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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

5-1-2001

The Octofoil, May/June/July 2001

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXXII Number 3 May-June-July 2001

"Lest We Forget"

Dear Friend,

Starting in 1945, Father called us together every year to pray for our dead. We who were privileged to know this great priest feel that his spirit is still with us. His call went to men of all faiths and beliefs. He even encouraged non-believers to join together in this expression of devotion.

We who call ourselves "Friends of Father Connors" will again join together in praying for our dead on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2001 at the ten o'clock Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Grove Street, Worcester, MA.

We will also remember in our prayers the men who wore the Octofoil, returned with us, and who have now gone to their eternal reward. A service will follow the Mass at the memorial on the church grounds dedicated to all who served wearing the Octofoil.

We will also sponsor a luncheon at the Holiday Inn, Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA, at 12:30 P.M. We guarantee that you will be on your way by 3:00 P.M.

We invite all members to join us as we pray for our dead.

We have reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn, Worcester. Reservations must be made by yourselves. The phone number is 1-508-852-4000. Reservations must be made by September 17, 2001. Reservations for the luncheon must be made payable to "New England Chapter, Ninth Infantry Division Association," at a cost of \$20.00, and mailed to: Thomas J. Boyle, [REDACTED]

We ask you to join us as we say a few prayers for the 4,581 men we left behind.

Room 102 will open about 4:00 P.M., on Saturday, October 20, 2001.

Friends of Father Connors,
Fran Maher, Herb Olsen, Ron Murphy, Tom Boyle

Change of Command



Newly Elected President of the Association Al Perna (right) presented plaque to retiring President Jack Blann (left) at reunion in Texas.

Dear Mr. Quinn,
I had requested your assistance during September 1998 seeking information about my cousin Joseph Tomor of the 60th Infantry, KIA 16 June 1944.

As a result of my request appearing in the Octofoil, I received several responses. Replies came from Ernest Young, Millersburg, MI; Domer Miller, West Hempstead, NY; and Joe Chmiel, Warren, MI. I've also spoken with John Miller, Arlington, TX; Tom Saunders, Redford, MI; Ed Pavelick, Cutten, CA; Wilbert Skinn, Norwalk, OH; and John Sansone, Philadelphia, PA. All of these old soldiers were very helpful and their recall of events from years ago is quite surprising. I did visit Joe Chmiel and enjoyed the time spent with him.

Bob Cardinal was kind enough to loan me some old copies of the Octofoil. I enjoyed reading all the fascinating letters and articles. I noted that many contained advertisements of books for sale.

I'm always looking for bits and pieces of information and there is a wealth of information in the Octofoil. Would it be possible for me to subscribe to the Octofoil? Or, are there any late back issues for sale?

I'm enclosing an SASE for reply, and thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH W. GALL
328 ADAMS STREET
PORT CLINTON, OH
43452-1909
TELEPHONE 419-734-2052

Re: HMS SPEY & 2nd Bn.
39th & HMS Spey

Dear Dave:

Thank you for your letter of May 31, 2001 with copies of the resolution (18). I am sending a copy of this letter to those who were on the Stone. For those whose addresses I do not have, I am requesting anyone to send me the addresses. I do not have the addresses of:

Roscoe Back, Peter Dellasandro, Joseph Donovan, Simon Cichy, Roman Granath, Phillip Ives, Walter Martin, Clifford McGinnis, Ben Rosales and James Todd.

As soon as someone gets me the addresses, I will send a copy of this letter and the resolution to each one. Note that all addresses are enclosed so that all can communicate.

I am sending a letter and a copy of the resolution to all the British sailors who corresponded with Jack Maher.

Sincerely, Bill

cc: Jack Maher
Brother Sebastian
Mt. Saviour Monastery
231 Monastery Road
Pine City, NY 14871

William Douthit

[REDACTED]

Joe F. Barnett

[REDACTED]

Russell Snelling

[REDACTED]

Frank Gunn

[REDACTED]

George A. Pedrick

[REDACTED]

Ross Manley

[REDACTED]

Simon Cichy

[REDACTED]

Philip Ives

[REDACTED]

Pancho Rosales

[REDACTED]

Sam Burns

[REDACTED]

Larry Falkner

[REDACTED]

Red Philips

[REDACTED]

Roman P. Granrath

[REDACTED]

James R. Todd

[REDACTED]

Walter Martin

[REDACTED]

ASSOCIATION SENDS ITS THANKS TO BRITISH NAVY FOR 1942 HEROISM

At the general session of its 56th Annual Reunion held in Houston, Texas, on May 18, 2001, the Association unanimously passed the following resolution:

"Whereas,

"More than fifty-five years have passed since the end of the Second World War. Only a few of us are left who had the privilege of serving our country then and who have survived until now. It is our responsibility and our duty to continue to bear witness to the heroism and the sacrifice of the men and women who helped save the civilized world from tyranny.

"As we assemble once more we think back to November 8, 1942, when the Ninth Infantry Division was fighting in the North African Campaign. The 2nd Battalion of our 39th Infantry Regiment commanded by Lt. Col. Walter Oakes, had been ordered to help recapture the capital city of Algiers situated on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. About 250 miles offshore their transport, the U.S.S. Thomas Stone, was struck and severely damaged by a torpedo. The men then transferred to their small landing craft which proved unable to cope with the choppy seas. Despite the immanent threat of more enemy submarine attacks, the sailors of a convoy escort, the Royal British Navy frigate, HMS Spey, under Commander H.G. Boys-Smith, heroically rescued our men from the sea, and welcomed them on board. The next day, our men were landed at Algiers on schedule and without the loss of any personnel.

"Now therefore,

"We, the veterans of the Ninth Infantry Division in convention assembled, resolve to express our thanks and appreciation to the Royal British Navy, for its gallant and unselfish help to us on the night of November 7-8, 1942. We wish especially to extend our gratitude to any surviving officers or crew of HMS Spey. We also wish to pay tribute to our own members who were involved in this action: Roscoe Back, Joe F. Barnett, Simon Cichy, William Douthit, Larry Falkner, Roman Granath, Frank Gunn, Phillip Ives, Jack (Brother Sebastian) Maher, William H. Maloney, Ross Manley, Walter Martin, Clifford McGinnis, George A. Pedrick, Ben Rosales, Russell Snelling, and James Todd.

"We further direct that a suitable copy of this resolution be sent to the Navy Attaché of the British Embassy in Washington, DC, with a request that it kindly be transmitted to appropriate recipients."

The Association's Judge Advocate, Doc Heller, drafted the resolution and contacted the British Embassy. Later after the resolution was passed by the convention, he sent appropriate copies to the Naval Attaché, Commander Malcolm K. Brown, OBE, who had welcomed the statement and was very cooperative. Bill Maloney, a leader in the effort to prepare this resolution, undertook to send copies to all the men of the 39th who were mentioned and whose addresses could be found. Jack Maher (now known as Brother Sebastian) is the man who deserves credit for starting the ball rolling on this worthy project.

Re: 2nd Bn. 39th & HMS Stone
William H. Maloney, Jr.
303 East 85rd Street, Apt. 16G
New York, NY 10028-4319

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 56TH ANNUAL REUNION

WHEREAS,

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THE OCTOFOIL

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to:
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
Octofoil Associated Editor
Daniel Quinn

National Officers

President
Al Perna

Tom Hatton, 1st V.P.

Pat DeColli, 2nd V.P.

Pete Radichio, 3rd V.P.

Dave Heller
Judge Advocate

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer

Daniel Quinn, Secretary

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, IL 60035
Jack Blann
Houston, TX
Al Perna
Philadelphia, PA
H.F. Stansell
Ormond Beach, FL

2001

Gordon Anderson
Ill.
Tom Saunders
Michigan
Pete Radichio
Florida
Herb Stern
Texas
Mike Pelle
New Jersey
Adolph Wadalavage
New York

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

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

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

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

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

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May-June-July 2001

The Octofoil

Publication #402820

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.....\$0 each

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

9TH DIVISION LICENSE PLATES

9th Division aluminum license plates are available for a total cost of \$8.00 each which includes postage. These plates are white with blue lettering and border. A large red, white and blue Octofoil, is at the center. The lettering is 9th In. Div. Assn. Across the bottom are the 8 battle stars and invasion arrowhead like on our newspaper masthead. Send all orders made payable to: Elmer Wagner, 2833 Hotchkiss Rd., Bay City, MI 48706.

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:

Jack Collier - In memory of Ken Meyers and Bill Klauz.

Emil Langer - In memory of George Vachuda

Richard Martin - In memory of John Knightly, 60th Inf.

Aldor Cook - In memory of Stephen Klucharich, 9th Med C Co.

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

9th Div. Ladies Auxiliary
Andrew Kopach - In memory of Stephen Klucharich, 9th Med C Co.

