away

Peter Peri - In memory of George Stetz

Henry "Red" Phillips - In memory of "Moose" Meyer

William Zimmerman - In memory of Bert Osterhout

Jack Lannon - In memory of Al "Benny" Benoit

## Taps Sounded

Stephen Klucharich  
9th Med. C Co.

Nick Labecki  
84th F.A. B Btry

Albert Gingras

Ellis Watts  
G Co. 39th Inf.

Roscoe Shields  
60th F.A.

Al "Benny" Benoit  
Btry B 34 F.A. Bn. - Btn. Hdqs.

Marie Benzoni  
Wife of Joseph Benzoni  
39th Inf.

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.

Dear Dan:

'Tis a remarkably fine, smashing day. A few clouds adorn the sky and entice the waves to sparkle and shine - too, they stir visions of DIVISION NINE!

In keeping with them, you appear upon the scene, accompanied by memories often visioned in dreams! As I gaze out upon the waves, advancing line after line, To mind comes a DIVISION - NUMBER NINE! 'Twas a unit that was sent across the sea To countries where battle after battle would be! In North Africa - Algeria and Tunisia - the enemy was fought!

Then 'twas to Europe that THE NINTH was brought! France and Germany became sites of battles. As cannons roared and rifles rattled! One can readily realize the price in lives that was paid, as Barrage upon barrage of artillery fire was laid Upon an initially defenseless foe - alarmed but staid! Battles ensued as time marched on, Then tables were turned - the Allies were too strong! Battles that ensued were costly in lives. All of a sudden, war did cease - Hopefully, time had come for desired peace!

Joe Rappazini  
Co I 60th Inf.

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](http://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





l. to r.: Herb Stern, Jack Blann, George McClelland of the Vet Center, and Dick Granbery.

Dear Dan,  
Enclosed is a photograph of a presentation of a gift to the V.A. Hospital in Houston, Texas. The individuals in the photograph are left to right: Herb Stern, Jack Blann, George McClelland of the Vet Center, and Dick Granbery.  
Talked with Jack Blann upon his return from the Reunion. He said it was a fine reunion. Was pleased to hear Jack was elected

National President for the coming year and know he will make a good one. He and Herb Stern are already working hard to make next year's Reunion a big success.  
Jack also said you were scheduled to have hip surgery soon. You'll be in our thoughts and prayers.  
Best wishes.  
Sincerely,  
Dick Granbery

## FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

**FLORIDA CHAPTER FALL REUNION:** Although a contract has not been signed at this date, Chairman Richard Baudouy informed this writer that it will be in November. This works out well for our members as several have stated that they will be returning from up North either in late September or early October. The exact dates of the Chapter Reunion will be published in the next issue of the Octofoil followed by the ORDER SHEET approximately 5 weeks prior to opening day. Chairman Baudouy will be meeting with Norris Gray to plan a guided tour of Cape Canaveral Space Center. Because so many members enjoyed the Sterling Casino Lines Day trip, plans are being made to repeat this item on the agenda. All National members are cordially invited to attend the Florida Chapter Reunion. For complete information, contact Emil J. DeDonato, 352/489-4070 who will send you the mailing at a later date.

**FLORIDA CHAPTER OFFICERS:** The following are the names, addresses and phone numbers of the Florida Chapter 9th Infantry Division Association should you have a reason to contact any one of them: President & Treasurer: Richard Baudouy, [redacted]  
Charles (Chuck) Van Der Poel, [redacted]  
Secretary: Edward (Ed) Gray, [redacted]  
[redacted] Chapter: H.F. Stansell, [redacted]  
Drive, Ormond Beach, [redacted]  
[redacted] Officer: Emil J. De Donato, [redacted]

**DUES REMINDER:** Many Chapter member dues expire in April. Please check your membership card to see when your dues are due. You can pay both the National dues and the Florida dues through our Chapter Treasurer, Richard Baudouy, (see address above). Florida Chapter dues are: \$5.00 for 1 year or \$13.00 for 3 years. National dues are \$10.00 for 1 year or \$25.00 for 3 years. Dues are needed to keep our organization alive.