Al Zenka - In memory of John Eisenhower, Georg Tracey, Slick Wilson and Whitey Whittedge

Helen (Lagattuta) Holmes, 47th Inf. K Co. - In memory of the members no longer with us

Dave Heller - In memory of Walter O'Keeffe

N.Y. Chapter - In memory of all N.Y. Charter Deceased

Dan Quinn - In memory of Walter O'Keeffe

Arthur Clark - In memory of friends from the 39th Inf.

Louis Pandolfi - In memory of Joe Greco and all 60th FA Bn. men

Joseph Killen - In memory of Art Schmidt B-15th Engrs., Walter O'Keeffe, E-47th, Daniel Leahy, Philip O'Mara, K-47th Arthur Lindquist

Maxwell Katz
Ernest Micka - In memory of Art Schmidt, B-15th Engrs.

George Brown - In memory of Walter O'Keeffe and Art Schmidt

Arthur Lindquist

Taps Sounded

There is no Death!
What seems so is transition
This life of Mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life
elysian
Whose portal we call death.

With profound regret and
remorse we announce the
passing of these "Old
Reliables:"

William Fleming
L Co. 47th Inf.

William Cooney
Div. Arty

Joe Greco
C Batt 60th FA Bn

Daniel Leahy
39th Inf.

Philip O'Mara
K Co. 47th Inf.

Francis Maher
15th Ingrs.

Eldridge Rohleder
E Co. 47th Inf.

Paul Keller
39th Inf. Serv. Co.

Harold Simpson
Hqs. 60th Inf.

John Macken

Mrs. Edward Trainor
Co. H 47th

Request for Medals of World War II

From time to time one of our members will inquire where he may receive medals from his time with the Ninth. For those interested write to: U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center, Attn: DARP-PAS-EAW, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63132-5200.

Your request should include your serial number, date and place of birth, of course your full name, address, then and present, the dates served in the Army and by all means a copy of your separation document (DD Form 214).

RESERVATION FORM
SMOKY MOUNTAIN RESORTS
WELCOMES

9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
May 7-9, 2002

Reservations will be assigned to the following
host hotel:
Country Inn & Suites

Arrival day and date _____
Departure day and date _____
Number of rooms _____ number of people _____
Name _____
Address _____
City, State and Zip _____
Phone number _____ Fax number _____

*All reservations must be paid with a credit card, check or money order equal to one night's room and tax. Group rate per room per night are:

2 bed queen unit \$49.00+tax=\$54.26
Specialty rooms available upon request

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
(We accept Master Card, Visa, Discover or American Express)

First night room charges will be charged to your credit card on the same day as reservation is made.

Deposit amount enclosed \$ _____ (Please note your arrival date on check)

Reservations received after 5/07/02 will be subject to availability & current room rate.

RESERVATION CANCELLATION POLICY (refunds)
30 days or more before arrival date - 100% refund; less than 30 days, but before 48 hours or arrival date - 90% refund; less than 48 hours of arrival, no refund will be given unless unit can be re-rented, then 90% refund.

PLEASE NOTE: A block of rooms is protected for the dates listed, showing the planned arrival and departure dates. Guest desiring to arrive earlier or wishing to extend their stay may request these additional nights on this form. These requests are, however, subject to availability and to the prevailing room rate, which may or may not be the same as the group rate. SMOKY MOUNTAIN RESORTS does not guarantee any specific type of bed, location, or any other special requests. We, however, do our best to assign you the accommodations requested. *Please complete this reservation form and return to address below:

SMOKY MOUNTAIN RESORTS
ATTN: DEBRA IRWIN - GROUP SALES
P.O. BOX 648
PIGEON FORGE, TN 37868-0648
1-877-767-6338
FAX # 865-908-1046

Taps Sounded

Heinrich Kohlmoos

Arthur Delbartes

Charles Harrison

Dale Carrigan
D. Co. 39th Inf.

Mrs. Otto Geyer
Widow of Otto, Deceased
Co. F 47th Inf.

Robert Spence

Jerome Synpieski
Co. L 47th Inf.

Austin Fritsch

John "Chick" Chilek
47th Inf. Co. L

Walter O'Keeffe
47th Inf. E Co.

Arthur Schmidt
15th Engr. Co. B

LTC (Ret.) JOHN W. MILLER

SEEKING

U.S. CONSTABULARY
ASSOCIATION

Outpost #7 of the United States Constabulary Association is seeking troopers who served in Germany and Austria from 1946 to 1952. The outpost serves five states of the national organization to and includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Composed of veterans of the "elite" post World War II occupation force, headed by Maj. Gen. Mark Harmon, it was active from 1946 to 1952. The Constabulary troopers patrolled some 1,700 miles of frontier boundaries, helped maintain law and order among the civilian population, manning check points and were the Zone Military Police commonly known as the Circle C Cowboys. Adopting the motto "Vigilance, Mobility and Justice" the force was approximately 35,000 strong. The present association opened a Constabulary Museum at Ft. Riley, KS in October 1998 and holds annual reunions at the Outpost level and bi-annual reunions at the National level. For more information or application, contact Robert L. Garrison Cdr.,

Remembering Walter O'Keeffe

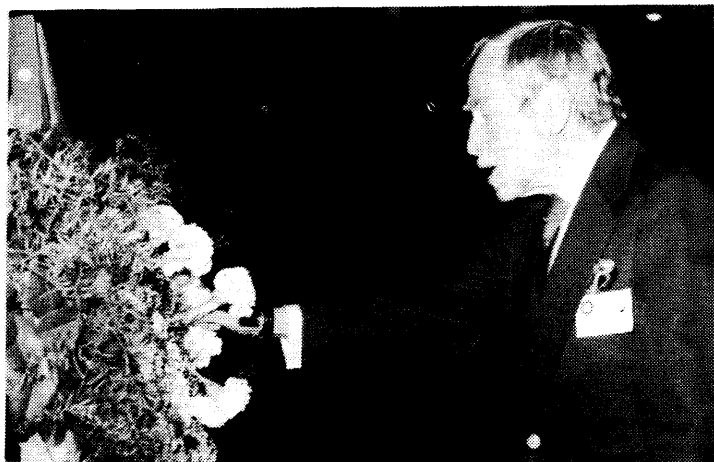
Walter and I spoke to each other by phone and thru letters and we didn't have to do much explaining to get our points across because we were basically almost like "two peas from the same pod" having the same influences to shape our character during the years of our youth. Although I was a couple of years behind Walter, we went to the same school, had the same teachers, maybe even sat in the same seats (at different times, of course.) We spent our pennies when we had them, in the same candy store. We even had mutual acquaintances. In short, we spoke the same language; I knew where Walter was coming from.

Sometimes Walter appeared to be too tough on people; but he was sticking to his principles, his "code of honor" no matter what. The person that Walter was hardest on was himself. Walter would take care of his family first, his buddies second, and finally see about taking care of Walter last. I think that that attitude is what finally did him in; that not taking care of Walter first. He knew 18 months ago that the cancer had gone down to his hip bone, and when you asked about his condition, he only had one answer, "I'm fine."

Walter had a tough row to hoe from early on in his young life. He was but 12 years old when his father died and left him as the "man of the house" with three younger brothers and sisters. The Walter that we know set his chin, got out his "code of honor" and saw the job thru. After he graduated from high school, he went into the Army and was sent to "Easy" 47th. Ironically, that was the only "easy" thing in his life. For the past 17 years he has been living out in 'Frisco, coming east only for the holidays with his family, our reunions, and the Worcester meetings. This last trip he was almost comatose while he travelled and died four days later. When the doctor asked about the pain, in typical Walter style he replied, "It hurts a little."

This past president of our association was concerned about our future throughout his pain and suffering. Last Christmas Eve he was 79 and we shall never see the likes of him or anybody like him again. Thank you, Lord, for sending Walter our way.

Sincerely,
Joe Killen G-47



Walter O'Keeffe

Bty 60th FA
MELVIN O. JAGGI

In the Octofoil I read the Florida-Chapter about Cpl. Norris-Gray that he was in A Btry 60th Field Artillery. He was Cpl. and I was the number gunner on the same 105. I got his address from

I Remember Arthur

On Tuesday, May 29th, the long time secretary of the Greater New York Chapter, Arthur Schmidt passed away peacefully while he was waiting to take a field trip with the other veterans of the St. Albans VA Hospital. His aid left the room for a moment and upon returning thought that Arthur was dozing in his wheelchair. But, Arthur had died. In my opinion a beautiful ending for this 83 year old former B company 15th Combat Engineer.

I liked the way Arthur handled the secretary's job. He was frugal with the chapter's money; just the man to look after our interests. He was tenacious when he had a project to complete; he would see the job through to the finish no matter what. Finally, I came to admire Arthur because for all of the time that I knew him, I never once saw him lose his temper and I thought that on many occasions he could have... if he were a different type of man. It takes a lot of intestinal fortitude (guts) to remain calm and smile in the face of all types of adversity; and Arthur could.

We worked together on a couple of projects for the chapter and Arthur never did the job to get credit; he did it always for the good of the chapter members. I believe that his heart was in the shape of an Octofoil because he lived and breathed Ninth Infantry Division Association, especially New York Chapter. Arthur was never one to "blow his own horn" and say how good he was; but those of us who knew him, really knew him, will surely miss his expertise in the secretary's chair.

Godspeed, old buddy. I'm proud that you called me friend.

Sincerely,
Joe Killen

60 FA C Bty.
VICTOR GONZALEZ

Sorry I'm a little late, but here is my dues for 3 years more on our *Octofoil*. Good work and keep up the good work. Hi to all of the guys from C-60th F.A.

60 Inf. M Co.
JAMES SNYDER

Enclosed is payment for three more years.

Many thanks for the great job you have done over the years. God bless you and all 9th people.

Michael Belmonte he was also in A-Btry. Norris and Mike send Christmas Cards to each other and say Hello or Hi to all the fellows or guys that remember me.

Hope you can read my writing. I am 81, 8-25-18 (P.S. I am OK as yet.)

I am still a farmer (crops).



Art Schmidt

EXTRAORDINARY STEP
The Ninth Infantry Division Association
56th Annual Reunion
Jack R. Blann - General Chairman
11303 Valley Stream Drive
Houston, Texas 77043
Tel. 281 497 3744 - FAX 281 556 1648

Thank you for making the 56th Annual Reunion a great success. Many of you have written or called to tell me how much you enjoyed the reunion and your messages have been greatly appreciated. It took almost two years of hard work to stage the reunion and I am greatly indebted to the other members of the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter and their wives who contributed so much time to this effort. Assisting on the Reunion Committee were Dick and Alice Granbery, W.M. and Betty Lynch, John and Jean Miller, Gordon Schneider, Bill and Clara Scott, and Herb and Cathie Stern. Of course, I also had the assistance of my two daughters, Mary and Bette, and my wife Lavonne. All of these people did yeoman's work both before and during the reunion and the success of the reunion is directly related to their effort. Keeping in mind that we may not have many more reunions, this years Reunion Committee did its very best to give you a reunion that you could remember always.

We tried to plan everything very carefully. But there was one thing that we did not plan very well and that was attendance. Those of us who come to the reunions can not understand why everyone doesn't want to come if you offer them a good meeting for their money. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The attendance at this year's reunion fell far below our expectations. I don't know whether it was the fact that it was in Texas, and some people didn't want to come this far, or that our people are just getting too old to travel. Whatever the reason, only 160 attended. This is much less than the near 300 that have attended the two reunions just before this year.

Because of the very low turnout, we should have charged everyone more for the trip tickets. We realized this at the reunion but by that time it was too late to do anything. Because of this, the 56th Annual Reunion was short several thousand dollars in having enough income to pay the expenses. The Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter has expended all of its funds and the remaining deficit will have to be paid out of the 9th Division Association Funds. As you know these funds are rapidly diminishing. There is very little left in the treasury and very little coming into it at this time.

If our great association is to continue much longer, we must seek a source of additional income. Because of this, I am taking an extraordinary step and asking that each person who attended the Annual Reunion contribute \$40 to make up for the deficit in the reunion receipts. This will greatly help The Association in meeting its obligations. Please send your donations to Dan Quinn, 9th Infantry Division Association, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, NJ 07087. Also, please consider The Association in your future giving. In our present situation, the 9th Infantry Division Association has no way of raising any funds to continue operation except through your generous gifts. Of course you are not obligated to do this, but I think most of you will want to do it. Those that attended the reunion got a bargain in everything that was offered. The hotel room price was excellent. The Adam's Mark has never offered such a price in Houston. Along with this, the quality and quantity of food and drinks at all events far surpassed what we normally expect. The only problem was that we did not have enough people to support the low prices that we charged.

Once again, it really hurts me to ask you to do this, but I feel that I would not be honest with you if I did not give you a chance to help. The people that come to the reunions are The Association's greatest supporters. I personally feel that the 9th Division people are the greatest group that I have ever been associated with. Thank you for letting me serve as your president during this past year.

Sincerely,
Jack R. Blann

60th, Inf. E Co., 3rd Bn.
SAMUEL L. BRUNO

Received my Octofoil yesterday and, boy, was I anxious to read it from first to last page. I am a little disappointed, though, since I surely thought I would find more letters and/or information on the 60th, 3rd Bn., or perhaps someone writing about this little heard of outfit.

What happened to all those men who served with the 3rd Bn, especially those in Easy Company? Or, some who were with me in the 4th platoon (heavy weapons luggers) or anyone in Easy Co. 1st, 2nd, 3rd platoon. I don't know all of them but I do remember some. Are they still with us? Are they part of this wonderful organization, or does someone know of them? I do have some names: Robert La Turner from East Cleveland, OH, Richard Lummis from Chicago, Ill., William R. Morton from Perrysville, Ind., Ross McGregor from Ann Arbor, Mich., Carl Ostberg from Chicago, Ill., Lt. Wm. Trafford from Boston MA.

I was a member when the 9th Inf. Div. first started back in the late forties. In the early 50's I attended a convention in New York and met just two men but don't remember their names.

I would love to hear from anyone who was with me. I'm also anxious to get any information about these people and will certainly write or phone anyone who contacts me. My number is

Here's hoping you will publish this letter so that I may hear from someone. Thank You.

E. Co. 39th Inf. Regt.
LAWRENCE T. FAULKNER

Dear Dan,

Please update my membership in the 9th Division Assn. for three more years. Dues enclosed check.

I expect to party with - confirmed to be present.

1. Brother Sabastion Jack L. Maher - Mt. Savior Monastery Pine City, NY. 2. Ken Hill and Mary of Midland, Texas. 3. Russell Snelling and Sheila of Westminster, California. 4. Ward D. Payne and Ruth of Laguna Hills, California. 5. Wilbert "Snuffy" Goldsmith & Judy of West Hills, California. 6. Larry Faulkner, Simi Valley, California. 7. Brayton Willis, Sun City, AZ.

Hopefully more will join us. Anyway we understand if not. Hello to:

Gilbert Gricoskie, wife & daughter, Shamokin, Pa. Joe Donovan and wife of Elizabeth, New Jersey. John Sabato of Philadelphia, Pa. Dale "Doc" Smith & Anna of Junction City, KS.

And buddies in my former Fox Co. Unit while at Ft. Bragg.

Business Conducted at Reunion

Minutes of the 56th Meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association held in Houston, Texas on May 18th, 2001

The 56th annual reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Houston, Texas on May 18, 2001. The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM by the President of the Association, Jack Blann when he requested that the members rise for a moment of silence for the departed members of the Ninth (Those we left behind and for those who have since joined their comrades). He then asked that we join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. He then asked for a recess in order for the various committees to meet and formulate their business to be presented and discussed upon their return to the floor of the meeting.

After a sufficient recess, President Blann reconvened the meeting at 10:30 AM. Upon a motion made by Tom Boyle and seconded by Joe Killen it was voted to accept the minutes of the last meeting held in 2000, in Monticello, NY as they were published in the Octofoil.

President Blann then called on the Treasurer, Tom Boyle for his report. Due to Tom Boyle's problem regarding his eyesight at this time, Herb Olsen read the report for Tom. Upon a motion made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Joe Gravino it was voted to accept the Treasurer's report. Blann then thanked Boyle for his report and Olsen for his assistance. (Treasurer's report enclosed.)

Financial Committee

President Blann then called on Joe Killen of the Financial Committee for their report. This committee consisted of Gordon Anderson, Howard Gaertner, Jack Collier, Pete Rice, and Tom Boyle who sat in as an adviser. Killen reported that the outlook for the financial future of the organization was very dim as the sources of income are steadily declining while the expenditures are rising as they fall victim to the present economy. The committee therefore recommends selling all of our holdings in the CGM Fund and placing the cash from that sale into an interest earning money market fund. The CD that we hold is to remain untouched for the present time. Kollen recommended that the members consider making the Ninth Infantry Division Association their favorite charity for 2001 and send contributions to the Memorial Fund. A motion to accept the Finance Committee report was made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Emil Langer and was passed with no objections. President Blann thanked Killen and his committee.

By-Laws

He then called for a report of the By-Laws Committee and Herb Olsen as Chairman of this committee named the following members who served with him on this committee: Dave Heller, Alphonse Zenka, and Pat DeColli. (1) Reviewed the By-Laws and do not recommend any changes now. (2) Recommend the Judge Advocate prepare changes to the By-Laws next year. (3) Appoint a committee for next year to institute these changes. Upon a motion made by Albert Perna and seconded by Bill Crain it was voted to accept the report of the By-Laws Committee. President Blann thanked Olsen and his committee.

Newspaper

The president called upon the Newspaper Chairman Elmer Wagner who named these members who served with him on this committee: Paul Schumacher, Billie Martin, and Walter Victor. The committee recommends that we continue with the same format for the Octofoil of five issues a year and have the Ladies Auxiliary continue with its reports to the Octofoil on their activities. Because of the high cost of publishing the Octofoil, the members should consider possible means of helping to finance the Octofoil such as charging a subscription fee or by other means. Continue with the letter to the editor by the members as well as by the widows. Upon a motion made by Bob DeSandy and seconded by Tom Hatton it was voted to accept the newspaper report and recommendations. President Blann thanked Elmer Wagner and his committee for their report. Pete Rice made a motion to reduce the number of yearly issues of the Octofoil down from five to four. This motion was seconded by Jack Collier and upon the member's vote was defeated.