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

**Peter Radichio:** Peter sold his home in Hommosassa and has moved to Hernando. He can be reach at P.O. Box 1281, Hernando, FL 34424.

**Marty Gross:** One of the first things that Marty and Irene did when they came to spend their Winter vacation was to contact H.F. & Lila Stansell to go out to dinner. Marty's son is the owner and chief Chef of a gourmet restaurant in the Ormond Beach area. Marty's son has been preparing specialty foods for many years. Lila Stansell is the President of the Women's Auxiliary and rated the restaurant a 10 on a scale of 1 to 10.

**Erika Miller:** On April 5th, Audrey and Emil De Donato went to visit Erika Miller at the Ponce de Leon Rehabilitation Center in St. Augustine, Florida. Erika suffered an aneurism of the brain on January 29, 2001. She was operated on the following day and was doing quite well when she received a stroke on her left side. Emil and Audrey met LeRoy at the Rehab Center and found Erika in good spirits. Erika has regained a good portion of her speech and is starting to move her left foot. While there, Erika ate a full lunch which is encouraging. LeRoy provides some goodies from home and visits Erika every day. LeRoy asks the members not to send cards but to say a prayer for Erika's speedy recovery.

**Audrey De Donato:** We are very happy to report that

Audrey is almost 100% after her broken hip accident on January 30th. She was released from any further doctor's visits on March 15th and released from any further rehab visits the following day. Audrey is back driving the van... going shopping... cooking... making the beds and washing clothes. She exercises every day but is unable to touch her toes from a standing position. However, she is working on that exercise and promises to succeed by April 30th. Audrey extends her thanks for your prayers which helped very much in her fantastic recovery.

**Bertha Carson:** In her "get-well" card to Audrey, Bertha Carson wrote that the weather in New Jersey was awful... rain and snow day after day. She misses Florida and says there's an outside chance that she may attend our Chapter Fall Reunion. We welcome you back Bertha with open arms.

**TEXAS CHAPTER NATIONAL REUNION:** At the last Florida Chapter Meeting, members were urged to attend the National Reunion in Houston, Texas. The latest survey reveals that 6 to 8 members plan to attend. Unfortunately, due to sickness, accidents, etc. a number of members cannot attend. The Florida Chapter extends their wishes for a successful Reunion.

Emil J. De Donato,  
Dunnellon, FL

## POTSHOTS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DUGOUT

Good morning, ya'll. Yep, I'm still here. Thank you kindly, Lord. Been keeping my voice low and my head even lower.

AL BACCILE (B-39th) dropped me a note while he was on his way to the bocci courts in Elmira, and he would like to "rectify an inadvertent error (no doubt)" that listed his name under the "Taps Sounded" column. Like Mark Twain wrote, "The news of his demise has been greatly exaggerated." Al went on to say, "Also, a retraction in the next issue of the Octofoil would be appreciated." I believe that Al is a little ticked-off. His listing has recalled the memory of two other men who were listed as being K.I.A., but are still here with us.

JOSEPH S. TAUBNER (B-47th) currently living in Bergenfield, New Jersey, is listed on page 235 in Ken Hechler's Book "The Bridge at Remagen" with an asterisk by his name denoting killed in action. I'll have to ask Joe how he feels about that the next time that I see him.

ANTHONY DEROBERTIS (L-47th) now living in Stroudsburg, PA. always smiled when he was showing off his listing as K.I.A. in the hardcover history of the 47th Infantry Regiment, "The Raider". Tony sez, "Hey, the joke is on them, not on me."

I remember the faux-pas RONALD M.A. HIRST (G-60th Inf.) told me about when we were both patients at the 191st (US) General Hospital, on the edge of Paris in April 1945. Ron was there for an operation on his knee, and one morning the orderlies wheeled him into surgery, the doctors operated, and when he came out of the ether he found that his knee was still in the same bad shape that it was before he went in; but, now he also had a lump behind his ear from an operation that he didn't need. It happened that there were two different Hirsts' in different wards of the hospital at the same time, and the orderlies made a wrong turn and picked the wrong Hirst. (Back in those days there was not such thing as a mal-practice suit.)