Miscellaneous

President Blann called upon the Miscellaneous Committee and Martin Gross who served as the chairman named Rodger Alsgaard as having served on this committee and formulated two resolutions.

(1) The British Navy rescued members of the 2nd Bn. 39th Infantry who were on the torpedoed S.S. Thomas Stone; therefore it is recommended that the British Navy be recognized for this rescue and formally thanked by a letter to the British Embassy.

(2) Recommend that the body resolve to lower the amount of money retained from the national dues by the chapters to be one dollar. Upon a motion made by Tom Hatton and seconded by Jack Collier it was voted to accept the report of the Miscellaneous Committee.

President Blann called for the Nominating Committee report and Al Perna as chairman named the following members who served on this committee with him: Charles LiBretto (NY) Frank Haines (NJ), Bob DeSandy (Michigan), Tom Hatton (Michigan), Pete Radichio (Fla) Pat DeColli (Delaware Valley), and Bill Scott (Texas). There are six members going off the Board and their replacements are as follows:

Gordon Anderson (Ill.) replaces Howard Gaertner
Tom Saunders (Michigan) replaces Chas. Vanderpoel
Herb Stern (Texas) replaces Ernie Botella
Mike Pelle (NJ) replaces Frank Haines
Adolph Wadalavage (NY) replaces Martin Gross

President Blann called for other nominations from the floor and upon a motion made by Jack Collier it was voted to close the nominations. A motion was made by Billie Martin and seconded by Bob DeSandy to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

George Brown spoke for the Vets Awards Committee and said that he had received one request for \$350.00 for the Allentown, Pennsylvania Veterans Administration Hospital submitted through member Hank Geary and suggested that this request should be granted.

John W. Miller took the podium and urged the members who do not have a VA card to get one and get into the VA health system. He discussed at length the various benefits given to vets by the VA.

A simultaneous motion was made by Martin Gross, Emil Langer, and Albert Perna to close the meeting at 11:20 AM and as there was no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned.

The 193rd meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held on May 17th in the Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas during the 56th annual reunion.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M. by President of the Association Jack Blann with 31 officers, Board members, and interested comrades in attendance. The body rose to make the Pledge of Allegiance and remained standing for a moment of silent tribute for our departed comrades in arms.

A roll call of the officers was taken which showed that twelve of the fifteen members of the Board were present or accounted for. They were Howard Gaertner, Elmer Wagner, William Doty, Joe Killen, Herb Olsen, Frank Haines, Albert Perna, Martin Gross, Dave Heller, Billie Martin, Pat DeColli (alternate for Tomassone), and Treasurer Tom Boyle. Also present were Past Presidents Jack Collier, Tom Hatton, Bob DeSandy, Emil Langer, George Brown, Rodger Alsgaard, Gordon Anderson, Charles Libretto, Ernie Micka, Albert Ferrante, John Moore, Willie Goldsmith, James DeLeo, Dominick Fiore, Herb Stern, Dick Granberry, Morton Wolk, and Alphonse Zenka.

The minutes of the most recent Board meeting of May 2nd, 2000; were read, and upon a motion duly made by Albert Perna, seconded by Elmer Wagner were voted to be accepted as read without corrections or changes. The minutes of the May 3rd, 2000 Board meeting were read and upon a motion duly made by Joe Killen, seconded by Billie Martin, were voted to be accepted as read without corrections or changes.

The next order of business was the reading of the Treasurer's report, the Treasurer Tom Boyle asked the body to recognize Herb Olsen, who would read the report due to Boyle's vision problems. The Board agreed and after Herb Olsen finished reading the report, Tom Boyle corrected the typographical errors and answered the many questions raised by the members. On a motion made by Bill Doty and seconded by Howard Gaertner, the Board voted to accept the Treasurer's report as corrected and read.

President Blann then appointed Board members to serve as Chairmen of the various committees for the next morning's General meeting. The committees and the chairmen appointed were: Finance & Budget:- Joe Killen; Newspaper:- Elmer Wagner; Miscellaneous:- Martin Gross; By-Laws:- Herb Olsen; Nominations:- Albert Perna.

A progress report on the 2001 Reunion (next year) was called for at this time; but as the Reunion Chairman had not checked in to this year's gathering in time for this meeting, none could be given. The report was tabled and will be presented at the next meeting of the Board of Governors which will be in two days hence.

On a motion made by Martin Gross, seconded by Elmer Wagner, it was agreed to draft a formal resolution letter to be sent to the British Embassy thanking the crew of the H.M.S. Spey for the rescue and aid given to the men of the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry after their transport, the S.S. Thomas Stone was hit by a torpedo in the Mediterranean Sea during the early hours of November 8, 1942. This letter to be drafted by Dave Heller.

There being no further business to come before this Board and upon a motion made by Billie Martin, it was voted to adjourn at 5:00 P.M.

In the absence of the secretary, these minutes taken by Joe Killen.

Minutes of the 194th National Board of Governors Meeting

The 194th meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held on May 19th, 2001 in the Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas during the 56th annual reunion.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M. for the elections of officers for the coming year. After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer for our departed comrades, President Jack Blann called for the elections of officers, the first office the Presidency.

President of the Association:- Albert Perna, Delaware Valley Chapter. 1st V.P.:- Tom Hatton, Michigan Chapter; 2nd V.P.:- Pat DeColli, Delaware Valley Chapter; 3rd V.P.:- Pete Radichio, Florida Chapter; Judge Advocate:- Dave Heller, Illinois Chapter; Treasurer:- Thomas Boyle; Secretary:- Daniel Quinn.

President Jack Blann turned the gavel of his Authority over to Albert Perna, of the Delaware Valley Chapter and new President of the Ninth Infantry Division Association immediately after the results of the election were made know. Blann thanked the Board members for their cooperation during his term of office, and wished Albert Perna all the best for his term of office.

Albert Perna thanked the members for electing him to the Presidency and while waving a check in his hand, pledged a gift of \$3000.00 to the National Association. He also promised to submit a second check to pay his past due dues.

Pete Radichio reported that the reunion for the year 2002 will be held sometime in the spring somewhere in Pigeon Forge, TN. He is meeting with people and will have a much more firmer grasp of all of the details when the Board convenes in October up at Worcester, Mass.

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion by Billie Martin and seconded by Herb Stern, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 P.M.

Present at the meeting were the following members:- Dick Granberry, Paul Schuhmacher, Billie Martin, William Doty, Elmer Wagner, Pat DeColli, Joe Killen, Albert Perna, Howard Gaertner, Jack Blann, Tom Hatton, Thomas Boyle, Herb Olsen, Dave Heller, Mike Pelle, Frank Haines, Rodger Alsgaard, Gordon Anderson, Herb Stern, George Brown, Charles LiBretto, Emil Langer, Pete Radichio, Alphonse Zenka, Tom Saunders, Dwight Merrill, Martin Gross, Pete Rice.

Respectfully submitted
Joe Killen

Dear Mr. Sperry:

I am a collector of personal artifacts and historical information on individual soldiers of WW I and WW II. In my travels I have acquired a portion of the artifacts of Sgt. Mautte to include his original dog tags, and some of the medals awarded. I was not fortunate enough to acquire the ribbon bar, so I need more information to complete his history. My research indicates that he has no living relatives, at least none that are interested in claiming him as a relative, I have done extensive mailings to all people named Mautte on the East Coast of the U.S. and received no reply. I am encasing his medals and artifacts into a museum quality package to preserve it for the future generations, with as complete a collection as possible. Where there are missing pieces, I furnish originals to complete the history. I currently have:

1. Good Conduct Medal
2. American Defense Medal
3. ETO Medal
4. Bronze Star Medal
5. WW II Victory Medal
6. CIB
7. 39th Inf. DI
8. 9th Div. DI
9. 9th. Div. SSI original
10. Dog Tags original

I have an original set of ribbon bars but do not know how many campaign stars were applied to the ETO bar for battles in the theater. He served from 1-14-41 to 6-23-45 and was never transferred or reassigned. He was from New York City, and the next of kin was his mother Mary Mautee. I don't believe that he was ever married, at least my information does not show a widow.

If you could direct me to someone who could answer my final question I would sincerely appreciate it. The ribbon bar is the last piece. Enclosed is a display I did for a living soldier who had his history wrapped in a rag in his desk drawer. I think it looks better now, the brass plaque contains his particulars. He asked to do it so he could present it to his son on Christmas. I have done many of these, and if the soldier is deceased, as with Mr. Mautte, I keep the display for my collection when it is finished.

Now you have your answers,

John Bankhead
American Society of Military Insignia Collectors #3271, Orders and Medals Society of America #6005, Former Sgt. 315th Inf. 157th. Bde. USAR



96-year-old Col. Henry Royall, U.S. Army-Ret., has been honored as the last U.S. Military Academy graduate to attend reunion festivities at West Point. The Chapel Hill resident, who landed in Normandy, France, four days after D-Day in June 1944, earned two Purple Hearts and both the Silver and Bronze stars for heroism and bravery. Wounded in November 1944, Royall was hospitalized for three years before moving to Chapel Hill to attend college under the GI Bill.

Keeping memory of war alive

Retired Army colonel, now 96, entered WWII in Tunisia — and exited it in a body cast in France

By BILL WILLCOX

bw@herald-sun.com; 419-6795

CHAPEL HILL — Henry Royall still feels the ache every day of the German bullet that shattered a bone in his leg five decades ago. He uses a walker to get around his house on Noble Street in Chapel Hill.

In one corner of the room are the medals he won: some of the Army's highest honors: a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. There is little else to suggest that here lives someone who was second in command of the 60th Infantry Regiment, as the Allies chased the

Germans across France to the Siegfried Line.

Royall, now 96, was a young lieutenant colonel on his way to the front in North Africa when he saw his first battlefield. In Tunisia he took a jeep to see a ridge at Jebel el Anse which had been the scene of fierce combat a few days earlier.

"The dead had not been removed,"

he said, "and you've never smelt such an odor in your life. It was on my clothes for weeks afterwards. I was walking along and ... you've heard of the stillness of the battlefield: perfectly still, no wind blowing. I looked to the left and ... there sat a red-headed lieutenant, his helmet was off his head, half his head was gone,

worms were working in it. The dead were scattered everywhere, all over that section of the battlefield."

Royall was to see his first combat action shortly afterward, but what he saw on that ridge left a big impression. "That's no way to go into battle," he said.

He stayed with the North African campaign until it ended in Tunisia. Later, he trained in England before the invasion of Europe and landed

at Utah beach in Normandy four days after D-Day. As he passed the slough behind the beach he could see dead soldiers floating in the water.

There was a slack period in the fighting, before the Allies had their first major breakout. It was during this slack period that Royall had his first brush with death.

There was a forward command post set up in a farmhouse in the French countryside. Trenches had been dug around the area but no one was expecting any action that day.

"Colonel Crayble and I were walking out to the kitchen in the orchard one noontime," Royall recalled, "and all of a sudden one of these [shells] came in. The Germans had concentrated artillery fire somewhere."

Royall dove behind a barn to take cover. The barn, two stories high, was open to the enemy side. The shells were flying into the open side and pounding the far wall. One

that barn on the first floor.

"I went and there lay the helmet of Captain Wheeler," he said. "It was about an inch deep in blood and I was sure he was dead."

Royall found out, after the war was over, that the captain had survived.

Shortly after this incident, he had another close call.

Royall was walking from one battalion to another one day, when he came across a captain who'd just captured two German MPs. The enemy soldiers had a line route map indicating a German division was coming out of Cherbourg to escape. He immediately reported it to Division Headquarters.

"I grabbed what troops I could and set up a roadblock," he said. "It seemed as if they weren't coming but just before daylight they came roaring down the road. The lead vehicle was a half-track, towing a gun, so they didn't expect us there."

The Americans let loose with three anti-tank guns, taking the enemy totally by surprise. Royall remembers seeing the wounded driver of the half-track moaning in pain.

Realizing the forward positions needed more ammunition, he commandeered a Jeep and a soldier to drive, and took off for the rear. It was then that he saw the plane.

"I saw it, but it didn't seem just right. But it wasn't an enemy plane. It had a star on it. It was a plane with a star and stripe," he said.

"The next thing I knew we were in the cone of fire, and here we were in a jeep running along and that cone of fire was moving along at our speed. It happened to be synchronized."

"Those bullets were coming all around," Royall said.

"The driver, something hit him and he was bleeding. He didn't panic but kept driving that speed. Nobody said anything. We just kept going and, lo and behold, that plane came back and headed straight for us again. This time we were near a French barn and I told the driver to stop, we'd run in there. He stopped at the edge of the barnyard and I ran towards the stables. There was a soldier riding with us. He ran ahead of me and kicked in the door. Fortunately there were no Germans in there, and I



Cadet Henry Royall in 1930

looked behind me and the driver was running around in circles like an addled chicken. I went back there and grabbed him before he fell and I said, 'Son, I think that's our own plane.'

"He said, 'Those SOB! I'd shoot them down even if they had Uncle Sam painted on their wing.'"

Royall eventually made it to the command post in the rear. Later, when he was in the hospital, he helped to get a bronze star for the driver of the jeep.

On another occasion, he encountered something which, to him, was astounding and somewhat mysterious.

He was in his jeep going to see a battalion. He didn't know exactly how far ahead they were. They traveled until they came to a break in the trees.

"I noticed there was a steeple of a church on the right," he said. "I think the Germans had an observation post up there, because all of a sudden a shell hit right

behind my jeep, and then one in front of the jeep."

The driver remembered seeing an abandoned dugout behind them, at a road junction. After another shell hit close by, they jumped out of the jeep and started running.

"We ran up there to that dugout. I beat the driver there. He tripped over a wire, but we got inside. They pounded that thing, direct fire. We got dirt scattered all over us."

When the fire slackened, they got back in the jeep and went back to the rear to spend the night with the rear echelon troops. The next morning they advanced down to the same road until they got to the same section where they'd been fired on.

They saw several American troops up ahead.

"It was that section, and it looked like a rest stop," he said. "There they were just like they were taking a halt, people in this position and that. I stepped closer and there were dead men lying all around there. And I went up, looking along, and there was one sergeant standing up."

"I spoke to this man. I thought he was just standing there. Of course he didn't answer me. Rigor mortis had set in. He was balanced right up against that wall, didn't even have his hands on it. It was an eerie thing."

Royall got his driver and went on up the road, eventually catching up to his troops, but he never heard anything more about this mysterious scene on the road.

"I've never seen any account of that in the history," he said. "All those casualties had to be reported."

On the last day of November, 1944, Royall was in combat near the Ruhr River and had just stepped into a foxhole his regiment had captured from the Germans.

"When I stepped down, at that time, I thought I'd stepped on a mine but it was a shell burst. My helmet was level with the dirt that was lying there from digging the hole. I was unconscious I don't know how long. I finally came to and I thought it was nighttime, but it was the middle of the day."

Amazingly he was able to walk back to his aid station to get checked out.

"It was mostly concussion. There were some fragments in my face, dirt blasted in it. And my sight, I was almost blind. It looked like nighttime. My ears and my head felt like it was bust open. The concussion nearly killed me."

The next day he was back on the battlefield, leading an attack.

A German rifleman hit Royall at

the top of the leg.

"An explosive bullet hit me on the neck of the femur and just shattered it," Royall said. The force of the impact spun him around. He reached down to grab his useless leg and saw the bone was sticking out. He drifted in and out of consciousness.

"I don't know how long it took but some American soldiers showed up. They put me on a stretcher, crouched down as they went over a rise in the ground and took me to an aid station."

Royall would spend two years and 11 months in hospitals. He would spend the first year in a plaster body cast, on his back, with his leg raised above his head. There was no way to set the break. He just had to wait for the bone to grow back.

Finally, in 1947, he left the hospital. He came to Chapel Hill to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the GI

Bill. He still lives in the same house he bought on Noble Street, alone now, having outlived his second wife, and with his children living out of state.

Continued on next page

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ROYALL

His leg still gives him pain. Sometimes the foot will involuntarily curl inward. He uses a walker and wheelchair to get around the house.

He thinks the memory of war is something that veterans need to keep alive.

"The veterans are the only ones who keep it going," he said. "The civilians forget. If we don't keep the memory alive, it will be like so many family cemeteries. Weeds encroach on them until they disappear. If there is no marker, someone will just plow over it. If we don't keep the memory alive, it will be forgotten in our own lifetime."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lt. Colonel Henry Royall (right) walks with Woodrow Wilson Bailey shortly before D-Day in 1994. Bailey was KIA. Bailey was in Northern France shortly after taking Command of the 2nd Bn 47th Inf. when Col. James Johnston was mortally wounded on the way to Cherbourg, France.

Boyles Financial Report

The Ninth Infantry Division Assoc. maintains a checking account and two savings accounts at the First Union National Bank located in Weehawken, New Jersey. All deposits are made by the Secretary. All checks and withdrawals are prepared by the Secretary and signed by the Treasurer and the First Vice President. We have also invested in a Cert. of Deposit and Mutual Funds. All accounts have been balanced.

Respectfully submitted
Thomas J. Boyle,
Treasurer

WWII
CombatResearch Group

Michael H Frederick
Joseph F. Masci

Dear Mr. Quinn:

My organization is interested in contacting World War II veterans for an oral history project we are working on. Any information you can provide about your outfit, specifically addresses of veterans and/or newsletters listing same would be greatly appreciated. Is there any chance we can join your outfit as associate members?