One early morning recently ALLEN J. KELLEY (G-47th) called from Sun City, California, to say that he had been thinking about the day that I was killed and also about all of the close calls that he has had in his life, and that I was in a lot of them. "Hey, Al, I'm not dead." Al answered, "Yeah, I know that, but you should have been; or at least a fractured skull with a metal plate." He had called just to see how I was getting along healthwise.

I figure that sharing misery, sharing anxiety, terror, and hardships, form a bond that lasts a lifetime; and the word friend is woefully inadequate to describe such a relationship. All of us have these kind of special pals or buddies, who are as close to us as any body could be; some even closer than true brothers. We have trusted our lives to each other in the past, and we can do that again now if the need arises, without any fear of being denied.

If you see me down in Houston, please remind me to fulfill the obligation that WILLIE MULDOON (L-47th) has charged to me. He would like me to act as his agent as he cannot attend the Reunion. I am to dispense mementos of the New York Chapter, all in the name of Willie.

Stay HEALTHY, come to Houston, and we'll shot nothing but the breeze. Till then,

Joe Killen, G-47th

\*\*\*GOD BLESS AMERICA\*\*\*  
(still the greatest)

Brother Sebastian  
Mt. Saviour Monastery  
231 Monastery Road  
Pine City, NY 14871

Re: HMS SPEY & 2nd Bn. 39th

Dear Jack:  
Last evening I received a telephone call from Dan Quinn. He informed me that he had confirmed with the Judge Advocate of the 9th Division to try at the convention in May to get a plaque for the Captain and crew of HMS SPEY.

He is going to keep in touch with me as the details are worked out.

## LADIES CORNER

I truly hope that this makes it to the Octofoil in time, as my energy level lately has been almost at zero. Don't know if it is the rainy, snowy oh-so-gloomy weather we have been experiencing this year, or a matter of my advancing age? Oh yes, it has been happening to me - (You too?) Don't like it, but what can I do? I promised you ladies last May that I would continue to write the Ladies Corner column, so here it is.

No correspondence from any of you, I have already discussed the weather, so all that is left is news about my life and family, and the 47th Regiment's Company B (Joe's home away from home in World War II for 5 years.)

I received a few cards at Christmas time, but since I did not get our cards out at the time, due to Joe being in the hospital for nine days, after he fell hanging icicles from our house gutters for Christmas, and the ladder collapsed as he fell with it. Fortunately the landing was soft, he broke no bones, but big black and blue bruises graced his lower back and they checked him out thoroughly in the Hospital. He has recovered from some conditions they found, and has added a couple of pills to his diet (such an added indignity!) but what else can you expect from an 82 year old man who once, 55 years or so ago saved the World from Hitler's Armies (Along with the rest of the 9th Infantry Division!)

Anyway, our holidays were subdued and still Merry, but not very mobile. As for the Houston Reunion, we have been in contact with Chuck & Joyce Munger and Orion & Etsie Shockley from their homes in Florida and Denver about it. Shockley can't make it and the Mungers want more than just them and maybe us there. So I have written some notes to the remaining Company B members who we think might be interested

or able to go. OK? There aren't many so I am not too optimistic about going to Houston. Joe does not think he will be able to do so - but we will be there in Spirit, if not in Body!!

As for our family - it is still large, healthy, and growing older. From Carlos Joseph DaCunha (Susan's) 25, down to beautiful 5 year-old the youngest Emma Juliet Taubner (Bruce's) and the spark plug of our family - they are our hope and joy!! Three have already finished college and making their marks in life, in California, Nashville, Tenn. and Worcester, Mass. Sarah Taubner (20), is still undecided about college, but works steadily in her sister Jessica's field: Child Psychology, takes courses at Jessica's alma mater, and some day (as her father Steve, before her, when he was in the Army in Korea) will decide to go for higher education. Next, Steve's twin sons, Joseph Stephen II and Vincent James (18) graduate from Maine's Lake Maranacook High School in June,

Continued on page 4



## MAIL CALL

Dear Mr. Quinn:

Just prior to his passing, CSM (Ret) Ken "Moose" Meyer sent me a letter and suggested I write to you for assistance. Ken was a true patriot and a great soldier. He will be missed.