We're a non-profit group that is dedicated to the preservation of individual

experiences as told by the men who fought, bled and died for their country. We want the folks who were there to know we have not forgotten what the World War II generation accomplished. Our motto, "Tellin' It Like It Was By Those Who Were There" served as a guide for the publication of our most recent article, an interview with two Rangers about their actions at Pointe du Hoc, Normandy on D-Day. It is currently on the newsstands in the May 2000 issue of *World War II* magazine.

Thank you for your assistance. I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely,
Michael H. Frederick
Researcher

COMPANY K 47th. Infantry, 9th. Division The stealth outfit of WWII

TENTING TO-NIGHT

The NINTH got it altogether again, for the 56th. time. The "altogether" is not as large as it has been in the past, but quality counts. The hotel was excellent, the scheduled events ran pretty much on time, the speaker couldn't be beat, and the food, while not HAUTE CUISINE, didn't engender a lot of CUSSIN'. Besides, it was next door to a gaggle of diverse eateries, including a MAR-BLE SLAB ICE CREAM parlor.

"K" did not have the biggest turnout in history, it included Dr. NICKLIN and his wife, JOE KILLACKY, HELEN HOLMES, and ME and my BRIDE. Again, quality rather than quantity. There were very few times in Europe that we were ever near full strength. WE did miss the REGULARS of OLD, like RED THOMPSON and FRANK CORVINO, but they both had something better to do.

BANQUET

COLONEL MANSOOR, the speaker, made it very clear that the 9th. won the war in Europe, and anyone that erudite is worth listening to. I had invited a college friend, WILLY PENA, who lost a foot in the 28th. Division, and he was tickled pink to find out who he should thank.

The Col. is a JOCK SWABBER and, before the reunion, I e-mailed him an offer to meet one who had actually ridden horses, but he wasn't interested.

ROLL CALL

SCOOP GILLESPIE called me after the reunion, to give me his alibi - he had shingles. As an architect, I recommended that he keep them on the roof. He says the treatment is the same as for HERPES, so he is double dipping.

HELEN HOLMES is the youngest old woman in the universe and a good dancer besides. If they wish to appoint someone to turn out the lights, they couldn't find a more appropriate person.

JOE KILLACKY is running HELEN a close second, but his running gear is about shot, so she would be a better pick.

DR. NICKLIN would like to remind everyone to get their copy of DOCTORS IN PERIL before they are all gone.

PROBLEMS

The Association is facing the inevitable, as people die they stop paying dues. I thought everyone understood this when we voted to not accept NAM veterans. RED PHILLIPS made it very clear. I think the best thing to do is wind down as gracefully as possible for as long as possible.

They have scheduled the 2002 REUNION for PIGEON FORGE, TN, that doesn't sound like a dying breed.

Take care of yourself, the NINTH needs you!!

Chester H. Jordan

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Things are beginning to get a little more normal for me. After months of physical therapy, my arms and hands are regaining strength and it won't be long and I'll be back on the golf course swinging away, I hope. Thanks to all who sent me cards and good wishes.

We spent a beautiful day at the Gaertners on July 11th. They had a cookout for us and we had a pretty good attendance. Present were the Apels, Andersons, Hennemuths, Paulis, Gaertners, Ted Curless, the Clausers (who are happily settled in their home in Michigan), the Tyszykas and the Belmontes. The weather was perfect and the food delicious and plentiful. We also received a full report on the Houston Reunion from those who attended. They enjoyed it and were happy they went. Sorry so few people attended. We were there in spirit and hopefully will make it next year in Pigeon Forge.

We have been informed that Paul Clark is now residing in a VA Hospital. If anyone would like to contact him, his address is VA Medical Center, 1900 Main St., Danville, IL 61832, Bldg. 101 - Ward 4. He seems to be holding his own. His wife, Lorraine, visits him regularly. We also received word that Doris Elmer - wife of Roger Elmer fell and injured her shoulder which cannot be put in a cast. They were planning to drive to Florida in August as they are in the process of selling their home down there. The Hennemuths plan to sell their home in Mt. Prospect and remain year round in Florida. Good luck.

It's time to plan for the Out of State Meeting with the Michigan Chapter and anyone else who cares to attend. It will be at the Ramada Inn in Angola on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 16 and 17, 2001. Illinois will host this year. The rates are \$62.00 plus tax. Reservations are to be made direct to the hotel, mention the 9th, request first or second floor and a non-smoking if needed. The toll free number is 1-877-965-5341, Fax 219-665-5899. The address is Ramada Inn, 3855 No. State Rd. 127, Angola, Indiana 46703. Cut off date is Oct. 2nd. Any questions, contact Gordon Anderson 1-847-824-7917. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Not much more news. We really did miss going to the reunion this year and were sorry to hear so many were missing. May good health return to all. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Sincerely,

Mike Belmonte

THE OCTOFOIL

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

REUNION DATES SET! Mark your calendar...reserve November 14, 15, 16 and 17 for the Florida Chapter Annual Reunion to be held at the Hilton Melbourne Airport Hotel in Melbourne, Florida. (Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.)

November 15 - SPACE CENTER TOUR: A 34 passenger bus provided by the Kennedy Center Transportation will pick us up at 9:30 A.M. at the Melbourne Hotel to arrive at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station by 11:00 A.M. From 11:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. we will go on a most memorable guided tour of the SPACE PADS; THE SPACE STATION COMPLEX; THE APOLLO SATURN V CENTER; THE SHUTTLE LANDING FACILITY; THE ORBITER PROCESSING FACILITY and other important sites on the Cape. We will have one hour and 20 minutes for lunch. At 3:00 P.M. we leave to return back to the hotel. This tour promises to be a most memorable experience that you cannot afford to miss! Credit goes to Norris Gray and Richard Baudouy who worked tirelessly with Kathleen Warren, Pub. Relations Officer at the Cape.

Because we must leave for the Kennedy Space Center early on Thursday, November 15, the Reunion Committee agreed to change the opening day of our reunion to start on a Wednesday instead of the usual Thursday.

November 16 - STERLING LINES DAY CRUISE: Because so many members enjoyed this one-day cruise, we have included it again this year. Details of the entire reunion will be spelled out on the PROGRAM and the ORDER FORM sheets that will be mailed out approximately 5 weeks prior to reunion date. Any 9th Div. Assn. member, family members or guests who would like to attend this Florida Chapter Reunion may do so by contracting Emil De Donato at 3650 S W Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431 or phone 352/489-4070.

HOSPITALITY ROOM: As in the past, it will be stocked with many snacks and an assortment of drinks. Depending on hotel availability, it will be set up by the time the first guests arrive.

MEMBER & WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

Tom & Carol Saunders: Tom & Carol moved several times since 1998 when we last heard from them at their Greenville, Tenn home. They are now settled down in their new home at 3905 Wormer St., Redford, Michigan 48239-1294. Phone: 313/794-6285. (Please up-date your Membership Roster with this change). Carol says she is feeling fine. Tom is now semi-retired and enjoys his part-time job. Tom & Carol will join us at our next reunion, God willing.

Bertha Carson: In her "Get Well" card to Audrey De Donato, Bertha stated that she will try to attend the Fall Chapter Reunion. Bertha lives in Whiting, New Jersey and has been receiving her copy of the OCTOFOIL just recently. We look forward to seeing and visiting with Bertha at the coming reunion.

Lila & H.F. Stansell: A phone call, followed by a note in the mail from Lila, informed us of the demise of William "Bill" Cooney, (details in the IN MEMORIAM section below). Lila's note also urges all Florida Chapter members to make plans to attend the 2002 National Reunion which is scheduled to be held in Pigeon Forge, TN. Lila and H.F. have been there several times. According to Lila, there are many shows to see during the daytime and at night....all kinds of shopping and many interesting places to visit. (Check the OCTOFOIL for dates, etc.).

Erika Miller: Husband LeRoy stated that Erika has been improving while going through therapy at the Ponce de Leon Rehabilitation Center in St. Augustine, FL. On several occasions, LeRoy has taken Erika for a joy ride in his van. There is a possibility that Erika will go home soon. Hopefully LeRoy and Erika will be able to join us at the November Chapter Reunion.

IN MEMORIAM

William D. Fleming: One of our devoted members of the Florida Chapter, Bill Fleming passed away on June 27, 2001, just three days before his 83rd birthday. He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Virginia Hare, who died on August 29, 1999. Bill and Dorothy were high school sweethearts and married for 56 years. Bill served in the 64th Coast Artillery in Honolulu during the attack on Pearl Harbor. After completing his term with the Coast Artillery, Bill joined Company L of the 47th Infantry Regiment. Upon discharge from the service, Bill worked with Sealtest Dairies/Kraft Food Group for 35 years. Bill was a scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 183 in Jacksonville and an avid woodcarver. He served as the Secretary of the Florida Chapter for three years. William Duane Fleming is survived by his son Neil Duane Fleming; daughter Claire Fleming King; 3 grandchildren, and his sister June A. Reid. Funeral services were held on Saturday, June 30th at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, FL. Representing the Florida Chapter at the funeral were Chuck Van Der Poel and Joseph Williams. Anyone wishing to send condolences may do so by writing to Bill's daughter, Mrs. Claire King, 2567 Cinder-Bed Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32257.

William J. Cooney: After a short illness while recuperating at the Avante Ormond Beach Nursing & Rehab Center, William "Bill" Cooney of Luna Drive, Ormond Beach, died on Saturday, June 23, 2001. He was 80 years old. Bill served with Division Artillery during WWII. Upon his discharge from the service, Bill became a firefighter in White Plains, New York. Bill and his wife Rose moved from White Plains to Florida in 1976. His survivors include his wife Rose, a son Paul and two daughters, Ellen Cooney and Maureen Avery; a brother and 5 grandchildren.

REMINDERS

Please send Florida Chapter dues to Richard Baudouy, Acting Treasurer, 5 [REDACTED]

Send any Florida Chapter news to Emil J. De Donato, 3 [REDACTED]

THE NY AREA CHAPTER

The NY chapter met at the 69th Armory in NYC on Friday, June 15, 2001. Meeting was opened by Prez Joe Killen at 7:45 PM with the pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by his convocation (in the absence of our ailing chaplain Al Lipton) and a moment of silence for our departed comrades.

Minutes of the April meeting were not available so Treasurer Al Zenka continued with the financial report. (There was no May meeting due to the Houston Reunion). Zenka also read correspondence from NY area members seeking information about the next chapter mini-reunion. The get-together is scheduled in early September but the location had not been finalized at this meeting. When the location is decided upon, Zenka will send out a notice to the Greater NY chapter members. (See notice later in report).

We lose some dedicated Ninthmen

On the down side, the Chapter was saddened by the loss of two stalwart Ninthmen who passed away two weeks apart. Secretary Art Schmidt died of heart failure in the St. Albans, Queens, VA Extended Care Center while hospitalized months for a replacement prosthetic leg appliance. Until his hospitalization Art was the reliable and steadfast secretary of the NY Chapter. His dedication and genial personality will be sorely missed. An emigre to San Francisco from the NY Chapter, Walter O'Keeffe, returned recently and died of cancer. On the local and national level Walter always made his voice heard on major issues facing the association. We, also, have been informed by Dennis, son of Philip O'Mara, that his father died on July 8. The chapter sends heartfelt condolences to the families of Art, Walter and Philip.

Since the loss of our secretary, Treasurer Al Zenka agreed to handle the secretary's duties. Marv Levy will continue as recording secretary.

In other matters, a New York State bulletin and letter to member Carl Winter was circulated among members for the NY State "Oral History" Program from veterans. Veterans should check their local NY State veteran offices if interested.

NY Area members were well represented at the Houston Reunion and many expressed their satisfaction with the Texas affair.

Those who attended were: Joe & Emma Killen, Martin & Irene Gross, Charlie & Esta LiBretto, George & Janet Brown, Philip Cancelate, Al Baccile, Joe Gravino, Benny Murrel, Al Zenka, Emil Langer, George Nicklin, and Wilbert "Snuffy" Goldsmith.

The meeting was adjourned after other discussions. There will be no meetings in July and August. The next meeting will be in September at a mini-reunion location when announced.

Attending the June meeting not mentioned above: Anton Dietrich, Mike Gatto, Charlie LiBretto, Al Lubrano, Joe Maiale, Joe Rzesniowiecki, Hermnio Suarez and Adolph Wadalavage.

Friar Tuck Mini Reunion Announced

On July 9, a letter was sent out to NY Area members detailing information on rates and accommodations at Friar Tuck again this year, on Monday, September 10 thru Friday September 14, 2001. For further information contact Al Zenka at his address at end of this report.

Annual Memorial Service

On June 2 the NY Area Chapter members, friends and wives held their annual Memorial Service at the VA National Cemetery on Long Island. The weather was inclement as it was the year before so the service was held in the cemetery community room. Prez Joe Killen presided and presented a moving remembrance of his buddies who didn't make it home. Art Schmidt was remembered by his wartime buddy Charlie Hoffman. Yours truly related anecdotes about the irascible Gene Magidson.

In spite of the rain many members made the trip from out of town including the LiBretts from New Jersey, Dietriches from Upstate and Tony DeRobertes from Pennsylvania. Due to bad weather our annual Bethpage picnic was canceled and all had lunch at the Liberty Diner on Route 110. We thank the VA cemetery staff under the supervision of Director Art Smith for their accommodation.

Attention NY Chapter members: if you haven't renewed your dues, do it now: \$10 for one year, \$25 for 3 years and \$75 for Lifetime Membership. Make checks payable to NY Area Chapter, Ninth Inf Div Assn and send to Al Zenka, Secretary-Treasurer, 82-36 234th Street, Bellerose Manor, NY 11427-2118.

The NY Chapter wishes all fellow Ninthmen a happy and healthy summer.

Marv Levy
Co A 60th

60th Inf. D Co.

AGNES SPEARS

5 [REDACTED]

and MADELINE BURR

60th Inf. E Co.

Our trip to Houston, Texas for the 56th Reunion was most enjoyable. Want to take this opportunity to thank the reunion committee for all their hard work to make it such a successful reunion.

We especially want to say thanks for our rose at the Memorial Service and also the beautiful necklace and kind words given to us at the Banquet. Also we enjoyed once again the S.Y.N. Card Game again this year; even though many of our friends were missing.

We missed seeing you Dan & Marie and do hope you both are feeling better. Hope to see you in Tenn.

39 Inf G Co.

WILLARD HAYES

Enclosed is my dues for three years plus a little something for the pot.

While reading the article on the H.M. Spey it brings back the memories of that day.

It was during general quarters that we were hit. I was sleeping on a top bunk and bounced against the top.

Water was ankle deep when we were told to come topside.

There were some casualties among the crew and would have been more as the Magazine for the 5" gun on the fan tail was missed by about 3 feet. The ride in the Higgins boats was no picnic either.

15th Engrs. B Co. ERNEST MICKA

[REDACTED]

Hi Dan,

Enclosed please find 2 checks - one for the Texas donation for \$40.00 and the other one for the Memorial Fund in memory of Art Schmidt who passed away on May 29th while at the St. Albans Vet's Care Center. We all will miss Art and his smiling face.

The Houston reunion was the smallest in attendance (160) but I must say "B" Co. 15th Engrs. had a good group there. Those present were: Al Ferrante & Marge, Ernie Micka & Dot, John Moore & Margaret, Bob Apel & Midge, Bob Mandle, Pat De Colli.

Jerry Shea & Pat were all set to be there with us but at the last minute had to cancel their reservations per Dr's orders. Talked to Jerry & Pat couple weeks after returning home and things sounded better, especially when they called a few weeks later saying how good he felt and that he's been out playing golf. Keep it up Jerry! They plan to make the next reunion in Pigeon Forge, Tenn, next year, as do the rest of us.

It was great being together once again; We enjoyed snax and drinks in Bob Mandle's VIP Suite each day.

Dwight Merrill (A Co. 15th) and Morton Wolk (HQ 15th) helped to round out our group.

As the reunion came to an end, the Moore's headed for Colorado Springs and Bob Mandle flew out to California so they could see family.

Heard from Dick McGrath - he has his health problems but after hearing about our good-times reunion it had increased his desire to get to the next one in Pigeon Forge.

All in all, we had another great time together and looking forward to next May. Stay Well.

47th Inf. K. Co.

HELEN (Lagattuta) HOLMES

[REDACTED]

We all missed you at the reunion.

The committee did a great job and are to be complemented. There are always problems, but they can be overlooked and in the future rectified.

I was deeply impressed and want to thank the committee for honoring us widows at the Memorial Service and presenting us with a rose and pendant.

My thanks to all.

Enclosed is a check in memory of the members no longer with the 9th.

Hope you are feeling better.

God Bless You

39th Inf. F Co.

LAZAR KAY

[REDACTED]

Just a hello to any of F Co. still around. Live on a beautiful lake just outside of Charlotte, NC and still very involved with boating, operating a commercial water rescue service.

MAIL CALL

Co. C 9th Med. Bn.
ALEX BALOUSH

Time marches on, and it's time for the renewal of my membership. Enclosed is a check for three years, and a little extra for the fund.

At this time I would like to send my best wishes to all of my buddies, their wives and to the widows of the 9th Medical Bn.

Have a happy holiday. God Bless.

39th Inf. Cannon Co.
GEORGE BOOTH

I'm enclosing \$25 for my dues. I'm sorry this is late.

I've been in the hospital for over 2 weeks and I forgot about the dues until now.

Hope you are well and had a happy holiday. We will not make it to Houston this year, but hope to be able to come to Tennessee the next year.