I met Ken Meyer in March of last year at Fort Benning, Georgia. Ken was there for a special ceremony involving the 47th Infantry Regiment. At this ceremony, I was installed as the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, replacing Colonel (Ret) Thurman, who had been in that position for the previous three years. You could tell Ken was suffering from his battle with cancer, but his spirits were high, and he and Brigadier General (Ret) Maness had a terrific time. I was privileged to receive a beautiful wooden plaque from Ken, on behalf of the Regiment. It is proudly displayed in my office.

So, let me tell you a little about me. My name is Douglas S. Smith. I am a retired Brigadier General, US Army. I served a tour as the Battalion Commander of the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, in Vietnam during 1969. I am extremely proud of my service in the Army and especially proud of my time with the 2/47 Infantry. We were a good unit (I might say outstanding, but you would say I was biased and you would be correct).

Following the return of US soldiers from Vietnam, we had little opportunity to engage in reunions. At the time, it was an unpopular war, and most veterans were content to return home and start a new life. As a career soldier, we tried to maintain our ties with the 9th Infantry, but the old soldiers of WWII were not interested in inviting us to participate. It wasn't until a few years ago that one of my officers contacted me to discuss getting together with some of our comrades. I didn't think much of it at the time, but I was interested in pursuing the idea. We met for the first time in 30 years in July 1999. We joined with the Mobile Riverine Force Association reunion. We had well over 80 members of the 2/47 present for the reunion. It was an emotional experience for all of us.

The US Army moved the 2/47 and 3/47 Infantry battalions from the basic training brigade at Fort Leonard Wood, MO to Fort Benning, GA in 1999. I went to visit the unit on a couple of occasions. We had correspondence with Ken Meyer and others, and came up with the plans for the special ceremony in March 2000.

This is a very long lead into what Ken Meyer suggested I get from you. He told me you were the Editor of the 9th Infantry Division newspaper, the *Octofoil*. He gave me a roster of personnel that he had received from his Chapter. He said I should send it to you and ask that you line out or delete all the names that do

not belong to the 47th Infantry Regiment. Also, to line out those who have departed this life. My purpose is to try to make contact with all veterans of the 47th Infantry Regiment. We plan to have an Association meeting, in late June, at the reunion site in Fort Mitchell, KY. We intend to publish a newsletter and distribute it to as many members as possible. We want to include WWI, WWII, Vietnam and the active duty personnel wearing the 47th Regimental Crest today. We will not charge for the newsletter, nor membership in the Association. In fact, we intend to make the newsletter available on the internet at our website.

I will summarize my request. I would like to have a roster of all former mem-

bers of the 47th Infantry Regiment that you can identify. I would greatly appreciate having this information available to take to our reunion in late June 2001. Sir, can you help me?

Ken Meyer told me you were a line company medic with the 47th Regiment during WWII. I will tell you that we had company medics who demonstrated bravery and courage under fire while serving in Vietnam. They continue to keep track of us today. We are proud of their record.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Douglas S. Smith

## ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Missed putting an article in the last issue as there wasn't much happening with the Illinois chapter.

For the first time in many years, Ann and I will not be attending the Houston Reunion. I had surgery in February and unfortunately never bounced back well enough to travel at this time. Arthritis has also made its way into my life which complicates matters. My golf game is also on hold for now. The Andersons, Hellers and Gaertners are planning to attend the Houston Reunion. While we won't be there in person, we will be thinking of everyone. Ann also sends her regards to the members of the SYN Club.

On April 24th, we will be going to lunch with the Andersons, Elmers, Hellers, & Paulis. We haven't been together for a while and will try to plan some future activities.

One future plan is our Outstate Reunion in October in Angola, Indiana. It will be held on October 16-17, 2001 at the Ramada Inn of Angola. The room rates will be \$62.00 plus 8% tax. We will have more details in the next issue. Illinois will host this year. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Hope you have a successful reunion.

Respectfully,

Michael Belmonte

## Greater NY Area Chapter

The NY Chapter met at the 69th Regt. Armory at 25th St and Lexington Ave, NYC at 7:30 PM on Friday, March 16, 2001. (Notes of this meeting was recorded by Prez Joe Killen, in the absence of scribe Marv Levy who was not able to attend).

The Armory was a busy scene as service members of the armory were continually arriving to "sleep-over" prior to marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade the next morning. Our chapter was allowed to use the second floor office of "A" Company to hold our meeting, and the first sergeant of that company apologized for the unkempt appearance of the room.

The meeting was called to order and members recited the pledge of Allegiance while facing a 4"x3" framed American Flag that was hanging on the wall with other devices. In the absence of Chaplain Al Lipton, Prez Killen read a prayer and all observed a minute of silence for our departed comrades.

There were no minutes of the previous meeting read as there was no previous meeting. Al Zenka gave the chapter's financial report which was accepted by the members.

## Correspondence

Correspondence was read: Zenka informed members that Francis Brusic, D-47th, had passed away. Killen then read a card from Chad Sander thanking him for sending him info about his grandfather Bill Sander, a former Chapter member and G-47th man. Killen read another card from Albert Farese, former platoon leader of G-47th, but not a chapter member, thanking Killen for the gift of a Normandy map.

Killen asked Zenka for a Chapter condolence card to be enclosed with the latest extra copy of the *Octofoil* (that Dan Quinn had brought along) which Killen was sending to the widow of George Mathieu, a former I-47th man and a POW. Mathieu was not aware of our association until shortly before he passes away last August.

## LADIES CORNER

Continued from page 3

and will be off to separate colleges then. The four youngest ones: Olivia, 13, Ryan Nitz, 9, Jake, 7 and Emma, 5 are busy in school and growing up much too fast for this Grandmother!

Meanwhile Joe and I, not actively working, try to take it easy and keep well. It ain't easy, but we try. If we don't see you this year, I shall try most sincerely for next year, I promise. I miss all you nice ladies, so try to keep in touch, please? Have a great time in Houston!

Ellie Taubner

The NY Chapter offers its sincere condolence to the families of Ninthmen who have passed on.

On sick call: Anton Dietrich reported that while member Olido "Bill" Starro was undergoing heart surgery recently, doctors noticed a tumor on his lung. Bill has since returned home and would welcome hearing from any member. All attending members signed a "get well" card to Bill.

## No May Meeting

After some other chapter business meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on April 20. There will be no May meeting because of the Houston Reunion. Our annual Memorial Service and Picnic which is usually held a week before Memorial Day, will be held on June 2 because of the conflict with the reunion date.

Members attending, not mentioned above: Bill Canales, Ed Harris, Charlie LiBretto, Al Lubrano, Herminio Suarez and Adolph Wadalavage.

Attention NY chapter members: if you haven't renewed your dues, do it now: \$10 for 1 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, 89-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385.

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.

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

There is very little news to report, so I will do my best to keep the Michigan Chapter informed through the *Octofoil*.

Sorry, but I missed the December deadline for the *Octofoil* because of cataract surgery and lens implants. Even missed the Michigan Chapter Christmas party. Again, I just got out of the hospital after 15 days - heart surgery this time. Am feeling much better now.

On return from the hospital, I called Barney Tobacco. He was in the hospital for 8 days with surgery for a heart and blood disorder.

There is only one piece of news from a Michigan Chapter member. Roger Alsgaard has moved. His new address is 4674 Colonial, Apt. 1, Saginaw, MI 48603. He said he has retired (again) and sent me three years dues. As soon as I get the check from Elmer, you will have all the info.

There is nothing final, as yet, on our annual memorial service. I am pursuing a couple of leads. A letter will be sent to the membership as soon as plans are finalized.

We have many members who have moved. I do not have their present address and the letters are being returned - one in particular, John Clouser in Edmore, MI.