15th Engrs A Co.
C. WEBSTER JOHNSON

I am enclosing my check for a 3 year renewal of the *Octofoil*. I certainly want to thank you and your wife for being so faithful in publishing this paper. It is very possible there would not be the communication that is afforded to keep the comrades in touch. I always enjoy and look forward to receiving it. My wife, Kathryn, says that when the *Octofoil* arrives that she doesn't ask me to do anything because she knows I want to read it from cover to cover.

Many of our buddies, who seem like a large family, have gone on to their reward and may God bless their memory to all of us. Again, thank you very much for your faithfulness.

376th AAA
CHESTER ZARNOWSKI

Let me put some light on the subject. I was one of the 376th AAA at the reunion in Monticello, New York. It was such a great honor to meet you and Joe Killen. As you may recall - this was my Christmas present from my son Al. He was in touch with you for all the information and set it up. Having Steve Dvorsky and finally meeting Dominick Fiore was another added pleasure.

The programs were very moving, especially the women adding the flowers to the beautiful *Octofoil* in memory of their loved ones. The program was tops.

I had intended to get in touch much sooner. I was in the hospital for twenty-two days. The recovery is very slow.

I am enclosing dues for 3 years. I would be very thankful adding my name to the *Octofoil*. On this note God bless the 9th Div. and God Bless America.

Co. B 15th Eng. Bn.
ALBERT C. FERRANTE

Enclosed please find dues for three (3) years and a little left over for the memorial fund in memory of the deceased buddies of Co. B, 15th Eng. Bn.

We members are fortunate and grateful to you and Marie for your tireless devotion to our association and for the efficient production of the *Octofoil*.

The yearly memorable services in Worcester, MA continue to be impressive thanks to the dedication and efforts of Tom Boyle, Herb Olson, Ron Murphy and all others who through the years made this event a red letter day in our lives.

Marge and I plan to make the reunion in Houston, TX in May. We enjoyed last year's reunion with Bob Mandel, the Sheas, the Moores and the Mickas of B Co. we made a date to meet at this one and hope to meet up with more members of Co. B Engineers.

AT Co. 47th Inf.
JULIUS EDEL CLARK, JR.

Enclosed my dues for three years. I always enjoy the *Octofoil*, especially the letters. Our group is disappearing at a thousand per day, so let's enjoy it.

Billy Pitt has passed away. He was assigned to 1st Platoon A.T. Co. 47th. His wife Mercedes called me with the sad news. He had a military funeral, well attended. He was Larry Okeefe's jeep driver. A truly great guy and a fine soldier.

After the St. Lo bombing we were withdrawn to regroup because of casualties - most dug in that night. I was at HQ waiting for orders which came about midnight we laid down on the ground to sleep - No Hole. The Luftwaffe paid us a visit with anti personnel bombs. I jumped in the prone shelter on top of Billy Pitt. Boy did he scream. We had several wounded to include Larry Okeefe. Lots of flat tires from bomb fragments. A rough night! Keep up the good work.

84th F.A. 9th Inf. Div.
FRANK W. HAINES

I would be most appreciative of your assistance in placing the enclosed urgent appeal in the forthcoming *Octofoil*. Without an update roster of N.J. members, including telephone numbers, it has become almost impossible to contact N.J. members of the Association.

No one knows better than you how tough it has become to track down the old gang. We need more help from the funeral parlors and friends and families to identify our lost ones.

Sincere regards to you and your lady. We will be contacting you.

Donald E. Lavender

Re: Warren E. Ridgeway

Missing Jan 21, 1945

Some of you are aware of my contact with a search team that digs in our old battle areas. Two young Belgian men have recovered the remains of five missing GIs. Three of those recoveries were within the last two months.

One of those Belgians asked me to contact the *Octofoil* in the hope that someone might remember the circumstances of Sgt. Ridgeway's death including the location where it occurred. Ridgeway's name was still on the list of missing.

Anyone from Co. B of the 39th in January 1945 who has information about Ridgeway should contact Jean Louis Seel at Closes Beguines 67, 4800 Ensival, Belgium. Seel is authorized by authorities to search the battle areas. He and his associates work with the forest rangers and the U.S. authorities. They work without charge primarily as a hobby.

The remains of three members of the 99th Division, missing since December of 1944, were discovered in April by members of this team. The report indicates laboratory studies were done in the field and American Soldiers stationed in Germany were called in to provide the honors when the remains were removed from the Monschau Forest.

Sincerely,
Don Lavender

Dear Dan,

Once again I must thank you, as I entertain the balcony scene! 'Tis a heart-warming site that is "on the scene, as I gaze out to the waves that invoke a "screen"! An endless sea, innumerable waves, a warming sun, images of G.I.'s brave! Ready to face that for which they have been enlisted, and without a doubt will face and encounter a foe they must face, and as proven, conquer. My! How memories, in this setting, arise! And, yes, again, tears in eyes do arise. Tears of warmth and gladness, and, yes, of sadness, too. Yet, there is a warmth of heart, shared, yes by such as I and you. And, how grateful I am, being on such a site, one that creates memories of that long ago "fight"! And, how fortunate one is to still be around - recall all the echoes of battle sounds - one can but bow one's head and thankfully pray that one is still alive on such a glorious, sunlit day.

To sit and gaze on the glistening waves can but restore memories of the Ninth's stalwart and brave! What a blessing it is, after so many years to recall and envision "Buddies" after all these years! Admittedly, tears do form in my eyes - tears of gladness and warmth as events are appraised. Twice blessed is one in being able to restore memories so joyful, though somewhat sad, when recalled are the trials and triumphs that the Ninth had. How blessed is one to have survived, and, yet, to maintain memories of yester-years "clear as a bell".

Many thanks

Joe R

P.S. This setting, overlooking the Gulf, can but restore memories that are warmly treasured—written, 50 years later, and wearing 9th Division cap!

Warmest regards for
your devotion
to THE NINTH!

Joe R.

60th Inf.
JOSEPH L. RAPPAZIN

State of New York
Executive Department
Division of Veterans' Affairs

William H. Maloney, Jr.

Dear Mr. Maloney:

A couple of days ago, I had the great privilege of spending some time with Brother Sebastian at the Mount Savior Monastery. I have known Brother Sebastian for a long time and he certainly is one of our local treasures. My purpose for seeing him this time was to present him with the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and Conspicuous Service Star. He had wanted me to make sure you were aware of these awards, which are issued by the NY State Division of Military and Naval Affairs. I will attach copies of the regulations regarding these awards.

He also gave me an extensive history (both oral and written) of the Spey and Thomas Stone troopship incident on November 7, 1942, including the obituary of the English Captain Humphry Boys-Smith. Brother Sebastian is just an incredible person. He is confined to a wheelchair and is quite infirm. However, he can remember details from the day he entered the Army until his discharge. The Monastery where he lives is also an incredibly peaceful, beautiful place. If you ever have an opportunity to get up this way, they have a Guest House on the Monastery grounds where you can stay. Anyway, Brother Sebastian made me promise I'd contact you. If I can ever be of any assistance with the Ninth Infantry Division Association or any Veterans issues, please feel free to contact me. I will let Brother Sebastian know that I've written to you. He will be quite pleased.

Sincerely yours,
Michael J. Lehmann
State Veterans Counselor

60 Inf. M Co.
BONIFACIO CAMPOS

Sorry I'm a little late with my dues. No excuse. As you get a little older the lazier you get. A little late to wish all from M Co. a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year, but its better late than never, so hoping all M Co. men and family are doing well. Un amigo.

AT 47th Inf.
GEORGE REMALEY

I am doing alright. I had open heart surgery five by passes and I am doing alright. I also turned 82 Oct. 26, 2000. We lost a good buddy George Poole. His wife sent me this and I wanted to pass it on so you would know if you haven't heard.

We crossed the Bridge at Remagen and we were on the road in back of the 9th Armored. They found the bridge intact. They crossed over on the 7th of March of 1945. We were going in when Sullivan in his half truck was going through a stockade gate he had his door open and in the dark he crushed his head and died. they called me from the Third Platoon to drive his truck into Remagen we got into Remagen and two planes came in, one dropped a personal bomb. No one was hurt. The second plane was going for the bridge. Charles Worzeck and I were on the gun and he never got the bridge we put him down in the river.

We got into Remagen about 10:30 a.m. when we got the plane. March 8, 1945. We were put in for a Silver Star but we never heard anything more about it. I haven't seen or heard from Worzeck, he was the Gunner and I was his asst.

I believe Sgt. Finley was our First Sgt. at that time.

I never said anything about this until I read Remagen Bridge book when Billy Randell told him he shot down the plane he was never on the Gun. I had to kick him out so Worzeck and I could operate the gun.

P.S. I lost my wife four years ago on Mothers Day. Good luck to all of you.

TO OBTAIN YOUR MEDALS
You can obtain all of the awards to which you are entitled by writing to:
National Personnel Records Center
Entitlement to Awards Division
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132
You must write asking for the medals to be issued to you and you must include a copy of both sides of your discharge papers. This service is available to living relatives of deceased veterans.

Deadline for next issue Oct. 20th